

American Fictions; An Ecocritical Analysis.

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Abstract

This thesis explores the intricate interplay between nature and American identity using an eco-critical approach, with a focus on three notable American novels: *Ethan Frome* (1911) by Edith Wharton, *My Antonia* (1918) by Willa Cather, and *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) by Ernest Hemingway. The study reveals how these literary works illustrate the dynamic relationship between individuals and their environments, offering valuable insights through a renewed interpretation. By emphasizing character types, narrative developments, and distinctions among the novels, such as the repercussions of characters' choices, this investigation uncovers nuanced links between the American psyche and landscapes. Ecocriticism provides the guiding framework, underscoring literature's role in shaping ecological awareness. Through a detailed examination, the thesis underscores the fundamental role of nature in an evolving cultural narrative. To highlight the aesthetic brilliance of these works, the study aims to offer a more enriched understanding of the interaction between literature, nature, and the unfolding narrative of the American experience.

Keywords: Ecocriticism, Cather, Hemingway, Frome, American identity.