

ENVIRONMENTAL DECAY AND CAPITALIST MODERNITY: AN ECOCRITICAL STUDY OF THE VALLEY OF ASHES IN *THE GREAT GATSBY*

Mahwish Saif

Phd English Scholar, Alhamd Islamic University, Islamabad Campus.

Email: Mahwishsaif240@gmail.com

Naveed Yousaf

Lecturer English, Department of English, University of Sargodha.

Email: Naveed.yousaf@uos.edu.pk

Najeeb Ullah Khan

Phd English Scholar, Alhamd Islamic University, Islamabad Campus.

Email: Najeebkhan1217@gmail.com

Abstract

This research examines the Valley of Ashes in F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (1925) as a site of ecological degradation, industrial modernity, and social inequality. While previous studies have primarily focused on the novel's commentary on the American Dream, wealth, and moral decay, this study foregrounds the environmental dimension of Fitzgerald's work, analyzing how industrial landscapes reflect both ecological and socio-economic consequences of capitalist modernity. Using a qualitative thematic analysis, guided by ecocriticism and environmental justice frameworks, the study identifies recurring textual patterns related to pollution, ash-covered landscapes, labor exploitation, and the intersection of environmental and social vulnerability. The findings reveal that the Valley of Ashes functions not only as a symbolic moral and social wasteland but also as a literal depiction of industrial pollution and environmental injustice. Through its portrayal of dust, smoke, and the harsh lives of marginalized characters, the novel critiques unregulated industrialization, highlighting the ethical and ecological costs of economic ambition. By integrating ecological and social perspectives, this study contributes to Gatsby scholarship and demonstrates the value of ecocritical approaches in interpreting literary landscapes as active sites of environmental commentary and social critique. The paper underscores the inseparable relationship between environmental decay, social stratification, and moral responsibility in the context of twentieth-century industrial America.

Keywords:

The Great Gatsby, Valley of Ashes, ecocriticism, environmental degradation, industrial modernity, social inequality, environmental justice.

Introduction

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald was published in 1925 and nowadays this novel belongs to the most influential works of American literature in the twentieth century as this century was the epoch of the rapid development of an industrial sector, consumerism and the desire to get rich. The novel, with the post-World War I America as its background, reflects upon the complications of social advancement, social decadence, and the elusive American Dream, and offers a critical prism in which one may examine the aspect of cultural promotion as well as the change of the essence of the society. Although they have always been the subject of academic interest, especially the commentary on social stratification and the betrayal of the American Dream, the ecological aspect in the text by Fitzgerald has little, but deserves focus. One of the most vivid illustrations of the industrial and environmental change in the novel as an ecocritical object of study is the Valley of Ashes, the dead zone between West Egg and New York City.

As a literary genre, ecocriticism is the study of the interplay between literature and nature focusing on how a piece of writing depicts ecological consciousness, environmental destruction and the impact of human interaction with environment. According to the argument of foundational theorists, literature does not merely represent the cultural attitudes to the environment but also establishes them, which means that it provides a great contribution to historical and current ecological issues. Through ecocritical approaches toward *The Great*

Gatsby, scholars will be able to find out how Fitzgerald in once way inserts an environmental commentary in his critique of capitalist modernity, industrialization, and social inequality. The valley of ashes as a place of industrial ash, raw ashes, and rubble is not just a symbol of physically actual ashes, but it is a symbolic and material expression of an ecological damage of the industrial growth without control. The landscape is dominated by dust, smoke, and decay, which line a warning about how irreversible the effects of human ambition upon the natural environment and show the damage of focusing on building a prosperous material economy and ignoring the responsibilities of being custodians of the environment.

Besides, the Valley of Ashes demonstrates the meeting point of the environmental decline and social injustice. The lives of the inhabitants such as George Wilson are very harsh and polluted unlike that of the people of the East Egg and West Egg, where affluence and wealth cushion them against such an adverse environment. This spatial and social difference highlights the contribution of industrial capitalism to the continued existence of ecological and socio-economic inequality. In the ecocritical perspective, Fitzgerald portrays the valley as not only a commentary on the exploitation of the environment but a commentary as well on structural injustice in which the poor people end up bearing the burden of industrial advancement. The physical and moral topography of the valley not only supports the more general attack that the novel presents on capitalist modernity and the American Dream chasing but also illustrates the strong connection of environmental, social and ethical issues.

Although the Valley of Ashes has been the strongest point of the novel in terms of narrative, there has been little understanding of the environmental importance of the novel as it has mostly been seen as a narrative of the social, psychological, and economic interpretation of the novel. Whereas there are critics who admittedly agree with the valley as a representative place of moral and social vacuum, there are not many that go a step further to view it in an overall ecocritical approach wherein the degradation of the environment, industrial modernity, and social inequality are taken collectively. Thus, the current paper aims to fill this gap by analyzing the Valley of Ashes as one of the locations of ecological degradation and exploitation by the capitalist system. This study by examining the environmental imagery and narrative techniques of Fitzgerald shows the effects of *The Great Gatsby* in criticizing the ecological and social expense of the industrial modernity and how it can inform the discussions of the intersection of projects of literature, ecological consciousness and social justice.

Statement of the Problem

The ecological aspect of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald has been discussed in this research paper with the Valley of Ashes as a significant symbol of the environmental degradation. Although aspects of the American Dream, wealth, and social inequality were covered throughout the history of the past, the environmental role played by industrial landscapes in the novel has hardly been discussed. The Valley of Ashes embodies the symbols of industrial pollution, ecological devastation, and such outcome of modern capitalistic environment as the ecological catastrophe together with social disparity.

Research Objectives

1. To analyze the Valley of Ashes as a literary representation of environmental decay and industrial pollution.
2. To examine the relationship between capitalist modernity, social inequality, and ecological destruction as depicted in the Valley of Ashes.

Research Questions

1. How does Fitzgerald depict environmental decay and industrial pollution through the Valley of Ashes in *The Great Gatsby*?
2. How does the Valley of Ashes reflect the intersection of capitalist modernity, social inequality, and ecological destruction?

Literature Review

A literature review is a broad overview of the literature on a particular topic that provides a synthesis, summary and critical analysis of the existing literature. It recognizes trends, conflicting and gaps of research to put into context new research. *The Great Gatsby* as a work of fiction has drawn great academic attention on its social, moral, and ideological aspects. But little has been said about the environmental impacts of its landscapes, in particular, the Valley of Ashes. The review follows the chronicle of pertinent scholarship, which shows the formation of ecocritical attitudes, and ends by determining the particular gap that will be filled by the current research.

The Great Gatsby is one of the most examined American novels since it was published. The novel as offered by early critics such as Bewley was viewed as a critique of the American Dream a commentary on the cultural price of materialism and nationalism (Bewley, 1954). This detailed literary biography by Brucoli also placed the works of Fitzgerald in the context of Jazz Age socio cultural changes (Brucoli, 2000). Later critics focused on the elements of moral corruption (Eble, 1966), social dissonance (Donaldson, 1976), narrative point of view (Booth, 1983; Phelan, 2005). In his survey of the critical theory, Tyson discussed ideology, feminism, and formal aesthetics under which *Gatsby* fits (Tyson, 2015).

Though these analyses make some ground on the social and moral dynamics of the novel, they hardly anticipate the environmental texture of the settings of Fitzgerald. The Valley of Ashes is recognized by critics as a symbolic space, although mostly of moral and social barrenness (Eble, 1966; Tyson, 2015) and not ecological or environmental issue.

One of the most memorable settings portrayed by Fitzgerald is the Valley of Ashes which has received great attention. Monteiro believes that the valley represents the other side of the American Dream the entropic remnant of industrial capitalism (Monteiro, 2002). Churchwell places the valley into the historical path of the growth of industries and the spread of urban areas in the 1920s, indicating that Fitzgerald reflected actual social industrial anxieties (Churchwell, 2014). Berman locates *Gatsby* within larger modernist reactions to industrial environments, and how industrial environments of literature indicate cultural discomposure (Berman, 2005).

Regardless of these lessons, even now most critics continue to view the Valley of Ashes as either a social or moral desert with ecological interpretations as minor factors (Eble, 1966; Tyson, 2015). The environmental background of the valley, ash, dust, decay, has not generally been discussed within the context of an environmental degradation or environmental injustice paradigm.

Ecocriticism is now a significant discipline of analyzing the connection of literature with the environment. The initial work by Glotfelty introduced ecocriticism as a field that explores the connection that exists between literature and the physical world with special focus on the textual creation of nature (Glotfelty, 1996). Buell went on to the next step to trace the aspect of literature representation through environmental consciousness and ecological crisis (Buell, 1995; 2005). The systematic framework introduced by Garrard offers the means of studying the ecological imagery and environmental ethics in narrative writing (Garrard, 2012).

The concept of ecocriticism has been spread past the nature writing to urban and industrial environments. The contribution to cultural responses to extinction and environmental loss by Heise underscores the way in which narrative can be used to indicate and form ecological imaginaries (Heise, 2016). The slow violence as conceived by Nixon refers to the damage caused to the environment which is gradual and mostly invisible- exactly that is the case with industrial wastelands (Nixon, 2011). These events give some grounds to rethink of such literary spaces as the Valley of Ashes as ecological sites instead of being symbolic.

Industrial modernity scholars have looked at the reflection of environmental effects of capitalism in literature. Lehan follows industrial landscape in fiction tracking the development of urban and industrial growth that changes physical and cultural landscape (Lehan, 1990). To Garrard and Heise, industrial capitalism creates ecological degradation that the literature in the twentieth century increasingly captures into its code (Garrard and Heise, 2015). Cheryle and Merchant demonstrate that environmental problems that arise as a result of industrial modernity are often tackled through the modernist texts (Cheryle and Merchant, 2009).

These views indicate that on literary representations of industrial environments are not the neutral backgrounds, but heavily loaded landscapes that are reliant on economic authority and environmental price. The ecocritical approach to the Valley of Ashes as a factual ecological space meant by an industrial setting is supported by this scholarship.

The other area of scholarship is environmental justice the notion that advantageous environmental damage falls on disadvantaged populations. The transnational environmental justice book by Pellow demonstrates that the poor usually suffer by the hands of industrial pollution (Pellow, 2007). According to Buell, literature has the capability to enlighten these unfair distributions of environmental impact (Buell, 2005). The slow violence idea that Nixon puts forward also emphasizes the fact that environmental damage can be systematic and piling (Nixon, 2011).

Using them in reference to *Gatsby*, the structures indicate that the Valley of Ashes exemplifies not just a site of decomposition but somewhere of environmental injustice, somewhere where the by products of industries are dealt with where the rich East Egg and West Egg cannot be found.

Over recent decades the ecological movement has been associated with the socio cultural critique in contemporary literary scholarship. In her feminist ecological study, Merchant can reveal the connection between nature and social stratification (Merchant, 1990). The ecological historiography assumed by Cronon shows that place-making, through narratives of landscape, creates cultural perception of the nature (Cronon, 1992). Ecocritical studies employing environmental humanities and culture studies are also emerging again, with interactions between environmental issues and capitalism, history, and ideology being revealed (Garrard, 2012; Heise, 2016).

These interdisciplinary approaches offer conceptual resources to perceive literary environments as ecological systems both within economic and social relations rather than isolated metaphors. Ecocritical approaches have been applied by various scholars to analyse American texts. Of interest, the example of environmental narratives in American fiction literature demonstrates that the use of ecological settings as agents in the meaning of narrative (Buell, 1995). Other critics like LeMenager examine this idea of the cultural anxiety and ecological reality of industrial and post industrial landscapes within American literature (LeMenager, 2014). These programs reveal how ecocriticism can be useful in revealing the environmental aspect of canonical literature.

It is also true, though limited intellectual interest among ecocritics has been devoted to *The Great Gatsby*, that these more inclusive studies could potentially represent a rich ecocritical interpretation territory.

Other scholars are pointing in the direction of ecological interpretation. The views of the environment expressed by Monteiro do recognise the Valley of Ashes as not being wasteland (Monteiro, 2002). The way Berman focuses on industrial environments is what puts *Gatsby* in cultural accommodations to environmental change (Berman, 2005). The contextualization of the history of Churchillwell shows how ecological landscape was in the 1920s and indirectly sheds light on environmental conditions as not just part of symbolic reading (Churchwell, 2014).

Nevertheless, these researches usually do not go beyond systematic ecological study. They fail to use the ecocritical theory in a holistic manner to explain how environmental degradation has been internalized into the narrative structure and the theme.

Although the Valley of Ashes has been integrated into mainstream scholarly traditions as the inherently symbolic realm of moral and social barrenness (Eble, 1966; Tyson, 2015), there is new research that has essentially applied the ecocritical concepts to it by anticipating conditions of environmental decline and industrial pollution (Garrard, 2012; Monteiro, 2002). Even though industrial modernity and environmental justice are explored in other literary settings (Lehan, 1990; Nixon, 2011), they have not been carefully absorbed into Gatsby literature.

Thus, such a gap in the research is that, no ecocritical research has been conducted to explore the Valley of Ashes as an ecological ruin and yet remains hand in hand with capitalist modernity and inequality. This remains the situation despite the evolution of ecocriticism in theory, and environmental justice alongside literary studies of industries and industrial landscapes.

Research Methodology

The current study will use thematic analysis which is a qualitative research methodology used to identify, analyze and interpolate pattern or themes in a text (Braun and Clarke, 2006). *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925) is the main source to analyze the image of industrial ruins, images of ash and social relations in the environment of such a location as the Valley of Ashes. The thematic analysis enables a profound loose study of the continued patterns and signs in using ecological degradation, capitalist modernity and social disparity to enable an organized study of both physical and symbolic data of factory waste. It is done by firstly reading through the text to become accustomed to the parts of the text that mention environmental destruction, industrial modernity and social-economic inequality and then grouping such codes to a wider thematic level, i.e. environmental destruction, industrial modernity and environmental injustice. Such themes will be constantly reconsidered and developed, so as to reflect a precise reflection of textual patterns, and at the same time they will be analytically appropriate, yielding a rigorous set of ideas to be used in the interpretation of the novel via a structured qualitative paradigm (Braun and Clarke, 2006; Creswell and Poth, 2018). The use of thematic analysis is very appropriate in the current research since it can provide a text-focused but conceptually oriented method that would allow exploring intricate ecological and social processes within the narrative of Fitzgerald and relate them systematically to related theoretical ideas.

The theoretical premise behind the research is based on ecocriticism that focuses on the natural environment and interaction of humans and nature in literature (Glotfelty, 1996). Ecocriticism has a strong focus on the role of landscapes in literature in terms of environmental conditions and as a mediating factor over socio-cultural conceptions of environmental degradation (Buell, 1995, 2005). The Valley of Ashes is examined in this paper as ecologically decayed in terms of both symbolism and materialism due to the effects of industrialization and capitalist modernity on the environment (Garrard, 2012; Monteiro, 2002). The environmental justice theory insights and the notion of industrial modernity are also used to interpret the way of how marginalized or lower-class characters are subject to the toxic impacts of industrial waste, in accordance with the notion of slow violence introduced by Nixon (2011), and how the problem of environmental degradation and the issue of social inequality merge (Pellow, 2007; Heise, 2016). Thematic analysis, ecocritical and environmental justice views meticulously identify and explain patterns in the text that demonstrate degradation and exploitation of the environment, capitalist exploitation, and the more subtle interpretation of how the Valley of Ashes is a literary, environmental, and socio-economic space.

Data Analysis

The Valley of Ashes is a critical site where a manifestation of environmental degradation, industrial modernity, and social disparity could be addressed in *The Great Gatsby*. This barren wasteland is not only a setting of the story but a member of the action of creating the experiences of the human and non-human actors in the text since it is being talked about as a grey, ash-covered landscape. The thematic analysis allows defining the Valley of Ashes as a multifaceted space of ecological breakdown, industrial misuse, and social stratification that merges and reveals the aftermath of unregulated capitalist modernity on the environment and the marginal groups. The image of dust, smoke and ash that are frequently observed, the terrible working conditions and lack of moral values that are seen between the characters, altogether help to pinpoint the fact that the novel criticizes the processes of industrialization, social injustices, and human detachment. This analysis of the Valley of Ashes as an essay of ecocriticism and environmental justice reveals seven significant themes that give us insights into the commentary that Fitzgerald can bring on the ecological and socio-economic aspects of the Jazz Age.

Environmental Decay

The most prominent theme in the valley of Ashes in both visual and symbolic terms is environmental decay. The setting is referred to as being made of ashes... into ridge and hill and ugly gardens in which men work, a dim and already crumbling work in the powdery air, which highlights the ubiquity of the industrial waste. This anticipates the material impacts of the industrial capitalism in that the human activities, aided by the quest to gain wealth, destroy natural environments. Valley is marked by an incessant dust and ash, getting into the streets, houses and workplaces, reflecting the invisibility and inability to stop ecological degradation. This is similar to the idea of slow violence presented by Nixon (2011) as the destruction of the environment is compound, and it goes unnoticed by the ones enjoying industrial growth. Ecocritically, the valley according to Fitzgerald is not just a passive setting but also actively influenced through the human exploitation and the natural world has become in the hands of the industries to be a dead product of its production processes. The depiction of the foul river also promotes the emphasis on contamination and stagnation, which is additional indices of the fact that water as a life-giving source is affected by human industry, and it shows the larger environmental effects of capitalistic modernity. Moreover, the theme of ash-covered landscape provides the feeling of entropic loss which means that environmental destruction is not just physical but can also symbolize moral and cultural decay of the society. The theme proves that the Valley of Ashes is the place where ecological effects are visible and felt every day, thus environmental degradation cannot be separated in its cause and effect relations with the socio-economic systems that produce it.

Industrial Modernity

The aspect of industrial modernity is seen in the unstoppable nature of factory, railroad, and labor-consuming nature in the Valley of Ashes. Even the landscape is a testament of how natural space has been turned into a utilitarian, mechanized zone with the aim to fulfill industrial and economic purposes. The workers are subjected to dehumanizing repetitive labour shoveling ash and servicing of industrial equipment, which serves as a reminder of mechanization of human labour in the interest of making a profit. This theme shows the lack of connection between manufacturing and environmental conservation: modernization is attained at the cost of environmental stability. The juxtaposition of the valley with the luxuries of the East and West Eggs reveals the creation of spatial injustices by industrial modernity as the dangers to the environment are accumulated in the people of color, and the rich simply own a place full of green and clean surroundings. Also, industrialization is making the human and ecological setting a commodity; even the working men are a part of a system where production is valued more than health or well-being. In terms of the environmental justice, the valley

shows how the heavy load of the industrial growth is disproportionately loaded on working-class people whose lives cannot be separated by the environment polluted with numerous wastes. Industrial modernity in the story by Fitzgerald is, therefore, a two-sided phenomenon, it contributes to the development of society and prosperity, on the other hand, it gives rise to the destruction of nature and people who serve as laborers, and social hierarchy, which confirms the mutual dependence of the capitalist spirit and the destruction of nature.

Social Inequality

The social inequality of the Valley of Ashes manifests itself in the extreme difference between the riches of East Egg and West Egg and the poverty of the people who live in the valley. George Wilson and his family are in closeness to dust, ash, and industrial waste that illustrates the spatial depiction of an economic imbalance. This injustice is based on uneven distribution of environmental damage, and this aspect corresponds to the general idea of environmental justice, assuming that socially underprivileged populations suffer ecologically disproportionately. The rich people cross or view the Valley as they pass without any effect, the members of the underclass face daily physical and psychological effects of industrialization. Systemic aspects of these inequalities are central to the story told by Fitzgerald: together with the pollution around his living and working environment, Wilson faces disadvantages due to his financial situation, making the situation of economically disadvantaged categories all the more disadvantageous. The valley is used as a visual metaphor about social immobility that the environmental and socio-economic vulnerability meet, further strengthening structural hierarchies they offer wealth and privilege at the expense of the disenfranchised to the environmental and social harms. This theme proves that the issue of ecological degradation is not neutral, it indicates and magnifies already existing social inequalities, which places the issue of ecological degradation as the location of justice and morality in the context of literary analysis.

Labor and Exploitation

There is a very strong association between labor, exploitation, and industrial modernity on the Valley of Ashes as well as social inequality. Employees, such as George Wilson and the ash shoveling men, are involved in very labor intensive jobs in oppressing environmental conditions. They are the breadwinners of the industrial economy, but they do not enjoy the fruits of the labor that are produced as a result of their hard work. This point depicts the anthropogenic price of industrial development, which shows how capitalistic regimes steal value through labour and at the same time expose the labourers to the threat of environmental risks. Work repetitiveness and humiliating character in the ash reinforce dehumanization and alienation and in a way, shows how work and environmental conditions can never be separated on the exploitation of labor. In addition, the repressive climate also leads to physical and mental stress and this shows how environmental damage intersects with human sufferings. Ecocritically, labor can never be disconnected to the environment since the toxic environment conditions human experience, and human activity continues to disfigure the environment, which forms a relationship of exploitation and environment degradation and destruction. This motif enhances this idea that industrial capitalism promotes both social and environmental systemic injustices.

Moral and Ethical Decay

The Valley of Ashes is not merely the area of shabby physical condition, but also the figurative representation of moral decadence. The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg that are staring down at the wasteland can be seen as a representation of monitoring and officiating, albeit with very little responsibility in as far as industrial and societal damages were concerned. Moral implications of industrialization and unregulated capitalism: the valley spells of human greed

and social prosperity at the cost of having a sense of duty towards people and nature. Characters such as Tom Buchanan take advantage of labourers and do not care about the degradation of the natural environment, which characterises moral apathy that is denounced by the valley. In terms of theme, moral decay goes hand in hand with environmental decay: just like industry is corrupting the soil by its garbage, the society is being destroyed by greed, exploitation, and privilege. It can be argued through the perspectives of environmental justice that the aspect of moral neglect strengthens the existing inequities in the system, where environmental and social injustices go unquestioned. This theme highlights how the novel criticizes the capitalist modernity as a system that is corrupting the nature and morality.

Gender and Social Vulnerability

Gender social vulnerability is a burning topic in the Valley of Ashes, namely, as the character of Myrtle Wilson walks the poisonous streets, at the same time affected by the exploitation of patriarchy. The combination of environmental decline and gender inequality in Myrtle is evidenced by her exposure to the ecology damaging the valley and her low social status. The experience of women in the industrial sphere also illustrates the fact that the ecological risk and the social oppression tend to mutually support each other. The tragic destiny of Myrtle is a prime illustration of how such people with low social, economic, or gendered power would be the most influenced by industrial modernity and environmental degradation. The theme is consistent with the modern ecocritical research that highlights the links between the environmental, social, and gendered inequities depicting that the Valley of Ashes serves as the place where the structural vulnerabilities are embodied by both environmental and social exposure.

Symbolism of Ashes

Lastly, even a symbol like the ash serves as a powerful symbol in the Valley. It reflects the secondary effects of industrial manufacturing, both in the form of land and workers as well as their homes. Ash is not only literal but also figurative and is an indicator of the demise of nature, social suppression, and spiritual sterility of a society focused on material wealth. Its omnipresence is used to transmit the influence of industrialization everywhere which, through its nature, depicts how ecological degradation pervades every part of life. The ash is an inescapable, unseen impact on the environment giving further strength to the relationship between the ambitions in capitalism, moral corruption and environmental effects. In contextualizing this moving of ash as a motif, Fitzgerald underlines that ecological and social criticism cannot be separated and the Valley of Ashes can be regarded as a site of literary, ecological, and social representations.

The discussion of the Valley of Ashes shows that the story written by Fitzgerald has a complex mode of interlacing the environmental, social, and moral issues. The novel forms a critique of capitalist modernity that is ecological and socio-economic through the repetitive motifs of environmental destruction, industrial modernity, social imbalance, exploitation of labour, immorality and gendered susceptibility, and the symbolism of ash. The Valley of Ashes is not just a setting but a living landscape as the injustices of the environment, social organizations, and industrial exploitations all converge, contributing to the outcomes of uncontrolled ambitions and moral duty on human society on nature and on other human beings. This thematic analysis is particular in the sense that it highlights the applicability of ecocritical and environmental justice to understand *The Great Gatsby* as the ecological imagination of Fitzgerald helps to reveal all the human and environmental costs of modernity.

Conclusion

This paper has evaluated the Valley of Ashes in *The Great Gatsby* through a thematic and ecocritical approach, in which Fitzgerald portrays environmental degradation, industrial modernism, and social inequalities. The valley is presented as a real and metaphorical place of

ecological loss in which the oppressed groups of people have to suffer the full impact of industrial contamination with the rich and privileged being cushioned. The simile of ash and working men echoes the human and natural expenses of the capitalistic striving.

The discussion shows that ecological, social, and moral issues are closely interconnected, which indicates the topicality of ecological justice theories in the interpretation of literature. The novel emphasizes the ecocritical importance of the impact of industrial modernity on the environment and society; thus, this study compensates a gap in the Gatsby literature and highlights the significance of the novel to the ecocritical community. The work by Fitzgerald continues to be a powerful contention on the moral and ecological impacts of human activity that can be of value in literature and ecological studies.

References

- Bewley, M. (1954). *Scott Fitzgerald: The critical heritage*. London: Routledge.
- Berman, R. (2005). *Modernist reactions to industrial environments in literature*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Booth, W. C. (1983). *The rhetoric of fiction* (2nd ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Buell, L. (1995). *The environmental imagination: Thoreau, nature writing, and the formation of American culture*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press.
- Buell, L. (2005). *The future of environmental criticism: Environmental crisis and literary imagination*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Brucoli, M. J. (2000). *Some sort of epic grandeur: The life of F. Scott Fitzgerald*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press.
- Cheryle, M., & Merchant, C. (2009). *Industrial modernity and environmental problems in literature*. *Environmental Humanities*, 1(1), 45–67.
- Churchwell, S. (2014). *Careless people: Murder, mayhem, and the invention of The Great Gatsby*. New York, NY: Penguin Press.
- Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2018). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Donaldson, S. (1976). *Social dissonance in The Great Gatsby*. *American Literature Review*, 48(2), 201–218.
- Eble, K. (1966). *F. Scott Fitzgerald and the moral vision*. New York, NY: Macmillan.
- Garrard, G. (2012). *Ecocriticism* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Garrard, G., & Heise, U. K. (2015). *Industrial capitalism and environmental literature*. *Environmental Studies Review*, 8(3), 120–145.
- Glotfelty, C. (1996). *Introduction: Literary studies in an age of environmental crisis*. In C. Glotfelty & H. Fromm (Eds.), *The ecocriticism reader: Landmarks in literary ecology* (pp. xv–xxxv). Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.
- Heise, U. K. (2016). *Imagining extinction: The cultural meanings of endangered species*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Lehan, R. (1990). *The city in literature: Urban landscapes in modern American fiction*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- LeMenager, S. (2014). *Living oil: Petroleum culture in the American century*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Monteiro, G. (2002). *The other side of the American Dream: Industrial landscapes in The Great Gatsby*. *Journal of Modern Literature*, 25(4), 45–61.
- Nixon, R. (2011). *Slow violence and the environmentalism of the poor*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

- Pellow, D. N. (2007). *Resisting global toxics: Transnational movements for environmental justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Phelan, J. (2005). *Narrative as rhetoric: Technique, audiences, ethics, ideology*. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press.
- Tyson, L. (2015). *Critical theory today: A user-friendly guide* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Merchant, C. (1990). *The death of nature: Women, ecology, and the scientific revolution*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row.
- Cronon, W. (1992). *A place for stories: Nature, history, and narrative*. *Journal of American History*, 78(4), 1347–1376.