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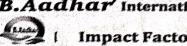
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## Theme of Nature in Ruskin Bond's "The Blue Umbrella" Mr.Satish Dnyaneshwar Morey

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#### Abstract:

In the present research paper the researcher tries his level best to analyse how does the nature impacts the theme and characters of "The Blue Umbrella". The close affinity and day to day encounter with nature brings forth the true human nature that differ the people living in nature from that of the city dweller. Nature teaches and imbibes the eco-friendly approach that leads to their living in harmony with nature. The surrounding of the story is full of ecology and its scenery. The human nature is given shape by nature itself. The background of the novella leaves everlasting impact on readers of its serene beauty and peaceful atmosphere. Keywords: Encounter, dweller, eco-friendly, harmony, ecology

Writing of Bond is realistic enough to sort out the themes of social injustice and inequality, exploitation, superstitions and rituals and above all he is a lover of Nature and this impact can be seen throughout his novella "The Blue Umbrella". The novella presents the nature and Indian social reality in its multilayered manifestations and contours. If a writer is considered great, it is largely because he is a genuine interpreter of life by depicting its joys and sorrows; ups and downs calmness and uneasiness in his work. Ruskin Bond is generally considered to be a writer of hope, life, vitality and vigour, the felling of loneliness, alienation and loss is easily noticeable in his fiction and this is all due to his close vicinity with nature, he himself considered this impact of nature on his works. Even he preferred living in the lap of the nature than in the tempted life of metropolitan cities like: Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata etc.

In one of his novel viz. "Rain in the Mountains" he expressed his comparative view on the impact of nature on him in the following words:

If someone were to ask me to choose between writing the essay on the Taj Mahal or on the last rose of the summer, I'd take the rose even if it were down to its last petal "(185)".

Ruskin Bond does not concentrate on Social, Political, and Economical issue like his contemporaries; observing nature is quite enough for him. He has always found new plots for his stories in nature. Bond is far away from the materialistic world; he believes in simple living and has always remained close to nature. Bond's love of nature can be compared to that of romantic writers like Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley and Keats, who worshipped nature. Ruskin Bond is called as Indian Wordsworth; has the same feelings as Wordsworth had two centuries ago. Gulnaz Fatma in her book explains the impact of nature on his themes:

The clattering of raindrops, the warbling of birds, the rippling and gurgling of brooks, the whispering of plant and the dancing summer breeze inspire his fiction with an exquisite softness (32).

Ruskin Bond stands distant as a class by himself. He avoids writing about the conventional themes of the Great Gandhi-an era. Even the post-independence bad 50's

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psychical tribulations born out of the new egalitarian order of country does not magnetize natural surroundings.

His gambit of writing spread through the various strata and types of characters. Jasbir Jain says:

Ruskin Bond's sensitive portrayal of the countryside, his being so much in tune with nature and the vignettes of childhood remarkable for their range, open out a new dimension of Indian writing in English which is not at all self-conscious (83).

The story of "The Blue Umbrella" is set in the background of Himalayan ranges of Gharwal where the surrounding is replete with flora and fauna. The protagonist of the novella is a ten years old girl-Binya. As it is true that the childhood trauma of Ruskin Bond compelled him to take recourse to the nature and absolute cure from nature he got even a short excursion along his father in nature brought him relief from the ups and down of life. He felt that nature has soothing capacity and can heal the wounds given by the experiences of life. His protagonist in the novella The Blue Umbrella finds her way in the mountains.

Ruskin Bond doesn't subscribe to the blind adoration of nature. He considers it as an integral part of the human world. Indeed, Bond is so much concerned with the environment and the crying need for conservation that he cannot resist the temptation of indulging in bit of campaign for the conservation of nature's harmony.

The illustrations and discussions of nature in his novels make it palpably clear that Bond is not merely a committed ecologist but a genuine ideologist. Naturally, therefore in his case the love for nature and the passion for conservation of ecology is not something borrowed or even acquired, it is innate and instinctive. For him each drop of water, coming with the rain or flowing with the river, is God's bounty and therefore divine.

Even though the story of the novella revolves around the love of Binaya for her beautiful inanimate object i.e. Blue Umbrella that she gets from the city dwellers at the cost of her magical pendent of leopard claw. Near about everyone gets fascinated by the beauty of the umbrella except some keep jealousy. Binya is so acquainted with the every nook and corner of the mountains that she never hesitated of being alone in the forest to late evening with her cattle. When her umbrella is floated in by the gust of powerful wind that put away it to the sharp edge of the cliff hundred feet above the bolder strewn path without any prior thoughts she takes risk of her own life to bring her umbrella back. How much she relies on nature as far as the matter of trust is concerned. She never allows anyone to touch her umbrella even hardly to her brother Bijju but on the other hand she keeps her umbrella open on the forest ground while dozing in the noon.

The serene beauty of nature plays vital role in shaping the behaviour of the people. When the confrontation of Binya with city dwellers takes place the shrewdness and selfish human nature comes forth. On the other hand Binya remains a pure child of nature who without any malice and jealousy gives in her umbrella to age old Ram Bharosa a shopkeeper from the same village. She finds her way out from her umbrella vanity only due to her selfless behaviour and that serenity of thoughts arises from the impact of her living in the lap of the nature. She let her umbrella to her brother once in a torrent of rain while eating wild berries which redden her leaps here Bond may be comparing this with artificial chemical

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beauty product of the modern age. In Bond's view her natural beauty surpasses the artificial one. The major impact of nature on Binya is that her pioneering acts of sacrifice; her own wish and will for the betterment of human life.

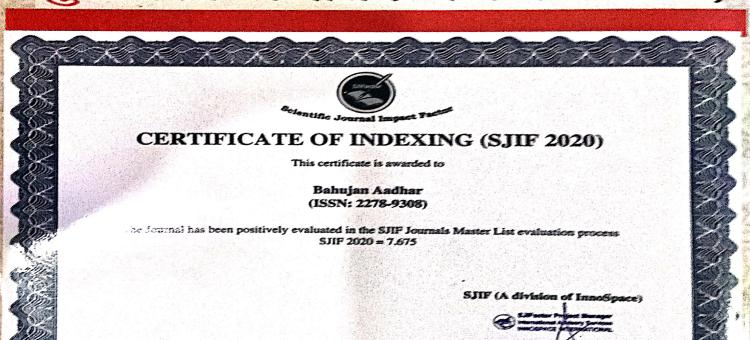
Ruskin Bond, India's beloved writer of the hills, finds relief in the lap of the nature, as well as the healing capacity of his woes given by the time and vicious circle of life. Her impact on the human nature is deep and everlasting. Binya is a beautiful creation of the nature, lives in peaceful environment of Himalaya, away from the jealousy and hate of common day to day life of the city dwellers. Binya stands for the nature's serenity of thoughts and peaceful mind that brings the disappointed old man in the main stream of life.

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