



## Environmental Analysis of War Images in Young Adult Literature Using Ecopoetics: Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's *The War That Saved My Life* and *The War I Finally Won*

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### Extended ABSTRACT

In literary works on environmental issues, the natural environment is one of the active elements of the story. Kimberley Brobeck Bradley is a contemporary American writer who, in two war novels *The War that Saved My Life* and *The War I Finally Won*, speaks about the impact of war on the lives of humans and the relationship between children and the environment. In this study, the influence of war on the relationship between children and the natural environment is examined in botanical, animal, and mineral forms. By expanding ecological concepts in literary studies and employing interdisciplinary approaches, ecocriticism has introduced new perspectives to the field. The theoretical framework of ecocriticism explores ecological positioning and the interconnectedness of various environmental elements, illustrating how literary depictions of animal, plant, and mineral cycles shed light on the complex relationship between humans and the environment. The ecological reading of the relationship between a child and others will involve examining the impact of war on the ecological location and studying images of botanical, mineral, and animal nature. Ada is sent to the village to escape the city bombing at the start of the war, where she experiences a new connection with nature and others through an intermediary horse. Ada's expression of affection towards this horse leads it to accompany her on nature walks, despite not allowing others to ride it. Ada's mind, as a 'biocentric thinker' child, gradually forms a bond with other children and adults through her interest in the horse. During the trip to the village, we witness the contrast between urban and rural landscapes from a botanical perspective. The distance between the urban child and the green natural world causes anxiety in Ada, and the war exacerbates this distance. In the village, Ada gradually reduces the gap with nature and finds peace in nature. The impact of war on the destruction of mineral resources, such as the loss of agricultural lands and air pollution from fighter jets flying overhead, as well as the inaccessibility to water due to bombings and the pollution of oceans from warships, leads Ada to witness mineral pollution as a violation of her own natural space. Although war symbolizes denial and negation by creating a space of violence, Ada's relationship in the village is established through direct interaction and perception with natural elements, and her identity in this natural place undergoes a transformative movement towards 'the other'. By leaving the urban space exposed to bombings, which symbolized technology and pollution, Ada distanced herself from this environment and, by living in the village and reducing her distance from the natural environment, she was able to reconcile with herself and others.

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