

## Examining the Ecological Dimensions of McConaghy's *Migrations*: An Eco-Linguistic Analysis

Nighat Naz, Muhammad Nasir, Sehrish Iftikhar, Nasir Abbas, Muhammad Asif Nadeem, Azka Javed, Hassan Raza, Dr. Munawar Amin

### **Abstract**

*The goal of this research is to analyze the language and environment in McConaghy's Migrations. Using Stibbe's eco-criticism framework, the novel has been scrutinized. Migrations is a novel that raises numerous ecological concerns. It highlights the grave concern of human activity destroying the natural eco system. It also draws attention to the decline in animal and bird populations. The researchers have chosen the theoretical framework of Arren Stibbe's (2015) for eco-linguistic analysis. The critical lens of the current study are three indicators as ideology, evaluation and facticity to analyze the text through eco-linguistic analysis. The major findings determine the apathetic and stupid mindset of the general public, who refused to take accountability for the harm done to the environment, the extermination of wildlife, deforestation, global warming, and the waste of water and other natural resources. The present research study reflects the impacts of so-called economic progress on the environment. It also validates the involvement of numerous active groups.*

**Key words:** Migration, annihilation, geopolitics, untamed Atlantic, futuristic world

### **1.1 Introduction**

Eco-linguistics is a branch of linguistics that deals with ecology though known by very few people, it is an emerging field of linguistics. International Eco-linguistics Association defines Eco-linguistics as, “explores the role of language in the life sustaining interactions of humans, other species and the physical environment.” The terms Ecology and Language seem to be quite different but are very closely related as the way we think about the planet earth is affected by language and our thinking affects our behavior. McConaghy's *Migrations* (2020) is a visceral and haunting novel that starts with the very inspiring lines, “The animals are dying. Soon we will be alone here.” So it is supposed by the writer that in the near future we would have total collapse of animals on this planet, “the Earth”. We see Fanny Stone, innate wanderer

and mysteriously damaged woman, from her childhood, her mistakes, her memories and then her moves from Greenland to Arctic then to Antarctica to tag, might be the last remaining colony of arctic tern before they embark upon the “longest natural migration of any living creature” and after pole to pole search, she gets them in Antarctica. An eco-linguistic study studies the inverse change between language and environment (Abdelrady & Akram, 2022; Akram & Abdelrady, 2023). It also examines the eco-systems that are also a very significant element of the human system that is ecology (Ramzan et al., 2023). It is a system with the language that people are supposed to use in communicating in their environment that is linguistics (Li & Akram, 2023).

### **1.2 Statement of the problem**

The use of erasure and omission to conceal the identity of individuals causing environmental harm is investigated in this study, along with the connection between ecological framing and assessment. Through an Eco-linguistic critical examination of the aforementioned work, the researchers aim to determine how a literary work might contribute to the creation of such an environment through language use.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

1. To examine the language used in the selected novel in order to identify the narrative that seem to uphold ecological principles and be consistent with ecosophical beliefs.
2. To dismantle the discourses of ecological position and assesses them in the context of ecolinguistics, making it easier for the readers to establish ecological preferences.

### **1.4 Delimitation of Study**

The researcher has chosen to discuss language and ecology in McConaghy’s *Migrations* (2020) and its discourse has not been much analyzed by the researchers. The researchers have taken Arren Stibbe’s (2015) model of eco-linguistic analysis. For this purpose, the study has been limited to the three indicators as ideology, evaluation and facticity to analyze the text.

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

This study aims to examine how language has concealed and lessened the role of the human agent in environmental discourses. while it comes to language, ecolinguistics can help us become more methodical and analytical while discussing environmental issues. An easy way for eco-linguistics to study environmental texts is through their theoretical context. The analysis

of McConaghy's *Migrations* (2020) language would also benefit from this research.

### **1.6 Theoretical Framework**

This qualitative study employs thematic analysis. As Stibbe (2015) says, 'stories- we-live-by' directly influence on how one lives, experiences and enacts this world. He identifies eight different forms of stories, which are summarized as follow. Stibbe's framework of eco-linguistic analysis comprises of eight different stories we live by like ideology, identity, metaphor, framing, evaluation, facticity, erasure and salience. In order to identify discourses, text selection is followed by linguistic analysis in order to reveal patterns in the way that language is used within and across texts. Franny Stone in McConaghy's *Migrations* (2020) serves as the primary source for this analysis, while supplementary materials include the rest of the novel, as well as scholarly works, academic journals, and other online resources. Initially aimed at prevention and currently being taught to students in a variety of settings.

## **2. Literature Review**

According to Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm (1996) in *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmark in Literary Ecology*, ecocriticism is the study of the interaction between literature and the natural world. Dystopian literary pieces also feature the ecocriticism portrait. The definition of ecocriticism is defined by Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm in *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmark in Literary Ecology*. Both *asoikos* and *kritos* translate to "house judge." "A person who judges the merits and fault of writings that depict the effects of culture upon nature with a view toward celebrating nature, berating its despoilers, and reversing their harm through political action," is how one may summarize ecocrit in a lengthy and winding way. In current parlance, the Greek word *oikos*, which means "household," also means "the study of biological interrelationships and the flow of energy through organisms and organic matter." (1996:62).

Greg Garrard in *Ecocriticism* (2004) defines ecocriticism as the study of the interaction between humans and non-humans throughout human cultural history, including a critical examination of the term "human" itself (Garrard, 2004:5). Garrard (2004) argues that eco criticism does research about the relationship between human beings and nature. The field of ecolinguistics, which is also referred to as ecological linguistics, arose in the 1990s as a completely new area of study in linguistics. It expanded the scope of sociolinguistics to

encompass not only the social context in which language functions but also the broader ecological setting, which encompasses other organisms and the natural world (Alexander & Stibbe, 2014). The study of a language's interactions with its surroundings is referred to by this term (Chen, 2016). Language is shaped by its social, psychological, and physical surroundings (Akram et al., 2020). Users of a particular language can be found in the space/location known as the physical environment (Ramzan et al., 2023). The mental level is where the psychological environment operates (Akram et al., 2022). The sociological environment indicates the influence of society on the language spoken within that society, while it illustrates the relationships between a language and other languages that bilingual or multilingual speakers have learnt (Ramzan et al., 2023).

To further clarify the meaning of the term "environment," Haugen states that "the true environment of a language" includes not only the external world but also a person's psychological state and the social impact of "the society that uses it as one of its codes." Therefore, "the people who learn it, use it, and transmit it to others" are in charge of governing the ecology of language (Haugen, 1996: 57).

According to Chen (2016), ecolinguistics is the study of the connection between language and how we understand the environment. This emphasizes how crucial language is to how people see and understand their environment. The claim made by Chawla (2001: 115) that "language facilitates the modification of objective reality and cognitive reality are closely related" is supported by this. According to Stibbe (2015), ecolinguistics examines language to reveal the narratives we live by, evaluates those narratives from an ecological perspective, rejects narratives that are harmful, and aids in the hunt for new narratives to live by. According to Stibbe (2015), a narrative is a cognitive structure that people have in their minds that affects how they view the world, and the tale-we-live-by is a story that many people in a culture have in their brains. Stories, according to Stibbe (2015), are the fundamental and unseen source of values. People and nations can be transformed by altering the story that they adhere to. Eight categories are used by Stibbe to classify stories: erasure, salience, identities, convictions, evaluations, framings, and metaphors. According to him, these tales work cognitively to change people's perceptions of reality and encourage them to speak in a way that encourages protecting the environment rather than destroying it. Two of the eight stories will yield information for the

current study, particularly on framings and ideologies.

According to Johns-Putra (2010), texts can be located within the context of a particular genre; additionally, generic contexts influence, structure, and define how we perceive the outside world in return. In his broadly influenced interpretation of Kim Stanley Robinson's *Science in the Capital* trilogy, he understands the depiction of climate change as a convoluted series of talks taking place within the general framework of utopian science fiction. According to his studies, ecocriticism and what it frequently rejects as theory need to get closer. In particular, it makes a case for the applicability of genre theory, which investigates the dynamic relationships between the writer, reader, text, and the environments they live in.

In Richard Powers' *The Overstory* (2019), Masiero (2020) focuses on the formal means by which Powers has attempted to give voice to the non-human. His goal is to increase awareness of the importance of trees in our lives by putting out an ecocentric lifestyle that expands on the ideas of creativity and agency. In particular, it explains how the story is organized around the tree's extended metaphor and how the parabolic form serves as a vehicle for rhetoric.

Rofi'atul Azizah & Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah (2017) proclaim how nature is shown and how the two main characters, Aria and Peregrine, interact with it. Using Basu's viewpoint on dystopian literature and Garrad's philosophy of ecocriticism, the descriptive qualitative approach is employed. The study's findings show the distinction between the town and the country represents pastoral. The town in the book is referred to as Reverie, and the country as Death Shop. The wildness of Death Shop's land and the wilderness of civilization in *The Reverie* both symbolize wilderness. The novel's depiction of impending catastrophe and the annihilation of humanity serves as a metaphor for the apocalypse.

### **3. Research Methodology**

The present research study is of qualitative nature and explores the ecolinguistics perspectives of McConaghy's *Migrations* (2020) within the conceptual framework of Stibbe's theory of eco-criticism. As Stibbe (2015) says, 'stories-we-live-by' directly and indirectly effect on how one lives and experiences the world. He identifies eight different forms of stories, which are ideology, framing, metaphor, evaluation, identity, facticity, erasure and

salience. Only ideology, evaluation, identity and facticity have been selected for analyzing the text. To deal with language ecology, Stibbe's framework of eco-linguistics has been most commonly used. Stibbe's framework has been selected to expose and challenge those stories that cause damage to the ecosystem in shape of economic growth. The same framework also attempts to reveal and to promote the stories which are beneficial to equalize ecosystem.

#### 4. Data Analysis

##### Extract 1

*Once, when the animals were going, really and truly and not just in warnings of dark futures but now, right now, in mass extinctions we could see and feel, I decided to follow a bird over an ocean. Maybe I was hoping it would lead me to where they'd all fled, all those of its kind, all the creatures we thought we'd killed. Maybe I thought I'd discover whatever cruel thing drove me to leave people and places and everything, always. Or maybe I was just hoping the bird's final migration would show me a place to belong.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.12)

**Ideology:** In this fairly, large text, one can find many ideologies regarding birds as well as about Franny's nature. The phrase 'the animals were going' indicating the alarming situation of the extinction of the animals. To put emphasis on the same ideology the adverbs, 'really' and 'truly' have been used. Furthermore, the phrase 'dark futures' reinforces the same ideology that animals' extinction is an alert for all us that will dark the future of not only animals but also for the whole eco system of our planet. Actually this is the main reason when Franny Stone decided to follow 'a bird over an ocean'. It is also thought many of the animals have been wiped away from the face of the earth but Franny is having another ideology that if she travels to ocean by following that bird, she will also find many other species that we think that have been extinct. Another ideology comes before us when we know about Franny, she hates to live among people so she uses the phrases 'leave people and places and everything' She wants to find out the places from where she belongs to and wants to know about her identity.

**Evaluation:** The negative appraisal items as 'the animals were going' 'warnings of dark futures', 'in mass extinctions', 'we'd killed' 'cruel thing', 'to leave people and places and everything', 'bird's final migration' have been used to describe the extinction and

migrations of the many species of birds. These lexical items give the negative connotation and have been used as the synonym for the extinction of the birds.

**Facticity:** Many facts and figures have been described in this passage. To achieve high facticity, Franny uses adverbs like, ‘really’ and ‘truly’ for ‘warnings of dark futures’ after the extinction of animals. The phrase ‘now and right now’ with phrase ‘mass extinctions’ has been used to achieve high facticity. To achieve high facticity, Franny Stone wants to go to ocean and wants to see this phenomenon with her naked eyes. Use of modal verbs, ‘maybe’ and ‘would’ and verb ‘hoping’ have been used to get high facticity. Another important fact has been described for Franny’s personality when she claims she hates people ‘whatever cruel thing’ so due to this fact ‘to leave people and places and everything.’

## Extract 2

*Three little birds that will fly south for winter.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.16)

**Ideology:** When Franny sets small trackers with three small Arctic terns. She is hopeful that these trackers will help her to find the whole colony of the Arctic terns and plenty of fish. Then she develops this ideology that these tracked birds will certainly fly to ‘south’ and will spend the whole period of ‘winter’ over there.

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal item like, ‘fly’ has been used to describe the migration of the certain three little birds. The lexical item, ‘south’ has been used as a positive connotation for the safe

**Facticity:** Franny has taken three Arctic terns for her experiment. The quantifier ‘three’ has been used, to make her research authentic. The trackers are put to conduct most reliable research. The modal verb ‘will’ has been used to achieve the high facticity. She also shows her certainty by hoping that these tracked birds will move to ‘south’. The lexical item ‘South’ is also indicating for food. When food stuffs from these areas finish, birds fly to south and spend ‘winter’ there.

## Extract 3

*It only became illegal because of the trawling methods huge liners used to use, which would capture and kill all the surrounding marine life and birds. You don’t use those anymore, not with a smaller vessel. The birds would be safe.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020,

p.32-33)

**Ideology:** Ennis and Franny are arguing about extinction of fish and birds. A strong ideology has been described about Fishing, as it has been considered as illegal to use trawling methods in huge liners at ocean. This method seems to be very cruel one as these methods ‘capture and kill’, ‘surrounding marine life and birds’. So this method was considered illegal method. Even no one is allowed to do this cruel act with a ‘smaller vessel’. Franny is also having the ideology that if authorities control this situation then by this the birds would also be safe as the survival of fish is surety for the survival of birds, who feed upon them. The safety of marine life and birds has been made certain in the text.

**Evaluation:** The negative appraisal items as, ‘illegal’, ‘trawling methods’, ‘huge liners’, ‘capture and kill’, ‘surrounding marine life and birds’ have been used to explain the cruel acts of catching and killing the fish and marine life. The negative lexical items have been used as illegal method of trawling in the huge liners was being used in the past but now-a-days, it is considered as illegal method of fishing and killing of other marine life as well as birds. The large quantity of fish can’t be caught in small vessels.

**Facticity:** Many legal facts and figures have been used as ‘illegal’ has been used to achieve the high facticity. It describes the fact that it has been illegal now to use ‘trawling methods huge liners’. The use of modal verb, ‘would’ has been used to increase its facticity. This method would increase the chance of catching and killing the fish and birds.

#### Extract 4

*I’m studying the migration patterns of Arctic tern, looking specifically at what climate change has done to their flight habits. You know all about this. I’d say-it’s what’s killing the fish.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.33)

**Ideology:** Franny Stone tells about the details of her reason to adopt her voyage. She is studying the migration patterns of the birds. The phrase ‘migration patterns’ has been used for this. She is studying the cause and effect relationship by relating the climate change with the migration of the Arctic tern. The phrases, ‘climate change’ and ‘flight habits’ have been used here to show their relation with each other. Then strong ideology is presented when she says that the migration of the birds takes place because of the killing of the fish.



The phrase, ‘killing the fish’ has been used to describe this ideology

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal items as ‘migration patterns’, ‘climate change’, and ‘flight habits’, have been used to explain the reasons of the migration of the Arctic birds while ‘killing the fish’ has been used as the negative appraisal items as it is also one of the reason of the migrations of the Arctic terns.

**Facticity:** As all these details are written on the pages and all paper are stamped by the university so they approved by the university which shows the high facticity of these details. The cause and effect relation has been described by the noun phrase, ‘climate change’ and another noun phrase, ‘flight habits.’ Another phrase, ‘killing the fish’ has been used to show the high facticity of the second sentence.

#### Extract 5

*If there are any fish left in this whole ocean, the birds will damn well find them. They seek out hot spots.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.35)

**Ideology:** As Franny sets trackers with birds but these trackers can tell only their destination. They are not having the cameras so Franny can’t observe the habits of these Arctic terns. As she already has told us that fish are nearly extinct. If the fish wipe away, then the birds will also extinct. The birds depend upon the fish. Then Franny told Ennis about the migrations of the Arctic terns. In this context, if clause has been used and the phrases and words like, ‘any fish left’, ‘birds will damn well find’, ‘seek out’ and ‘hot spots’ actually have been used to describe the same ideology in which she says that birds migrate to south to get their food and spend their whole winter there. Atlantic is mighty and untamed and facing the danger of extinction of fish, if it happens, the birds will certainly find the fish left in it. Surely they won’t hesitate to go at any far off area.

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal items like ‘any fish left’, ‘birds will damn well find’, ‘seek out’ and ‘hot spots’ have been used to describe the migration of the Arctic Terns to South. The phrase ‘hot spots’ has been used a positive connotation of a dangerous point where any trouble or disaster loom. So it may be a flash point from where birds can get the fish. Surely, during their flight they find out such spots.

**Facticity:** The high facticity has been achieved by using the modal verb, ‘will’ in the

conditional sentence. It shows the cause and effect relationship between both clauses. Many geographical facts have been told to increase the facticity. The extinction of fish, finding any fish in the sea and searching such flash spot has been described in the text.

#### Extract 6

*The terns haven't left Greenland yet. I have been watching the little red dots on my laptop obsessively' knowing it will be soon. Until they do we are staying in the Saghani's normal waters, hoping for luck.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.43)

**Ideology:** The weather was getting extremely severe and hard. Her hands, cheeks and lips have been dried and cracked. The speed of Saghani has also been slowed down due to ice and cold. In this context, Franny checks her laptop time and again she is having an ideology that trackers are telling her, Arctic terns are still in Greenland and have not left it yet. She obsessively wants to know about them, when they would leave for South. The crew is hoping for the best weather to move on, *Saghani's* water is quite normal and whole crew is staying here and waiting for good luck.

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal items as 'left' and 'Greenland' have been used to describe as the synonym of migration of the tracked Arctic terns to Greenland. The positive appraisal item like, 'hoping for luck' has been used as positive connotation of the hope for best weather to move on. Another lexical item, 'obsessively' has been also use as negative connotation of Franny's over thinking about knowing that when the tracked Arctic terns will move to Greenland. So she has been watching the red dots on laptop time and again.

**Facticity:** To achieve the high facticity, the modal verb 'will be' has been used, it also indicates her hope that due to icy and cold weather the Arctic terns will leave Greenland soon.

#### Extract 7

*I've already told them the birds would lead them to fish. They don't believe me. They believe in superstition, and in routine.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.49)

**Ideology:** Samuel is very practical guy and says that he doesn't have time to waste just in chasing the birds around the world. He just doesn't want to help Franny for her obsessive idea of chasing birds to reach the fish. Actually she presents ideology of the migration of

the birds that they migrate from one place to another in search of food. It is also one of the important rules of our eco system. Franny is also having the ideology that the members of the crew are just superstitious people and they don't believe on effects of environmental changes all around the world. She is also having an ideology that the routine of every phenomenon has been in process of change.

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal items like, 'lead to fish' has been used as a positive connotation of the migration of birds for fish. On the other hand, the negative appraisal items as 'believe' and 'superstitions' have been used as a negative connotation of the behavior of the rest of the people of the crew.

**Facticity:** To achieve the high facticity the modal verb 'would' has been used. Franny is of believe that birds will certainly migrate to South only to get fish it would also be beneficial for them because in this would also get the fish. On contrary another fact has also been described to achieve high facticity that normally people don't follow the instructions of the strangers but want to do whatever they believe or whatever their forefathers have been doing for years.

### Extract 8

*We ate the birds,' he says. 'We ate them. We wanted their songs to flow up through our throats and burst out of our mouths, and so we ate them. We wanted their feathers to bud from our flesh. We wanted their wings, we wanted to fly as they did, soar freely among the treetops and the clouds, and so we ate them. We spread them, we clubbed them, we tangled their feet in glue, we netted them, we spitted them, we threw them on to the coals, and all for love, because we loved them. We wanted to be one with them. (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.54)*

**Ideology:** These emotional lines have been taken from Niall Lynch's speech in which an important ideology has been discussed that is all about how do we treat birds many lexical items have been used like, 'ate the birds', 'ate', 'wanted their songs', 'wanted their feathers' 'wanted their wings', 'wanted to fly', 'spread', 'clubbed', 'tangled their feet', 'netted', 'spitted' 'threw on coals' have been used to describe this ideology that how we human beings torture and tease this innocent creature. On the contrary, another ideology has been

described in which Niall Lynch describes that human being. The word, 'love' have been used twice to show this entirely contradicted ideology. He seems to be so emotional that he gives another ideology that he wants to be one with them.

**Evaluation:** The negative appraisal items 'ate the birds', 'ate', 'wanted their songs', 'wanted their feathers' 'wanted their wings', 'wanted to fly', 'spread', 'clubbed', 'tangled their feet', 'netted', 'spitted' 'threw on coals' have been used as a negative connotation of the teasing the birds. The verb, 'ate' has been used thrice as a negative appraisal of the birds' excessive killing for food. But the use of the lexical item, 'love' twice shows the positive connotation for the love for birds.

**Facticity:** To achieve the high facticity level many facts have been described, the most significant thing is that, this speech has been delivered by Professor Niall Lynch who is the professor of Ornithology. He uses past form for the verb to unveil the selfish nature of the human being with historical references. Many facts have been described about killing of the animals.

#### Extract 9

*No. it happens. They usually take one of two paths. They'll either travel alone or in small groups, some will go east, down the coast of Africa. Some west along America. But never in straight. They curve in big S shapes. (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.68)*

**Ideology:** In this context, when Ennis asks about the routine of these Arctic terns' routine, Franny tells the details of their routine that it is usual, another ideology comes before us that if there are two paths, they usually follow one of them, the use of adverb, 'usually' indicates that it is their usual routine to adopt only one path out of two. Another ideology comes before us when Franny tells Ennis that birds do not travel in large groups. They might travel in small groups or quite alone. She also tells the directions of their travel and tells that whether they travel to east that is down at the cost of Africa or towards west along America. Franny tells another ideology that these birds never travel in the straight line they travel in curves that is resemblance to big 'S'.

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal items like 'take one of two paths', 'travel alone', 'small groups', 'go east', 'Some west' and 'never in straight curve in big S shapes' have been used

in the positive connotation of the divergence and migration of the birds in different areas of east and west. The positive appraisal items like, ‘never in straight’, ‘curve’, ‘big S shapes’ have been used as a positive connotation of the flying habits of the birds.

**Facticity:** To achieve the high facticity, adverb, ‘usually’ has been used to describe the migration habits of the Arctic Terns. Many geographical facts and figures have been described like these words won’t travel in large groups but not in straight line but curved one. They travel alone or in small groups. Their destination may be either east or west.

#### Extract 10

*Water gushes out with a roar and I see the fish take shape-hundreds, maybe thousands-those on top flapping helplessly as they’re lifted out. I wasn’t expecting the volume, even after having seen the size of the net.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.90)

**Ideology:** In this context, when Franny is looking the cruel activity of fishing and crane is just ready to give a jerk to lift up the net. Franny looks hundred and thousands of fish, they are flapping and but they were helpless. Franny is just guessing the weight of this huge volume.

**Evaluation:** The negative appraisal items like ‘flapping’ and ‘helplessly’ have been used as a negative connotation of the helpless creature after being caught. Many other lexical items have also been used as a negative appraisal item like ‘shape-hundreds’, ‘thousands’ and ‘wasn’t expecting the volume’. All these lexical items have been used as a negative connotation of her state of mind. She is astonished at this huge loss. But humans don’t care.

**Facticity:** To achieve high facticity certain facts and figures have been used but Franny too is not sure about them as she says that these fish are hundreds then in a fit of confusion, she abruptly says that they are thousands in number which shows the lack of certainty. It also shows the low facticity. Another such example can be seen, when Franny shows her doubts about the volume of the fish that have been caught in the net when she says, ‘I wasn’t expecting the volume’ although she has seen the net lifted by the crane. It also shows the low facticity.

#### Extract 11

*They have the longest migration of any animal in the world, from the Arctic to the Antarctic*

*and back again.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.138)

**Ideology:** In this context, Franny is describing the courage and long journey of these Arctic terns who travel a lot. She is describing the ideology of their journey that they do longest migrations than other bird or animal in the world. They start their flight from Arctic to Antarctic. It is a longest migration that these Arctic terns do. They cross mighty Atlantic as well spend the winter there then move back to Arctic

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal items like, ‘longest migration’ and ‘back again’ have been used as a positive connotation of the courage of these little Arctic terns

**Facticity:** To achieve high facticity, the superlative degree of adjective ‘longest’ has been used which shows the certainty of longest migration among all the birds and animal the areas of travel have also been described like ‘from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again.’ to achieve high facticity.

#### **Extract 12**

*Humanity is a fucking plague upon the world.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.177)

**Ideology:** In this context, a very ironical ideology has been used against humanity. When Niall utters these words, he shows his disgust for humans who are just responsible for all the destruction of the earth. They do different activities for their so called economic development and cause of global warming, extinction of birds, animals and marine life, wastage of water and other natural resources, deforestation, land sliding, environmental changes etc. so he calls humanity ‘a fucking plague’ a deadly disease that can’t be cured. Surely it is a very humiliating and insulting remark for humans but it is also reality that they are to be blamed rightly.

**Metaphor:** In this regard the word, ‘plague’ has been used as a metaphor for all human activities that is damaging the earth like global warming, extinction of birds, animals and marine life, wastage of water and other natural resources, deforestation, land sliding, environmental changes etc.

**Evaluation:** The negative appraisal items like, ‘a fucking plague’ have been used as a negative connotation of humans as a trouble creator for the whole universe. The lexical

item, ‘humanity’ has been used for whole group of humans who are engaged in such activities that are dangerous for the earth.

**Facticity:** As this ironical line has been said by Professor Niall Lynch, who is having a vast experience on Ornithology and he knows well the reality. No one can challenge his findings, in this way high facticity has been achieved. He blames humans for destruction of the earth and calls them, ‘a fucking plague’ that is a deadly ailment.

### Extract 13

*When we look again, there are hundreds of snowy breasts and crimson beaks and the movement of elegant, sharp wings.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.189)

**Ideology:** In this context, after delivering speech at university, Galway, Niall seems much disturb. He doesn’t get okay even by Franny’s consolation. He shows her a projector screen. As Franny walks in her sleep, she too frightens by her own body that it may not hurt anyone specially Niall. The video plays and there is a sudden expanse of white flashes and blind both of them. When it gets normal, both of them can see that

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal items like, ‘snowy breasts’, ‘crimson beaks’, ‘movement of elegant’ and ‘sharp wings’ have been used as a positive connotation of the beautiful scene of Arctic terns, presenting a lively and beautiful scene. Niall wants to follow them till Antarctic

**Facticity:** To achieve high facticity, the quantifier of mathematics, ‘hundreds of’ has been used to describe the quantity of Arctic terns.

### Extract 14

*Hundreds of nesting birds, flying and flitting and calling to each other, a sea of black feathers and curved beaks and shining eyes, a world of them. Storm Petrels,’ Niall whispers.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.207)

**Ideology:** In this context, when Franny and Niall are going from the rocky area, they are just listening the voice of the flapping of the wings. Franny guesses that might be it is the voice of the bats that are flapping their wings at night. To her surprise, they are not bats but

Storm Petrels. Franny gives a very beautiful description of these Storm Petrels. Storm Petrels are in hundreds in number. They are enjoying here. They are flying and flitting and making lot of noise, it seems that they are calling each other by making this noise. It also seems that they are having their own little world. The beautiful description of these Storm Petrels has been given here by calling them sea of black feathers having curved beaks and shining eyes. Then after feasting their eyes with this beautiful scene, Niall tells her that these are actually Storm Petrels. The ideology of the habits of Storm Petrels has been discussed here. It has also been told that they only enjoy with their own species instead other ones.

**Evaluation:** The positive appraisal items like, ‘Hundreds of’, ‘nesting birds’, ‘flying’, ‘flitting’, ‘calling to each other’ have been used as a positive connotation of the habits of the birds and their enjoyment in their own special way. On the other hand, the positive lexical items like, ‘a sea of black feathers’, ‘curved beaks’ and ‘shining eyes’ have been used as a positive connotation of the physical description of the Storm Petrels.

**Facticity:** To achieve high facticity, the mathematical quantifier ‘hundreds’ has been used to tell the quantity of the storm petrels, although they are not certain about number of the birds but the lexical item, ‘hundreds’ shows a large quantity. The description of the Storm Petrels has also been realistically portrayed by Franny. we come to know the facts about their habits and physical appearance like, ‘black feathers’, ‘curved beaks’ and ‘shining eyes’.

### Extract 15

*We are liquid and tissues. As fragile a thing as there is.* (McConaghy, Charlotte, 2020, p.260)

**Ideology:** In this context, the ideology of the mortality of the human being has been described. Different types of toxics have been described like metal screams, glass sprays and rubber smoke. Certainly their effects on human body are much more dangerous than that of colliding two cars. As it is a scientific fact that human body is made of many liquids and tissues. It proves that human body is very fragile so metal screams, glass sprays and rubber smoke can easily damage it in matters of seconds.



**Evaluation:** The negative appraisal items like, ‘liquid’ and ‘tissue’ have been used as negative connotation of the fragile human body.

**Facticity:** To achieve high facticity, the scientific terminologies like ‘liquid’ and ‘tissue’ has been used.

## 5. Findings

The language in each chunk of the novel is used to set ecological difference of the Ornithologist that how to treat environment to save birds from extinction of the birds and animals. The stories that are mentioned in the analysis of the chunks are propagated by the novelist, she used language in such a manner to invoke the attention of the reader towards the issue of extinction of birds, animals and fish and humans’ inhuman attitude towards this critical issue through the use of nominalization transitivity, active and passive voice, simile, metaphor, modality, hyponymy, metonymy, entailment, and lexical choices. The frames or linguistic schemas of natural eco system has been exploited and applied to so-called economic development. The language used, is as alarming as humans have expel the nature and its gifted resources completely and replaced nature with economic development. The discourse manipulates language in a way to promote the awareness to save natural ecosystem. But such ecologically destructive behavior has become so common and frequent in the society that people accept everything as it is. The economic development is replacing nature despite we would face the consequences of damaging our natural ecosystem.

### 5.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, it can be concluded that McConaghy’s *Migrations* (2020) is an instinctive and expressive novel. McConaghy’s portrays many aspects of damaging nature by human activities. In the near future we would have total collapse of animals on this planet. We see Franny Stone who is innate wanderer and since her childhood, her mistakes, her memories and then her moves from Greenland to Arctic then to Antarctica to tag Arctic terns before they take over their longest natural migration of any living creature and after a long and hilarious journey, she gets them in Antarctica. Franny Stone and her well learned husband Professor Niall Lynch who is Ornithologist both are trying to protect

the last colony of the Arctic terns in their own specific way. Professor Niall Lynch was forced to say, '*Humans are fucking plague upon the earth*'. The protagonist, Franny Stone reveals herself through the letters to her husband. The most haunting and appealing element, among all of them is Franny Stone's voyage that she took from Arctic to Antarctic just to tag Arctic terns. She suffered a lot and caught in many catastrophic situations many times, observed mess created by humans, a lot of fishing that is the cause of their extinction, the cruel attitude of the crew members who were not concerned about these ecological issues, the climate change and its effects. She was nor an Ornithologist, neither a research student but many times we see that she became the mouth piece of her husband many times to propagate his ideas. The present research study concludes that McConaghy's *Migrations* (2020) uses linguistic devices in such a way that reader feels with one of the crew members who are observing this phenomenon with their naked eyes. Language plays very significant role in constructing stories but each story propagates the ideology of extinction of birds through language. The same has been observed in all the chunks of the text. It is also important that Franny is able to have a very positive impact on her crewmates.

## 5.2 Recommendations

Eco-linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis both are suitable to convey in which way language builds asymmetries between different groups having different ideologies and also to reveal how we can use these asymmetries having an effect upon a boarder social context. It would also be very interesting to broaden the studies to know how the 'migration' itself has been portrayed in the selected novel. It will also be intriguing to study more on the perspective of the analysis that in which way the language depicts the ideology of speciesism, in which humans are supposed to be superior leading to the exploitation of other species of the planet earth.

## References

- Abdelrady, A. H., & Akram, H. (2022). An empirical study of ClassPoint tool application in enhancing EFL students' online learning satisfaction. *Systems*, 10(5), 154.
- Akram, H., & Abdelrady, A. H. (2023). Application of ClassPoint tool in reducing EFL learners' test anxiety: an empirical evidence from Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Computers in Education*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40692-023-00265-z>

- Akram, H., Bhutto, M. H., & Chughtai, M. S. (2022). An analysis of business students' stressors and their coping strategies in the post-pandemic era. *Decision*, 49(2), 239-252. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40622-022-00319-8>
- Akram, H., Yang, Y., Ahmad, N., & Aslam, S. (2020). Factors Contributing Low English Language Literacy in Rural Primary Schools of Karachi, Pakistan. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 10(6), 335-346.
- Alexander, R., & Stibbe, A. (2014). From the analysis of ecological discourse to the ecological analysis of discourse. *Language sciences*, 41, 104-110.
- Azizah, R., & Sa'adah, S. I. (2017). An Ecocritical Analysis of Young Adult Dystopian Novel in Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky*. Doctoral Dissertation, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.
- Chawla, S. (2001). Linguistic and philosophical roots of our environmental crisis: The challenge to applied linguistics. In Fill, A. & Muhlhausler, P. (Eds.), *The ecolinguistics reader: Language, ecology and environment*. 115-123. London: Continuum Press.
- Chen, S. (2016). Language and ecology: A content analysis of ecolinguistics as an emerging research field. *Ampersand*, 3(1), 108-116.
- Garrard, Greg. (2004). *Ecocriticism*. New York: Routledge.
- Glotfelty, C., & Harold, F. (1996). *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press.
- Haugen, E. (1972). *The ecology of language*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Johns-Putra, A. (2010). Ecocriticism, Genre, and Climate Change: Reading the Utopian Vision of Kim Stanley Robinson's *Science in the Capital Trilogy*. *English Studies*, 744-760.
- Kerridge, R. (1998). *Writing the Environment: Ecocriticism and Literature*. New York: Zed Books.

- Kress, G. (2010). *Multimodality: A social semiotic approach to contemporary communication*. London: Routledge.
- Li, S., & Akram, H. (2023). Do emotional regulation behaviors matter in EFL teachers' professional development?: A process model approach. *Porta Linguarum: revista internacional de didáctica de las lenguas extranjeras*, (9), 273-291.
- Masiero, P. (2020). "The tree is saying things in words before words": form as theme in Richard Powers' *The Overstory*. *DEP*, 135-150.
- McConaghy, Charlotte. *Migrations*. New York: Flatiron Books, 2020.
- Ramzan, M., Azmat, Z., Khan, M. A., & un Nisa, Z. (2023, June). Subject-Verb Agreement Errors in ESL Students' Academic Writing: A Surface Taxonomy Approach. In *Linguistic Forum-A Journal of Linguistics* (Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 16-21).
- Ramzan, M., Bibi, R., & Khunsa, N. (2023). Unraveling the Link between Social Media Usage and Academic Achievement among ESL Learners: A Quantitative Analysis. *Global. Educational Studies Review*, VIII, 407-421.
- Ramzan, M., Javaid, Z. K., & Ali, A. A. (2023). Perception of Students about Collaborative Strategies Employed by Teachers for Enhancing English Vocabulary and Learning Motivation. *Pakistan Journal of Law, Analysis and Wisdom*, 2(02), 146-158.
- Stibbe, A. (2015). *Ecolinguistics: Language, ecology and the stories we live by*. Routledge.