

The Anthropocene in Young Adult Literature: A Comparative Study of Hindi and German Language Literature of the Twenty-First Century

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In the twenty-first century, we are facing serious environmental problems such as melting glaciers, global warming, species extinction, droughts, floods, wildfires, etc. These situations have arisen from the uncontrolled exploitation of nature by humans. Young people in every country are now protesting against environmental damage and demanding a safe and green future. The field of Anthropocene studies also addresses these issues in literature and enables us to critically analyze our actions and their consequences.

Although the climate crisis is a global issue, it is addressed in various ways in the literary texts of different countries. This is related to the diverse cultural, political, and social contexts as well as literary traditions. In my doctoral dissertation, I am examining and comparing literary works for young readers aged 12 to 14 from Hindi- and German-speaking regions against the backdrop of and taking these contexts into account. The following questions play a significant role in this research: How is nature represented in the text in comparison to extratextual reality? How is a dystopian image of the world portrayed in young adult literature? Which aspects of nature and the environment are addressed or not addressed in this literature, and how are they depicted? What literary devices are used in both linguistic cultures to raise young people's awareness of the causes and effects of environmental destruction and its solutions? The focus will be placed, among other things, on narrative categories, characters, and plots, and will examine the respective roles that culture, history, and society play in shaping the theme.

I will compare the selected literary texts in terms of the relationship between nature and humanity depicted in them—both in terms of content and aesthetics—while taking their sociocultural context into account. Against the backdrop of the various cultural traditions and environmental discourses in India and Germany, a comparative perspective on the new paradigms of and environmentally oriented literary studies is particularly valuable for better understanding the relationship with nature in both cultural contexts.