



Struggle of Survival and Identity Whims: An Ecofeminist Perspective in Lauren Groff's the Vaster Wild

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Abstract

The current study explores the perspective of ecofeminism's main assertion, which shapes that the patriarchal ideology authorizes the oppression of women and many other marginalized groups. Development of society from material and intellectual point of view which is based on beliefs and patterns practiced in society in every civilization and culture. The study exhibits the interaction of ecofeminism, survival strategies and identity crisis, spark out the ways in which women and marginalized communities navigate environmental degradation and social injustice. Through an ecofeminist perspective, this research scrutinizes the relationships between human non-human worlds revealing the ways in which patriarchal foundations and dominant Western worldviews conserve exploitation and oppression. This study sheds light on the resilience and resistance strategies employed to survive and thrive in the face of environmental crisis. Centre of the study is the voices and experiences of the women. Ultimately, the research contributes to the complex web of ecology and feminism and identity which offers a possibility of transformation and sustainability. Women and environment both contribute in the welfare of human beings, so both are inseparable for every culture and civilization. In human /gender relations ecology is playing indispensable role, especially in women's lives and the interaction between nature and women. And colonial patriarchal sovereignty which enforces for ecofeminism analysis. The Vaster Wild by Lauren Groff encounters a consequential problem regarding to the female character's responses to and association with the natural world. The researcher exhibits the crucial point of the protagonist of the novel where she adopts a tremendous realization of the importance of nature. Through ecofeminist beliefs and attitudes, they struggle for liberating themselves from the gender roles that are placed upon them. Due to that the study's aims to examine it is not easy to incorporate natural aspects into these writings using an ecofeminist perspective. In this way it identifies the strong driving forces behind the adaptation of ecofeminist ideals by the writer and their female personae. The descriptive qualitative approach is used by the researcher for textual analysis. The current study's findings demonstrates that female characters use ecofeminist perspective and strategies of physical survival and spirituality, in majority is of marginalized due to their gender, color and class. Groff's ecofeminism stance reflects



intellectual and spirituality. She is in favor of women who struggle for emancipation from the hindered of discrimination and bondage. The researcher argues logics behind the domination ,system of oppression and its justification then, the interaction between nature and women and non-violent solution of the world problems is discussed by focusing on the Warren's suggested ethics and spirituality.

Key Words: Struggle, Survival, Identity whims, Ecofeminism, logic of dominance, oppression, ethics, Spiritualism, interaction between women nature.

Introduction and background

Ecofeminism is also taking as ecological feminism because it is a branch of feminism. The feminists are fully aware of the fact that equality of gender is required for creating harmony in the world. Because human life is depended on natural world. Through ethics we can only solve the issue of social injustice and environmental crisis. As Rosemary Ruether writes in her book *New Woman /New Earth*: She has of the view that women have to acknowledge the fact that there is not any sort of liberation for them and if there the solution of ecological crisis within society are not found then there is continuous domination of one group. So they must consider the value of ecology while reshaping the structure of socio-economic issues. (Ruether, 1975) An article written by kokane on *Ecofeminism as an important theory of Literary Criticism* amply describes its important in our society. He quotes Vandna Shiva and Maria Miles opinion about ecofeminism that there is a connection between globalization and the destruction of the natural world. They also gave reference of states' positive inclination towards war, in yearnings of vast territories and impulses to get rule of one another. Both are pushing the natural world towards destruction. So, they communicate deepening of values among the people. (Shiva, 2016) Same is the case with Karren J Warren who promotes the need of ethics among the people. They want to over view the new look of the world. It is the life of earth that should be protected. Present circumstances and the developments are open threat to natural system. Technological interventions have made a drastic impact on the whole system like, climate ocean currents, temperatures humidity, droughts and effects of nuclear test that have occurred in many countries of the world.

Then if we talk about presentation of ecofeminism, we observe that literature is rich in this context. Ruether as a researcher quotes the famous dramatist William Shakespear. He is a playwright of all the times. He was very much aware the complexities of relation between men and women. Nature is the base of all. Then he quotes Heidegger's views on the current issue of social disintegration. He gives the idea of analysis of world's issues and then gives a suggestion of prescription of healthy solution. Though researcher is not in favor of Heidegger due to his Nazism perspective but he supports his productive flourishing thoughts. He has of the view that we must develop thinking beyond anthropocentrism and egocentrism and try to redevelop the technological industrial paradigm of the world through the creation of new myths and metamorphose the present human life. He also writes about the contemporary ecofeminists who rise the voice against system of oppression and domination by exploring effects of race, class ethnicity and sexuality on women's social positions. They talk about inherited problem pf patriarchy. Vandna Shiva is a physicist, philosopher and feminist, activist. She the world-renowned environmental



thinker. She asserts about ecofeminism:

“Ecofeminism is good term for distinguishing a feminism that is ecological from the kind of feminisms that have become extremely technocratic. I would even call them very patriarchal”.

Furthermore, Greta Gaard asserts about ecofeminism:

“more than a theory about feminism and environmentalism, or women and nature, it approaches the problem of environmental degradation and social injustice from the [notion] that how we treat nature and how we treat each other are insuperably linked” (Gaard, 2001)

Feminist movement states the reasons and methods women are considered inferior to men. This struggle puts an end to the oppressive structures in society. The purpose behind this is to introduce equality among all the people in social, economic, political, and legal fields. Ecofeminism is a branch of the feminist movement which is against the types of degradation, namely males over female and human over nature. Warren (2000'1) defines ecofeminism as:

“An umbrella term for a variety of different positions concerned with the connection between the unjustified domination of women, people of color, traditional people, poor people and the unjustified domination of nature.”

Ecofeminism also highlights the roots through those hierarchies are interlinked with oppression and how they affect the whole eco system. Karren J Warren the ecofeminist chosen for my thesis as a theorist. She claims in her book *Women , Culture ,Nature*(2007) ecofeminist as , *“the position that there are important connections between how one treats women , people of color , and the underclass on the hand and how one treats the nonhuman natural environment on the other”* (Warren K. J., *Women ,Culture Nature*, 2007)

IN ecofeminism she talks about the interdisciplinary approach she holds the idea that women and nature are equal to resist against the 'logic of dominance' because both are affected. Alwan (2021) attempted a thesis on oppressed female protagonist and their survival strategies. He writes about ecofeminist criticism of male governing control in which female stereotype is based on conventional values. As Warren ejaculates that:

“The dominant patriarchal framework is one which takes traditionally male identified beliefs, values, attitudes and assumptions as..... the standard, A Patriarchal conceptual framework is characterized by value hierarchical thinking Such ... thinking give rise to a logic of domination Which serves to legitimate inequality, when in fact, prior to the metaphor of Up-Down one would have said that there existed diversity.” (Warren, 2014: 6-7)

Moreover, Ecofeminism also evolved from a history that authorizes suppression, exploitation of nature, women and structure of the world that are taken less. Ynestra King (1989) asserts about it that oppression of the proletariat and people of color bearing from the hierarchical ideas of Western Man. She says,

“It is my contention that the systemic denigration of working-class people and people of color. Women and animal are connected to the basic dualism that lies at the root of Western Civilization” (King, 1989)



Vol. 3 No. 12 (December) (2025)

The term ecofeminism is a connection of women and nature. So, ecofeminist analysis this relationship. As Noel Sturgeon states in his book, ecofeminism as:

“a movement that makes connections between environmentalist and feminist” (Noel, 2016)

Then he adds the notion of Greta Gaard, according to which ecofeminism comes up with social and environmental both sort of issues.

More than a theory about feminism and environmentalism, or women and nature..., it approaches the problems of environmental degradation and social injustice from the [notion] that how we treat nature and how we treat each other are insuperably linked (Gaard, Ecofeminism, Women, Animal, Nature, 1993)

Ecofeminism has many sub divisions but the main concern is set free current “epistemologies” in which women and non-human entities are included, that impose superior policies on the relationship between humanity and the natural world. Identity crisis, social inequalities, climate change, technology’s impacts globalization, migration, personal memory, the complexities of digital world and the burning lines between reality and virtual existence are the main ideas dealt by 21st century writers. Like Toni Morrison and Alice Walker also write about the rights of women and the natural world. (Alwan M. R., 2021) The present research is also about the ecofeminist perspective. Lauren Groff is an American novelist and short story writer. She has written five novels’ *Fates and Furies* (2015) *Florida* (2018), *Matrix* (2018) and *The Vaster Wilds* (2023). *The Vaster Wilds* is ahistorical novel. The first permanent English settlement in America named as Jamestown, VA in the early 1600s succumbed to famine and disease. Famine gnaws at the center of the novel. Groff’s characters are always in search of a better life. She is a writer animated by problems of community and Utopian thinking. Unnamed colony mentioned in the novel is having hunger and famine mated with violence and fear inserted by indigenous. It is a story of a servant mentioned in the novel as “the girl” who fled from the settlement for finding her own identity and well-being. She ran from there with certain necessary items and set out her journey in the wilderness. Her solitude and the wild life became her companions. Early on, “she decided to travel north to south here there were settlements of Spanishes, la Florida. “She chooses the former, knowing at least a little of their language, but the danger of human contact is repeatedly foreclosed. Though the danger she faces alone in the wilderness are no worse, she reasons, than those she left behind.

“For even a good man is more deadly than he worst of bears, and she had seen what even a blind ancient bear with its teeth pulled out of its black gums and its claws cut o ff and its eyes blinded in pink cross- hatching could do.” (Groff, The Vaster Wild, 2023, p. 19)

Though book contain domestic abuse and sexual assault but it also presents the perfect imagery of a wild life. The girl suffered winter, suffered starvation but she was surrounded by the beauty of nature. She was hearted by not only the male strata of society but also bears tribulations of nature. Nature also appears to her as a source of comfort and a force of transformation. The wilderness represents her desire for freedom and the landscapes itself shaping her experiences and emotions. Further animals of the forest meet her starvation.

“The river ran clear and cold, its surface reflecting the sky



above like a mirror.”

“She drank from a stream, the water cold and clear, and felt it revive her like sacrament” (Groff, The Vaster Wild, 2023)

These lines demonstrate the connection of a girl with nature even in the hard circumstances which she was facing due her social conditions and cultural values. Her beliefs, determination, spiritual values and love for God plays vital role in all her journey. She fights an inward and outward both sort of battels. But the point is her inner self was strong, she was ready to fight with the outers but where her inner self starts shattering then she feels deteriorated. That is the point where her spiritual self comes in work and gives her strength to stand up struggle for survival. She asserts that”

“Go on, go on, go on, to herself, angry, go on or die where you stand.” (Groff, The Vaster Wild, 2023, p. 177)

Need to adopt ethical values and spiritual beliefs are also having an important portion in her life where she was struggling for identity and then survival. There are prose and cones she has to face in her whole journey and then finds the crux of the life which is,

“It is moral failure to miss the profound beauty of the world, said the voice in her mind, (Groff, The Vaster Wild, 2023, p. 179):”

Where there is one group’s dominance over other there must be first create the logic behind it, which is the key concept of my theorist Karren j Warren. This logic, the relationship between women and nature role of ethical values which should be practiced in *The Vaster Wild*. These are the concept which are related to ecofeminist perspective, this thesis is aimed at find these concepts in the novel according to Karren J Warren’ ecofeminism. By using the basic views of ecofeminism, it underscores the relationship between “the oppression of women and nature” as presented in this literary piece. It provides the theoretical tool to judge the works displaying a new overview, which demonstrates the actual position of females in the world and their affinity with nature, it also offers a chance to explore the social and cultural traditions and limitations that may have incorporated female emancipation but undermining nature and subverting world-wide transformation. This research also proposes an approach different from the old typicality with the use of Ecofeminist: literary Criticism. The way how the authors take nature in this novel and how ecofeminism takes leaps beyond the primary feminist cause. According to Karren J. Warren ‘s book *Ecofeminist Philosophy*”

“A Western prospective on What it is and Why it Matter, “ecofeminists “claims that there are important connections between the unjustified dominations of women, people of color, children and the poor and the unjustified domination of nature”. Ecofeminism brings other isms into questions of liberation (e.g., sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, anti- Semitism to create a movement that is all above and all-inclusive of dominated groups”. (Warren, Ecofeminist Philosophy, 2000)

This eco feministic prospective in an oppressed strata of society earlier used by many other writers. They deal with this issue. Female characters of the particular novel present the tremendous realization of the importance of nature. Therefore, they start struggling and extricating themselves via ecofeminist values and attitudes from the prescribed gender roles imposed on them. Lauren Groff’s ecofeminism first reflects logics behind the domination and political and



more importantly, spiritual attitude which supports woman who crave for freedom and emancipation from the shackles of discrimination and bondage.

Warren took the philosophy to be a democratic practice and was committed to the social impacts of philosophy. Warren was a dynamic thinker committed to real world issues and strongly committed to public engagement. This research seeks to explore the intricate relationships between human survival, identity and the natural world through an ecofeminist lens offered by Karren J Warren. It explores the struggle for survival and identity. Through the lens of ecofeminism study aims to audit the intricacy of the connection between human existence, identity and natural environment. This research intends to illuminate how underprivileged populations, especially women, negotiate and oppose the challenges of identity and existence in the midst of ecological catastrophes by investigating the indications between environmental degradation, social justice, and feminist viewpoints. The study will examine how ecofeminist ideas might influence and build up the approaches to social justice, sustainable development, and human well – being through a critical progression of the body of existing literature and practical case study.

Struggle of Survival and Identity in Lauren Groff's *The Vaster Wild* in the Context of Ecofeminism

Patriarchy which brings inequity and injustices Karren Warren's ethics leads us in long run to go beyond the "logic of dominance" set by the patriarchal system. This infers the equality and unity between male and female and all other living beings. According to Warren ecology is integral and cohesive vision which is integrative of whole. It does not make her fall into the absolute equality of all living things but she sustains with Peter Singer Aren Naess vision of environmental ethics. Warren starts with basic equality of all which does not exclude differences but includes them. Equality and differences both are implicated because it not just a matter of identity and absolute similarity but relative. There similarities, differences and scopes are evident human animal, non-human animal, the vegetables and the minerals. Everything shapes life and are interconnected, same in worth but not same in shape and position.

"Ecofeminism offers a unique perspective on the interconnectedness of human and non-human nature, and the need to challenge the logic of domination which underlies many forms of oppression" (Warren K., *Environmental Ethics*, 2002)

Warren disapproves the proclivity of ostracizing differences, otherness and superiority specially of human beings under this saponification of that it can justify the dominance of ones on others. On the contrary (Alike Aldo Leopold) she contemplates that there is "superiority" of human we cannot contradict that we are capable unlike rocks and plants, of ameliorating the surroundings accordance to our needs and determination and also have distinctive capability to set forth value and rights to the natural domain, which is due to our understanding, reason and love. (Warren K. J., 2000). To identify this difference and "superiority" it does not clarify the logic of dominance and hierarchy between beings a superior and an inferior, but to exploit and hamper the development of the inferior, falling into the dominance system that always gives favor to the superior because it admits privileges exclusively to the ones on top. As Groff writes about the dominancy of one force over other that one's death is the source of other 's life. At the end of one's life begins for the other one. She



Vol. 3 No. 12 (December) (2025)

ejaculates the idea while discussing the connection of the girl with nature. When she was near to be died due to hunger in the sea, she finds a fish and cut her with her own hands to fulfill her hunger. But this incident leaves staunch effects on her mind and she asserts about it:

“There would be poetry in the repetition: fish into girl, girl into fish. Perhaps the eternal chain of being was not a chain at all but a ring, one life not ending where the other begins but all souls overlapping.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 32)

Though this nature for human’s usage but this realization is a part of ethics to feel the pain of others. There is another incident in which she picked the baby squirrels and killed them to meet her hunger. But she laments upon the grief of their mother she has to face in the form of her deprivation from child. Author herself feels the pain of the mother squirrel and her innocent child who are not aware of the harsh realities of the world.

“She thought it wanted to leap upon her and bite her to death; its fury was justified, but it did not have the courage to come near. Then ,even within this mother squirrel’s sight feeling deeply indecent but, she thought in shame , she was so very hungry, she took more of the downy matter from the nest and some dry innards of bark and made a fire and roasted the baby squirrels, which were so tender that their bones melted as she chewed them.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 56)

According to Warren to accept equality with nature and get rid from dominance and imposition of patriarchy is not an immediate process. We are under the shackles of patriarchy for past six millennia. We are totally imprisoned in its trapped as bird flying in its own cage, when the bird strikes against the cage realizes that it is very limited. There is a dire need to develop ethics. Groff further quotes the mistress ‘s treat. Warren’s frame work builds a relationship between feminism and environmental ethics. Because this realm of domination ‘s end results are hilarious and put the humanity on the verge of chaos. As writer suggests in the novel while talking about the soldiers’ death, who are in search of that girl to kill her but themselves are in pathetic condition due to hunger;

“Then he dropped him to spill his heart ‘s blood into the frozen earth and there the dead man lay splayed igonable. All this time, he had laid unburied, for the soldiers of the settlement had become too weak and too cowardly in their hunger to fetch the body back.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 8)

His such condition is due to in human attitude of his masters towards their soldiers, they even not feed properly to the persons who are fighting with death for their sake. But they are exhibiting an ill treatment with them. On the other side the girl is also trembling with fear of being caught, here this soldier is main threat for her who himself is dying due to hunger. So, both needs for Warren’s ethical attachments, which gives rights to every to lead the life according to own self without any fear. It develops a care for every one other wise resentment for each other can make the earth a place where cruelty and death will reign. As writer asserts about the girl’s reaction that;

“She had passed the dead man and his reek had drawn itself out of her nostrils and she was nearly to the woods when she stumbled again, for thought of these two men gave rise to the thoughts of other men who lurked perhaps in the woods men



out their hidden and awaiting her.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 8)

But at that point she takes the decision overrunning due to fear of being caught and present before the minister.

“She stopped her running for breath, but she had no choice, she took her courage up again and she ran on. And she ran each imagined man in passing revealed himself to be mere shadow again.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 8)

In this scenario we bluntly support the idea of ethics offered by Karren J Warren. We are human beings, this world is created by God for our well fare so we must follow all rules and regulations to sustain the harmony of the world, which can be exist by providing rights of all. As we cannot live separate life, we need others for our own survival. Man is nothing without women and land, both are productive and necessary for man’s existence. As the girl tries her utmost to survive in the wilderness, no doubt her courage is alluringly surprising but she herself concludes while talking about the strange man ‘s life in wilderness who was helped a Powhatan who never forgot him always provided him food but the strange man thought that it is a definite result of his own cleverness. But writer thinks that it is his destiny that he was in the good books of a Powhatan who appeared as his bread giver and he survived in the wilderness. For him writer opines that:

“He began to believe of himself that he was a holy hermit, that he had been directed to the wilderness by the invisible hand of god and held there to do the work of god..... And humans were not made to be always alone; humans survive only in company of other humans.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 77)

For Warren, liberation from patriarchy consists in criticizing the patriarchal prejudices that lead to the logic of dominance to create an escape to those prejudices, she is in favor of rights of all to be fulfilled. Liberation from the difficult situation is not the solution. Instead, we develop a sense among us those men, women and all other things like nature, animals, birds all have a right to live in this world. In matter of the selected work of Groff, *The Vaster Wild* she focusses on the situation of the protagonist who develops a strong feeling of love and affection with the mistress’s child Bess while living in their hegemony. There she faces the inhuman treatment of her mistress’s second husband, her boy’s harassment and even she faces the ill treatment from the male servants of the house. These all the things left negativity on her mind, and made her livings pathetic. But with this her affiliation with the mistress’s child Bess took wattage. Still, she has a strong connection with her. She plays so many roles for her, her nurse, her best friend and even her mother. Because strong feelings of love inculcated in her heart while living at that place she dreams for her. As author narrates her dream where she is on beach there are a lot of things around her but she in search of the child Bess which depicts her love for her. And the she describes the helplessness of the girl when she did not find the child. Author writes about her while realizing her miseries:

“She looked around and could not understand, there was nothing here, it was water and stone. At last, far off, at the limits of her sight, she saw what she knew was the child Bess. Now she was running over the stones towards her beloved girl, slipping falling hurting sliding trying to get to her. No matter



what, she could not reach the girl Bess, and she began to weep inside her dream.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 84)

That’s why the death of child Bess and profanity of her crop by minister became the unbearable incident for her lead an innocent small girl to attempt murder of minister, then she preferred to run in wilderness. She spends rest of her life in struggle to save herself from the minister’s guards, and struggling for her survival.

Devaluation of emotional scope, empathy, overestimation of single reason stands between patriarchal prejudices that establishes sensitive ties with the real and false idea whose accomplishment is only possible in defeat. To compete these prejudices is a task which implies that in women and men, men must have critical sense that there is no difference between both human genders. Woman carries a historical burden which puts her in close proximity of care and recovery of emotional universe. The idea of care spatulated by Nel Nodding and Carol Gilligan, care is strong activity on which human “s base is standing. It is an inadequate idea to treat every either its human or nature. The ways to treat both are quite different because nature cannot give back or respond to us as like humans because we cannot show same level of care towards nature as human. But Warren takes starts from the more basic one which is not “to care of” but “to care about” to put all our attention and energy over the differences and the link with the other being no matter whom or what this is. In this matter strategies to conserve the natural things could be one step. According to Warren it is a psychological practice and a sensitive care that can be felt by everyone. Care is a loving capability and base of moral life, it allows value and recognizes what is best, also reasonably, morally and according to our personality, without it our self-moral construction will be collapsed. In matter of the particular book of Groff care at different types is obvious. Girl’s action to check out from the scenario where danger is expected, also a form of self-care. Further her repetitions about the supremacy of nature also an aspect of care. In which she realizes the urgency of nature for the world. The girl’s former life as a servant also exhibits how care can be withheld especially from the powerless.

According to Warren care is an effective loving agent which exist when it is practiced. When a person shows care for other one it acquires some sort of moral strength in other’s heart and mind and he definitely shows the more. Same is happened with the natural objects how much we show a caring behavior towards them they become more effective and long-lasting beneficial for us. Groff truly understand the value of the occurrence of this attitude and spokes demonstrates through the character of protagonist of novel. Her dreams have great importance for her and the presence of the glass blower and child Bess is mandatory for her dreams. And when we overview his character, we examine that glassblower specialty for the girl is the importance, regard and the care which he bestowed her. This thing makes her life bearable as she asserts:

“Colorful dreams that made the misery in life bearable.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 64)

For Warren, this also require with the development of rational intelligence. The concept of intelligence is wider than reason because it includes rational and emotional both sort of understandings. Caring is beyond attachment and dependency because it is a view of love towards someone. Through care we automatically connected ourselves with intelligence and sensibility to accept the nature as a whole either they are natural objects or human beings like women



both have rights of equity of living. Care involves other aspects of living like justice, rights, duty, norms and utility itself. Warren resumes his debate of ecofeminism with the idea of essentialism. He takes the women as a best guidance for liberation; she is capable to acquaints the true colors of nature. The protagonist of the novel *The Vaster Wild* is naturally out of exercise of dominance but desired for best is also inculcated in her which leads her to resist and aspire to get something better, even when better is not in hand. She was facing hail storm and many other tribulations in forest but appreciates the beauty of leaves, flowers and enjoys the melting of ice. It appears to her as blessing in disguise because it removes her foot steps and branches that fell down due to hail storm provides her shelter. In worst she hopes for the best. Writer corresponds her feelings through picturesque exhibition of her action:

“The tree she held smelled of sweetness and musk and the sap stirring deep within its rings, for the tree knew it would be spring quite soon and that out of this white sleep there would arise the greenness of new life.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023)

Warren argues about the women’s habit to developed different indigenous and non-indigenous traditions which forms spirituality. This concept obvious the Groff particular piece of writing.

Warren indicates our attention towards the essentiality of spiritualism which is not taken in account by the other feminists. According to Warren spirit consist on faith and dedication with which one starts any transformation and persist until end. The key to spirituality is when we decide something, we must follow and accept the fact that situation will not always be in our favor bur living with meaningful purpose is our goal which should be achieve by hook or crook. This is only factor which breaks the shackles of absolute patriarchy and its radical forms. Warren’s this concept of spirituality eliminates men power over women and expresses the strong faith in affirmation of life in the power and presence of energy. Warren’s concept of this determination and affirmation of belief is very obvious in *The Vaster Wild’s* protagonist. She wants to survive in the worst and nothing can wander off her from her purpose. Every day was new for her; she has to face different challenges but stay tuned. She has no light, no food, no shelter, even coldest nights of terror, and hunger, nothing have power to distract her. She fights the battle at two levels inner fears and outer danger. But the determination and invisible power which was rooted in her helped her to defeat both. There is a soliloquy which manifest the firmness of her beliefs on herself and on her god.

“...the voice said, should you even survive the journey, would you expect such foul papists to do to a young girl like you, to a young body like your own young female person?”

She confidently replies to these invisible forces for defeating them.

“O do not bend my thoughts to such evil end, she said sternly.....I am not alone for I carry my god in my heart always. And she did, she felt god, a pinprick of light deep within her.”

(Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 14)

Ability to feel, know, value and love differences and equality, in regard other living beings and regarding to ourselves are the main features of spirit. Warren further adds that ethical self-construction cannot be attained without spirituality. Warren uses the phrase of “empty our own cup” in support of her idea that we cannot be able to accept spiritual ethics without emptying ourselves from past



opinions, speculations interests and prejudices. Only through this we will be able to listen and receive the otherness – sameness. In synthesis the eco feminism of Warren supposes the idea of harmonious subjectivity which is also presented but Francoise Dieudonne in which converge women and men, reason and emotion, equality and difference care, justice and utility, ethics, spirituality and political action. Groff's protagonist's tribulations and her solace put in the circumstances where she deeply thinks about the existence of god. At start we notices the idea of meaninglessness which was followed by her. Though at some points her loneliness pithed her but thus helped her in her transformation. The author conveys her argument through her protagonist that for accepting something new first we have to empty ourself from all the negativities. And when she begins to accept it, the windows of her thoughts open. She starts thinking at different angel. Her mind agrees with the fact that all the creations are equal and having equal rights to live. Here she utters the words which exactly reflect the ecofeminist prospective of Warren. After desalinating the new transformation in heart and mind of the girl author comes up with chronicle words about her:

“And she began to see now that when god created man and woman together and said to let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle ,and over all the earth ,and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth ,perhaps by dominion god did not mean the right to kill or suppress the fish ,the fowl , the cattle and every creeping thing.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 151)

This thing indulges the sense that god is immoveable and it challengeable according the body god spoke through. Her miserable journey brings her to the next level where she feels herself near to god and feels that the persons who pretend the godliest persons all are just part of it not a whole. The *Vaster Wild* could be taken as a mighty decline of the girl, a game of faith, killing fever day dreams starvation coldness and god, with all that it appears as a story of divine exaltation. She says that

“My heart is wounded within me, I am gone like the shadow when it declineth, I am tossed up and down like the locust” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 72)

There is only one superpower who is perfect and complete in his own self, which is god. Reality of men, and women, human, non-human and even the reality of life and death all are exposed before her. According to Warren this is the corollary of whole journey, when we accept the existence of everything in this world. Because it demolishes the anarchy, hegemony and all sort of dominions and pushes us towards the submission.

“Perhaps god is all.

Perhaps god already lived with in all.” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 152)

The feelings that god is always with her become her strongest weapon against all dangers either they are inner or outer. God is light for her. Thereby ecofeminist's spirituality represents a source of health, improvement, affirmation of life, and a repair of the wounds that patriarchy left. Warren highlights the evidence of spirituality, which is social and political phenomenon. Because it has self-determination of mobilization which reach to its end. The above arguments bluntly support Karren Warren's idea of ecofeminist's spirituality which reveals



that there is an intimate connection between her and ethics because it includes sensitive care. Author beautifully sums up the whole journey of her protagonist on a breath-taking lesson, which is also considered the key point of Warren's prospective including logic of dominance, Liberation from the shackles and ethics which is corollary of spiritualism.

“Only this girl idiot in her crystalline wisdom had known what all the wise and witty never would. There could be no fight in this world, only submission” (Groff, *The Vaster Wild*, 2023, p. 188).

Conclusion

The Vaster Wild by Lauren Groff exhibits tormenting ecofeminist perspective where the struggle for physical survival in the wilderness involves and generates a radical discontinuation-imposed identity. The unnamed girl's journey from barbarian patriarchal colonial system of Jamestown pushes her into a fresh, incorporated confrontation with the natural world. This continuous struggle for life against starvation, exposure and injury. Groff reveals the logics behind all these circumstances where girl is compelled to bear all that. Further the connection between nature and women is exhibited by the author, where nature at once pushes her into the wild realities of the wilderness, rage of weather, tariffication of darkness in the devil nights, and unescorted circumstances but on the other side it pops up as friendly companion who provides her shelter in tormented weather condition, feed her in starvation, quench her thirst when her throat started pinches her like needles. And also rescues her when she is near to grabs by the soldier who were roaming like dogs behind her. I come up with the different forms of invasion which experienced by the female personae specially protagonist of the novel. The survival strategies implied by her to resist and handle with the suppression and her interaction with nature. As Warren argues, ecofeminism recognizes interconnection between women, nature and animals. Her survival struggle needs a complete transformation of the personality, which is best outcome of loneliness and calamities according to Warren. So, the Groff's protagonist comes up with a new identity, a different like creature. Feminism and ecology both are the essentialities of it. The girl's struggling with starvation and frozen is the primary site where colonial identity is physically expelled. Her battle for survival forces an acceptance of carnality embedded with in ecological systems. Her struggle culminates in an enigmatic system. Karren Warren's demands for philosophies that overcome oppressive conceptual framework. Groff thus postulates that true survival against system built on dualistic oppression (human/ nature, male/ female, civilized wild) demands nothing less than the terrifying transformative whim of shedding the self.

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Vol. 3 No. 12 (December) (2025)

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