

**ANTHROPOCENTRIC ATTITUDE: A
STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
DEGRADATION IN BACIGALUPI'S *SHIP
BREAKER* TRILOGY**

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**Anthropocentric Attitude: A Study of Environmental
Degradation in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* Trilogy**

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ABSTRACT

Title: Anthropocentric Attitude: A Study of Environmental Degradation in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* Trilogy

This study explores anthropocentrism as a major cause for environmental degradation. The study revolves around the causes of anthropocentric attitude in human beings and its impact on the stability of ecosystem. Consequently, the research discloses the anthropocentrism as a 'nature-killer' through the lens of Taylor's concepts of biocentrism egalitarianism, extractivism, respect for nature and techno-centric society as stimulator of anthropocentrism. Content analysis is used as a method for the analysis of the selected texts but it is further delimited to the Krippendorff, Klaus qualitative content analysis. By delimiting the research to the '*Ship Breaker*' trilogy of Paolo Bacigalupi, this research demonstrates the causes of anthropocentric attitude that considers man 'as the measure of all things in the universe' and ultimately results in climate-change and its devastating consequences. Moreover, the selected texts also pinpoint how 'unbridled techno-centric society' that forego its reverence for a stable ecosystem and human beings' pursuit of resource extraction as the major cause of environmental catastrophe. In addition, this research also explores the consequences of 'othering' of environment or nature, in the form of social chaos and environment degradation such as climate change, global warming, landscape and habitat loss, melting of ice-caps and extinction of various species. Furthermore, concepts of the social unrest, lack of political government and rise of corporates, "unbridled use of advanced technology" for devising warfare superhuman bodies, and climate refugees are also explored in the light of selected texts. The significance of this study lies in its ability to provide a robust ethical lens through which to examine the environmental themes in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy. Moreover, the current study, by adopting content analysis as a research method, is likely to be a significant contribution to the production of knowledge in the area of Eco critical studies. This study concludes that the anthropocentric attitude and unchecked activities of the characters in the novel have contributed to the devastation of the ecosystem.

Keywords: *Anthropocentrism, Techno-centric society, Climate change*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ED	Environmental Degradation
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
CC	Climate change
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
QCA	Qualitative Content Analysis

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DEDICATION

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this research, the researcher has attempted to explore the ‘anthropocentric attitude’ as a major threat to the sustainability of the ecosystem. This research has analyzed the ‘anthropocentric attitude’ and reflected it as a “slow-violence” for environmental sustenance, in the selected novels of Paolo Bacigalupi. This research is based on the theory of Eco-criticism as a ‘refutation’ of anthropocentric attitude. The lens of eco-criticism is used to study and analyze the irresponsible attitude of humans towards the nonhuman world, in the selected literary work. Furthermore, human being’s trespass into the boundaries of the natural ecosystem for exploitative intentions is disrupting the natural balance of the environment on this planet. Human being’s irresponsible attitude and unbridled use of technology have triggered and multiplied the risks of environmental degradation. The researcher has explored how post-industrialists and their greedy attitudes have aggravated environmental degradation and threatened the sustainability of the ecosystem in the selected texts. Human beings’ selfish attitudes and greed for more resources have aggravated the distortion of the environment and disrupted nature’s climate pattern. All such activities of humans and their detrimental effects on society and nature are explored and analyzed in selected novels.

1.1 Anthropocentrism

‘Anthropocentrism’ considers humans as the “center” of the Planet and puts Nature at the “periphery”. In terms of superiority, it considers human beings at the “top” and other components of nature as “subordinate” to them. For an anthropocentric mindset, only humans have the “rights”; other biotic and abiotic components of the Earth are just for the benefit of humans. This mindset comes due to “ignorance or greed” that engages humans in “polluting, destroying and exploiting” nature for their rights. For the anthropocentric attitude other things have worth only if they give benefits to the humans and anthropocentric humans don’t care about the other components of the environment. According to Grendstad, it is the obligation of humans to control all the resources of nature (Grendstad 75). Human being exploit nature by using this obligation and nature bears the unprecedented loss. Man actually

weakens his own foundations on this planet by showing an exploitative attitude towards nature. Advancement in technology has boosted the 'haughtiness of human beings. They consider that he can do everything for his benefit by using advanced technology. The current study has explored that this selfish use of technology for resource drainage and hoarding for getting maximum economic benefits is the arrogant pursuit of an anthropocentric man that causes destruction to the stable ecosystem. Hence, a man bearing anthropocentric mindset, always tries to use the nature for the sole purpose of selfish gains and without considering its unprecedented impacts on nature. However, the eco-critics' mindsets consider the environment as 'having the same worth and rights as the humans do have'.

Furthermore, Glotfelty asserts that scientific and technological advancement is the root cause of this persistent threat of climate change (13). The environment is only an 'instrument' for an anthropocentric human. When the environment is unable to benefit the humans the anthropocentric humans threaten and degrade it. An anthropocentric person usually abuses and degrades the ecosystem. The anthropocentric human thinks that he has been given the right to exploit the nature without showing any concern for nature's sustainability. Hence, humans' this sense of superiority and egotistical actions are contributing towards the "slow-violence" for ecological sustainability. This slow and invisible degradation of environment is not discernable for an egotistical and greedy man living in the age of technology and post-industrialization. The consequences of such activities appear slowly but irreversibly after the passage of time come in the form of degradation of Nature. Hence, these act as a "slow-violence" for a sustainable environment that is necessary for the future generations and natural preservation. Alternatively, the proponents of ecocriticism reject this view and suggest that, there must be balance in the environment for the sustainability of life on this planet.

1.2 Ecocriticism: A Counter Response to Anthropocentrism

The word 'eco criticism' was recognized for the first time by William Rueckert in 1978. He used this term in an essay: "*Literature and Ecology: An experiment in eco criticism*". The term got recognition in 1989 when Cheryll Glotfelty used this term in a meeting held by Western Literature Association. In 1993 Patric Murphy published a journal by the title, "*Interdisciplinary studies in literature and*

environment". The purpose of this journal was to publish critical studies on the literature of environment and reflect the representation of nature and environmental concerns in the literary works. According to Glotfelty, eco criticism acts as a link between literary worlds and all other things that exist on this planet, by giving equal importance to all. Eco criticism has been established as a medium and mouth-piece of nature and diverted the attention of the world towards nature.

According to eco critics, literature should contribute to promote such an attitude in which a man should behave properly and consider himself an equal and responsible part of the nature. This eco centric attitude can curb the disturbance caused in the environment by human activities. Hence, eco criticism tries to underscore the importance of environment and raise voice for the protection and preservation of environment. For maintaining the natural-set balance in the environment nature should be given importance.

In his article, "*Revaluing Nature: Toward an Ecological Criticism*," Eco critic Love, Glen A. argues that: "the negligence of humans is a major contribution towards ecological degradation and man never gave priority to the environment" (Love 229). Further, he asserts that man must admit his failure to contribute towards the nature selflessly. Humans must show responsible attitude towards nature by considering the sustainability of environment for present and future generations. The perception, that humans are superior in this universe and the nonhuman are there just to provide benefits to the humans, has been criticized by many scholars and researchers. This attitude leads towards the destruction and collapse of the nature and ultimately becomes detrimental to all forms of life on Earth. Eco criticism raises the voice for the 'survival and sustenance' of the whole planet, rather than an anthropomorphic or human-centered approach.

Eco critics assert that, man should not consider himself 'as the center of the universe' rather he must consider himself 'as the part' of this universe and he must believe in co-existence. Human beings exist in the world just because of the interdependence on non-human world. For the ecocentric view, all the resources have 'intrinsic value' and are valuable and essential. The value of all natural resources goes beyond their ability to satisfy the humans' needs. Humans must 'maintain the equilibrium' while getting benefits from the natural resources

Hence, Eco critics want to replace this anthropocentric attitude with the eco centric attitude. Man is dependent on everything present in this universe and without environment man is nothing. As, Manes asserts that if humans are considered as superior in this universe and all other things are ignored, then this will lead to the 'self-destruction' of human on this planet (21). It can be concluded, that eco critics try to overcome and substitute the 'anthropocentrism' with 'eco centrism' and eco critics wants to set the limit for the humans in order to control their trespassing into the natural resources. Anthropocentrism is the primary problem that eco critics address and highlight in their writings. Hence, eco critics are committed to highlight the environmental injustice and provoke to eradicate this biased approach that contributes to the collapse of eco-balance. Apart from that, the current study also criticizes the anthropocentric view and its impact on the stable environment in the selected primary texts by considering the following research problem.

1.3 Capitalism, Technological Progress, and Climate Degradation: An Inextricable Link

1. Capitalism: The Root of Ecological Exploitation

The capitalist economic model is predicated on the ideals of infinite growth and resource extraction. Capitalism's driving force is the accumulation of wealth, often at the cost of environmental health. This model prioritizes short-term profits over long-term ecological sustainability, leading to practices that deplete natural resources, degrade ecosystems, and intensify climate change. Under capitalism, nature is commodified, stripped of intrinsic value, and reduced to a set of raw materials to be exploited for economic gain.

The environmental theorist, *James O'Connor* argues in his theory of the "second contradiction of capitalism" that environmental degradation undermines the very resources that capitalism depends on leading to ecological crises. This contradiction is evident in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy, where the remnants of a capitalist society have led to a devastated landscape characterized by extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and the collapse of natural ecosystems. In Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy, the setting of a post-apocalyptic world reflects the consequences of unchecked capitalism, where the environment has been severely degraded, and the gap between the wealthy elite and the marginalized poor has widened. The remnants

of industrial capitalism are depicted in the form of massive, decaying oil tankers and resource extraction operations that have left the landscape barren.

2. Technological Progress: Catalyst and Complicator

While technological advancements have brought about significant benefits to humanity, they have also been a major driver of environmental degradation, especially when guided by capitalist imperatives. Industrial technologies, from fossil fuel extraction to mass manufacturing, have dramatically increased the scale of human impact on the planet, leading to widespread deforestation, air and water pollution, and the release of greenhouse gases. The reliance on fossil fuels and unsustainable energy sources has been central to technological progress under capitalism, exacerbating climate change.

Eco-critics such as Ursula Heise emphasize that technological innovation under a capitalist framework tends to prioritize efficiency and profit over environmental considerations. This "techno-utopian" approach assumes that any environmental problem can be solved through more advanced technology, thereby avoiding deeper questions about consumption patterns and ecological ethics.

In the *Ship Breaker* trilogy, technology is depicted as both a tool of survival and a mechanism of destruction. The advanced machinery and genetically engineered beings highlight a world where technology has not been used to mitigate environmental damage but has instead intensified it, reflecting an unsustainable trajectory of human progress.

3. The Vicious Cycle: Capitalism, Technology, and Climate Degradation

Capitalism and technological progress feed into a vicious cycle that accelerates environmental degradation. As capitalist enterprises seek to maximize profits, they push for rapid technological advancements that enable more efficient extraction and production. However, this increased efficiency often leads to greater consumption and depletion of natural resources, a phenomenon known as the Jevons Paradox. This paradox suggests that technological progress, instead of reducing environmental impact, can actually lead to an increase in resource use.

This cycle is vividly portrayed in Bacigalupi's narrative, where the remnants of industrial civilization continue to exploit the environment, despite its already

fragile state. The consequences of this unrelenting exploitation are evident in the form of climate change-induced catastrophes, such as hurricanes, floods, and heatwaves, which serve as the backdrop for the story.

Capitalism and technological progress are intrinsically linked, with each driving the other in a self-reinforcing cycle. The imperative for profit under capitalism fuels rapid technological innovation, often at the expense of environmental sustainability. New technologies are developed to increase productivity, reduce costs, and exploit previously inaccessible natural resources, resulting in greater environmental degradation.

This cycle of innovation and exploitation has led to the intensification of climate change, as industries release large quantities of carbon dioxide, methane, and other pollutants into the atmosphere. The exploitation of fossil fuels, deforestation for industrial agriculture, and the overuse of natural resources have significantly contributed to the rising levels of greenhouse gases, destabilizing the Earth's climate.

The Anthropocene, a term used to describe the current geological epoch marked by significant human impact on the planet, is a direct consequence of the combined effects of capitalist expansion and technological advancement. The narrative of the *Ship Breaker* trilogy, set in a world ravaged by climate change and environmental collapse, serves as a speculative critique of these interconnected forces.

The intertwined forces of capitalism and technological progress have historically driven the exploitation of natural resources, contributing to the current climate crisis. The unchecked pursuit of profit and technological dominance, rooted in anthropocentric attitudes, has led to severe ecological consequences. Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy serves as a literary representation of these dynamics, offering a dystopian vision of a future where humanity's disregard for the environment has reached catastrophic levels. This background sets the stage for a deeper analysis of the trilogy using the lens of ecocriticism, emphasizing the need for a theoretical framework, such as Paul Taylor's *Respect for Nature*, to evaluate the environmental ethics presented in the narrative.

1.4 Nature vs. Culture in Global North

The Global North, which broadly refers to the economically developed, industrialized nations of North America, Europe, and parts of East Asia, has historically been at the forefront of technological progress and industrialization. The Nature vs. Culture debate in the Global North is characterized by a dominant anthropocentric mindset, where culture is often prioritized over nature. Several key points highlight this relationship:

Scholars such as Rob Nixon in his work *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011) argue that the environmental policies and industrial practices of the Global North have prioritized economic growth at the expense of ecological health. Nixon discusses the concept of "slow violence"—the gradual, often invisible environmental destruction caused by industrial activities, which disproportionately affects marginalized communities in the Global South. In Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker*, this dynamic is mirrored in the devastated landscape of the Gulf Coast, where the remnants of oil rigs and wrecked ships serve as evidence of long-term industrial exploitation, a hallmark of the Global North's extractive practices.

Timothy Morton in *Ecology Without Nature* (2007) examines the ideological separation between nature and culture that characterizes Western thought. He critiques the anthropocentric worldview that underpins industrial capitalism, arguing that it alienates humans from the environment. In the *Ship Breaker* trilogy, this alienation is depicted through the desolate setting, where the natural environment has been reshaped into a hostile, polluted wasteland, reflecting the consequences of cultural dominance and industrial expansion.

1. Technological Optimism and Exploitation of Nature

In the Global North, the advancement of technology and industrial growth has often been equated with progress and modernity. This perspective views nature primarily as a resource to be harnessed for human benefit, a mindset that aligns with the capitalist drive for economic growth and profit maximization. The Industrial Revolution, rooted in the Global North, exemplified this shift from an agrarian connection with nature to an era dominated by mechanization and environmental exploitation.

The Global North's approach to nature has historically been one of domination and control, manifesting in practices such as deforestation, mining, and large-scale agriculture. These activities have led to significant environmental degradation and contributed to global climate change, disproportionately affecting the Global South and vulnerable communities worldwide.

In *The Shock of the Anthropocene* (2016), Christophe Bonneuil and Jean-Baptiste Fressoz discuss the concept of the Anthropocene which the current geological era characterized by significant human impact on the Earth's ecosystems. They argue that technological advancements driven by the Global North have accelerated environmental degradation, leading to a world increasingly dominated by human-made structures and machinery. This aligns with Bacigalupi's depiction of a post-industrial landscape, where the remnants of advanced technology (e.g., oil tankers and scrap ships) dominate the environment, symbolizing the victory of culture over nature and the subsequent ecological collapse.

Ursula Heise in *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet* (2008) explores the paradox of technological progress as both a solution to and a cause of environmental problems. She suggests that the Global North's reliance on technology to address ecological issues often exacerbates the very problems it aims to solve. In the *Ship Breaker* trilogy, this paradox is evident in the use of genetically engineered "half-men" for labor. These beings, created to enhance efficiency in resource extraction, highlight the dangers of a techno-utopian approach that ignores the ethical and ecological implications of manipulating nature for cultural and economic gain.

2. Environmental Imperialism and Climate Injustice

The dominance of culture over nature in the Global North has also led to a phenomenon known as environmental imperialism, where the ecological costs of industrial progress are often outsourced to less developed nations (Global South). The extraction of natural resources and pollution are externalized, creating a stark inequity in the distribution of environmental harms and benefits.

The concept of environmental imperialism is explored by Ramachandra Guha and Joan Martínez-Alier in *Varieties of Environmentalism* (1997). They argue that the environmental degradation caused by the Global North often externalizes its ecological costs to the Global South, leading to climate injustice. The setting of

Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy, a devastated Gulf Coast region, can be seen as a localized representation of this global phenomenon. The ruined landscape, marked by industrial decay and extreme weather, suggests the aftermath of the Global North's extractive practices and its disregard for the ecological consequences faced by vulnerable communities.

Jason W. Moore in *Capitalism in the Web of Life* (2015) introduces the idea of "world-ecology," which views capitalism as an ecological regime that integrates human and non-human nature into its processes of accumulation. Moore's critique of capitalism's inherent drive to exploit nature aligns with Bacigalupi's portrayal of a dystopian future where the environment has been thoroughly commodified, and nature exists only as a depleted resource. The *Ship Breaker* trilogy reflects the socio-ecological impacts of the Global North's industrial practices, underscoring the inequities faced by the impoverished, who are left to salvage the remnants of a once-thriving environment.

The setting of Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy, particularly in the Gulf Coast of a future America ravaged by climate change, serves as a microcosm of these global dynamics. The decaying remnants of industrial civilization and the exploitation of the environment reflect the long-term consequences of the Global North's prioritization of cultural and economic progress over ecological sustainability.

3. Nature vs. Culture in the *Ship Breaker* Trilogy: A Post-Apocalyptic Lens

In Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy, the relationship between nature and culture is central to the narrative, providing a stark critique of the anthropocentric attitudes that dominate contemporary society. The setting of the trilogy in a dystopian future is marked by climate chaos, rising sea levels, and environmental collapse, which highlights the destructive consequences of placing culture above nature.

4. Destruction of Natural Ecosystems

The trilogy's world is a post-apocalyptic landscape, where the natural environment has been significantly altered and degraded due to the unchecked exploitation of resources. The once-thriving ecosystems of the Gulf Coast are depicted as devastated by extreme weather events, flooding, and industrial pollution, a direct outcome of the anthropocentric exploitation rooted in the industrial practices of the Global North.

The remnants of oil tankers and the wreckage of abandoned machinery serve as powerful symbols of the clash between nature and culture. They reflect the consequences of a society that has prioritized technological and industrial advancement over ecological balance, leading to irreversible damage to the environment.

5. Conflict Between Anthropocentric and Ecocentric Worldviews

The characters in the *Ship Breaker* trilogy often embody the tension between anthropocentric and ecocentric perspectives. While some characters view the environment merely as a resource for survival and economic gain, others recognize the intrinsic value of nature and lament its destruction. This conflict mirrors the broader Nature vs. Culture debate, questioning whether humanity can transcend its exploitative tendencies and adopt a more harmonious relationship with the natural world.

The portrayal of "half-men" (genetically engineered beings) in the narrative also serves as a metaphor for the consequences of blurring the line between nature and culture. These creatures, designed as laborers by exploiting both human and animal DNA, reflect the ultimate extension of technological control over nature—a society that manipulates and commodifies the very essence of life.

6. Ecological Collapse as a Warning

Bacigalupi's dystopian setting serves as a cautionary tale, warning against the dangers of perpetuating an anthropocentric, culture-dominated worldview. The trilogy suggests that the relentless pursuit of economic growth and technological dominance, as exemplified by the Global North, leads to a future where nature is irrevocably damaged and humanity faces existential threats from climate change.

By blurring the boundaries between nature and culture in a world where the environment has been reshaped by human activity, the *Ship Breaker* trilogy challenges readers to reconsider the ethical implications of the Nature vs. Culture debate and the need for a more ecocentric approach that respects the interconnectedness of all life.

Conclusion

The Nature vs. Culture debate is a critical framework for understanding the environmental degradation depicted in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy, particularly in the context of the exploitative practices of the Global North. Scholars like Rob Nixon and Timothy Morton, offer insights into the environmental exploitation driven by the Global North's industrial practices and the critique of anthropocentrism that underpins Bacigalupi's dystopian vision. By integrating these perspectives, your thesis can effectively highlight the complex interplay between technological progress, capitalism, and ecological collapse, reinforcing the need for an ecocentric shift in addressing the environmental degradation depicted in the texts. This approach aligns with Paul Taylor's *Respect for Nature*, providing a compelling argument for reevaluating the ethical relationship between humanity and the natural world. The trilogy's dystopian setting highlights the devastating consequences of prioritizing cultural and technological progress over ecological sustainability. By exploring this theme, your thesis can offer a compelling critique of anthropocentric attitudes and underscore the importance of shifting towards an ecocentric worldview that respects and preserves the natural environment. This analysis ties into the broader theoretical framework of Paul Taylor's *Respect for Nature*, reinforcing the need for an ethical reconsideration of humanity's place within the natural world.

1.5 Thesis Statement

The current study explores, how anthropocentric attitude, which places humans' needs and desires above ecological concerns, is depicted as central driver of environmental degradation in the selected novels of Paolo Bacigalupi. By analyzing the narratives, characters, and thematic elements, the study reveals the underlying ideological critiques embedded in *Ship Breaker* trilogy and investigates how these texts critique human-centered worldviews, highlighting the urgent need to shift toward more ecocentric worldviews. The current study is based on the following objectives:

1.6 Research Objectives

Based on the statement of problem, I have devised the following research objectives:

- To explore the anthropocentric attitude and its underlying causes as portrayed in Paolo Bacigalupi's selected works particularly through the lens of the Nature vs. Culture debate in Bacigalupi's texts.
- To examine the contribution of anthropocentric attitudes on environmental degradation,
- To analyze the consequences of environmental degradation on both human and non-human lives in the selected works of Bacigalupi.

1.7 Research Questions

On the basis of research objectives, I have devised the following questions:

1. How do the characters in Bacigalupi's selected texts exhibit an anthropocentric perspective, and what factors contribute to this worldview, particularly in the context of the Nature vs. Culture debate?
2. How does the anthropocentric attitude in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy directly contribute to environmental degradation, including resource exploitation, ecological imbalance, habitat destruction, and shifting climate change patterns?
3. What are the effects of environmental degradation on both human and non-human lives in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy?"

1.8 Significance of Research

This research explores the intricate relationship between anthropocentric attitudes and environmental degradation as depicted in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy. The significance of this study lies in its focus on how human-centered perspectives not only drive but also perpetuate the environmental crises portrayed in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy? By analyzing the trilogy through the lens of ecocriticism, the research sheds light on the broader implications of anthropocentrism in selected fictional work. Further, the scholars and readers will be able to understand the causes of 'looming climate changing patterns' that challenge the sustenance of ecosystem. While previous studies may have addressed environmental themes in Bacigalupi's works, this research is specifically based on the anthropocentric attitudes of the characters in the selected literary work. It investigates

how these perspectives contribute to the environmental collapse depicted in the trilogy, offering a focused critique of human-centered thinking in literature. This study uniquely bridges literary analysis with environmental ethics, providing a comprehensive understanding of how Bacigalupi's narrative critiques the moral and ethical dimensions of anthropocentrism. The study depicts the fictional world of the *Ship Breaker* trilogy to current global environmental issues. By drawing parallels between the narrative and real-world challenges, this research emphasizes the urgency of rethinking anthropocentric attitudes in the face of ongoing environmental degradation, making it highly relevant to contemporary discussions. Unlike other research that may focus on broader themes or plot developments, this study delves into the specific character-driven actions, themes of the novel and motivations that embody anthropocentrism. This character-centric approach provides understanding of how individual attitudes contribute to collective environmental deterioration. Climate fiction literature has often been analyzed for its social and political implications; this research uniquely focuses on its environmental dimension, particularly through the lens of anthropocentrism. This adds a new layer of interpretation to Bacigalupi's work and contributes to the broader discourse on the role of literature in addressing environmental crises.

Moreover, this study contributes to the broader conversation on anthropocentrism by dissecting how anthropocentric attitude is portrayed and the factors that contribute to it. This work gives insight to the readers and scholars to reconsider the implications of human dominance over nature in fictional worlds. This contribution not only enhances the literary analysis of Bacigalupi's work but also invites further exploration of the ethical and environmental consequences of anthropocentrism in literature and beyond. The significance of this study also lies in using Paul W. Taylor's theoretical framework from *Respect for Nature: A Theory of Environmental Ethics* in my research and its ability to provide a robust ethical lens through which to examine the environmental themes in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy. The current study challenges the anthropocentric attitudes prevalent in the narrative. This study, thus serves as a bridge between literary analysis and environmental ethics, offering insights to other researchers that are relevant to both fields.

1.9 Delimitation

This research is delimited to the fictional works of Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* Trilogy. This work is analyzed by using eco criticism as a major theoretical framework and in this regard, Paul W Taylor's *Respect for Nature: A Theory of Environmental Ethics* is used as a major lens. Following novels have been used as the primary text for the analysis of research problem;

1. *Ship Breaker* (2010)
2. *The Drowned Cities* (2012)
3. *Tool of War* (2017)

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This section has explored the ‘early studies’ and the ‘reviews taken’ after analyzing the early literature related to my field. In order to study around my research ‘research of different scholars and researchers’ has been included.

2.2 Review of Literature

2.2.1 Critiques and Debates within Ecocriticism

In his article “*The pioneer eco critics’ critique of the English profession in the emergence of eco criticism*”, Toska asserts that eco criticism is actually “critic of ignorance and absence” (1) of nature. He says that literary studies are also under the influence of anthropocentrism. Furthermore, he asserts that Eco criticism has criticized the English writers who use this language to promote anthropocentrism. According to Toska anthropocentrism violates the norms of writing and leads towards ignoring of nature and collapse of environment that further disturbs the balance in the ecosystem. Hence, eco critic thinking also persists in the literary works.

Further, *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* (2005) primarily concentrates on American authors, with significant attention given to the works of Cheryll Glotfelty, Aldo Leopold, and Lawrence Buell. While the entry is structured chronologically, it significantly underrepresents authors who engage with ecological subjects in relation to land, despite their works preceding those of the highlighted critics. The contributions of eco-feminist scholars such as Val Plumwood, Annette Kolodny, and Carolyn Merchant, who examines the intersections of gender and empire, are placed towards the end of the discussion. Moreover, the work of Donna Haraway, who frequently integrates postcolonial studies into her analyses, is entirely omitted. Although the author concedes that "eco critical practice appears to be dominated by American critics and an ever-solidifying American eco critical canon," postcolonial studies are only briefly acknowledged in the final paragraph as a "new area," without any accompanying references.

In addition, "*The Hitchhiker's Guide to Ecocriticism*, a significant essay by Ursula Heise revisits similar dualistic thinking. Deloughrey and Handley's *Postcolonial Ecologies: Literature of the Environment* (2010) offers "an engaging and nuanced intellectual profile of the field," highlighting "the process by which these genealogies are written." In her work, Heise bypasses postcolonial and ecofeminist perspectives, in theorizing the human relationship to place (Deloughrey and Handley 14). However, Heise also addresses the challenges faced by North American critics when interpreting literature from outside the American tradition. This observation underscores the idea that our understanding of the environment and nature is deeply shaped by our pre-existing cultural knowledge. Eco criticism emerges as predominantly Anglo-American in nature. Heise acknowledges that many of the challenges encountered are institutional, pointing out the whiteness of the British and American academics engaged in ecocriticism. For instance, Heise notes a specific communicative link between American and British academics, which rarely extends beyond Anglophone borders due to cultural habits and language barriers. This suggests that the practices of British and American scholars are primarily rooted in Anglophone culture. While it is true that much of British and U.S. scholarship is written in English, there is an urgent need to recognize alternative paths that could connect scholars who speak different languages. Heise also identifies difficulties of assimilation as another significant challenge within ecocriticism.

Huggan & Tuffin in the article "*the interdependence of humanity and nature*" explain that humans cannot exist without the 'symbiotic relationship' with the nature. In this regards, they have defined the humanity as, "the very definition of 'humanity' indeed," they argued, "depended—and still depends—on the presence of the non-human, the uncivilized, the savage, the animal" (Huggan and Tuffin 6). This viewpoint highlights the presence of anthropocentrism and it refutes this attitude promoted by anthropocentrism. For the sustainability of environment there must be social justice and there will be "no social justice without environmental justice; and without social justice for 'all' ecological beings, no justice at all" (Huggan and Tuffin 10).

Further, on the issue of climate change, Gitanjali has explored the colonial impact on the environmental degradation by analyzing the literary work of Achebe Chinua. He has presented the environmental crisis as global issue that is highlighted

in the fictions of postmodern literature. He further explores that colonization gave a proper way to the exploitation and destruction of ecosystem that lead to the destruction of nature and threatened the stability of ecosystem. Pre-colonial period is considered as environment friendly and the colonization introduced the concept of exploitation and suppression of nature by forcefully, taking over the geographical area, along with the people living in a specific area (5). Hence, human activities and their desires to conquer and attain more resources lead to the bio-degradation and therefore, colonization gave the idea of looting the environment mercilessly and with force colonizers cleared the forests for their own will. The land became the victim of colonizers and a source for their existence of this land at the expense of nature they fulfilled their desires. Fanon, in *The Wretched of the Earth*, has explained this by saying that the people who colonize the earth actually fight for the land as different places on the earth have different resources. These colonizers moved from resources deficit lands having resources depleted for their sustenance and attacked on the resources rich land for grabbing more resources exploiting the nature and the native people. Hence, human colonizers manipulated the nature for their own cause and their use of power was against the humans and nature as well.

In an article, “*Eco critical forms of engagement with nature and texts*”, Opermann (5) presents eco criticism as one’s commitment to engage with the nature. She asserts that one must give prime importance to the environmental ethics and values. Furthermore, she has laid stress upon the ‘thematic-analysis’ of the literary texts based on the environmental representation, in order to contribute to the nature. The important of textual work becomes clear from the fact that nature finds it a best source for its expression. Human beings live in connection with the nature and literary text reflects human experiences and their relation with the nature. So, literary texts act as a bridge between man and nature as it connects a man with the natural world. Glotfelty says, Humans are mere “actor and spectator of the devastation” caused on the Earth and they are not considering environmental degradation as a serious problem. Further, she asserts that in our contribution to the environment we must put our efforts by making our minds engaged with the nature as she further asserts that, those who teach and write literature must set their prioritized writings for the restoration of our environment and other issued should be discussed in relation with the environment.

2.2.2 Critiques of Anthropocentrism: Environmental and ethical considerations

Anthropocentric attitude considers human-being as the center of the universe. It reflects the views that the whole universe is meant to provide support for the humans and humans have the right to manipulate and exploit the nature for their benefits. As, Clark asserts that, anthropocentrism starts with the desire of a man to grab more resources from the natural reservoirs. Man having such an attitude considers the nature as a pack of resources of worthwhile and he utilizes these resources for his own welfare and economically stable and well settled life. Furthermore, an anthropocentric man uses the aesthetics of nature for earning the profit to fulfill his unbridled desires. Man treats the nature just to earn gains from it for his own needs. Hence, in anthropocentric attitude the exploitation of the nature is considered as the dire need of human being for their survival and the survival of the environment is compromised.

Benjamin, Gert Petrus qualitatively investigated the dismal and pathetic ecological condition with a purpose to re-examine the understanding of metaphysical studies and to motivate the people to stand for and partake in ecological development. He concluded that deep ecology is the best suitable philosophy in order to understand the environmental concerns. He analyzed the human behavior and presented the suitable way of “deep ecology” he asserts that deep ecology is the rejection of human anthropocentrism. He rejected the concept of shallow ecology and defined shallow ecology as it “claims that there is nothing necessarily wrong with the anthropocentrism” (10). Hence, the western philosophy of shallow ecology advocated anthropocentric outlook whereas the deep ecology favors eco centric approach where the whole ecosystem bears value. These anthropocentric outlooks lead towards the environmental destruction. Hence, to restore the natural imbalance deep ecology was presented as the best eco-philosophy as it advocated the policies that support the whole ecosystem as the most important for this planet.

Grover Nitika has analyzed the eco poetry of Robert Frost and Elizabeth Bishop by using eco criticism as a lens to look into the lines of poems. She analyzed their work by relating it with the human and non-human world in order to make a comparative analysis. The objective of the research was to predict the limit to which these poets broke the anthropocentric world and reached to the bio centric world. This

analysis revealed that these poets negated anthropocentrism attitude and advocated bio centrism. The poetic work admired both human and non-human equally as opposed by anthropocentrism. In this regards Clark (7) asserts that, the difference between bio centric and anthropocentric environmental outlook is the basic fact that the former supports lives and the later supports and gives worth to the single or individual life. Further, he asserts that for the sustenance of the planets 'lives matter' rather than a single or individual live. Hence, these poets also contrasted anthropocentrism and biocentrism and finally advocated bio centrism as the best environmental ethic towards the sustainability of ecosystem.

Chen Jou-An, in his thesis titles: "*An exploration of nature and human development in young adult historical Fantasy*", writes that historians should reflect the human actions and power on the nature. He criticized the historians by taking the stance that historians never mentioned the humans' power and its effects on environment rather they highlighted their power in a specific culture. He asserts that historians always set the nature aside and suppressed it. Furthermore, he concludes that human power was removed from the books by the arrival of fantasy writings that removed the anthropocentrism from the historians' books and adult history fantasy writers included the nature and environment in their writings.

In *Eco criticism on the Edge*, Timothy Clark also reveals this attitude and asserts that the criticism on the anthropocentrism actually denies all forms of anthropocentrism and all of its aspects that exist among humans. Further, this criticism raised the status of environment by making it worthy in the eyes of readers. The denial of our responsibilities and duties towards nature has made the nature vulnerable to the human activities.

2.2.3 Extraction as a Driver of Climate Degradation: Scholarly Support

1. Environmental Consequences of Resource Extraction

In *The Environmental Consequences of Modernity* (2002), Ulrich Beck argues that industrial societies, particularly in the Global North, have pursued aggressive resource extraction to fuel economic growth, resulting in what he terms "risk societies." Beck explains that the pursuit of fossil fuels, minerals, and other natural resources comes with hidden environmental costs, including deforestation, pollution,

and increased greenhouse gas emissions, all of which contribute to climate degradation.

Jason W. Moore in *Capitalism in the Web of Life* (2015) expands on the notion of the "Capitalocene", suggesting that it is capitalism, rather than humanity in general, that is primarily responsible for ecological degradation. Moore's concept emphasizes that extractive industries are central to the capitalist mode of production, which views nature as a "cheap input" to be exploited for profit. This exploitative relationship is vividly depicted in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker*, where the decaying remnants of oil tankers and the wreckage of industrial machinery illustrate the destructive impact of resource extraction on the environment.

2. Fossil Fuel Extraction and Climate Change

Andreas Malm, in *Fossil Capital: The Rise of Steam Power and the Roots of Global Warming* (2016), traces the origins of climate change to the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels, a practice driven by the capitalist imperative for economic expansion. Malm argues that the use of coal, oil, and natural gas as primary energy sources has led to significant carbon emissions, causing the atmospheric changes responsible for global warming. This aligns with the environmental degradation seen in the *Ship Breaker* trilogy, where the setting of a post-apocalyptic Gulf Coast suggests the long-term consequences of the fossil fuel industry's impact on the climate.

In *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* (2014), Naomi Klein contends that the logic of extractive capitalism underpins the climate crisis. Klein argues that industries involved in oil drilling, coal mining, and fracking have not only degraded ecosystems but also contributed to the rapid accumulation of greenhouse gases, exacerbating global warming. The depiction of the Gulf Coast in Bacigalupi's narrative marked by extreme weather events and rising sea levels, mirrors Klein's critique of the fossil fuel industry's role in driving climate instability.

3. Deforestation and Land Degradation

In *The Vanishing Face of Gaia: A Final Warning* (2009), James Lovelock discusses the devastating effects of deforestation as part of the broader pattern of resource extraction. Lovelock highlights how the clearing of forests for timber, agriculture, and mining disrupts carbon sequestration, exacerbating global warming.

This perspective is relevant to Bacigalupi's world-building, where the scarcity of natural, untouched landscapes reflects the extent of land degradation caused by centuries of industrial exploitation.

Richard York, in *The Ecological Rift: Capitalism's War on the Earth* (2010), co-authored with John Bellamy Foster and Brett Clark, emphasizes that deforestation and land degradation are inextricably linked to capitalist resource extraction. The authors argue that the expansion of agricultural frontiers and logging operations, driven by the need for profit, has led to significant habitat loss, reduced biodiversity, and contributed to climate change. In the *Ship Breaker* trilogy, the depiction of barren coastlines and polluted waters can be seen as the fictional outcome of such extractive practices.

4. Oceanic Extraction and Marine Degradation

Elizabeth De Loughrey in *Allegories of the Anthropocene* (2019) examines the impact of industrial practices on marine environments, focusing on the extraction of oil and other underwater resources. De Loughrey argues that the exploitation of the oceans for oil drilling has led to significant marine pollution, the destruction of coral reefs, and the disruption of marine ecosystems. This analysis resonates with the setting of *Ship Breaker*, where the wreckage of oil tankers and the scavenging of ship parts underscore the environmental degradation resulting from decades of marine extraction.

In *Seasick: The Global Ocean in Crisis* (2009), Alanna Mitchell discusses the ecological consequences of oceanic exploitation, including overfishing, oil spills, and deep-sea mining. Mitchell points out that the extraction of marine resources has led to declining fish populations and ocean acidification, exacerbating the climate crisis. The polluted coastal waters depicted in Bacigalupi's trilogy reflect the destructive effects of such practices, painting a grim picture of a world where marine extraction has significantly altered the natural balance of the ocean.

5. Extraction, Climate Injustice, and Social Inequities

Rob Nixon in *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011) explores the concept of "slow violence," where the gradual environmental damage caused by extractive industries often goes unnoticed until it results in severe ecological crises. Nixon emphasizes that the impacts of extraction are felt most

acutely by marginalized and impoverished communities, who suffer the brunt of environmental degradation while reaping few of the benefits. This theme is central to *Ship Breaker*, where the protagonist, Nailer, and his community live in the shadow of industrial decay, struggling to survive in a landscape ruined by extractive capitalism.

Joan Martínez-Alier in *The Environmentalism of the Poor: A Study of Ecological Conflicts and Valuation* (2002) argues that the environmental degradation caused by resource extraction often leads to conflicts between corporations and local communities, particularly in the Global South. Martínez-Alier's analysis of environmental justice issues aligns with the depiction of the marginalized "ship breaker" communities in Bacigalupi's narrative, who are forced to scavenge for remnants of value in a destroyed environment, reflecting the inequities inherent in extractive economies.

Secondary sources such as those by Jason W. Moore, Naomi Klein, and Rob Nixon provide strong evidence that resource extraction is a central driver of climate degradation, supporting your thesis's argument. These scholars illustrate the connections between capitalist imperatives, extractive practices, and environmental destruction, which are vividly portrayed in the setting of Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy. The text's depiction of a world shaped by the remnants of fossil fuel industries and the exploitation of natural resources mirrors the broader critiques of extraction found in these scholarly works.

2.2.4 Critical responses and Scholarly perspectives on Paolo's Literary work

In his article "*Challenging eco precarity in Paolo Bacigalupi's Ship Breaker trilogy*" Johan Hoglund has explored the *ship breaker* trilogy as an endeavor to highlight the escalating climate crisis especially in the Global South. He explores that the Nations of the Global South are suffering due to the precarity of Climate Change that further accelerates in the future. He further explores the future of Capitalism that is disturbed due to the climate shift. He is of the view that global relations are directly related to the Capitalistic societies' activities. In the transformed world the Global economic and social relations are disturbed. That further results in illegal migration in order to escape the precarity and it also results in the shift in wealth distribution.

Another projection of climate issue in the *ship breaker* trilogy is explored by Saba Pirzada in her article; *Children of the ravaged world; Environmentalism in*

Paolo Bacigalupi's ship breaker and Cameron Stracher's the water wars. She has used the lens of eco-Marxism to highlight the class differences due to the devastation caused by the climate change. She highlights the environmental racism, Eco politics and militarism as the major causes of social disintegration in the novels of Polo Bacigalupi and Cameron Stracher. She is of the view that nature should be given humanly based value and advocates that in the Global South due to American myopic policy making for the sake of so-called progress the environment is being degraded. She advocated that the systematic flaws and institutional injustice are according to the Rob Nixon's term "Slow-violence" for the ecology. Further, she highlights the class difference and struggle for escape and survives in the novels by comparing the lives of the protagonists; Nailer and Vera.

M.J Sareeja in her article; *From Human to Post human: A Study of Paolo Bacigalupi's Ship Breaker and The Drowned Cities*, pinpoints that Bacigalupi's narratives serve as a lens through which dystopian futures are examined, intricately shaped by environmental crises, biotechnology, and corporate power. Consequently, his works vividly illustrate the potential consequences of humanity's relationship with its environment. Notably, his exploration of the intersection between ecology and post humanism becomes a central theme, emphasizing the intrinsic connection between humans and the environment in discussions about the future. She asserts and explores that the protagonists in Bacigalupi's works navigate a dystopian society driven by relentless self-preservation and ruthless capitalism. These crises shape a societal framework marked by intense individualism, forcing adolescents to confront their morals and values at an early age, thus bringing these issues to the forefront of the novels. Influenced by societal expectations and a strong sense of genetic determinism, both Nailer in *Ship Breaker* and Mahlia in *The Drowned Cities* strive to rise above being mere products of their genes or upbringing. They grapple with decisions about their actions towards others, whom to trust, whom to help, and whether to keep or break promises and alliances. Further, she explores that at the heart of these choices are concerns of identity, community, and otherness, which Bacigalupi weaves into contemporary discussions of post humanism. He introduces 'Tool' as a central figure in these narratives, a post human entity embodying the traits of a mercenary and warrior, created through the genetic fusion of humans, tigers, and dogs. She concludes by pinpointing that Mahalia's journey in *The Drowned Cities* and Nailer's journey in

Ship Breaker provides a powerful exploration of post humanism, prompting readers to reflect on the evolving concept of identity in a world defined by war, racial tensions, and the blending of diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, according to her these novels challenge traditional ideas of humanity, highlighting the significance of empathy and understanding in a post humanist context where identity is not merely inherited but actively forged by the surrounding turmoil.

Kate Burns explored Paolo Bacigalupi's novel '*The water Knife*' with the objective of making the readers intimated with the cli-fi novels. She urged the readers to explore the literature in order to understand the motives behind current climate change. In this novel Water problem is discussed in terms of water. This novel presents the climate change challenges faced by the people of developed countries who are advanced in technology but are unable to cope with the situation of climate change. These people are unaware of the causes of climate change and remain busy in their worldly pursuits.

In their article *Genetic Augmentation And Future Creatures: Transhumanism In Paolo Bacigalupi's The Drowned Cities* A. Sajina and Dr. Sheeba assert that *The Drowned Cities*, a post-apocalyptic science fiction novel by Hugo and Nebula award-winning author Paolo Bacigalupi, is set in a future America devastated by climate change and economic collapse. Bacigalupi explores the impact of rising sea levels, the plight of immigrants trying to escape the submerged cities amidst relentless civil wars, and the darker side of corporate power. They further assert that the novel also delves into the role of bioengineered beings, known as augments, which are part human and part animal. This research paper focuses on Tool, one of these augments, and his determination to save the drowned cities from destruction, analyzed through the lens of transhumanism. They explore that Paolo Bacigalupi envisions the creatures of the future and their roles in war and destruction. While transhumanism presents many optimistic possibilities, it also carries inherent dangers. Augments like Tool from *The Drowned Cities* and Emiko from *The Windup Girl* are genetically engineered beings controlled by their creators. Tool, a half-human augment, violently kills his creator by ripping out his heart, while Emiko brutally murders a man who sexually tortures her. Similarly, in *Frankenstein*, the monster becomes his creator's enemy, with Frankenstein declaring, "Devil...Begone! I will not hear you. There can be no community between you and me; we are enemies" (92). These narratives

highlight how human gods are often destroyed by their own creations. Although Tool is designed to be a slave, he yearns for freedom and aims to help rebuild the city. However, when a highly efficient and powerful augment like Tool is unleashed among humans, he may pose a significant threat to the human community.

In her article “*Technocentrism and Ecocentrism*” Doaa M.Salman, writes that humans must limit their natural resource exploitation for the sustainability of Nature. She has criticized the resource extraction for the hoarding of profit. Furthermore, she has discussed the unbridled use of technology for the ease of humanity. She is of the view that technology must be used for the sustainability of the nature by considering the needs of the future generations. For the economic growth, she asserts that the ecocentric viewpoint is the best solution. She has criticized the humans’ view of using the technology for solving the environmental pollution. She asserts that for solving the environmental problems “technology acts as a pain-killer, which merely relieves the symptoms temporarily rather than treat the underlying causes” (22). She further, asserts that for the sustainability there must be boundaries for the use of technology.

2.3 Conclusion/Research Gap

Studies by the early researchers have explored the eco criticism in terms of ‘environmental representation in the literary texts’ and the aesthetic impact of nature on human mood and health. Scholar and researchers have used eco criticism, post humans, and trans-humans theory to urge the readers to scan the literary works and explore the role of these texts in highlighting the environmental beauties and its impact on the imagination. Although scholars have highlighted the eco critical and Eco Marxist readings of texts but the area of ‘imbalance’ between the nature and culture caused by human being’s anthropocentric attitude and greed of extractivism is still unexplored in the literary fictional works. Furthermore, the primary text by Paolo Bacigalupi’s *Ship Breaker* trilogy that I have selected to explore the area of research title is yet to be explored. This lack of knowledge through eco critical perspective by analyzing the anthropocentric attitude needs to be filled. Hence, this research has been conducted to bridge this knowledge gap and explore the aforementioned areas that are not sufficiently explored yet. In summary, this research differentiates itself from existing studies on Bacigalupi’s *Ship Breaker* trilogy in several key ways:

- i. **Theoretical Framework:** By applying Paul Taylor's "*Respect for Nature*" theory, this thesis offers an ethical critique of anthropocentrism that has not been previously explored in-depth in relation to *ship breaker* trilogy.
- ii. **Focused Analysis of Extraction:** The main emphasis on extraction industries as the primary cause of climate degradation provides a more specific analysis of the root causes of environmental collapse than is typically found in the scholarship on Bacigalupi.
- iii. **Nature vs. Culture Debate:** In this research the exploration of the Nature vs. Culture debate within the context of the Global North's industrial practices adds a new dimension to the discussion of the trilogy's themes.
- iv. **Methodological Innovation:** The use of Content Analysis (CA) offers a novel, systematic approach to examining the language of anthropocentrism in the texts of *ship breaker* trilogy.
- v. **Attention to Socio-Economic Inequities:** The main focus of this research on the socio-economic consequences of environmental degradation highlights the human impact of extraction-based practices, addressing gaps in discussions of climate justice.

By contributing to these gaps, this research not only contributes to a deeper understanding of Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy but also advances the broader field of ecocriticism by providing new insights into the relationship between industrial capitalism, anthropocentric attitudes, and environmental degradation.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Introduction

This section explains the research methodology and theoretical framework. This section is sub divided into two parts.

1. Research Methodology
2. Theoretical Framework

3.2 Research Methodology

This research is meant to investigate and explore the problem for making an analysis. It is qualitative research, as it is used to interpret and analyze the novels and ‘amass information’. As the research objectives require interpretation of text in order to find the meanings, so the qualitative research has been employed for the deep exploration and ample explanation of the research problem. Furthermore, the study has been done by using the “qualitative content analysis” as discussed below.

3.3 Analytical Framework

This research is qualitative and it has been executed by using ‘qualitative content analysis to analyze and interpret the data (novels). Content analysis is selected due to the reason that it focuses on the texts in order to understand the message given in the texts. Another reason to select the Content analysis is that it has helped finding the specific messages that are hidden and embedded deep in the text. Content analysis is of various types but I have selected ‘Qualitative Content Analysis’. The reason behind this choice is that Qualitative Content Analysis pays focused attention to the message and meanings associated with the texts. It has helped retrieve the themes and interpret information from within the texts. Current study has taken in account the Content analysis of Klaus Krippendorff.

Klaus Krippendorff asserts that texts are written with respect to some background and social practices are also the reasons that compel a writer to pick up the pen and write. Hence, the content analysis has helped understanding the core

meanings and purpose of the texts by giving it a close reading. It has helped to explore the research questions and objectives by focusing on the texts. Hence, content analysis of Klaus Krippendorff has been employed while conducting this research by using the following theoretical framework.

For categorizing the textual data of novels this study has organized and classified different elements of the text that relate to my research objectives. Data is organized by using the following steps.

1. Determining Key Themes and Categories:

a. Identification of Relevant Themes :

I have started by identifying the main themes related to anthropocentric attitude and environmental degradation within the *ship breaker* trilogy by employing the major themes of the theoretical framework. These include the instances of, climate change, resource extractions, misuse of technology, industrialization, human-nature relationship in the selected texts.

b. Categorization: Based on these themes, I have created categories for organizing the data. These categories include:

- i. **Types of Environmental Degradation:** The themes showing the environmental degradation, data related to climate change deforestation, global warming, rising sea levels air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity and habitat loss has been identified.
- ii. **Causes:** Causes, like human being's anthropocentric attitude, resource extraction, ship breaking Industries activities, unbridles use of technology are explored in this research.
- iii. **Effects:** Impact of environmental degradation on ecosystems, climate, human health and society has been explored.
- iv. **Characters' Attitudes and Actions:** Characters having anthropocentric attitude, who contribute to environmental degradation have been identified and highlighted from the selected novels.
- v. **Narrative Techniques:** Descriptions and word choice of the novelist related to the environment is highlighted.

- vi. **Ideological Messages:** The text's stance on environmental issues, critiques of human anthropocentric attitude has been analyzed.

2. Conduction of a Close Reading:

- i. **Annotating the Text:** As I read the novel, I have annotated or highlighted passages that are related to environmental degradation including direct quotes, paraphrased content, and my own interpretations.

3. Analyzing Patterns and Relationships:

- i. **Identifying Patterns:** I have analyzed the data for patterns or trends. For example, Paolo Bacigalupi has frequently pinpointed the human activities as a cause of environmental degradation.
- ii. **Exploring Relationships:** I have explored the relationships by considering how different categories of environmental degradation relate to each other. For example the characters' attitudes toward nature and its influence or effects on environmental degradation

4. Synthesizing and Interpretation:

- i. **Drawing Conclusions:** Based on my categorized data, I have developed insights into how the novels portray environmental degradation. For example, key causes, effects, and ideological messages within the text are analyzed for the research outcome.
- ii. **Argument Building:** By using my categorized data I have built coherent arguments answering the research questions in the analysis. Further, the categorized data has provided evidence for my argument, citing specific passages and explaining how they fit within the selected categories.

By systematically categorizing the textual data, this study has effectively analyzed how a *ship breaker* trilogy addresses anthropocentrism as a major cause of environmental degradation, leading to a deeper understanding of the text and its messages.

3.4 Theoretical Framework

Theoretical Framework has helped support my research in the selected area. As theories guide the researcher and enable them to understand and formulate a specific research by using it as a lens. This research project has been fixed in the frameworks discussed by eco critical and non-anthropocentric theorists. In order to delimit my research I have selected the theory of eco-criticism presented in a book *Respect for Nature* by Paul W. Taylor. The theoretical framework has been used in order to extract the ideas of the writer that oppose the anthropocentrism and consider it a major problem for the environmental degradation. Furthermore, Taylor has advocated the ecocriticism and his view about the “deep ecology” criticizes the anthropocentrism. These concepts of the writer have been utilized while analyzing the text and these have validated the research process by supporting researcher’s point of view or take on the research topic.

3.4.1 *Respect for Nature* by Paul W. Taylor

Paul W. Taylor has presented the theory of eco-criticism and has criticized the immoral attitude towards nature and says that this disrespect for environment is due to men’ unending desire for seeking the pleasures and luxuries in life (92). He used the term “exploitative attitude” (110) for the humans who consider nature “nothing more than a vast repository of resources” (110). This attitude further develops a mindset that nature is meant to be “consumed by humans for human’s ends” (112). In the selected novels for research Paolo Bacigalupi has portrayed the same attitude through different characters. Taylor’s theory of eco-criticism rejects this disrespectful attitude towards nature and advocated the eco-centric attitude for the sustenance of environment.

Taylor opines that the era of technology and capitalism has given the humans an outlook of “subduing and conquering the nature and putting it to the service of humanity” (110). In the selected texts of Paolo Bacigalupi, devastating effects of technology are also reflected that push a man towards anthropocentric attitude. Paul W. Taylor criticized the anthropocentrism and favored the “deep ecology” and “eco-centrism”. He has also discussed various reasons for the rising anthropocentric attitude that further causes environmental degradation. Following concepts by Taylor have been employed for the research.

- i. Techno-centric society, a stimulator of anthropocentrism
- ii. Race for extractivism and destruction of environment
- iii. Exploitation of Natural resources and climate change
- iv. Building novel ecosystems for pleasure pursuits and its impacts on eco-criticism
- v. Bio centric egalitarianism as the rejection of anthropocentrism
- vi. Deep ecology as an eco-critical theory that rejects the anthropocentric attitude.

Furthermore, Taylor asserts that the decline of humans on this planet is in their hands. He says that the “actions of humans” (70) in maintaining or disturbing the balance of life on Earth are major factors for the degradation of environment. He further asserts that in this universe man is connected to the ecosystem in the same way “as the cobweb is”. In the proposed novels for study Paolo Bacigalupi has also pinpointed a series of events where human actions directly or indirectly contribute to the degradation of environment. Taylor says that “human irresponsible activities are shakes the strands of this fabric and distorting the nature (71)”. Hence, humans’ actions can “make or break” the ecosystem.

For Taylor, survival of environment is only possible if humans stop intruding the environment. One of the toxic traits that Taylor discussed is of “artificial ecosystem”, which according to him further leads to the degradation of nature. Taylor criticized this “artificial ecosystem” (20) by asserting that “it is an instrument created and used by humans for humans’ end” (20). In the proposed novels for study Paolo Bacigalupi has also presented a series of events where man converts the natural ecosystem into an artificial and that imbalances the men’s relation to the environment. Taylor asserts that all these activities prove “detrimental or damaging to the well-being of environment” (34). Furthermore, he says that although “artificial ecology improves men’ aesthetic pursuits of life but it is “worthless, empty and meaningless” (48) as these lead to environmental degradation. Taylor has criticized this attitude that considers the nature important only because it “furthers some humans’ interests or ends” (92).

Taylor criticizes the anthropocentric environmental ethics that believe in the superiority of humans on this planet. He says that anthropocentric outlook develops a mindset in the humans that they “never mind the environment at all” (60). The novels under study also give the perfect instances of anthropocentrism where man undergrabs the environment and manipulates it. The anthropocentric attitude is further criticized by saying that the nature came into existence before the human beings and humans are “relative newcomer” (70) on this Earth (70). Hence, nature existed intact and undisturbed “before we came into existence” (70). So, humans are following the “exploitative attitude” (110) leading towards the collapse of this ecosystem. In the respect for nature he asserts that, it is the conduct of humans that actually disrupts the balance that exists in the natural world (112).

Taylor also highlights the “resources depletion” slowly and it may be considered as “slow-violence” (Nixon 3) for the environment. Man is using the advances technology for extracting the natural resources that leads to the environmental degradation. Taylor asserts that, humans’ over extraction of resources from the land has triggered the risk of resource depletion and shortage for the future generations (208). He also proposes the best possible solution in the world for the survival of ecosystem as, “best possible world, in its simplest terms is: a world order on our planet where human civilization is brought into harmony with nature” (210). Hence, he rejects the ‘anthropocentric attitude’ that gives free hand to humans to exploit the nature and proposes a balance by supporting the eco-centrism.

Taylor suggests that in the age of technology humans consider the use of technology as their “superior strength and potency” for their personal gains. The “technological sublime” for the welfare of the humans is only good if it is used for the sustainability of the environment. For him the “respect of nature” is the respect for all the inclusions of the nature. He asserts that there must be “ethical potency” for being the superior in technology. He further asserts that the technology can’t be refused if it is used for the welfare of humans by considering the sustainability of environment but due to humans’ “hubristic refusal of its limits” cause devastation in the environment. Such a hubristic aspect of techno-centric societies is anthropocentrism that causes deterioration in the environment. Furthermore, according to Taylor the cultures having the “superior technology” and best quality of life contribute more to the ecosystem degradation. These cultures develop more “technological landscapes” for

their lavish activities and directly contribute to the destruction of environment and other Nature.

Furthermore, he asserts that the “bio-centric view” for the environment is the best sustainable way to maintain the equilibrium in the Nature. For the respect of Nature, it must be given equal intrinsic value and the whole life on this planet Earth is inter-dependent and for the survival of one life other living things contribute. Furthermore, he opines that the “accelerated extraction” of resources from the Earth contributed to the loss of “biodiversity” as it directly deteriorates the habitats of many other living species resulting in the extinction of many species. This unregulated oil and other mineral, extraction changes the weather pattern also. The impact of all these activities is in the form of climate change and global warming having detrimental impact on the biodiversity. He rejects the anthropocentrism and suggests giving equal considerations to all living things on this planet. For him “integrity of whole ecosystem” is the most valuable environmental ethic that contributes to the well-being of the whole ecosystem. Another most important aspect of ‘bio-centric’ outlook is to “give moral consideration to all” living things. He asserts that all in biotic and abiotic components of the environment have equal intrinsic value and humans have no supremacy to exploit the nature for their personal benefits. He asserts that the value of all other living things is “independent of humans use” they have their own unique value. Taylor stresses upon the “interconnectedness and interdependency” of all form of life on the earth and proposes bio-centric environmental ethic as the best sustainable outlook.

In addition, Taylor advocates the environmental philosophy of “deep ecology” and he asserts that humans must rethink their relationship with the Nature. Humans’ alienation of Nature renders retrospective effect on the lives of the humans and other species. He suggests and advocates the “holistic approach” for the Nature and he stresses upon the “interconnectedness of social, economic and ecological system for seeking the sustainable solution for the degrading environment. Taylor suggests the “self-reliance and sustainable living practices” for the stability of ecosystem and all its inclusions and humans must show “ecological responsibility” rather than the anthropocentrism that is humans “self-destruction”. He criticizes the anthropocentrism and suggests having shift from human centred policies towards eco-

centric and bio-centric worldview where nature must be given respect for its own sake.

Taylor suggests that “othering” of environment cases “socio-ecological catastrophe” in the ecosystem. The interdependent humans can’t survive by showing “environmental neglect” rather they must respect the nature for their own existence. He asserts that humans must show “self-reliance and sustainable practices” for the stability of this planet. Furthermore, he criticizes the humans misuse of technology and its impact that include gene manipulation ,exploitation of natural resources and abuse of their power for the sake of short term goals at the cost of stable environment. For him human-made change in the environment contributed invisible change to the course of Nature and all these actions contribute to the degradation of environment on this planet and for him climate change, global warming and other deteriorating of the nature is the end result of unbridled humans trespassing and manipulation of Nature. He further asserts that humans’ intervention has unforeseen consequences in the form of climate change and changes weather patterns. Humans must have their “responsible choices” and must think responsibly to “protect and sustain” the environment. He opines that humans’ anthropocentric activities for their short-term pursuits, taking place on one place of the planet render “long term repercussions” across the Globe resulting in the societal effects and degraded environment.

CHAPTER 4

ANTHROPOCENTRISM AND ITS CAUSES IN PAOLO'S *SHIP BREAKER* TRILOGY

4.1 Introduction

Main concerns of the researcher in this chapter are focused on analysis of Paolo Bacigalupi's novels from the anthropocentric view, human being's pursuit of self-interested material gains and its causes that further contribute to the destruction of the ecosystem. But before Content analysis of the novels begins, brief synopsis of the novel in ship breaker trilogy will help understand the analysis. Now a brief overview of "*Ship breaker*" trilogy is given for better understanding of the context, themes and society discussed in the novels.

4.2 Synopsis of the Novel *Ship Breaker*

Ship Breaker is a novel by Paolo Bachigalupi, published in 2010. The novel is set in a bleak, post-apocalyptic future, showing a collapsed society in which the environmental degradation has ravaged the world. Paolo has explored how the due to persistent human activities (anthropocentrism) the ice caps have melted, causing sea levels to rise that resulted in the destruction of the cities and the governments are broken causing social chaos. For this Cli-Fi novel Paolo won prestigious Printz award in US. The story takes place on the Gulf Coast of the United States, where cities are submerged, and society has collapsed into a brutal existence.

The protagonist, Nailer, is a teenage boy who works as a scavenger, or "ship breaker," stripping old, abandoned ships for valuable materials like copper wiring. He is part of a crew that lives a dangerous and precarious life, always one step away from disaster. One day, after a massive storm, Nailer discovers a luxury clipper ship wrecked on the shore. Inside, he finds Nita, a rich girl who has survived the wreck. She is a member of a powerful global family, and her presence on the ship hints at political intrigue and corporate warfare. Nailer faces a moral dilemma: should he strip the ship for parts, ensuring his survival and possible escape from his harsh life, or help Nita, who offers him a chance at a different life but brings immense danger? The novel explores themes of survival, loyalty, class disparity, and the ethics

of environmental exploitation. As Nailer navigates this treacherous world, he must make difficult choices about who he can trust and what kind of person he wants to become. This novel provokes the readers to consider the moral implication of exploiting the environment for their short-term gains. Throughout the story the disrupted ecosystem and depleted natural resources are leading to a desperate scramble for any available resources. In the novel the ship-breaking industry uses the resources to dismantle the ships for salvage. It serves as a metaphor for the unsustainable exploitation of the available natural resources and degradation of the ecosystem. The novel reflects the world where climate change and rising sea levels has altered the ecosystem drastically leading to the submerging of the coastal cities of America. The novel gives a stark warning about the consequences of anthropocentric attitude by showing its impact on society in the form of climate change.

4.3 Synopsis of the Novel *Drowned Cities*

This novel is set in a future world that is ravaged by the climate change. The novel reflects the drowned cities that were once the United States. In this dystopian future, rising sea levels have engulfed much of the Eastern seaboard, transforming cities into submerged ruins. The region is ravaged by violence, with warlords and child soldiers battling for dominance. The story follows Mahlia and Mouse, two war orphans struggling to survive in the perilous remains of Washington, D.C., now known as the Drowned Cities. Mahlia, the daughter of an American doctor and a Chinese peacekeeper, lost her hand in a savage attack by a warlord. Mouse saved her life, and they have been inseparable ever since. They find refuge with a compassionate doctor named Dr. Mahfouz, who shelters them in a small village on the fringes of the *Drowned Cities*. Their fragile peace is shattered when they stumble upon Tool, a genetically engineered being, a hybrid of human and animal, designed for war—who is gravely wounded. Despite the risks, Mahlia chooses to help Tool, believing he might be their only chance at survival. This decision pulls Mahlia and Mouse into the violent turmoil of the *Drowned Cities*. As the warlords close in, Mahlia faces an agonizing dilemma: save Mouse by sacrificing Tool, or risk everything to save them both. The novel delves into themes of survival, loyalty, the horrors of war, and the devastating consequences of human greed and environmental degradation. Bacigalupi paints a bleak picture of the future, where climate change and human conflict have pushed society to the edge of collapse. The story is both gripping

and thought-provoking, raising critical questions about the costs of war and the fate of our planet.

4.4 Synopsis of the novel *Tool of War*

Tool of War is the third novel in the series of *Ship-Breaker*. It is a climate fiction novel by Paolo Bacigalupi's and is set in a dystopian future where climate change has drastically altered the environment. The whole story revolves around the character Tool, a bio engineered soldier. Tool, a "half-man," is a genetically engineered entity specifically designed for combat, integrating the strength and instincts of various animals with human intelligence. Following his escape from the brutal conflict in the Drowned Cities and the control of his creators, Tool emerges as a legendary figure—both feared and revered for his unparalleled strength and combat capabilities. The narrative resumes as Tool becomes the target of the very armies and corporate entities that once created him. These forces seek to either reclaim or eliminate him, recognizing that Tool embodies the ultimate weapon—one that has now eluded their control. As Tool engages in a solitary battle against his pursuers, he begins to attract followers, individuals who view him as a symbol of resistance against the corrupt powers that dominate their world. Tool's journey is not solely a fight for survival; it is also a profound exploration of self-discovery. He grapples with the fundamental questions of his existence, the essence of his humanity, and the possibility of transcending his identity as merely a tool of war. Concurrently, characters from *The Drowned Cities*, including Mahlia, reappear in the narrative, becoming intertwined in Tool's struggle as they confront their own battles against the forces that threaten their existence. As the story progresses, Tool's defiance catalyzes a broader uprising, challenging the corporations and warlords that hold sway over this fractured world. The novel delves into themes of freedom, identity, the ethics of bioengineering, and the repercussions of a society driven by war and exploitation.

In *Tool of War*, Bacigalupi offers a powerful and action-packed conclusion to the series, skillfully merging intense combat sequences with profound philosophical inquiries into the nature of power and the definition of humanity in a world where these concepts are increasingly ambiguous.

4.5 Causes of Anthropocentric Attitude in *Ship Breaker* Trilogy

Over the past few decades, human population has bloomed so widely and dispersed to such an extent that humans have subsequently exerted tremendous pressure on ecosystem and almost on every form of life on this planet. Excessive use of technology has enabled the humans to extract vast amount of natural resources and exchange with one another and it has become a never-ending stream. The short-term pursuits of the humans have irreparably degraded the ecosystem services that would be crucial to the long term prospects of humanity. Contrary to this fact man is always the part of this environment. According to Taylor, the evolutionary success of humans is fundamentally dependent on those factors like climate, viable environment and resource availability and so on. However, humans encroach upon those ecosystems and habitats that existed prior to the invasion of humans and it resulted in the changed environmental conditions. This greed ultimately results in the ecological dystopian for many future generations. Humans' attitude where they give value to their own interests and degrade the environment is called the anthropocentric-attitude. In the literary work of 'Paolo Bacigalupi' this attitude is challenged and highlighted.

In *Ship Breaker* trilogy, there are many instances that illustrate the anthropocentric attitude exhibited by the characters of the novels. In order to illustrate and explore further the instances of anthropocentric attitude firstly, the causes of anthropocentric attitude will be discussed in detail. In *Ship Breaker* trilogy following are the main causes that contribute or develop the anthropocentric attitude among the characters of the novel:

1. Short-term thinking
2. Scarce resources
3. Corporate control, exploitation and economic inequality
4. Survival struggle and security
5. Technological dominance
6. Ethical Consideration, Cultural and societal Norms

4.5.1 Short-Term Thinking

The novelist has highlighted the issue of short-term thinking through his characters in *Ship Breaker* Trilogy. The characters of the trilogy often prioritize their ‘immediate survival’ over ‘long-term considerations’.

In the novel *Ship Breaker* characters are indulged in the dangerous and competitive work of breaking the ship and finding the valuable materials quickly to make the survival without considering the long-term consideration. The protagonist of the novel, Nailer continues his struggle throughout the story for collecting the valuable material by breaking the ship without caring about the environment. He has been assigned the ‘quota’ to collect more and earn more. The art of scavenging and earning more has set his mind to do constant struggle for valuable resources. He prioritized his ‘short-term gains’ over long-term ‘environmental considerations’. This is the major cause for developing this anthropocentric attitude as non-fulfillment of basic needs find it challenging for him to focus in anything else beyond immediate concerns. Taylor has criticized this aspect of humans’ and he is of the view that “human interference in the course of nature” (5) is unsustainable and it’s detrimental to the “balance of nature” (7). In the novel the activities of breaking the ship contributes significantly to ecological degradation. These short term exploitative practices harm and contribute to the environmental degradation. Taylor also criticized this “short-term thinking, human manipulation, exploitation, and out-and-out destruction” (272) of the natural ecosystem. As the primary activity in the novel, ‘*ship breaker*’ involves “dismantling, decommissioned oil tankers and other large vessels” (47). This very process contributes to the release of hazardous substances and chemicals into the surrounding environment, but short-terms goals are prioritized without considering its harmful effects.

Furthermore, there are instances in the conversations where the characters prioritize their short term goals. When Pima realized to the protagonist of the novel Nailer about the impact of the activity of ship breaking he tells her that: “I don’t care about the big picture, I care about the copper, the oil, the things that can get me quick crew. That’s what matters now” (67). This illustrates that short term goals are prioritized without caring about the future generation. Therefore, these short term goals cause the anthropocentric attitude which Nailer exhibits. The study has explored

this attitude through his characters which respects the humans' wills. Taylor has suggested that, for a balanced ecosystem, "bio-centrism obligates that the homo-sapiens must respect the nature as it's the ultimate solution for a peaceful coexistence" (68). In another instance corporate representative tells to Nailer and Pima that "Our focus is on quarterly profits. We don't care about the environmental impact or the long-term consequences, deliver results now" (57). Such short term policies develop the human-centred approach and this anthropocentrism causes havoc to the stable environment.

4.5.2 Scarce resources

In the novel *Ship Breaker* the protagonist of the novel, Nailer struggles to find enough resources for the livelihood. The scarcity of food resources is the recurring theme of the ship breaker trilogy. In the trilogy the leading characters of the novels are engaged in perilous activities to secure sustenance. For the characters of the novels clean water is a significant challenge. In "*ship breaker*" the characters are indulged to extract oil from the ship, which shows the fuel scarcity. There is no adequate shelter for the characters in the novels. Many of them live in "makeshift dwellings or salvage materials" (47) that they create from the ship breaking activity. Hence availability of fewer resources due to devastated environment causes the characters to make human centered policies as scavengers in don't care about the other species of the sea and are busy breaking the ship and releasing harmful chemicals into the air and sea water the same issue as discussed by Taylor.

The Characters showing anthropocentric attitude contribute to the resource scarcity has explored and criticized this aspect by exploring the role of Corporates throughout the trilogy. This perspective of humans gives rise to anthropocentric attitude that Taylor called it as, arrogance of humanism that makes them narrow minded. Scarcity of resources gives rise to the hunt for more resources by one segment of a society creates social and ecological imbalance. Resource scarcity, further leads to the problems such as: competition for more resources, struggle for survival, economic exploitation and hoarding of resources. These factors put stress on already declined resources and in the depletion of these "our human presence is now felt throughout the Earth" (20).

The novelist has explored these problems caused by humans in “*Ship Breaker*” trilogy. The characters of the novel prioritize their own needs and engineer the way out to overcome the scarcity of resources. This exacerbates the anthropocentric or human-centered attitude that overshadows the concern of other living or non-living things of this planet. In the world damaged by climate change the only way for the underprivileged class of the society is to “scavenge, dismantle and get salvage’ it’s the only way to get food for their survival (122). The characters are in search of food forget the consequences of the activities that they do on their environment. Dismantling the ship, stripping of copper and other usable metals is the only source of earning the bread and some people were in search of petrol and other usable fluid in the ship that can be used for their survival (8).

In the novel *Tool of War* climate torn cities have put the people in a crisis of unprecedented magnitude. There is no governmental control over the drowned cities due to melting ice-caps. The corporates and influential people control the management of the whole devastated region but are unable to control the social Chaos. The only resources to be exported are the wreckage, destroyed building having iron and copper. The study has shown the social and moral destruction of the people by employing some characters, firms and corporates that control the available resources by developing the post-human creatures that are resistant to extreme weather conditions. This one sided activity of humans shows eco-injustice and acts as a ‘threat-multiplier’ for the environment.

4.5.3 Corporate Control, Exploitation and Economic Inequality

In *Ship Breaker* trilogy, especially in the novel *Ship-breaker* corporate control and exploitation are the central themes that reflect how the powerful corporations wield their significant influence. The ship breaking industry is also dominated by the powerful corporations. These corporations control the means of production and influence the living conditions by creating economic disparity. The corporations exploit the labor force. Workers face the hazardous conditions; on the other hand, the corporations focus on maximization of their profits at the expense of the well-being of their employees. The corporations maintain a cutthroat competition in order to have their control over the people. Likewise, Taylor says that these activities are disturbing the balance of nature and resulted in “the natural environment of our planet turned

into a vast artifact” (20). In *ship-breaker* characters like “Nailer” are bound by the exploitative contracts by the corporate. Furthermore, these corporations are busy in prioritizing their profit over the ecosystem. The operation of ship breaking leads to the degradation of the ecosystem and corporations don’t show little concerns for the long-term consequences of their greedy efforts.

The novel *Ship Breaker* reflects the class difference as the characters of the novel are divided between ‘elite classes’ and ‘impoverished masses’. The protagonist of the novel lives from hand to mouth in a struggling life for the basic necessities. He scavenges the broken ship to earn his livelihood. On the other hand, the elite class controls the advanced technology to manipulate the poor and gain many benefits. This attitude of corporate is not only destroys the society but also acts as a slow-violence for the stable ecosystem. Novelist has expressed this anthropocentric attitude by the corporates as;

“Chewing away at, iron meat and bones. Dragging the old world’s flesh up the beach to the scrap weighing scales and the recycling smelters that burned 24-7 for the profit of Lawson & Carlson, the company that made all the cash from the blood and sweat of the ship breakers by exploiting the environment”(Ship Breaker 9).

In the novel *Ship Breaker* the ship breaking industry is shown as the symbol of ‘exploitative labor practices’. The strict policies of these industries show a stark difference between the two classes. The employees work under the hazardous conditions but on the meager pay. This shows economic inequality. The characters of the novel can’t find any way to improve their social status and the whole system seems designed to maintain the status quo. It makes difficult for the characters to escape poverty. Taylor has criticized this greedy approach and suggested that for a stable ecosystem there must be “a rule about making available a fair share of resources to meet those minimal needs” (55).

The elite class lives in protected areas that are shielded from the disastrous. In the degraded environment the elite are busy in destroying the environment whereas the poor bear the brunt of the degraded environment. Furthermore, the corporate exerts influence over the resources and creates the class difference, resulting in economic inequality. In this regards Taylor also explains that these inequalities by the

corporates, and their control over the resource extraction, develops the anthropocentric attitude as it is “yawning gap between the “haves” and have-nots” or ‘great divergence’” (171).

4.5.4 Survival Struggle and Security

In the *ship breaker* trilogy there is ‘survival struggles’ as a prominent theme. The characters in a devastated world struggle to maintain a living they feel unsecured in the devastated environment. In the novel *Ship breaker*, the protagonist of the novel Nailer struggles for the sake of survival without worrying about the future. This study has expressed this theme to his coworker as; “I can't worry about the future. I need to survive today; the world doesn't care about us; we're on our own” (67). This shows that the characters have the sole purpose of their survival irrespective of the damages to environment of their long term effects. In the struggle of life and security the scavenging is the only activity for the crew members. All they know the destructive impact but this challenge contributed to develop the anthropocentric attitude in them. In another instance, Nailer’s father advised his as: “Survival is all, that matters boy. We don’t have time for dreams. You think too much, like your mother. Dreams don’t put food in your belly, or a roof over your head.” (76). Hence, the characters preferring their ‘immediate needs’ over ‘future planning’ shows their survival struggle that makes them self-centered by othering the ecosystem.

The novelist has expressed the survival struggles through the lives of the characters. In a discussion to his coworker, the protagonist Nailer says that he doesn’t care about the ship and environment, he cares about the rich stuff to get food stuff (97). Novelist has employed such characters that pinpoint his theme of environmental degradation by humans’ activities. On the other hand, the corporate is also struggling to maximize the profit. A crew boss Richard Lopez says that, “This ship is a gold mine, and we are going to strip it clean. I don’t care about the long-term. I care about what we can sell right now” (117). The corporate greed shows the prospective to maximize their profit without caring the long term consequences. Hence, on one side the poor class prefers their ‘immediate survival’, whereas the corporate prioritizes “quick profit according to the urgency of the current situation’. For anthropocentrists, humankind is above everything else in nature and preserving the human race, in the present, is the utmost priority. Taylor has stressed upon “restoring the balance of

justice between humanity and nature” (191) for the fulfillment of humans survival needs. In ship breaker Trilogy the leading characters are busy in the pursuit of their short term needs without caring about the hazardous effects is promoting anthropocentrism among the characters.

4.5.5 Technological Dominance

Ship Breaker trilogy shows the stark difference between ‘privilege and the ‘impoverished’. The ‘privileges’ use the technology to gain the profits at the expenses of the environment. The novel revolves around the process of extracting valuable resources by dismantling the old wrecked ship. The elite class uses the technology for the extractive industry. Excessive use of technology causes environmental degradation but the corporations feel proud in having advanced technology for gaining more profit. Taylor has criticized this unbridled technological dominance and he has suggested the “appropriate technology” (304) for the sustainability of the environment. But in *Ship Breaker* trilogy, extractive industries make their whole business by using the technology causing the disproportionate consequences to the ecosystem. The industrialist considers themselves ‘superior’ as they have advanced technology that can be used for making their lives profitable. For using the modern technology for the service of humans Taylor suggested “the principle of minimum wrong” (305) that is sustainability of ecosystem. He is of the view that for the welfare of humans and for their basic needs technology should be used in such a way that it should be “environmental friendly, energy efficient and environmental clean” (331). The novelist has underpinned the human greed for more profit by the excessive use of technology by the extractive industries. The process of oil extraction, and its refinement and consumption causes irreparable loss, not only to the lives of ‘vulnerable and marginalized people’ but also to the climate.

In the novel tool of war the study has explored the theme of anthropocentrism by pinpointing the humans’ attempt of enabling them conquering the world at the expense of ecosystem. In order to control the limited resources of the devastated world humans attempted to make them defensive of all the catastrophe of the harsh environment devastated by the climate change. In development of anthropocentric attitude, the effects of “human culture and unbridled-technology on the planetary biosphere are becoming ubiquitous.”(4). The novelist has also pinpointed this element

by employing the character of General Caroa, who ordered to devise such post-human designs that could survive at the extreme weather condition and could be used for the warfare. By using the genetic engineering, genes of different species were mixed by to create the post-human design named and Tool and Augments. As “their view of the monster was a miracle of ‘technological wizardry’ (10)”. This shows that the misuse of technology developed anthropocentric attitude in humans and they created the monsters for the short-term that resulted for their own destruction in a long run. These technological developed creatures were like, “a monster standing nearly eight feet tall, massively muscled”. A combination of dog and human, tiger and hyena’s DNA “a battle terror, clawed and fanged and brutal” (10). This unbridled use of technology and start of war for the stability at the cost of environment caused devastation in the whole ecosystem.

Furthermore, the trilogy explores the haughtiness of humans and its devastating impact of misuse of technology through biotechnology and genetic engineering or artificial intelligence. In the novel Tool of war General Caroa created the “creatures that were hyper-competent, Natural engines of strategy, tactics, learning, violence, stamina, fearlessness, tolerant of poisons and chemical attacks. Resistant to fire and cold and fear and harshest environments....” (113). All these activities were for the short-term gains at the expense of ecosystem and all its biotic and abiotic factors. Such an aspect of technology gives rise to anthropocentrism that finally results in devastating impact on the environment.

The misuse of drone technology and high tech missiles resulted in raising the atmospheric temperature. Novelist has criticized this aspect by showing the wars fought in forests and waters destroying the ecosystem and other species. Taylor has also criticized the negative use of technology by exploring this aspect of artificial intelligence. This causes the damage of ecosystem. Taylor advocates that debate on the ethic of technology is in paradox with environmental ethics; technology ethic focuses on beneficial side of technology and wishes to raise human life fitness, and the other argument debates on the risk of living (85). The novelist has shown the haughtiness of humans as they use technology to control the planet at the expenses of the stable environment and criticized this techno-centric society working for self-destruction.

4.5.6 Ethical Consideration, Cultural and Societal Norms

Humans' behavior plays a vital role in maintaining the balance ecosystem. The *Ship Breaker* trilogy paints a bleak picture of a destroyed ecosystem due to the lack of ethical considerations towards the environment. It is the behavior of the characters that shapes the climate and biosphere within a society; humans play an influential role in maintaining the balance of nature as social activities mold the environment accordingly. In this regard, Taylor pinpoints that "Social practice is also an ecological practice and every ecological practice is social practice" (200). Hence, humans' behavior develops the greed dilemma that consequently leads to environmental degradation. This study has explored human behavior, focused on making profit and looking at the world around as a mere source of profit making. In *ship breaker*, the line; "the wealthy measure everything with the weight of their money," (131) shows human behavior as they look at the environment through the lens of wealth that further leads to developing an anthropocentric attitude. Furthermore, in corporate life there is a race for profit. Throughout the novels, there is the culture of violence and exploitation. This contributes to the causes of developing an anthropocentric attitude in the characters as there is no sign of environmental justice.

The novelist has selected the society of Global North in his trilogy for criticizing the policies of these countries that resulted in the destruction of the whole cities. People didn't care about the changing circumstances and the changing environmental conditions were not important for them as they prioritize their culture and social norms of using the nature for their sole benefits.

"Why did they give up?" Nailer asked. "Sometimes people learn," Tool said. From that, Nailer took him to be saying that mostly people didn't. The wreckage of the twin dead cities was good evidence of just how slow the people of the Accelerated Age had been to accept their changing circumstances." (Ship Breaker 119).

The life style and culture of these people rendered an irreversible impact on the environment that resulted in the destruction of the whole societies. People of *Drowned Cities*, work for the profit, at the cost of a stable environment. As Paolo pinpoints this aspect by a line; "The only reason you think you've got morals is because you don't need money the way regular people do." Taylor suggests that it's

the moral responsibility of societies to “conserve natural resources so that future generations will be able to enjoy their fair share of benefits derived from those resources” (26). This is the sustainable way to conserve the ecosystem. Taylor further notes that culture must be in harmony with the nature and he explains that, “the ascendancy of the anthropocentrism is widely but erroneously celebrated as the triumph of culture over nature (34). He advocates that man and nature are interdependent and are “interwoven in the fabric of nature” (78). In “*Ship Breaker*” trilogy study has also explored the societal norms and culture contributing to develop the anthropocentric attitude.

4.6 Anthropocentric Attitude in *Ship Breaker* Trilogy

Paolo Bacigalupi has explored the theme of ‘human-centered perspective’ in the ship breaker trilogy. Throughout the novels the characters are shown using the environment for gaining their own interests without considering the harmful impact on the environment in which they live. The whole trilogy is full of such instances where humans prioritize their interests over the long-term consequences. In the novel *ship breaker* Novelist has highlighted that the destruction in environment is caused due to the humans’ unsustainable activities and the “Orleans are city killers”(132), their unchecked activities destroyed the environment resulting in the destruction of whole city.

The novel *The Drowned Cities* portrays the destructed cities that are damaged by the climate change, global warming and changed weather pattern caused by the humans’ unbridled pursuits of their short term goals. The novelist has shown the impact of climate change in the big cities that were once the part of United States and now they are drowned with destructed landscapes. Paolo highlights the theme of anthropocentric attitude by saying that the Drowned Cities are the result of humans’ irresponsible attitude towards the environment. Following lines from the novel reflect that the Drowned Cities are the result of humans unbridled trespassing into the natural world for their own benefits.

“*The Drowned Cities* hadn’t always been broken. People broke it. First they called people traitors and said they didn’t belong. Said these people were good and those people were evil, and it kept going, because people always responded, and pretty soon the place was a roaring hell because no one took

responsibility for what they did, and how it would drive others to respond” (*The Drowned Cities* 152).

The characters of the novel deal with the climate change challenge and struggle to bear a disproportionate burden of environmental degradation. Even in the destroyed cities the survivals are busy in the ‘power struggle’. Humans’ greed hadn’t yet been lowered. People are engaged in a war that not only in causing societal imbalance but also destroys the remaining environment. Although the cities are submerged but the power factions are busy making their profit and gaining the control of the scarce resources. Taylor advises to “refrain from these sort of interventions” (191) and he advocates to “correct the natural balance” (191) by focusing on the ‘bio-centric’ outlook for the environment. The environmental and social collapse has caused the chaos and there is social war and the individuals and the groups are exploiting the environment for their own profit. In the novel war has destroyed the forests, landscapes and remaining buildings. The air is contaminated, water polluted and the nature is destroyed. In the destroyed cities the selfish goals of privileged people also affect the underprivileged people and environment. The greed of the powerful people affects and marginalizes the environment and natural set balance is disrupted. Hence, the Paolo has explored the darker aspect of humans’ greed, unchecked self-interests and control over the environment that damages the ecosystem.

Novelist has portrayed the aspect of humans’ anthropocentric attitude in the form of “excessive use of technology” in order to control the world. In the novel “*The Drowned Cities*” the abuse of technology is discussed as the major cause of environmental and social degradation. Misuse of “bioengineering and genetic modification” has resulted in the societal disintegration and environmental collapse. The study has unveiled the tragic future even in the developed countries like, United States the disrupted weather patterns have submerged the major cities. It is reflected that the no technology can escape the humans from the fury of nature if the humans keep on marginalizing and destroying the environment. In the novel the exploitation and the implications of environment through the excessive use of technology resulted in the destruction of environments and humans’ survival became a big challenge.

In addition to the use of technology for humans' comforts and control over the world, in the novels *the Drowned Cities* and *Tool of War*, novelist has criticized the humans attempt to genetically modified humans. Throughout the novel these man made creatures are created for the protection of the humans but the genetically mismatched organisms resulted in the destruction of the whole ecosystem. Paolo has explored the 'blurring boundaries between humans and technology' that in the form of post-humanism empowers the humans to enhance or alter their capacities. Humans' attempt to control the universe through the creation of "Augments" that are the bio-engineered soldiers in the novel is explored by the study. These "genetically modified (GMOs) and technologically enhanced" individuals are shown as "augments". These are the soldiers that further undergo physiological modification that enables them powerful weapons. This concept of 'augments' reflects the post humanism where the humans transform the body through advanced technology in order to control the whole ecosystem. This anthropocentric attitude leads to the environmental degradation that resulted in collapsed society.

In the novels, *The Drowned Cities* and *Tool of War* the character 'Tool' or "augments" are not only the copies of humans' creatures but also they have enhanced human capabilities. All advanced skills are enhances through the use of technology. This is used as a weaponing technique that is considered to foster the humans in controlling the whole ecosystem. These "augments" are actually a form of human-machine where technology is used to control the humans' body for the unbridled pursuits of their individual benefits. Hence the humans' enhancement through technology pushes the boundaries set by the nature and results in the destruction of the ecosystem. According to Taylor these activities show the anthropocentric attitude and this "anthropocentrism destroys the ecological balance and integrity of nature" (300). Furthermore, in the novel the environment as well as the whole societal structures is controlled by these bio-engineered soldiers. This attempt of humans shows "anthropocentric attitude" that further results in environmental degradation. Hence, misuse of technology without considering the ethical consideration, disrupts the society and natural-set balance is disrupted.

The novelist has explores the themes of anthropocentric attitude, consequences of technological advancements and its impact of the society. Novelist has criticized the humans' concept of most significant entity in the environment by highlighting its

harmful impact of the environment in which the human beings live. In this novel *Tool of War* the whole society is shown indulges in the greedy activities, where extraction of resources is the major activity by the humans. Humans do this at the expenses of the ecosystem and the other species that use the environment as their habitat. The exploitation of resources depicts the mindset that humans have placed them above the other biotic and abiotic components of the environment. The novelist has presented the aspects of a society that is indulged in the extraction of natural resources beyond their needs. They don't care for the rest of the species and other abiotic components of the environment. Their top priority is to gain the maximum resources without considering the harmful aspects on the environment. In this novel the human Characters are busy exploiting the natural resources without considering the long-term consequences. Like other novels of the trilogy this novel also highlights the corporate greed, and self-centered decision making policy of the leaders and politicians that renders harmful impact on the 'Eco- balance'. Their policies are short-run and human-centred. This shows that the humans showed in the novel exhibit anthropocentric attitude.

The novelist has employed such characters that display the sense of "human supremacy" over the rest of the species of the planet. In this novel through the use of artificial engineering the humans have created genetically engineered organisms that are used merely as the tools for the service of humans the manipulation of the genetics for gaining the humans interests is the prominent aspect of anthropocentrism in the novel. The characters of the novel use genetically modified organisms for the creation of weapons or such tools that can be used for the humans' warfare purpose without considering the destructive aspects on the ecosystem. Furthermore the Humans have totally ignored the ethical implications and the rights of the other organisms are totally violated. This colonizing or manipulating mindset of the humans' views the planets as the resources to be plundered for the sole benefits of humans, while rest of the species and their rights are ignored. Hence, study has underscored the deep-seated anthropocentric attitude where the characters consider them dominants and show exploitation towards other entities for their own gains. Following characters are employed to show the humans anthropocentric attitude that eventually contributes the environmental degradation. Novelist has portrayed anthropocentric attitude through the employed characters, corporations and other entities. The *Ship Breaker* trilogy

demonstrates the anthropocentric attitude of the following characters, corporations and other entities that causes drastic climate change, war, social unrest and environmental degradation.

Richard Lopez, a character in ship breaker argues with the workers to instigate them extract more and more expensive materials, irrespective of the damages caused to the environment. In his talk to a worker about the ships he says that, we aren't like them, we're humans, they are ships. We are gods (33). This shows the anthropocentric attitude of the character towards the environment. In another instance of ship breaking, Nailer's father says him that, it was all about the gleaming future, profits and the big score, and forgets the danger; we were living the dream (121). This dialogue pinpoints the anthropocentric attitude in ship breaking operation, where the sole purpose is in making the profit and better future for the characters without considering the environment. The work on breaking the ship and extracting the oil is given priority by ignoring the damaging aspects on environment. Richard Lopez, Nailer's father is a greedy man. He is busy making profit for the corporates at the expense of the environment and other people's life and. The novelist has portrayed his character as; "Richard never felt a thing when he hurt people. Just didn't give a damn." This reflects an anthropocentric attitude as he lures his son into a dangerous occupation in the 'ship breaking industry for the sake of more money at the expenses of environment.

In the Novel *Ship breaker* characters are busy in scavenging the ship by ignoring its impact on the environment. The only concern is to extract the valuable for their use. In the novels personal interests are prioritized over the collective benefits showing the anthropocentric attitude. Extracting the oil from the wrecked ship is causing the hazardous effects on the environment. Richard Lopez being a crew boss instigates his workers to scavenge more by saying that, "ship is a gold mine, and we are going to strip it clean. I don't care about the long-term. I care about what we can sell right now" (137). This all shows the anthropocentric-attitude of the character by employing such character Paolo lambastes the anthropocentrism.

Richard Lopez's sole business is to get the allotted quota for extraction of useful resources from the ships and he was instigating his scavenging team to do this irrespective of the dreadful consequences to the environment. His greed for more is

explained by Paolo as he always remains in “fighting to get onto light crew and then sweating hard to keep the quota coming through” (92). For him “No one was worth keeping if they didn’t make a profit” (76) and its dreadful impact on the environment were ignored. Nature was used as a tool for humans’ satisfaction and all other biotic and abiotic components were never considered. Through such character Paolo criticized the humans’ greed for more resource extraction due to anthropocentric attitude.

Paolo has highlighted the role of corporates as having the sole policies that are human-centered and show no concerns for the sustainability of the environment. To pinpoint the anthropocentric attitude of corporate the novelist has employed Lawson & Carlson and Patel Global in the *ship-breaker* trilogy. The anthropocentric attitude of the humans in the form of corporate not only controls the working class of the society for the gains of their own profits but also their policies caused terrible destruction to the environment. In this novel the corporate have hired the working class for gaining maximum profits by doing the activities that are hazardous not only to the lives of the workers but also for the stable ecosystem. Paolo has portrayed it as:

“Chewing away at iron meat and bones. Dragging the old world’s flesh up the beach to the scrap weighing scales and the recycling smelters that burned 24-7 for the profit of Lawson & Carlson, the company that made all the cash from the blood and sweat of the ship breakers and environment” (Ship Breaker 46).

In the novel *Ship-Breaker*, characters like Nailer and other crew mates are employed in scavenging the ship by putting their lives and environment in danger on the policy framed by the corporate. Ship breaking industry has the main purpose of profiteering by scavenging the valuable resources from the ships irrespective of its harmful impacts on the lives of humans and environment.

In *Ship Breaker* Lawson & Carlson launched the operation of ship breaking for the sake of salvageable materials. The process of dismantling the ship is highly destructive to the ecosystem as it involves such activities that release toxic substances into the environment. It pollutes the land and water by releasing the hazardous chemicals on the land and water resulting in the disturbance in the naturally set ecosystem. Oil spillage contaminates the surrounding environment that poses a threat to the health of a stable ecosystem. The process of ship breaking process releases

greenhouse gases into the environment that cause global warming and climate change that affects the whole world.

Furthermore, according to Taylor the anthropocentrism is solely concerned with “advancing humankind and its welfare at the expense of all other form of life” (117). In this novel corporates are doing the same. For example in the novel *ship breaker* a corporate Lawson & Carlson controls the whole business of ship breaking at the expense of stable environment. This firm utilizes the available resources for extracting more valuable and profitable items from the scavenging operation. Although this process of extraction and manufacturing operation is detrimental to the ecosystem but the sole purpose of utilizing the advanced technology is to make themselves profitable at the expense of other species. These corporates have the “never-mind-the-environment-at-all” (46) sort of attitude, that’s the anthropocentric-attitude towards nature.

Humans have advanced in the era of technology but the unbridled use of technology creates devastation in the environment. Ultimately, for such activities the environment pays the cost. In the *ship breaker* trilogy same aspect of humans’ nature is criticized by the novelist. For example in the novel *Tool of War* Corporates like, Patel Global Logistics, use the technology for engineering out their ware-fare equipment at the expense of environment. The manipulation of DNA for the creating of Post humans object makes them consider technological dominant in the planet. Creation of these super soldiers such as Tool can help resist the harsh environmental conditions and provide protection to the humanity. Whereas, these super-tech creatures are used to use the high-tech missiles, drones and other equipment that raise the global temperature and destroy the eco-balance. According to Taylor, for such an anthropocentric humans the solution of degraded environment is that the “science and technology will eventually solve our problems with pollution, overpopulation, and diminishing resources” (152). But in reality their activities render irreparable loss to the stable ecosystem. Exploitation of resources is the central theme that is vividly portrayed by Paolo in this novel. Corporate have controlled the water area for making the profit and this extraction of resources at the cost of environment has detrimental impact of the lives of the workers and the climate.

Paolo has employed the character of Colonel Stern who being a military character prioritizes the 'militaristic goals' at the expense of environment. He embodies a strong anthropocentric attitude. His decisions are human-centric, pursuit of power in the degraded environment without considering the harmful impact on the environment. The novelist has sketched his character as "Colonel Glenn Stern and his patriotic army had more than enough enemies to keep them occupied; the Drowned Cities were full of fighting factions, perpetually tearing at one another's throats" (10). His decisions and actions are human-centred as he prioritizes taking control over the available resources. His decisions of war have devastated the natural landscapes, forests and culminated the available water resources. His greed for power and control over technology to extract the available land shows his anthropocentric-attitude that causes destruction to the environment. In order to meet the human needs, he instrumentalize the ecosystem and used the soldiers to grab more resources and, "Stern executes soldiers who fail" (106). The novelist has shown the drowned cities as a result of climate change or global warming that have caused the sea levels rise and collapsed the ecosystem. On the other hand Stern's mission is not the rehabilitation of the environment but his focus is on the short term gains and profiteering in the degraded environment. Hence long term sustainable gains are compromised. Furthermore, he uses the bio engineered organisms through technology which also reflects the anthropocentric-approach to the environment. According to Taylor, anthropocentric mindset used the biotic and abiotic factors as a tool for the human purposes without considering the harmful impact on the environment. His policy of reshaping the region according to human interests by ignoring or marginalizing the environment exemplifies the anthropocentric attitude. Paolo has criticized this human-centric perspective that leads to the environmental degradation.

Being the member of the scientific society Dr.Mahfouz, is engaged in creating the genetically modified organisms known as 'augments' or 'tool' that are used for the warfare of humans. The implications of these creatures and their harmful effects on environment are ignored. These machine-humans cause irreparable loss to the natural ecosystem and creating alarming situation in the environmental arena.

Taylor arguments that humans consider themselves the rightful owner of this universe, subduing all the things and considering the earth as their instrumental purpose (187). In this novel the mindset of Dr.Mahfouz represents the

anthropocentric-attitude of humans where intrinsic value is given to the humans and all other components of the ecosystem are under-valued. He tries to instrumentalize and exploit the nature for the sole benefit of humans.

Paolo has employed the character of Mayor Asa who tries to maintain the social chaos and gain the power in the drowned cities. His sole purpose is to gain the available resources and maintain his dominance. His needs and ambitions are given priority over the rest of the environment. Being a Mayor he doesn't make policies for the well-being or restoration of the degraded environment rather he devised the human-centered policies leading to the destruction of the environment. Excessive use of technology to explore the resources has caused the climate change resulting in the overflow of seas creating the drowned cities.

It is pertinent to mention that novelist has employed the characters that are multifaceted but the anthropocentric aspect serves to highlight the ethical dilemmas and bad results of human centric prospective that leads to the environmental collapse.

In this novel General Caroa is a character that represents the anthropocentric worldview. This character embodies a strong anthropocentric attitude as he uses the genetically modified organisms like Tool as weapons that are used in the wars or other conflicts that have devastating impact on the environment. He exhibits the attitude and is driven by the great desire for obtaining power by using the genetically modified creatures to enhance his own power and position by ignoring the harmful impact on the environment. This depicts the self-centered attitude that focuses on the short-term gains and doesn't care for the bad consequences.

In order to exploit the natural resources General Caroa ordered to use the technology for the creation of Augments and Tool. These augments were devised as to assist the humans in extreme weather conditions and to obey the humans. Taylor asserts that Global warming, genetic modification, species extinction, and environmental degradation alter the appearance of nature and in return nature acts as antagonist for the humans. Novelist also pinpoints that these 'killing-machines' are the 'abuse of technology' used for maintaining the supremacy of General Caroa (97). Tool as a post-humanistic creature bears the characteristics that are manifold than that of ordinary humans, General Caroa used these augments and tools in order to gain his human centred benefits and ordered the military scientists to develop more for the

sake of his loyalty in achieving the goals as the cost of environment. The study pinpoints this humans supremacy and unbridled use of technology as; “Tool himself had been designed by military scientists for exactly this sort of slavish loyalty, infused with the DNA of subservient species, lashed to blind obedience by genetic controls and relentless training”(16). In order to gain the control over the maximum resources he used the Tool and Augments to destroy their competent in the deep waters. He ordered them to use high tech missiles and drones in order to destroy the competitors in waters.

This act not only destroyed their competitors but also devastated the marine life and raised the Global Temperature. The study has highlighted that these habits and deeds of humans caused the cities drowned due to changed climate pattern and melting of ice-caps. General Caroa has engineered the augments as “smashing sailors, Obedient and limited (96)”. They were used and controlled for the destruction of ecosystem by implementing the human centred policies. Taylor suggests the “law of minimal damage” for the use of technology for humans’ welfare and he asserts that it must be sustainable. In the novel, all these policies were “investments to the devastation” (86) by General Caroa as he was unaware of the devastating impact on nature as category six hurricane destroyed the whole cities and due to civil war there was no agricultural yield as landscapes were destroyed. Furthermore, after the destruction of landscapes for general Caroa, “the only things the Drowned Cities really bought were more bullets, sometimes meds. That was the trade: scrap for bullets, bullets for scrap (58)”. In the destroyed city, the sole purpose of General Caroa was to have control over the more resources at the expense of stable environment. This reflects the anthropocentric attitude of general Caroa that ultimately resulted in environmental degradation.

4.7 Nature vs. Culture, Extractive Capitalism, and Technological Exploitation

4.7.1. Nature vs. Culture Debate in the *Ship Breaker* Trilogy

The Nature vs. Culture debate is a key lens through which the environmental themes in Bacigalupi’s *Ship Breaker* trilogy can be understood. This debate centers on the distinction between the natural world and human-made environments, highlighting the tension between ecological preservation and industrial progress. In Bacigalupi’s

narrative, this tension is evident in the juxtaposition of the devastated natural landscape and the remnants of industrial civilization. Following are the few examples:

1. The Devastation of the Natural Environment

The Gulf Coast setting of the trilogy, with its polluted waters, ruined coastlines, and extreme weather patterns, symbolizes the triumph of culture (industrialization) over nature. Bacigalupi presents a world where the natural environment has been reshaped by human activities, illustrating the cultural dominance over nature often critiqued in ecocritical literature. As Timothy Morton argues in *Ecology without Nature* (2007), the Western tradition has constructed nature as an external "other" to be conquered and controlled, a mindset that Bacigalupi critiques through the environmental collapse depicted in his novels.

2. Cultural Exploitation of Nature

The commodification of natural resources is a key theme in the texts, exemplified by the practice of ship breaking—where characters dismantle old ships for valuable materials. This practice reflects the broader cultural trend of viewing nature as a resource for economic gain. The environmental consequences of this exploitation are evident in the degraded landscape and polluted ecosystem. Scholars like Val Plumwood in *Environmental Culture: The Ecological Crisis of Reason* (2002) highlight how the separation of culture from nature leads to an exploitative relationship, which Bacigalupi critiques through his portrayal of the ruined coastlines and the desolate environment.

3. Extraction as the Root Cause of Climate Degradation

This analysis asserts that resource extraction, particularly the extraction of fossil fuels, timber, and marine resources is the primary driver of climate degradation in Bacigalupi's trilogy. This argument differentiates this work from other studies by providing a focused, cause-and-effect analysis that highlights the direct link between industrial practices and environmental collapse.

4. Fossil Fuel Extraction and Its Consequences

The setting of the *Ship Breaker* trilogy, characterized by abandoned oil tankers and rusting industrial debris, serves as a powerful metaphor for the destructive impact of fossil fuel extraction. Drawing on the insights of Andreas Malm in *Fossil*

Capital (2016), your analysis can highlight how the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels have historically driven climate change, contributing to the extreme weather patterns depicted in the novels. The rising sea levels and intensified hurricanes in Bacigalupi's narrative echo the real-world consequences of fossil fuel dependence, aligning with Naomi Klein's critique in *This Changes Everything* (2014) that capitalism's reliance on fossil fuels is a key factor in accelerating climate degradation.

5. Marine and Land Extraction

The practice of ship breaking, central to the trilogy, represents a form of marine extraction that depletes ocean resources and pollutes marine ecosystems. This aligns with Elizabeth De Loughrey's analysis in *Allegories of the Anthropocene* (2019), where she discusses the detrimental effects of oceanic extraction. The depiction of polluted coastal waters and degraded marine life in the trilogy underscores the broader environmental impacts of such practices. Similarly, land-based extraction, such as deforestation for industrial expansion, aligns with James Lovelock's warnings in *The Vanishing Face of Gaia* (2009) about the loss of carbon sinks and increased carbon emissions due to land degradation.

6. Impacts of Capitalism and Technology

In the current analysis, you should connect the themes of extraction and environmental degradation to the broader critique of capitalism and technological progress presented in Bacigalupi's texts. The trilogy can be read as a dystopian commentary on the consequences of unchecked capitalist expansion and the misuse of technology.

7. Capitalism's Role in Environmental Exploitation

The *Ship Breaker* trilogy vividly portrays the extractive capitalist economy, where economic value is prioritized over ecological health. Characters are forced into dangerous, exploitative labor as they salvage parts from old ships, reflecting the harsh realities of a system that commodifies both nature and human labor. This mirrors the critique offered by Jason W. Moore in *Capitalism in the Web of Life* (2015), where he argues that capitalism treats the environment as a "cheap input" to fuel economic growth, leading to severe ecological consequences. Bacigalupi's depiction of a society

dependent on scavenging the remnants of a depleted world illustrates the unsustainable nature of this economic model.

8. The Paradox of Technological Progress

Bacigalupi's narrative explores the paradox of technological progress, where innovations designed to enhance human efficiency ultimately contribute to environmental collapse. The creation of genetically engineered "half-men" in the trilogy exemplifies the dangers of a techno-utopian mindset that seeks to control and manipulate nature without considering the ethical implications. This aligns with Ursula Heise's critique in *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet* (2008), where she discusses the unintended consequences of technological interventions on the environment. In Bacigalupi's world, technological advancements have not led to a utopian future but have instead exacerbated ecological degradation, highlighting the failure of technology to solve the problems created by industrial capitalism.

9. Environmental Imperialism and Climate Injustice

The impacts of capitalist extraction and technological exploitation are not evenly distributed, as highlighted by Rob Nixon's concept of "slow violence" in *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011). The marginalized communities in Bacigalupi's trilogy, who live in poverty and face dangerous working conditions, reflect the climate injustice experienced by vulnerable populations in the real world. Your analysis should emphasize how the trilogy critiques the environmental imperialism of the Global North, where the ecological costs of extraction are externalized to marginalized regions, leaving local communities to bear the brunt of environmental degradation.

Conclusion

The analysis of relationship between nature and culture provides a comprehensive critique of the anthropocentric and industrial practices driving environmental collapse in Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* trilogy. By engaging with the Nature vs. Culture debate, highlighting the role of extraction as a root cause of climate degradation, and examining the impacts of capitalism and technological progress, this research offers a nuanced interpretation of Bacigalupi's environmental message. This not only addresses the gaps in previous research but also contributes a unique

perspective by integrating ethical, ecocritical, and socio-economic frameworks. It underscores the urgency of reevaluating the human-nature relationship, advocating for a shift towards a more ecocentric worldview in line with Paul Taylor's "Respect for Nature" theory.

CHAPTER 5

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: OTHERING OF ECOSYSTEM AND ITS CONSEQUENCES IN PAOLO'S *SHIP BREAKER* TRILOGY

5.1 Introduction

This chapter explores the concept of environmental degradation, its different forms like, climate change, global warming, degradation of soil and water, atmospheric degradation and certain other changed weather patterns caused by the anthropocentric attitude with reference to the “*Ship Breaker*” Trilogy. In *ship breaker* trilogy Paolo has criticized the technological advances and corporate power and greed that promote the unchecked industrialization for the exploitation of environment and its resources. Furthermore, the destructive impact of this attitude on the environment and the lives of the characters and other biotic and abiotic components of the ecosystem will be elaborated.

5.2 Environmental Degradation

Environmental degradation is the disturbance of the balance of nature. It occurs when the ecosystems are disturbed and the natural resources are depleted. It has become an increasingly pressing issue as it affects the whole planet. There are many factors that contribute to the environmental degradation but most of the factors are based on the anthropocentric attitude rather than the natural phenomenon. Increasing population, industrialization and excessive extraction of resources by the use of technology has exponentially contributed to this factor. Men have used the technology for the human centered gains rather than the sustainable goals that is devastating to the environment. For Paul W Taylor an environment is degraded when there is no “ecological stability, integrity and equilibrium of all biotic factors of ecosystem” (133). Hence, if this equilibrium is disturbed, it disrupts the ecological balance that results in deterioration and degradation of stable environment.

Anthropocentric attitude of humans leads to the faster extraction of resources from the ecosystem without thinking about the sustainable solution. These depleted resources are replaced over the years. Hence, it disturbs the balance in nature. Ecosystem is degraded in multiple ways but the present discussion has explored the destruction caused by the anthropocentric attitude with reference to the *Ship Breaker* trilogy. Environmental degradation and its different forms like, climate change, global warming, degradation of soil and water, atmospheric degradation and certain other changed weather patterns caused by the anthropocentric attitude have been analyzed in this chapter.

5.3 Environmental Degradation and its Impact in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship-Breaker* Trilogy

Paolo's *Ship Breaker* trilogy highlights ecological concerns by reflecting the environmental issue as a major theme. The plot of the novels is full of many degraded environmental events that represent the ecological concerns. In order to further elaborate the concept following aspects of environmental degradation and their impact on environment and the socio-economic life with respect to the novels of trilogy are being discussed.

1. Climate Change and its Impact
2. Habitats Destruction and Loss of Biodiversity
3. Contaminated Aquifers

5.3.1 Climate Change and its Impact, in '*Ship Breaker*' Trilogy

In the novel *Ship Breaker* characters are busy in destroying the ecosystem through the scavenging activities. The corporate ignores the sustainable goals and prefers the maximizing their profits through excessive extraction of valuable resources. There was stability in the ecosystem, "before trees punctured their medians and encroached" (132) that resulted in the degraded ecosystem. In this regards Taylor also asserts that humans' unchecked trespassing into the natural system is injustice and against the environmental justice that damages the ecosystem. There are many instances in the novels that pinpoint the ecological concerns and environmental degradation caused by the humans' anthropocentric attitude. The Climate change in the form of changed weather patterns and extreme weather conditions are shown as;

“Tool shrugged. “No one expected Category Six hurricanes. They didn't have city killers then. The climate changed. The weather shifted. They did not anticipate well” (Ship Breaker135).

In the *Ship Breaker* trilogy the picture of Global South has been portrayed where the luxuries of life a human centred policies resulted in ‘climate change’ as the changed climate was not anticipated by the advanced technological society. Taylor asserts that there should be moderate use of technology and use of technology must be “life centred” rather than “human centred”. In the present study the nature of the storm clearly indicates the harmful impact of the Eco-balance and natural set balance of climate was deteriorated due to humans’ activities. Humans have ignored the environment and are busy in the pursuance of their short-term goals. Paolo has highlighted the change in nature and provoked to adopt the ecocentric approach rather than the anthropocentrism.

“The storm looked worse than just a blow, maybe a city killer even, the way the clouds swirled and scattered lightning across the wrecks offshore” (Ship Breaker 45).

Because of the Global warming the ice-caps of the North-Pole (NP) started melting that resulted in the rising sea level. This study has explored the theme of changed weather pattern disturbed by the humans’ activities. For example for changing weather pattern the protagonist of the novel, Nailer is being told by his father about the climate change as: “His father claimed that the storms were worse every year, but Nailer had never seen anything like the monster bearing down on them” (45). This all is because of the humans’ irresponsible attitude. In this regards, Taylor asserts that man’s attitude towards the natural world maintains the natural set balance if it shows respect for the stable natural world otherwise it dis-balances men’s relation with the nature. Likewise, in the novels with the passage of time the course of nature changed due to humans’ anthropocentric attitude. These activities contributed as “show violence” for the stable ecosystem, including all the biotic and abiotic components of the nature.

“The storm clouds darkened and roiled like a seething cauldron of snakes. Lightning flickered in their bellies.” (Ship Breaker188)

Furthermore, in the novel *Ship Breaker* for the changed weather pattern' the novelist has used the words like: "gushing rain" (47) "torrents of water" (48) and "trashing the coastline, tearing away anything that wasn't tied down" (49). In addition, the analysis shows that the nature's set balance was disturbed by the human-centred policies and the changed weather pattern caused havoc. This shows the ecocentric outlook employed by the novelist to explore the themes and set a warning for the reader against the dreadful consequences of othering the environment. In another instance, he described the climate change and changed weather pattern by explaining that rain this time has been "trashing the coastline, tearing away anything that wasn't tied down" (49). Hence, this study has highlighted the interdependency of nature and humans and showed the anger of nature due to the anthropocentric attitude of the humans.

Likewise in the second novel of trilogy *The Drowned Cities* the study also explores the major theme of climate change where the whole society is affected by the environmental upheavals. Due to the climate change the sea levels have risen and the whole cities are drowned leaving behind the ruins and remnants of the humans' civilization. Taylor asserts ecological disasters are the human-disasters that are the result of large-scale technology and its unchecked use. Humans' activities contributed to the irreversible changes in the environment that made the cities drowned by rising sea levels due to climate change.

"The *Drowned Cities* hadn't always been broken. People broke it. First, they called people traitors and said they didn't belong. Said these people were good and those people were evil, and it kept going, because people always responded, and pretty soon the place was a roaring hell because no one took responsibility for what they did, and how it would drive others to respond"(The Drowned Cities 152).

As the name indicates the novel reflects a life where the sea levels have risen due to climate change, coastal areas of the cities are submerged. The melting of icecaps has shown as a potential impact of humans activities contributing to the global warming. The novel is full of such events where extreme weather conditions, droughts and many other consequences of climate change has shown .The cities, their geography and landscapes are altered and uninhabitable . Taylor asserts humans'

quest for conquering the nature resulted in the changed habitats and uninhabitable world of chaos. In the novel these human activities have left the world in chaos. As Mahlia and Mouse the protagonists of the novel pass through the land for their survival they found the landscapes destroyed.

“The land around the edge of the pool was disturbed, muddy banks torn, grasses trampled. Blood splattered the dirt, blackened with age. Many tracks clawed the ground”. (*The Drowned Cities* 197)

This novel highlights the impact of humans’ anthropocentric attitude on climate that further affects the lives of individual characters and the society as the whole. The whole cities are drowned, there are distorted landscapes and the coastal areas have become uninhabited due to the adverse impact of changed weather patterns. The characters in the novel are forced to flee due to disastrous environment. The novelist has presented the two main protagonists Mahlia and Mouse as the displaced people due to the extreme weather conditions. They are struggling their best for the survival in a hostile and unforgiving environment. The devastated environment has made social disorder as: “Doctor Mahfouz used to say living in *the Drowned Cities* made people crazy. Like, it came in with the tide. When the water came up, so did the killing (117)”. For the limited scarce resources due to the climate change the people fought among themselves. The corporate used military aided with artificial intelligence for the sole purpose of gaining more control over the available resources. Throughout the novel this social unrest and chaos is reflected. Taylor asserts that the wellbeing of humans is directly linked with the natural environment. The stability depends on the relation between “human culture and natural realm”. If this relation breaks the whole natural set balance deteriorates that result in environmental degradation.

Furthermore, when Mahlia traverses through the drowned cities novelist has reflected as: “Her face was smeared with mud and blood and ash, just another bit of debris in the wreckage of war” (67). Hence, the environment destroyed by humans’ intervention caused social unrest and again humans’ greed in the form of war is destroying the ecosystem. As the character Tool trespasses through the degraded town that is torn by the war for gaining more control over the resources he says:

“I smell a great deal of smoke. Wood, Plastics.” Tool’s nostrils flared. “Flesh, A town is dying.” “They’re burning Banyan?” the doctor demanded (The Drowned Cities 551).

The degraded condition of the city is portrayed as the whole city was destroyed as the protagonist of the novel treads around the city there was smoke everywhere and she could only smell the “acrid scents” everywhere (555). Within *the drowned cities* the smoke “still rose in coils” (555) and novelist has used the words “, gray snakes writhing up from the ground” (555) showing the degraded city as an inhabitable city for the humans also. The destruction caused by the humans’ in a way for the available scarce resources is portrayed as:

“A couple of fruit trees guttered with flames deep in their bowels, black and tortured ribbons of glowing coals clawing the sky like charred fingers, all that was left of Banyan’s orchards.”(The Drowned Cities 556)

This novel also highlights the major themes of environmental degradation and climate change that resulted in social-degradation. This novel portrays a world that is suffering from environmental collapse. The anthropocentric attitude of the humans has led to the climate change, the extreme weather events, rising sea levels and overall degradation of the environment. Taylor asserts that these “manipulative practices” result in humans’ own destruction. Likewise in this novel, this changed weather condition affects the life of characters throughout the novel. For a peaceful life the resources are scarce and there is chaos in the society that further leads to the conflict and influences of power dynamics between various factions of the society. The novel has portrayed the landscapes destruction, its causes and humans role in the following lines of the novel.

“A coastline swamped by rising sea levels and political hatreds, a place of shattered rubble and eternal gunfire. It had been a proud capital, once, and the people who inhabited its marble corridors had dominated much of the world. But now the place was barely remembered on maps, let alone in places where civilized people gathered. The histories it had dominated, the territories it had controlled, all had been lost as its people descended into civil war and eventually were forgotten” (*The Drowned Cities* 70).

Climate Change has resulted in the climate refugees or displacement of humans. This all is the result of humans' intervention into the nature. Taylor asserts that this transgression and the way humans' culture controls the Nature are detrimental to the all form of life on Earth. Due to rising sea levels and environmental instability people are forced to migrate in search of living. The study has highlighted the real-world concerns about the climate -induced displacement and management of refugees. The societal structure is also disturbed and the institutions and governments are struggling to cope with this environmental challenge. The narrative and characters of the novel highlights the potential consequences of ignoring the environmental degradation.

“Accelerated Age, collapsed under disasters. Droughts and floods, Hurricanes, Epidemics and crop failures. Starvation and refugee wars had ravaged the world and left many wide expanses open to human re exploration” (The Drowned Cities 330).

Excessive use of artificial intelligence man has made himself super humans as creating the genetically modified organisms for the sole benefits of humans at the cost of nature. The novel tool of was employees a character Tool that are also known as half man. These GMO(s) are created to protect the humans and strengthen their own power. But in the end these creatures go beyond the control of humans and cause irreversible damages to the environment and the human beings also. These organisms are created for the warfare purposes and for obtaining more power that further is used to get control over the resources. At on instance the character Tool narrates as: “it’s not my job to worry about collateral damage. My job is to drop Havoc where the general wants it.” Its shows that humans planned to get more power at the cost of nature. The misuse of artificial intelligence in the war has created the environment unfavorable for all the biotic and abiotic components of the environment. The war has raised the atmospheric temperature causing global warming and the air quality is unfit for all sort of life. The novelist has highlighted this issue as; “the missiles had done terrible things to his flesh with their heat and chemicals (450)”. Hence, humans don’t care for the nature. They are busy in the pursuit of their profit at the expense of nature and all the biotic and abiotic components present in it.

“Where the palace had been, pillars of black smoke boiled up into the sky. She shaded her eyes against the fires, squinting against the intensity of light and heat. The whole palace had been leveled, along with neighboring buildings. Even the marble stairs that led up to the palace—Mahlia stared, astounded. The stairs appeared to be sagging, running lava...” (*Tool of War* 431).

5.3.2 Soil Degradation, Habitats Destruction and Loss of Biodiversity

The ignorance of nature for the sake of humans benefits resulted in the destruction of humans own habitats. The cities were drowned due to the rising sea levels as a result of global warming and Nailer the protagonist reflects the condition and tells that, “The roads were more like flat fern and moss-choked paths. You had to imagine none of the trees sprouting up in the center” (132).

In the novel *Ship Breaker*, when the protagonist of the novel Nailer, treads through the city he sees the “mossy broke-back structures of a dead city” (132) and the landscape is torn and completely lost there is “a whole waterlogged world of optimism, torn down by the patient work of changing nature.” (133). Humans have altered the ecosystem, land that could be used to stop the flooding caused by the global warming in the form of rising sea levels was destroyed by humans for resources extractions, for earning more profit without carrying about the future generations and environment. For example, the Protagonist of the novels points out a place where an island was used for resource extraction that could save the environment and after degradation could save the landscapes but humans’ anthropocentric attitude altered the landscape for their short-term goals. After destroying the environment humans, tried to be “armored against cyclones and hurricanes” (132), but in vain but humans’ anthropocentric attitude ruined the stable ecosystem.

“They used to drill out there, too, in the Gulf. Cut up the islands. It’s why the city killers are so bad. There used to be barrier islands, but they cut them up for their gas drilling” (*Ship Breaker* 132).

Paul W. Taylor has expressed the importance of deep ecology as a fundamental environmental ethic for a sustainable environment. In the novel “*tool of war*” the study has exposed this element of the nature of humans where humans having anthropocentric world view give priority to their own interests and they

consider rest of the species useless or meant for the service or benefits of humans. Novel's line from the novel *Tool of War*, "Some species are meant to lose." (148) criticizes this aspect of humans' nature that exploits everything within nature for the sole purpose of its benefits. It is evident that humans' activities have endangered all the biotic components of the environment despite of the already destroyed or degraded environment.

In this novel *Tool of War* the nature is almost an antagonist. Humans are busy in their development and are trying their best to extract more resources at the cost of nature. But the nature took its own curse and humans paid the price. The corporates who were using the waters for their trade now find no way safe for their trade. Many species were displaced and many other became distinct. Now in waters for trade "the pirates were bitter enemies of the trading fleets and perfectly willing to kill or sink an entire cargo as revenge for the drowning of their ancestral lands." The loss of habitat of many species laid serious threats for the survival of their trades. Degraded environment causes difficulties for the humans to survive and sustain and has the major impact on the lives of people. Novelist has presented the devastation in the novel as:

"The beach was empty. Not a sign of human habitation. Out in the blue water, the shadows of the tankers still loomed, randomly scattered like toys, but nothing else remained. The soot was gone, the oil in the waters, everything shone brightly under the blaze of morning tropic sun" (*Tool of War* 49).

The Global warming resulted in the melting of ice-caps that has destroyed the whole ecosystem. In *Ship-Breaker*, novelist has explored the impact of environmental degradation on other species on the planet. In the age of Anthropocene, due to humans' activities not only the landscapes were damaged but also many species lost their habitats due to the "melted pole" (169). This resulted in the extinction of many living species as after the melting of ice-caps due to global warming "there were no polar bears now, and seals were few and far between" (169). Also the people and their social life got disturbed. The novelist explores that "with the disappearance of the ice, the Siberians and the Inuit became sea people. They pursued their new prey the way, they had once hunted seals" (169). Due to extreme weather disturbance caused by the

humans' anthropocentric attitude the balance in ecosystem got devastated and "all the birds already gone" (58).

5.3.3 Contaminated Aquifers

Humans' activities on earth alter the landscapes. The excessive use of chemicals and release of toxic gases into the environments has caused water and air pollution, threatening the lives of all living things of the planet. For instance, in the novel *Ship Breaker* the protagonist Nailer, reveals the landscape to Pima as "it was not the ordinary Earth" (177). The landscape was tainted, and due to oil spillage, it was toxic. There were no vegetation at the coastal areas; industrialists eroded away the soil for their business (203).

The shipping industries worked for the sake of their profit and this practice in "still leaking oil and chemicals" (209) into the water, contaminating it and causing threat to the lives of other species. Everywhere in the sea there was "the oil in the waters" (49) contaminating it and making it hazardous for all sort of life. The protagonist of the novel Nailer explains the state of water as he passes by a sea and finds water as, "brackish water, bright with leaked waste oil and scrap trash and the stink of chemicals" (136). Shipping industry has contaminated the water to such an extent that despite of the heavy rain caused by the climate change Nailer looks that "Out on the water, fires burned, oils somehow ignited and blazing despite the torrents" (48). The novelist has highlighted the extreme of humans' activities in contaminating the natural resources. In another instance, Nailer provided some water to Nita for drinking purpose but "She stared at the water again. "But it's not clean. The chemicals are poisonous." (138).

In *The Drowned Cities* the novelist has employed the Protagonist, a young girl named 'Mahlia'. She navigates through the treacherous landscapes of the degraded environment of *The Drowned Cities*. Her journey acts as a 'lens' through which the novelist has explored the theme of anthropocentric environmental degradation. The climate change has altered the landscape of the cities as Mahlia travels around the cities she finds "The land around the edge of the pool was disturbed, muddy banks torn, grasses trampled" (46). In another instance she finds the "landscape in transition—used to be one way, now it was turning into something else" (42). The humans activities and ignorance of Nature resulted in the devastation caused in the

form of climate change that consequently changed the landscape. Throughout the cities there was “blackened land” (155) that the novelist has shown to reflect the impact of climate change and excessive use of poisonous chemicals that resulted in the form of acid rain, destroying the whole land of the Cities. Taylor asserts that humans consider intrinsic value to themselves and this grants them the right to degrade the ecosystem without considering the nature’s repercussions. Throughout the novel the novelist has shown the remnants of the “once thriving civilizations” in the form of a landscape irreversibly altered by the consequences of climate change. People of the cities were so engaged in the pursuit of luxuries of life and for the sustainability, they never “attempted to civilize the *Drowned Cities*, the man hadn’t even looked back” (144). Ignorance of the consequences caused by their unsustainable actions resulted in the soil erosion. For the struggles of resources extraction people of the *Drowned cities* used to fight wars with the opponents and after the devastation the survival were following the same principle of getting superiority at the cost of stable environment. The novelist has criticized this anthropocentric attitude of people that considered the Earth as a sole source of their satisfaction.

“*Drowned Cities* people were like animals. They didn’t plan. fought all the time, and blamed each other for being poor and broken, instead of standing tall, “Drowned Cities”, people were less than animals, really, because they had reason, but didn’t use it” (*Drowned Cities* 43).

In addition, the people of the *Drowned Cities* were busy fighting a war for the sake of getting more power and control over the scarce resources. The analysis of the novels has highlighted the humans’ greed for getting resources at the risk of whole ecosystem. Taylor opines that humans and their selfish disregards for the nature and future generations enhance the calamity of climate change. For the sake of getting control over the sea waters General Caroa, used the high-tech weapons to fight and destroy the opponents within the water that resulted massive destruction of other species and contamination of water. The novelist has portrayed this as his protagonist travels towards waters “where blood and bodies floated in salt waves as red as General Caroa’s flag” (12). Due to the destruction caused by the war the sea was full of “carbon polymer hull shattered” (56) throughout the water and the marine life compelled to death lying at the coast. For the powerful people of *the Drowned Cities*,

Mahlia says that “now they were nothing but great wallowing brutes leaking their grime and toxins into the water” (57). After the destruction of the *Drowned Cities* the corporates found out the business of selling the rubble of the cities across the Globe. They didn’t work on the stability of the drowned cities as their anthropocentric attitude hampers them save the planet. During the travelling Mahliah was in search of “other places, where a river was less poisoned with war and rotting city” (193) but she couldn’t find such place as the climate change caused devastation of the whole cities. The novelist has highlighted the plight of water contamination and even clean water availability for humans was not available. He has used the words “stagnant green pools for drinking” “brown waters” (139), “brackish water” (136) for showing the plight caused by clean water unavailability. The people of the *Drowned Cities* were devastated by the climate change but Mahliah says that, “all of those discomforts were nothing against their lack of water” (128). In another instance Mahliah finds the water of Mississippi river as, “bright with leaked waste oil and scrap trash and the stink of chemicals” (136). Throughout the novel the novelist has highlighted the plight of water contamination due to humans’ anthropocentric activities.

In the last novel of Trilogy *Tool of War* techno-centric society is shown as people are using the technology for their warfare purposes. This misuse of technology is contributing to the environmental degradation. Taylor also asserts that humans’ “technological prowess” enabled them to occupy and extract the resourceful areas through destructive activities that “irreparably degrade the ecosystem”. Although, humans success is dependent in the factors such as climate change, resource availability and landscapes availability however humans have encroached upon the natural resources forcefully and alter the climate. Due to climate change melting of icecaps has resulted in massive destruction of the coastal cities. The novelist has explored the deteriorating condition of the environment and shown that the clear rivers were now full of filth caused by the war and humans extractivism of resources. The rivers and sea water has become “a toxic brew of chemicals and death” (133). In another instance when Nita treads through the cities, she notices the water as a mixture of oil and decay everywhere. The novelist has highlighted the degraded environment as:

“The scents of salt and iron and rust; beach fires sending up black smoke like signal flares; oil residue sheening the shallows, multihued, staining the sands;

colorful flakes of plastic wire sheathing tumbling in the beach foam and waves, floating and bobbing, forming long lines of debris on oil-soaked shores.” (*Tool of War* 106)

In another instance the novelist has portrayed the humans’ contribution towards the climate change and contamination of water and air. This is the crux of the novelist’s theme where he considers the humans responsible for the Anthropocene climate change. In this regards, Taylor asserts that humans’ greedy disregard for the nature and its sustainability would reinforce the ecological predicament rather make it worst for the life to survive. In the novel the powerful human rules the city and their luxuries released many toxic metals, greenhouse gases and many chlorofluorocarbons contributing to the devastation of the whole city.

“The great Howrah Bridge lunged across the Hooghly River, rusting lattice architecture spanning muddy waters, a massive testament to the hubris and power of humanity from a time when oil-burning cars infested cities like lice. The cars were gone, as well as many of the humans. And yet still, the rusting Howrah lingered” (*Tool of War* 116).

5.4 Solutions to Climate-Related Issues in Bacigalupi’s Texts

1. Transition to a Sustainable, Post-Capitalist Economy

A key theme in *Ship Breaker* is the anthropocentrism, the destructive force of capitalism and its extractive practices, which are linked to environmental degradation. In response, a solution would be the transition to a non-anthropocentrism, sustainable, post-capitalist economy that moves away from extractive industries and toward more ecocentric and community-based models. Bacigalupi’s trilogy presents a world ravaged by resource depletion and environmental collapse due to corporate greed and exploitation of natural resources. The solution here is to build systems that prioritize sustainable resource use by considering the long-terms consequences.

This transition involves not just technological solutions but a restructuring of economic systems to prioritize environmental stewardship over profit. Governments, corporations, and local communities need to work together to create policies that regulate resource extraction, invest in renewable energy, and promote green technologies that do not harm the environment. In *Ship Breaker*, the exploitation of

oil and minerals serves as a constant reminder of the dangers of continuing down the current path.

2. Technological Innovation with Ethical Boundaries

While Bacigalupi's works are often critical of unchecked technological progress (such as genetic engineering and the weaponization of technology), the solution lies in harnessing technology for good, under strict ethical boundaries. In *The Drowned Cities* and *Tool of War*, technological advancements like genetic engineering and militarization are shown to be misused and ultimately destructive. To address climate-related issues, technologies must be developed and deployed with a focus on environmental sustainability.

This means ensuring that technologies like solar power, wind energy, carbon capture, and bioremediation are prioritized, while simultaneously imposing moral limits on genetic modifications, artificial intelligence, and military technologies that could further harm ecosystems or contribute to environmental injustice. Technologies must be developed with ethics in mind, ensuring they benefit human society and the environment rather than exacerbating the issues that Bacigalupi's texts highlight.

3. Revitalizing Ecosystems and Ecocentric Worldviews

Another solution involves the restoration and preservation of natural ecosystems, which Bacigalupi's characters can no longer rely on in their industrial wasteland. Ecocentric worldviews, as opposed to anthropocentric ones, need to be central in our approach to environmental policy. The idea is not just to manage resources for human benefit, but to recognize the intrinsic value of nature and ecosystems.

Promoting conservation efforts, reforestation, and protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems would help restore balance to the environment. These efforts would also need to be connected to cultural change, encouraging humans to view themselves as part of a larger web of life, not as dominant over it.

5.5 Why These Discussions are Important?

The solutions discussed above are not just theoretical but urgent. The climate crisis and environmental degradation are immediate and pressing concerns, and Bacigalupi's trilogy serves as a stark warning of what can happen if these issues are ignored. Discussions about the causes of environmental collapse—such as the role of

extractive industries, capitalist exploitation, and technological misuse are vital for the following reasons:

1. Raising Awareness and Generating Action

Discussions of environmental degradation are crucial for raising awareness of the social and ecological costs of the status quo. By exploring these topics in literature, we can better understand how capitalism, technological advancement, and resource extraction are inextricably linked to environmental harm. This understanding can then lead to collective action to challenge existing systems and demand change, such as more equitable and sustainable policies at local, national, and global levels.

2. Averting Future Crisis

By engaging with Bacigalupi's dystopian world, readers can better appreciate the real-world consequences of the climate crisis and recognize the urgency of addressing these issues before they spiral out of control. Discussions about the interconnectedness of economic systems and environmental degradation serve to highlight the danger of complacency and encourage proactive solutions before we face an irreversible collapse.

3. Moral and Ethical Dilemmas

The moral and ethical dilemmas highlighted in *Ship Breaker* are central to the climate discussion. On one hand, humanity's desire for technological progress, economic growth, and resource extraction has led to immense wealth and development, but on the other, it has come at a terrible cost to the planet. Bacigalupi's characters, from the *ship breakers* to the corporate elites, face difficult choices about survival, exploitation, and ethical behavior.

This moral complexity is vital because it forces us to confront the ethical implications of our actions, what is the cost of progress, and at what point do we sacrifice the environment for short-term gain? These discussions encourage critical thinking about our responsibilities to future generations, non-human life, and the planet as a whole. This calls into question whether we, as a society, are willing to make sacrifices for long-term ecological balance or continue down a destructive path.

4. The Ethical Framework of Climate Solutions

Drawing on Paul Taylor's *Respect for Nature* theory from this thesis, the ethical framework guiding the proposed solutions calls for a fundamental shift in how we view our relationship with nature. This includes respecting nature as a value in itself, not merely as a resource to be exploited for human gain. By rethinking the ethics of environmental conservation and climate action, we can begin to prioritize ecological balance, sustainability, and justice for both marginalized human communities and the natural world. Moreover, adopting ecocentric values will likely require difficult moral decisions such as limiting industrial practices, reducing consumption, and restructuring economic systems that challenge the status quo. These choices must be grounded in a sense of moral responsibility for the planet and its ecosystems, acknowledging that the current model of progress has been detrimental to both humanity and the Earth.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

This thesis is an endeavor to explore and understand the “anthropocentrism” and its devastating impact of the society and stable environment. The research revolves around the boundaries of the influence of anthropocentric attitude on the stable environment and all its biotic and abiotic components. By delimiting the research to literary work of Paolo Bacigalupi, the research demonstrated the environmental degradation is a universal issue. The writer has chosen the Global North region and its society to illustrate the anthropocentric attitude and environmental degradation that highlights the fact that regardless of the countries and continents, anthropocentric attitude resulted irreversible loss to the stable environment and all its biotic and abiotic components. Furthermore, the selection of “*Ship Breaker*” trilogy Paolo Bacigalupi while critiquing anthropocentrism provides the window through which the causes of anthropocentric attitude and the destruction of stable ecosystem can be viewed. He has portrayed humans’ attitude through the representation of the characters and their activities that undermine and violate the sanctity of natural world. All the three novels of trilogy hover around humans’ anthropocentric view that further resulted in ecological depletion. In addition, the *ship breaker* trilogy is a critique on the anthropogenic attitude and by exploring its dreadful consequences it instigates to maintain the web of ecosystem on Earth.

The Introduction Chapter of the thesis introduces the research topic and gives in depth insight. It is discussed that ‘anthropocentric attitude’ as a major threat to the sustainability of ecosystem. The chapter discussed the anthropocentrism as man’s trespassing into the boundaries of the nature and this attitude considers the humans as a “center” of the Earth and all other components of the environment are considered as “periphery”. Further, it is discussed that such an attitude gives rise to exploitative practices that disrupt the natural set balance and threaten the sustainability of ecosystem rendering detrimental impact on the lives of the people in the selected texts. Likewise the chapter presents the ecocriticism as a counter response to the anthropocentrism and discusses different view of ecocriticism. The ecocriticism consider the man dependent on this nature and interdependency of man and nature is essential for sustainability. It refutes the concept of anthropocentric attitude and

considers environment as equally important and considers anthropocentric attitude as an exploitative one that is the main hindrance to the sustainability of the ecosystem. In addition, the core of this research “research objectives” and “research questions” are also discussed in this chapter. On the basis of objective the thesis statement and significance of the study is also discussed. Hence, this chapter introduces the research title and presents the purpose and direction and sets guidance of the study in the light of concepts and explanations given by different arguments.

The second chapter of this study is concerned with the study “around the area and is helpful to understand area of study. This chapter explored the literary works of different researcher who have explored the relevant areas to this study. The research work of different early researchers is analyzed and it helps locate the present research problems. Moreover, another purpose of literature research is that it helps in “avoiding the duplication of ideas and research areas”. Different articles and research work early researchers have explored and criticized the devastation of nature by the humans’ interference and exploitative attitude for resource extraction is criticized. Further, this chapter analyses and highlights the “research gap” hence this chapter sets a “guiding principle” to look into the research problem by acknowledging the efforts done by the earlier researchers and writers. Hence, this chapter sets directions that how to bridge this knowledge gap and explore these mentioned areas that need addition of knowledge or are underexplored or not sufficiently explored yet.

Chapter three discusses the theoretical framework and the purpose of this chapter is to devise a plan of action that provides a roadmap to analyze the research problem. This chapter discusses the theoretical framework and delimits it that acts as an “instrumental” for the analysis of the literary work and research problem. The Content analysis is discussed that employed in this study while doing the thematic analysis of the literary work.

6.1 Findings of the Research

At the start of this research, ‘research objectives’ and three research questions are given. On the basis of these objectives and questions, by using the selected theoretical framework the selected novels of the trilogy were analyzed and analysis is presented in the chapters 5 and 6. The Content analysis of the novel presents the answers of the aforementioned questions.

This research has been conducted on the Paolo Bacigalupi's novels, through the lens of 'eco-criticism' and the anthropocentric view, men's pursuit of self-interested material gains and its causes that further contribute to the destruction of the ecosystem are analyzed. The use of technology for the selective benefits of the man imbalances the environmental sustainability, which results in the degradation of the ecosystem and society. The study has explored the Eco-centric view and exposed the anthropocentric view of the humans throughout the novel. This novel of 'trilogy' provokes the readers to consider the moral implication of exploiting the environment for their short-term gains. This research has explored how due to persistent human activities (anthropocentrism) the ice caps have melted, causing sea levels to rise that resulted in the destruction of the cities and the governments are broken causing social chaos. The researcher has explored that how the trilogy reflects the greed for selective benefits of humans' as well as the destruction caused to the ecosystem due to men's anthropocentrism.

This research has also highlighted the stark divide between the men showing the anthropocentric view who enjoy the benefits of advanced technology and the impoverished people who struggle their best to survive in the polluted and degraded environment. This anthropocentric attitude is the reflection of real-world consequences of environmental degradation that make the Earth vulnerable. Throughout the trilogy the disrupted ecosystem and depleted natural resources are leading to a desperate scramble for any available resources. According to the objectives of the research certain themes from the literary works are explored and analyzed in the light of selected theory and research methodology. In *Ship Breaker* trilogy following are the main themes that are discussed as the main "causes" that contribute or develop the anthropocentric attitude among the characters of the novel:

1. Short-term thinking
2. Scarce resources
3. Corporate control, exploitation and economic inequality
4. Survival struggle and security
5. Technological dominance
6. Ethical Consideration, Cultural and societal Norms

The analysis of the literary work of Paolo has revealed that ‘short term thinking’ is the main role for the development of anthropocentric attitude among the characters of the novels. In the novel *ship breaker*, the activities of ‘breaking the ship’ contribute significantly to ecological degradation. The characters of the novel are indulged in making their short-term selected goals at the cost of stable environment. These characters scavenge the broken ships that release toxic substances directly in the environment but the sole purpose of the characters are to make their “quote” complete. These short term exploitative practices harm and contribute to the environmental degradation. Furthermore, the literary work also presents the role of corporate and their short-term practices. All the activities of the corporates are “human-centered” and are ‘unsustainable’. Many instances of the characters and corporates show their ‘exploitative practices’ that don’t consider the ‘long-term’ consequences on the stable environment. In the novel, ship-breaking industry uses the resources to dismantle the ships for salvage as the part of their short-term policy. It serves as a metaphor for the ‘unsustainable exploitation’ of the available natural resources and degradation of the ecosystem.

Further, other cause of anthropocentric attitude is shown in the form of ‘resource scarcity’. The availability of fewer-resource develops the competition among the characters to extract and earn more. The war for resources leads towards the destruction of environment. The characters of the novel prioritize their own needs and engineer the way out to overcome the scarcity of resources. This exacerbates the anthropocentric or human-centered attitude that overshadows the concern of other living or non-living things of this planet. In the novel “*Tool of War*” climate torn cities have put the people in a crisis of unprecedented magnitude. There is no governmental control over the drowned cities due to melting ice-caps. The corporates and influential people control the management of the whole devastated region but are unable to control the social chaos. There is the scarcity of resources and only resources to be exported are the wreckage, destroyed building having iron and copper. This scarcity of resources gives rise to the development of anthropocentric attitude among the masses that further leads to the environmental degradation. This research has explored that the literary work of Paolo has shown the “social and moral destruction” of the people by employing some characters, firms and corporates that control the available “fewer resources” by developing the post-human creatures that

are resistant to extreme weather conditions. This one sided activity of humans shows eco-injustice and acts as a ‘threat-multiplier’ for the environment.

In the *Ship Breaker* trilogy the researcher has explored the ‘survival struggles’ as a prominent theme that contributes to the development of anthropocentric attitude among the characters of the novel. The characters in a devastated world struggle to maintain a living they feel unsecured in the devastated environment. The ‘corporate greed shows the prospective’ to maximize their profit without caring the long term consequences. Hence, on one side the poor class prefers their ‘immediate survival’, whereas the corporate prioritizes “quick profit according to the urgency of the current situation’. This all focuses on the ‘human-centred’ policies and all the biotic and abiotic factors of the ecosystem are ignored. The environment is ‘trespassed’ for the sake of humans needs whereas the restorative policies for the environment are ignored.

In addition, *Ship Breaker* trilogy shows the stark difference between ‘privilege and the ‘impoverished’ people of the society. The ‘privileges’ use the technology to gain the profits at the expenses of the environment. The novel *ship breaker* revolves around the process of extracting valuable resources by dismantling the old wrecked ship. In the novel the elite class uses the technology for the extractive industry. This “excessive and unbridled” use of technology causes environmental degradation but the corporations feel proud in having advanced technology for gaining more profit causes the disproportionate consequences to the ecosystem. The research reveals that the industrialist considers themselves ‘superior’ as they have advanced technology that can be used for making their lives profitable. The analysis of the literary work has underpinned the human greed for more profit by the excessive use of technology by the extractive industries. The process of oil extraction, and its refinement and consumption causes irreparable loss, not only to the lives of ‘vulnerable and marginalized people’ but also to the climate.

Furthermore, in the novel *Tool of War* the research has explored the theme of anthropocentrism by pinpointing the humans’ “attempt of enabling them conquering the world” at the ‘expense of ecosystem’. The literary work of Paolo has also pinpointed this element by employing the character of General Caroa, who ordered to devise such post-human designs that could survive at the extreme weather condition

and could be used for the warfare. Hence, by using the genetic engineering, genes of different species were mixed by to create the post-human design named and Tool and augments. This shows that the misuse of technology developed anthropocentric attitude in humans and they created the monsters for the short-term that resulted for their own destruction in a long run. The misuse of ‘drone technology’ and high tech missiles resulted in raising the atmospheric temperature. The Content analysis of the literary work shows that this aspect by showing the wars fought in forests and waters destroying the ecosystem and other species. Further, the negative use of technology in the form of “artificial intelligence” is explored from the literary work. The research work reveals that in the literary work Paolo has shown the ‘haughtiness of humans’ as they use technology to control the planet at the expenses of the stable environment and criticized this techno-centric society working for self-destruction.

Furthermore, the Content analysis of the literary work reveals that in ship breaker the some specific characters and corporate entities are busy in the ‘power struggle’ and show ‘anthropocentric mindset that contributed to the destruction of the environment The *Ship Breaker* trilogy demonstrates the anthropocentric attitude of the characters, corporations and other entities causes drastic climate change, war, social unrest and environmental degradation. Richard Lopez, a character in ship breaker argues with the workers to instigate them extract more and more expensive materials, irrespective of the damages caused to the environment. His sole business is to get the allotted quota for extraction of useful resources from the ships and he was instigating his scavenging team to do this irrespective of the dreadful consequences to the environment. The research highlighted the role of corporates as having the sole policies that are human-centered and show no concerns for the sustainability of the environment. To pinpoint the anthropocentric attitude of corporates Paolo has employed “Lawson & Carlson and Patel Global” in the *Ship Breaker* trilogy. The anthropocentric attitude of the humans in the form of corporate not only controls the working class of the society for the gains of their own profits but also their policies caused terrible destruction to the environment. Lawson & Carlson launched the operation of ship breaking for the sake of salvageable materials. In the novel *Tool of War* Corporates like, Patel Global Logistics, use the technology for engineering out their ware-fare equipment at the expense of environment. The manipulation of DNA for the creating of Post humans object makes them consider technological dominant in

the planet. Corporate have controlled the water area for making the profit and this extraction of resources at the cost of environment has detrimental impact of the lives of the workers and the climate.

In the chapter fifth of analysis, the environmental degradation caused by anthropocentric attitude is explored. Many instances from the novels are explored and analyzed that show the degraded environment. Furthermore this chapter also answers the research questions related to the environmental degradation and its impact on the stable society. The research highlights the environmental degradation, its different forms like, climate change, global warming, degradation of soil and water, atmospheric degradation and certain other changed weather patterns caused by the 'anthropocentric attitude'. In *Ship Breaker* trilogy analysis of the novels reveals that "technological advances", "corporate power" and greed that promote the unchecked industrialization for the exploitation of environment and its resources have destroyed the stable environment. Likewise, the destructive impact of this attitude on the environment and the lives of the characters and other biotic and abiotic components of the ecosystem are also analyzed.

The research has explored the environmental degradation in the form of climate change. The scavenging activities of the characters, corporate ignorance of sustainable goals and excessive extraction of valuable resources resulted in degraded environment. There are many instances in the novels that pinpoint the ecological concerns and environmental degradation caused by the humans' anthropocentric attitude. The novel ship breaker reveals that climate change in the form of changed weather patterns and extreme weather conditions resulted in the "Category six hurricanes" that caused devastation. The research further explored from the literary texts that Paolo has portrayed the picture of Global South where the luxuries of life a human centred policies resulted in 'climate change' as the changed climate. Although this region used advanced technologies but climate change was not anticipated by these advanced technological societies. The nature of the storm clearly indicates the harmful impact of the Eco-balance and natural set balance of climate was deteriorated due to humans' activities. Paolo has highlighted the change in nature and provoked to adopt the ecocentric approach rather than the anthropocentrism.

Qualitative content analysis of the novel *The Drowned Cities* highlights the impact of humans' anthropocentric attitude on climate that further affects the lives of individual characters and the society as the whole. Due to humans' activities the whole cities are drowned and landscapes are distorted due to the adverse impact of changed weather patterns. The characters in the novel are forced to flee due to disastrous environment. Paolo has presented the two main protagonists Mahlia and Mouse as the displaced people due to the extreme weather conditions. The novelist has also shown that the corporate used military aided with artificial intelligence for the sole purpose of gaining more control over the available resources. Because of the Global warming the ice-caps of the North-Pole started melting that resulted in the rising sea level. Paolo has explored the theme of changed weather pattern disturbed by the humans' activities. With the passage of time the course of nature changed due to humans' anthropocentric attitude. These activities contributed as "show violence" for the stable ecosystem, including all the biotic and abiotic components of the nature and degraded the environment.

The study has explored that the ignorance of nature for the sake of humans' benefits resulted in the destruction of humans' own habitats. The cities were drowned due to the rising sea levels as a result of global warming. Humans have altered the ecosystem; land that could be used to stop the flooding caused by the global warming in the form of rising sea levels was destroyed by humans for resources extractions, for earning more profit without carrying about the future generations and environment. In the novel "*tool of war*" Paolo has exposed this element of the nature of humans where humans having anthropocentric world view give priority to their own interests and they consider rest of the species useless. The Global warming resulted in the melting of ice-caps that has destroyed the whole ecosystem. Furthermore the impact of environmental degradation on other species on the planet is also highlighted in the given texts. The research highlights how in the age of Anthropocene, due to humans' activities not only the landscapes were damaged but also many species lost their habitats due to the "melted pole". Paolo has shown the nature is almost an "antagonist". Humans are busy in their development and are trying their best to extract more resources at the cost of nature. But the nature took its "own curse" and "humans paid" the price. The corporates who were using the waters for their trade now find no way safe for their trade. Many species were 'displaced' and many other

became ‘distinct’. The loss of habitat of many species laid serious threats for the survival of their trades. Degraded environment causes difficulties for the humans to survive and sustain and has the major impact on the lives of people.

To conclude, the main focus of the dissertation was to explore and analyze the anthropocentrism from the literary work of the writer and highlights its main causes and presenting it as an environmental degradation. The selected trilogy has plainly highlighted the anthropocentric attitude presented in the form of characters and corporate entities. These activities destructed the nature that caused the whole cities to drown as a result of climate change and melting of ice-caps due to global warming. This irrevocable damage to the environment is caused due to the human centred policies, men’s greed and unbridled use of technology contributed to it. The research has explored how through anthropocentric activities ecosystem devastated and it analyses the anthropocentrism as a main hindrance to the sustainable and balanced nature that can only be achieved through ‘bio-centric’ outlook towards nature.

6.2 Limitation of the Study

This dissertation is a critique to the anthropocentrism that is a “qualitative research”. Qualitative analysis and interpretation varies from person to person according to their own perception. One more fact is worth considering that although the analysis of anthropocentrism as an environmental degradation can be Objective but the selection of the writer, its literary texts presenting the society of Global North makes the study Subjective.

6.3 Recommendations for Future Researchers

For an in-depth understanding of the anthropocentrism and its dreadful impact in the form of environmental degradation, this research has raised a number of instances which need further exploration. The selected primary texts of Paolo Bacigalupi can also be analyzed through the lens of post humanism. Future researches interested in science fiction novels can explore such areas as, manipulation of Genetic engineering, creation of posthumansitic objects, Marxist analysis of the devastated society, ruling of corporate societies and exploitation of natural resources. Paolo’s writing can be used to analyze the texts through the ecocriticism lens as these texts are enriched with such themes.

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