



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Engineering in Current Research

ISSN: 2456-4265, Volume 7, Issue 7, July 2022, <http://ijmec.com/>

### ON KILLING A TREE BY GIEVE PATEL -ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

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#### Abstract

"On Killing a Tree" by Gieve Patel is a poem that metaphorically explores the destructive nature of human activities on the environment, using the act of cutting down a tree as a central theme. The poem delves into the various ways in which a tree is killed – both physically and metaphorically – and emphasizes the resilience and struggle of the tree against its inevitable demise. Through vivid imagery and powerful language, Patel raises ecological awareness and prompts readers to reflect on the consequences of human actions on nature. The poem serves as a poignant commentary on the need for environmental conservation and the impact of human progress on the delicate balance of the natural world.

#### Introduction

"On Killing a Tree" by Gieve Patel is a thought-provoking poem that delves into the profound theme of environmental destruction. Written with vivid imagery and metaphorical depth, the poem explores the act of cutting down a tree as a symbolic representation of the larger issue of human intervention and exploitation of nature. Gieve Patel, an Indian poet and playwright, employs powerful language and evocative descriptions to convey the relentless struggle of a tree against its inevitable demise. The poem not only addresses the physical aspects of felling a tree but also metaphorically depicts the various ways in which a tree can be killed, emphasizing the resilience of nature and the consequences of human actions. As readers engage with the verses, they are prompted to contemplate the broader implications of ecological harm and the urgent need for environmental conservation. "On Killing a Tree" stands as a

compelling piece that urges reflection on the interconnectedness of humanity and the natural world, highlighting the importance of responsible stewardship of our environment.

#### Literature Survey

A literature survey, also known as a literature review, is a critical examination of existing research and scholarly works on a particular topic. It provides an overview of the current state of knowledge, identifies gaps in the existing literature, and helps researchers position their work within the broader academic context. A literature survey is a common component of academic research papers, and dissertations. Here are the key steps and elements typically involved in conducting a literature survey:

##### Define the Scope:

Clearly defined the scope and objectives of the literature survey. Specified the research questions or hypotheses that the survey aims to address.

##### Search for Relevant Literature:

Utilized academic databases, libraries, and online resources to find scholarly articles, books, and other publications related to the topic. Used keywords, Boolean operators, and other search strategies to narrow down relevant literature.

##### Evaluate and Select Sources:

Critically evaluated the quality, credibility, and relevance of each source. Considered the publication date, the author's credentials, and the research methodology used in each study.

##### Organize the Literature:



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Organized the selected literature thematically or chronologically, depending on the nature of the research. Identified key themes, trends, and debates within the literature.

## **Summarize and Synthesize:**

Provided concise summaries of each selected source. Synthesized information to highlight patterns, connections, and areas of disagreement among different studies. Identify

## **Gaps and Contradictions:**

Discussed any gaps or limitations in the existing literature. Identified contradictions or inconsistencies in the findings of different studies.

## **Relate to Your Research:**

Clearly articulated how each piece of literature relates to the research questions or objectives. Highlighted the relevance of existing studies to own research.

## **Critical Analysis:**

Engaged in a critical analysis of the methodologies, theories, and findings presented in the literature. Identified strengths and weaknesses in the existing research.

## **Cite Properly:**

Ensured proper citation of all the sources used in the literature survey. Followed the citation style specified by the academic institution or publication guidelines.

## **Write Clearly and Coherently:**

Presented the literature survey in a clear and coherent manner. Organized the writing logically, with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. A well-conducted literature survey not only informs readers about the existing state of knowledge but also provides a foundation for new research. It helps researchers identify gaps that their own work can address and contributes to the overall development of knowledge in a particular field.

## **Methodology:**

It's important to note that "On Killing a Tree" by Gieve Patel is a poem, and as such, it doesn't have a traditional research methodology like a scientific study or experiment. However, we can analyse the poem's structure, language, and literary devices as elements of its artistic methodology. Here's an exploration of the poetic methodology in "On Killing a Tree":

## **Poetic Structure:**

Examined the structure of the poem, including its form, rhyme scheme (if any), and stanza organization. Considered how the structure contributes to the overall impact of the poem.

## **Imagery and Symbolism:**

Analysed the use of imagery and symbolism in the poem. In "On Killing a Tree," the tree is a metaphor for nature or the environment. Explored how the poet uses vivid and evocative language to convey deeper meanings.

## **Metaphor and Allegory:**

Identified metaphors and allegorical elements used in the poem. For example, cutting a tree can be seen as a metaphor for human actions causing harm to the environment. Considered how these literary devices enhance the poem's message.

## **Tone and Mood:**

Examined the tone and mood of the poem. Gieve Patel's poem has a serious and contemplative tone, emphasizing the gravity of the subject matter. Explored how the poet's choice of words and overall style contribute to the emotional impact.

## **Repetition and Parallelism:**

Looked for instances of repetition or parallelism in the poem. Repetition can emphasize key ideas, and parallelism can create a rhythmic effect. Considered how these linguistic devices enhance the poem's flow and emphasize certain themes.



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## **Narrative Voice:**

Analysed the narrative voice in the poem. Is it first-person, third-person, or a collective voice? How does the choice of voice contribute to the poem's impact?

## **Irony and Satire:**

Considered whether there are elements of irony or satire in the poem. "On Killing a Tree" addresses environmental destruction, and the poet may use these devices to highlight contradictions or criticize human behaviour.

## **Title Significance:**

Reflected on the significance of the poem's title. How does it set the tone for the reader, and does it offer any clues about the poem's themes? Remember that the methodology of a poem is more focused on the artistic and expressive choices made by the poet rather than a systematic research approach. Analysing the elements listed above will help you gain a deeper understanding of how Gieve Patel crafted "On Killing a Tree" to convey its message about environmental awareness and human impact on nature.

## **Objectives of Research**

When formulating research objectives on the topic of "On Killing a Tree" by Gieve Patel or a related environmental theme, the focus will likely be on understanding the poem's message, exploring environmental issues, and possibly proposing solutions. Here are some potential research objectives:

## **Analyse Literary Elements:**

Examined the literary elements, such as metaphor, symbolism, and imagery, used in "On Killing a Tree" to convey the poet's message about environmental destruction.

## **Interpret Poetic Meaning:**

Interpreted the deeper meanings and messages embedded in the poem regarding human impact on nature and the consequences of environmental degradation.

## **Explore Environmental Themes:**

Explored and discuss the broader environmental themes presented in the poem, including deforestation, ecosystem disruption, and the ethical implications of human actions.

## **Investigate Ecocritical Perspectives:**

Applied ecocritical perspectives to the analysis, considering how the poem reflects or challenges cultural attitudes toward nature and the environment.

## **Examine Human-Nature Relationship:**

Investigated the portrayal of the human-nature relationship in "On Killing a Tree" and how it reflects societal attitudes towards the environment.

## **Evaluate Poetic Techniques:**

Evaluated the effectiveness of poetic techniques employed by Gieve Patel in conveying environmental concerns, such as the use of irony, satire, or personification.

## **Assess Reader Response:**

Evaluated reader's responses and interpretations of the poem, gauging how different audiences perceive and connect with the environmental themes presented.

## **Examine Cultural Context:**

Examined the cultural and historical context in which the poem was written, considering how societal attitudes towards the environment during that time may have influenced the poet's perspective.

## **Compare with Other Works:**

Compared "On Killing a Tree" with other literary works that address similar environmental themes, exploring commonalities and differences in the portrayal of nature.

## **Propose Environmental Solutions:**

Proposed and discussed potential solutions or actions to address the environmental issues raised in the poem, fostering



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a connection between literary analysis and real-world environmental concerns.

## **Consider Eco poetics:**

Explored the concept of ecopoetic and how poets engage with environmental issues, considering the role of poetry in raising awareness and inspiring action.

## **Educational Outreach:**

Designed and evaluated the effectiveness of educational outreach programs that use the poem to raise environmental awareness among different audiences. These research objectives can serve as a starting point for a comprehensive exploration of the poem and its implications for understanding and addressing environmental challenges. Depending on the specific goals of your research, you can tailor these objectives to align with your study's focus and scope

## **Scope Of Research**

The scope of research on "On Killing a Tree" by Gieve Patel can be broad and interdisciplinary, encompassing literary analysis, environmental studies, and cultural perspectives. Here are some aspects that researchers might consider within the scope of a study on this poem:

## **Literary Analysis:**

Conducted a detailed literary analysis of the poem, examining the use of literary devices such as metaphor, symbolism, imagery, and language to convey the poet's message. Explored the poem's structure, rhyme, and rhythm (if applicable) to understand how these elements contribute to its overall impact.

## **Environmental Themes:**

Investigated the environmental themes presented in the poem, focusing on the depiction of nature, the impact of human activities on the environment, and the consequences of deforestation. Analysed how the poem contributes to the discourse on environmental issues and awareness.

## **Cultural and Historical Context:**

Examined the cultural and historical context in which Gieve Patel wrote the poem. Consider how societal attitudes towards nature and the environment during that time may have influenced the poet's perspective.

## **Ecocriticism and Eco poetics:**

Applied ecocritical and ecopoetic perspectives to the analysis, considering how the poem reflects or challenges cultural attitudes toward nature and the environment. Explored the role of poetry, particularly eco-poetry, in raising environmental consciousness.

## **Human-Nature Relationship:**

Investigated how the poem portrays the relationship between humans and nature. Considered whether it reflects a utilitarian view, an ecological perspective, or a deeper philosophical understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things.

## **Reader Response:**

Explored how different readers interpret and respond to the poem, considering diverse cultural, geographical, and individual perspectives. Assessed the poem's impact on readers' environmental awareness and attitudes.

## **Comparative Studies:**

Compared "On Killing a Tree" with other literary works that address similar environmental themes, examining commonalities and differences in the portrayal of nature and human interaction with the environment.

## **Educational Applications:**

Explored the potential use of the poem in educational settings to raise awareness about environmental issues. Designed and assess the effectiveness of educational programs that incorporate the poem as a tool for environmental education.

## **Environmental Activism and Advocacy:**



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Investigated how the poem can be used to inspire environmental activism and advocacy. Explored the potential for collaboration between literature and environmental organizations to promote conservation efforts.

## **Cross-Cultural Perspectives:**

Considered how different cultural perspectives influence the interpretation of the poem's environmental themes. Explored whether the poem resonates differently in various cultural and geographical contexts.

## **Interdisciplinary Approaches:**

Collaborated with researchers from diverse disciplines, such as literature, environmental science, philosophy, and cultural studies, to gain a holistic understanding of the poem's significance. The scope of research on "On Killing a Tree" extends beyond a traditional literary analysis, providing an opportunity to explore the intersections between literature, environmental studies, and cultural perspectives. Researchers can delve into the poem's multifaceted dimensions to contribute to a nuanced understanding of its impact and relevance.

## **Analysis of Research**

Researchers may approach the analysis from various angles, depending on the focus and objectives of their study. Here's a comprehensive approach:

### **Literary Analysis:**

Examined how the research has delved into the literary aspects of the poem, including the use of metaphor, symbolism, and imagery. Assessed how the analysis interprets the poem's structure, rhyme (if any), and rhythm, and whether these elements contribute to the overall meaning.

### **Environmental Themes:**

Evaluated how the research explores and interprets the environmental themes presented in the poem. Assess the depth of analysis regarding deforestation, human impact on nature,

and the broader ecological implications. Considered the research's contribution to the environmental discourse and awareness.

## **Cultural and Historical Context:**

Assessed the research's consideration of the cultural and historical context in which Gieve Patel wrote the poem. Determine whether the study provides insights into how societal attitudes influenced the poet's perspective on nature.

## **Ecocriticism and Eco poetics:**

Examined how the research applies ecocritical and ecopoetic perspectives, determining whether it sheds light on how the poem engages with environmental issues and contributes to the broader field of eco-literature.

## **Human-Nature Relationship:**

Evaluated the analysis of the poem's portrayal of the human-nature relationship. Consider whether the research provides a nuanced understanding of how the poem reflects or challenges conventional views of this relationship.

## **Reader Response:**

Assessed how the research explores reader responses to the poem. Consider whether it takes into account diverse perspectives, cultural backgrounds, and geographical contexts. Evaluated the study's insights into the poem's impact on readers' environmental awareness and attitudes.

## **Comparative Studies:**

Determined the extent to which the research engages in comparative studies with other literary works that address similar environmental themes. Assess whether the comparisons offer valuable insights into the unique qualities of "On Killing a Tree."

## **Educational Applications:**



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Evaluated the research's discussion of the poem's potential educational applications. Determined whether it suggests effective strategies for incorporating the poem into environmental education and awareness programs.

## **Environmental Activism and Advocacy:**

Assessed how the research explores the potential of the poem to inspire environmental activism and advocacy. Determined whether the study discusses practical applications for using literature as a catalyst for conservation efforts.

## **Cross-Cultural Perspectives:**

Considered how the research accounts for cross-cultural perspectives. Assessed whether it highlights how the poem resonates differently in various cultural and geographical contexts.

## **Interdisciplinary Approaches:**

Evaluated the extent to which the research adopts interdisciplinary approaches, such as collaboration with researchers from diverse fields. Assessed whether the study provides a holistic understanding of the poem's significance. By considering these aspects, researchers can conduct a thorough analysis of a study on "On Killing a Tree," ensuring that it contributes meaningfully to the understanding of the poem's literary and environmental dimensions.

## **Suggestions and Findings**

An ecocritical analysis of "On Killing a Tree" by Gieve Patel involves examining the poem through the lens of ecological perspectives, exploring how it addresses environmental themes, human-nature relationships, and the broader ecological context. Here is an ecocritical analysis of the poem:

## **Metaphor of Tree as Nature:**

The poem uses the tree as a metaphor for nature. An ecocritical analysis would explore how the poet portrays the

tree as a living entity with inherent value, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living things.

## **Human Exploitation of Nature:**

The act of killing the tree serves as a representation of human exploitation of nature. The poem may be critiquing the anthropocentric view that sees nature merely as a resource for human use, without considering its intrinsic value.

## **Resistance of Nature:**

The poem highlights the tree's resilience and its struggle against destruction. From an ecocritical perspective, this could symbolize the regenerative and enduring aspects of the natural world in the face of human intervention.

## **Environmental Consequences:**

An ecocritical analysis would delve into the consequences of killing a tree as portrayed in the poem. This could include the disruption of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, and the impact on the overall health of the environment.

## **Personification of Nature:**

Considered how the poet personifies the tree, giving it human-like qualities. This literary device may be used to emphasize the interconnectedness of all living beings and to evoke empathy for the natural world.

## **Symbolism of the Act:**

Explored the symbolic meaning behind the various methods of killing the tree mentioned in the poem. Each method could represent a different aspect of human activities that harm the environment, such as deforestation, pollution, or habitat destruction.

## **Anthropocentrism vs. Biocentrism:**

Evaluated whether the poem challenges anthropocentrism, the view that prioritizes human interests over the well-being of the entire ecosystem. Considered whether it advocates for a more



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biocentric perspective that values the intrinsic worth of all living entities.

### **Environmental Awareness:**

Assessed the extent to which the poem contributes to raising environmental awareness. An ecocritical analysis would explore how the poem engages readers in thinking about their relationship with nature and the consequences of environmental degradation.

### **Cultural and Historical Context:**

Considered how the poem reflects the cultural and historical context in which it was written. An ecocritical analysis might

explore how societal attitudes towards nature during that time influenced the poet's portrayal of the environment.

### **Call to Action:**

Investigated whether the poem includes a call to action or a message urging readers to reconsider their relationship with nature. This could involves advocating for environmental conservation and sustainable practices. In an ecocritical analysis, the focus is on understanding the poem's ecological themes, its stance on human-nature relationships, and its contribution to environmental discourse. The goal is to explore how literature, in this case, poetry, engages with and reflects ecological concerns, making readers more conscious of their role in the larger environmental narrative.