

ECOLINGUISTIC DIMENSIONS IN MCCONAGHY'S MIGRATIONS (2020)

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Abstract

This research aims to deal with ecolinguistic dimensions (ED), analyzing the protagonist Franny Stone's journey to track Arctic terns, in McConaghy's *Migrations* (2020). The qualitative methodology with theoretical framework by Haugen, Stibbe, Steffenson and fill is adopted. It tries to explore the interconnection between loss, life and the Natural world. It also tries to find out how environment shapes language, considering physical factors that influence speaker's perceptions and expressions regarding the world and humanity's role within it. Even Arctic terns despite being endangered species took their journey from Arctic to Antarctica. Various ecolinguistic dimensions such as, semiotics, sociocultural, evolutionary, cognitive, emotional, scientific and critical, found in this research, highlight the reciprocal relationship between human and environment. This research through Ecolinguistic Dimensions (ED) such as symbolic, sociocultural, cognitive and natural highlights the need for the safety of Natural resources and shows the close relationship between personal loss and environmental degradation. It also found the rich use of ecolinguistic vocabulary to highlight the ethical necessities of environmental stewardship on Nature emphasizing the public responsibility to safeguard biodiversity.

Keywords: *Arctic Terns, Ecolinguistic Dimension (ED), Environmental Degradation, Personal Loss, Migration.*

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1. Introduction

Studying how language and Nature are connected is a delicate area in ecolinguistics. But when the term "ecolinguistics" was first used by the French ecolinguist Claude Hagège in 1970, it focused on natural ecology. Hagège talked about ecolinguistics as the future study of how things in Nature, like landscapes, interactions between people and other living things, and even cosmic events, are part of languages and cultures (Haugen, 2001). Ecolinguistics has an important role in helping readers analyze media texts more critically, urging them to think about the stories they tell in a broader environmental context (Laurie, 2023). From an ecosophy viewpoint, it's preferable if identity is based on actions and beliefs rather than owning material possessions. Ecolinguistics doesn't just study the factual patterns used by scientific institutions and opposing movements, but also questions the broader patterns both sides use to support their descriptions (Love-Nichols, 2019). In ecolinguistics, these patterns have mainly been explored in relation to climate change, which is a crucial topic due to the scale and intensity of the debate, as well as its social and ecological significance (Arran). Certainly, an increasing amount of literature suggests that ecolinguistics can be beneficial to the life of science. As Steffensen suggests,

Ecolinguistics re-orientates linguistics so that its practitioners become sensitive, responsible and active share takers—i.e. participants in the local, global and universal communities of humans and non-humans-whose point of departure is patterns of language and communication. (Steffensen & Fill, 2014)

1.1. Research Objectives

- 1) To explore the relationship between humans and its environment.
- 2) Analyzing language depiction in Migrations.

1.2. Aim of this Research

The aim of this research is to examine ecolinguistic dimensions and how language shows the relationship between humans and environment emphasizing on environmental issues.

1.3. Research Methodology

The methodology applied to this research work is qualitative, which is to dig deeper into the topic and bring something productive out of it by using Halliday's theoretical

framework. The primary data for this research would be taken from Migrations. While the secondary data are obtained from multiple articles, books, websites and journals for better understanding and improved knowledge about ecolinguistics.

1.4. Significance of Study

The significance of choosing this ecolinguistics theory is that it helps in understanding the relationship of living organisms with their surroundings. Migration talks about things that people have ignored or forgotten about, like trauma and climate change. The research highlights the significance of ecolinguistics.

2. Discussion

Ecolinguistics is a part of linguistics that looks at how language and the environment connect. This field discusses how humans and other creatures interact with their surroundings, including social, cultural, and physical aspects, from an ecological perspective. Unlike other linguistic areas, ecolinguistics focuses on "ecosophy" as its core principle, emphasizing a commitment to ecological balance (Chen, 2016). It opposes the idea of separating humans and Nature and suggests that addressing environmental issues requires both scientific and moral considerations, rather than just a scientific approach (116). Ecolinguistics investigates how the environment shapes language, considering physical factors that influence speakers' perceptions and expressions regarding the world and humanity's role within it. In the 1990s, ecolinguistics "developed into an institutionalized field in its own right Primarily within the framework of applied linguistics" ecolinguistics started gaining recognition as a separate field within applied linguistics. Since then, it has seen different approaches Emerging. Steffensen and Fill categorize these approaches into four strands based on how they View the ecology of language: symbolic, natural, sociocultural, and cognitive. Each strand has its Own way of defining ecology and its own research goals and methods. This diversity creates a Broad area of study under the umbrella of ecolinguistics. Some scholars suggest that Ecolinguistics should be seen as its own field rather than just a part of linguistics, due to this Variety of approaches (Fill & Steffensen, 2014). In ecolinguistics, the concept of 'environment' extends beyond the physical realm to encompass the social environment, which includes cultural values and language (Skutnabb-Kangas and David, 2017). Thus, ecolinguistics delves into the intricate connections between Language, environment, and speakers. Given Indonesia's status as an archipelago nation with Numerous local languages and indigenous communities, future researchers have the opportunity to explore the Indonesian environment, which encompasses biodiversity and local values. The

Vocabularies of its speakers function as proof of the ways a network perceives and interacts with its environment. Halliday's keynote address at the 1990 World Conference of Applied Linguistics that is widely regarded as the field's inception. In his speech, Halliday criticized what he termed linguistic Anthropocentrism, referring to the tendency of people to prioritize human-centered perspectives in their daily communication, disregard and undervalue the natural world, perpetuating or worsening ecological problems. Shortly afterward, the first comprehensive writings on the Subject appeared (Makkai, 1993).

No substantial work on this topic, "Ecolinguistics analysis of Charlotte McConaghy's Migrations" is done. This research is important because it enables us to comprehend how Language, the environment, and human migration patterns are interrelated. This research also sheds light on how language impacts and is influenced by way of our attitudes and our behavior Closer to Nature. By analyzing the ultra-fine linguistics aspects of Franny's relationship with Environment, might be done the central role of language in shaping our understanding of Ecological matters (Randerson, 2018).

3. Various Dimensions

Migrations can be examined from different aspects of ecolinguistics for the purpose of Raising awareness about environmental problems through language which may result in Sustainable as well as compassionate relationship with Nature. Ecolinguistics is concerned with How we speak about our ecological relations. This combines concepts from language studies, Ecology, and environmental science to investigate how our talk affects our attitudes and actions Toward natural world. There are various ecolinguistics levels, one can mention descriptive, cognitive, critical, Sociocultural and practical etc. e.g. Franny says, she's searching how the Arctic tern migrates, Focusing on the effects of climate change on the bird's flying patterns. She would suppose you Are well aware of this it's what's killing the fish.

The descriptive dimension of ecolinguistics is concerned with how the environment and natural existences are depicted in language. In the passage, the narrator and Niall are talking about the Arctic terns and instances of long migration. To describe the uniqueness of the tern's journey, Niall uses descriptive language. "He speaks of their survival, their defiance" (McConaghy, 2020 p.169). This depiction not only produces a vivid image of tern's resilience but also infuses a sense of admiration for their ability to negotiate vast distances. Besides, Niall's desire to follow the terns on their migration emphasizes the descriptive aspect. He discusses travelling across oceans and to foreign

continents, using language to describe geographical landscapes and the adventurous spirit of exploring unfamiliar territories.

The cognitive aspect is particularly clear in Franny's response to Niall's suggestion that she should go back with the terns and wing your way to your old home. Initially Franny's response is one of excitement "Let's" (169). but this utterance also demonstrates her level of intellectual engagement with what Niall says, as Nicolson explains, but for Franny this idea conjures up the enormous knowledge they might gather about both terns and climate change. It is clear that language allows her to become intrigued, to start accessing her own intellectual capital and enthusiasm. This suggests just how closely related the cognitive and the emotional aspects can be in environmental fiction. Niall's description of now visiting an empty, cold house sets up a direct, cognitive linkage between his memories of him and Franny's mother, and Franny's contemporary feelings about her family home at that moment. This, too, influences Franny's emotional response, with vital implications for her identity and sense of belonging, which are always interlinked with how she feels about the natural world. "I smile, excitement throbbing to life within. "Let's" (McConaghy, 2020).

In ecolinguistics, the evolutionary aspect is brought to life by the narrator's use of historical and biological information. This helps us understand how birds have evolved over the course of two hundred million years, showcasing their ability to survive and adapt. By mentioning specific bird species like the 'oilbird', 'bar-headed goose', 'rufous hummingbird', and 'Rüppell's griffon vulture', we get a glimpse into the different roles birds have played in various ecosystems. The semiotic dimension of ecolinguistics is evident in how signs, symbols, and meanings are used to link Gammy's connection to home with the lighthouse. This can be observed through the signs and symbols associated with home. The tradition of the family inheriting the responsibility for the lighthouse over many years represents an ongoing connection and deep bond with the land and sea. The lighthouse, in its essence, symbolizes guidance, security, and stability, serving as a constant reminder of Gammy's family heritage.

The sociocultural side of ecolinguistics shows how language interacts with culture to Mold environmental values, conduct, and subjectivities. So, Franny's interaction with Niall's Parents illustrates larger societal dynamics involving keeping the status around environmental Awareness, of what sort of thinking is acceptable. Franny's position as a cleaner at NUI (National University of Ireland) is a 'meditative' task which shows her grounded attitude to working and living all shaped by her socio-economic background, and her personal life. How she answers Questions about her parents and whether she is

married to Penny Lynch, alludes to long established expectations of family structures and accomplishment. Penny thinks she will be a Success because she is following cultural expectations (related to both marriage and the Environment) in a way that society at large would agree with.

“I’m a cleaner at NUI.” “And what drew you to that vocation?” Penny asks. She’s Wearing a cashmere sweater and ruby earrings. The fireplace in the corner is the size of Dublin, and the wine we’re drinking has been in the cellar as long as Niall’s been alive. “It’s not a vocation,” I say with a smile. I don’t know if she meant it as a joke but it’s Pretty funny to me. “It’s just a job I could get with no skills or qualifications. It’s easy Enough to come and go, and you can do it anywhere in the world.” I pause with the fork Halfway to my mouth. “Actually, to be honest, I don’t mind it. It’s meditative (McConaghy, 2020 p. 171).

The psychological empathy of the narrator for tern’s points to a cognitive dimension. She has tears thinking about her husband weeping over the migration of terns. It is an important ecolinguistics reaction to watch how language changes the world. To follow terns is not just for data collection, but an important assurance to their migratory routes. She is pursuing the vertical life not only to understand where her food comes from but also to hike and surf, long-board across as many landforms as she's lucky enough to visit. The pursuit extends beyond level surface level information, it deepens a relationship with Nature that sees these birds for their full dimensions in an entire ecological web in which they are utterly vital actors.

Critical dimension in reality shapes people’s perception. It critiques narrative. “Most of the funding bodies have given up on the birds,” I say. “They’re focusing their research elsewhere; in places they think they can actually make a difference. It is expected that this will be the terns' final attempt at migration. It's expected that they won't make it.

Niall guides the narrator to a window seat that overlooks the peaceful gardens basked in Sunlight. This view is in stark contrast to the chaos inside caused by the birds flying around. In The greenhouse, where it is quiet and cool, the narrator ponders on what it means for the cages to Be open. The cages that were once filled with life now stand empty, creating a sense of loss but Also a feeling of newfound freedom. The narrator wonders if the birds hesitated before flying Away or if they eagerly soared out into the world. These thoughts lead the narrator to explore Deeper themes such as being trapped, finding freedom, and making choices. I wake from a dream of trapped moths, throwing themselves repeatedly into a pane of Glass as they try to reach the light of the moon. Niall’s

gone from the bed, so he doesn't See what I see: that my feet are covered in dirt and have smeared it all over the sheets. I Pause. Oh no. I must have gone roaming in my sleep (173).

“They shout in a language that seems foreign to me, as everything they say on board does. Things like abeam and forepeak and belay” (McConaghy, 2020 p. 37).

The vocabulary like, ‘abeam’, ‘forepeak’, ‘belay’ highlights focused vocabulary related with maritime activities. This specialized language Reflects deep connection to the sea and nautical practices, explaining how specific environments Generate unique linguistic expressions. The lines also show how language operates within Specific cultural contexts. The ‘maritime’ terms used by the crew foster a sense of community and shared understanding among those who know them, while excluding those who don't Illustrates how language can both include and exclude, influencing one's identity and sense of Belonging in a specific environmental and cultural setting.

4. Conclusion

The main aim of this research was to examine ecolinguistic dimensions in McConaghy's Migrations to see how language shows the relationship between human and environment emphasizing environmental issues. This research found the use of vivid language to highlight the ethical necessities of environmental stewardship and the significant impact of human activities on nature. Franny's Nightmares and haunted dreams indicate a troubled past, specifically the stillbirth of her daughter, for which she blames herself, believing her body suffocated her child. Seeking redemption and hope, she turns to the Arctic terns, renowned for their long migrations. Franny tracks two terns and begins following them to protect them from the world's dangers. During her visit to Yellowstone National Park, she is struck by the silence and absence of birdsong, highlighting the peril faced by wildlife and the urgent need for preservation. By demonstrating the practical and cognitive aspects of ecolinguistics, the research calls for mindfulness and individual responsibility in nurturing a sustainable relationship with the environment. It demands a deeper awareness of how human actions and climate change affect the Natural world, urging us to take ethical measures to protect and preserve wildlife and their habitats. Semiotics, sociocultural, evolutionary, cognitive, emotional, scientific and critical are some of the ecolinguistic dimensions that we have found out in this research. It also shows the reciprocal relationship between humans and environment. The findings demand to safeguard biodiversity.

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