

Ulgulan: An 'other' Voice of Resistance Against Ecological Imperialism and Historiographical Otherisation in Mahasweta Devi's *Aranyer Adhikar*

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Abstract:

The politics of otherisation and exoticization with regard to issues of class, caste, race, gender and so forth remains a normative practice of the colonial discourses that advocates the colonial narratives of division. This politics of domination penetrates into the domain of the planet at large imposing colonial environmental policies, exploiting natural resources, consequent of putting into question the issue of environmental justice. Such penetration of power owing to the imposition of colonial environmental values in the name of ecological imperialism perpetuates power imbalances, exploiting natural resources, ignoring the indigenous knowledge and needs of the local population. This practice of domination as a form of neo-colonialism leads to environmental degradation disintegrating the ecosystem of the native land. This is precisely in this regard the present paper concentrates on how Mahasweta Devi's fictional reconstruct *Aranyer Adhikar* through foregrounding the lived realities of Indian Adivasis stands as living manifesto of revolt against historiographical otherisation and structural dominance of ecological imperialism. Here Birsha Munda's revolutionary credo Ulgulan or The Great Tumult voices as a rant from the margins not merely as a form of denunciation of colonial oppression but as a resistance to systemic deforestation as well.

Keywords: ecological imperialism, historiographical otherisation, colonial discourse, resistance, environmental justice