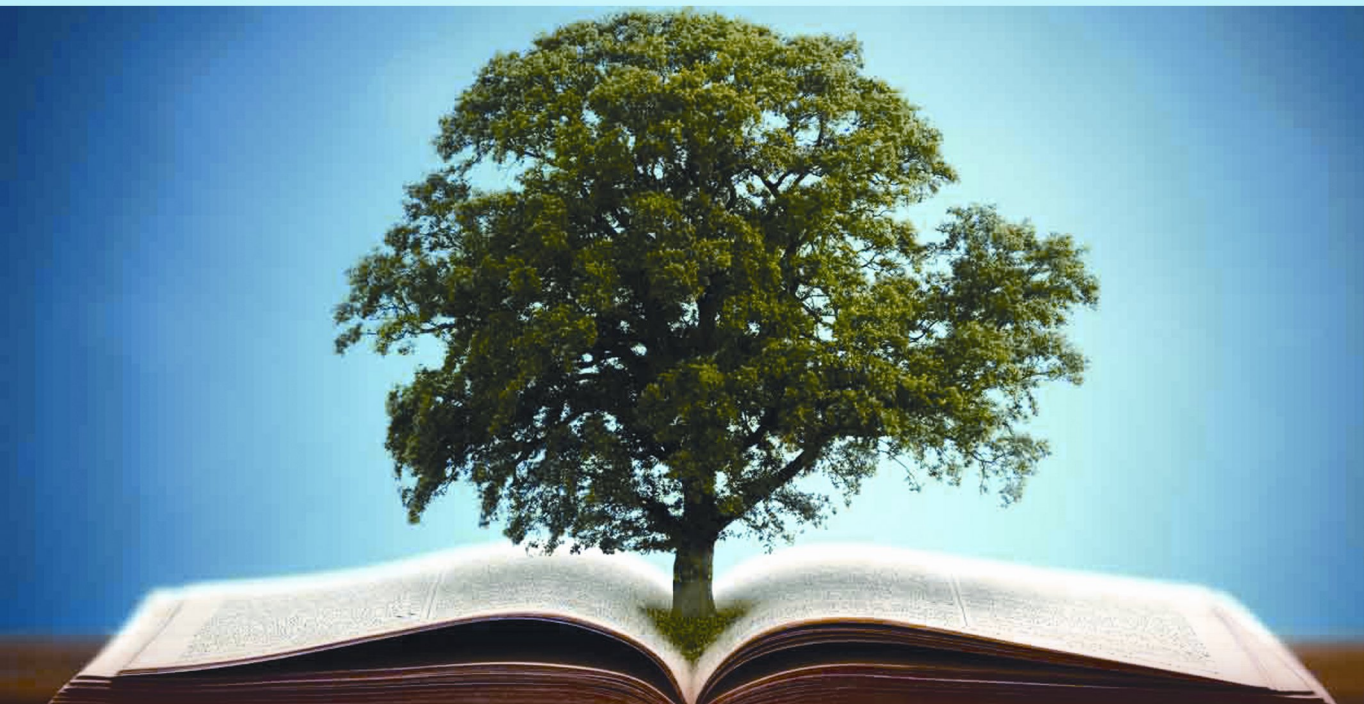


ISSN 2319-7684

# *Middle Flight*

**SSM JOURNAL OF  
ENGLISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE  
UGC CARE-LISTED NATIONAL LEVEL PEER  
REVIEWED JOURNAL**

**SPECIAL VOLUME  
on  
Health, Environment & Humanity in Literature**



**NOVEMBER 2020**

**VOL. 9**

**NO. 1**

# *Middle Flight*

*SSM JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE*  
*UGC CARE – LISTED NATIONAL LEVEL PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL*

**VOL. 9 November 2020 No. 1**

(ISSN 2319-7684)

SPECIAL VOLUME ON

**Health, Environment and Humanity in Literature**



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**S.S. MAHAVIDYALAYA**  
**KESHPUR, PASCHIM MEDINIPUR**  
**PIN: 721150, WEST BENGAL, INDIA**

Pandemic Pandemonium and the Importance of Being Ecological: A Reading on ‘Ecopoetics and Life’ of Robin S Ngangom’s Poetry	342
<b>Masoom Islam</b>	
Hayao Miyazaki’s ‘nature-writing’ in the form of ‘collective storytelling’	354
<b>Riti Agarwala</b>	
Contextualizing the Post-Human Environmental Aesthetics in <i>Jejuri</i>	362
<b>Nabanita Roy</b>	

### Alternative Visions

Alternative Worlds: Ecocritical Tendencies in Select Bengali Speculative Fiction	372
<b>Stella Chitralkha Biswas</b>	
Re-empowering the Non-human: Magical Realism and the Non-human Voice in Richard Flanagan’s <i>Death of a River Guide</i>	381
<b>Lhutu Keyho</b>	
Raising Environmental Awareness through Children’s Literature –an analytical study with special reference to the works of Debendranath Acharjee	390
<b>Sanjib Kumar Goswami</b>	
Greening Children’s Fiction: A Study of Bijal Vachharajani’s <i>A Cloud Called Bhura: Climate Champions to the Rescue</i>	401
<b>Damayanti Das</b>	
Fighting ‘the Green War’: Mapping the Environmental Tropes in Susan Cooper’s <i>Green Boy</i>	410
<b>Sukdeb Kuila</b>	
Escape or Critique?: Reworking Urban/ Nature Binary into Postcolonial Pastoral in Phukan’s <i>The Collector’s Wife</i>	418
<b>Shreyashi Mukherjee</b>	
A Reading of Calvino’s <i>Cosmicomics</i> with Special Reference to ‘Dinosaurs’ from Eco-Critical Perspectives	427
<b>Chaitali Maitra</b>	
Narrativising Healthy Coexistence and Humane Values: A Study of Kipling’s Scientific Romance “007”	433
<b>Beetoshok Singha</b>	
Contemporary Relevance of Rabindranath Tagore’s Environmental Vision: An Overview	441
<b>Tapashree Ghosh</b>	
Exploring Nature in Asif Currimbhoy’s <i>This Alien...Native Land</i>	450
<b>Syed Foyez Ahmed</b>	
Contributor List	461

# Narrativising Healthy Coexistence and Humane Values: A Study of Kipling's Scientific Romance "007"

Beetoshok Singha

**Abstract** ■ Rudyard Kipling's approach to the Empire was varied and multifaceted. 'Science fiction' or more specifically 'scientific romance' was one of the modes to convey his responses to the Empire. The most distinctive feature of "007" is the personification of locomotives and their spiritual union with the day to day affairs of human beings. In this he breaks away from the traditional science fiction, which deals with inventions and adventures to provide a more colourful account of life which in normal eyes looks achromatic.

**Keywords:** camaraderie, team morale, rapprochement

Generally held as the spokesperson of the British Empire Joseph Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) also laid his hands in other areas of literary creativity. One of his favourite genres was science fiction. Yet the stories of science fiction penned by Kipling are markedly different from those of other writers and bear Kipling's nature of making his protagonist succeed in accomplishing things in a collective manner. We scarcely encounter any scientist with futuristic machines performing unimaginable scientific feats in his stories. Even stories like "As Easy as ABC" (1912) which ostensibly show a disdain towards crowd and collectivity in general actually uphold the utilitarian motto — greatest good for the greatest number — by making the majority of the population beneficiaries of science and technology. Thus in spite of his outward display of a life blessed by science the narrative actually upholds humane values which are also intrinsic in the author. In some stories like "The Ship That Found Herself" (1895) the author seeks to romanticize the narrative by personifying the components of the ship and inculcating an in-group feeling by their works in unison. This spirit of this in-group feeling in turn will be used for the betterment of human beings. The modest object of the present article is to explore Kipling's shorter fiction "007" from this viewpoint.

Subtitled as "The Story of an American Locomotive" the story first made its debut in *Scribner's Magazine* in August 1897 and was collected in *The Day's Work* in the following year. As it has already been pointed out, Kipling's attempt to romanticize his story becomes evident by making 007, a new locomotive, as the protagonist and its interaction with other engines. Typical of Kipling's stories of schoolboys like that of the Stalky stories or regimental stories like "His Private Honour" (1891) or "The Big