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## **Covid-19, Post-apocalyptic and J. C. Ballard's Novels**

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### **Abstract:**

*In the contemporary world, literature requires to explore the tragedy of the pandemic crisis. The paper looks at post-apocalyptic and pandemic literary history. The work attempts to explore the relationship between pandemic and post-apocalyptic literature focusing on eco-critical works. In this case, during the Covid-19, some of the countries have declared lockdown for the public to maintain physical distance. At this time, people face food, money and health crises. The researcher emancipates this critical situation and bad experience of people from the deadly virus. For this reason, it explores the pandemic apocalypse of the present generation in some countries. Especially, the research stresses Ballard's response to the pandemic quandary in his works the exemplified works illustrates the pandemic situation in the early twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The article historicizes the emergence of pandemic and post-apocalyptic nature investigating Eco-criticism.*

**Keywords:** *Global Economy, Pandemic, Post-Apocalyptic, Covid-19, Eco-Criticism, etc.*

During the Covid-19, some of the countries undergo economic, social, educational, and environmental changes. These transformations make people comprehend the values of the natural environment and their activities against nature. This inspires people to develop the environment surrounding them to come out of dirty natural timidly disease. At this time, the Covid-19 trembles many countries to rescue the citizens. The anxious governments have declared lockdown and curfew to control the disease and several news agencies, magazines and researchers have created an awareness of people to maintain social distance. To emphasize the quandary, one of the surveys on the disease explores "The Covid-19 pandemic has ushered in a new era for scientific publishing as the rapid spread of the viral illness has sparked urgency for the prompt dissemination of scientific data and information" (152). Following the stipulation, the study remembers the introduction works of pandemic and post-apocalyptic writings, Jack London's novel *The Scarlet Plague* (1912) emancipates the beginning of the twentieth-century pandemic situation in England. After publishing a hundred years later the Coronavirus destroys the population in various countries. To obey Jack London's work; the writers Michele Augusto Riva, Marta Benedetti, and Giancarlo Cesana in their article "Pandemic Fear and Literature: Observations from Jack London's *The Scarlet Plague*" how the plague collapses the population spreading the disease one to another but the article examines the novel is one of the first best examples for post-apocalyptic literature exploring pandemic; "The Scarlet Plague, originally published by Jack London in 1912, was one of the first examples of a post-apocalyptic fiction novel in modern literature." Examining the argument, the study discusses the novel as in the article explains from both authors;

Many works have analyzed Pandemic and epidemic, which destruct people physically spreading the dangerous viruses. World Health Organization identifies several pandemics that occur in the world Ebola, Plague, Yellow fever, Avian Influenza, Cholera, Meningitis, MERS, Influenza, Zika, Rift Valley Fever Lassa fever and Leptospirosis. Likewise, the British writer J G Ballard discusses some of the pandemics and other diseases in his science fiction exploring the ecological catastrophes on nature

as well as human beings. Consequently, the study discusses the response of Ballard to the pandemic, he is one of the medical students, and he symbolizes the diseases during the world wars in Europe. He signifies the diseases in his works *High-Rise*, *The Drowned World*, *The Crystal World*, *Miracles of Life*, *Terminal Beach* and *Empire of the Sun*. These works examine the ecological degradations in various ways from human interference with nature. Henceforth, the study purposes to define the pandemics from Ballard's perspective. In this case, Shivani Bashin describes Ballard's works on pandemic Covid-19 "As the Covid-19 pandemic imprisons global populations, the prescience of dystopian fiction like Ballard's rings doubly true. The pandemic has snatched away the last veneer of modern civilization. When we look outside our windows now, the city resembles a massive toy set." (1). While explaining the pandemic situation, he also points out

Ballard's first four climate works focus on dangerous diseases along with ecological disasters. Though he has discussed many things on Ballard, he emphasizes his works relating the tumultuous diseases; "Similarly, JG Ballard's first four novels were lauded for forecasting the ravages of man-made climate change. The writer of such fiction performs a Cassandra function" (2). In this study, the research investigates the post-apocalyptic nature and pandemic scenario in the world in the contemporary context but Ballard has delineated the things a few decades before.

Examining the post-apocalyptic and pandemic works, the research requires understanding the common problems of the Covid-19. Several reasons are there to spreading disease and impacts on people. Hence, it produces wide geographic extension, disease movement, novelty, severity, high attack rates, explosiveness, minimal population immunity, infectiousness, and contagiousness. To understand these difficulties, Mário Morais-Almeida surveys in the article "Asthma and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic: A Literature Review" at the time of Covid-19 the people unable to control the devastation of Asthma patients. This critical stipulation reminds people to think of the post-apocalypse, which shows the pandemic destroys people and this is the end of the world. As Nencepreet Kaur examines in his writing "Resonance of Existentialism on Pandemic literature: An Introspection of Pandemic Literature of the Past" about the pandemic as apocalyptic circumstance; "In order to attain self-definition within a crisis of such proportions such as a pandemic, one tackles the troubles posed in the flux of anxiety perpetuating from the apocalyptic situation within existential paradigms" (Kaur, 2).

Thus, the research follows the disease decreasing the population worldwide by the effect this terrific virus kills people in some countries in this twenty-first century. This makes people understand their poverty, the value of life, stress, maintain good atmosphere surrounding and give awareness to clean the dirty nature created by people.

The research tries to look at the present situation of the viral disease when the government has announced lockdown for the public the disease decreases but when lifted the restriction again people forget to maintain physical distance, wearing masks and using hand sanitizers the second wave of Covid-19 appears to collapse people, this impacts a lot citizen many people die in this situation. At this time, the social media and broadcasting agencies have tried to show the active cases and death rates. Another side, the eco-critical writers give awareness of maintaining precautions to control the disease. This inspires many writers to focus on science fiction acclimatizing the substance Writers try to demonstrate people to maintain precautions to control the horrific virus and this infection creates great suffering of people by losing their beloveds. To delve into the above subject, in the article "Apocalyptic Fiction helps us Deal with the Anxiety of the Coronavirus Pandemic" Katherine Shwetz exemplifies apocalyptic and Coronavirus supremacy on people. As he explicates "The social upheaval caused by Covid-19 evokes many popular dystopian or post-apocalyptic books and movies. Unsurprisingly, the Covid-19 crisis has sent many people rushing to fiction about contagious diseases. Books and movies about pandemics have spiked in popularity over the past few weeks: stuck at home self-isolating, many people are picking up novels such as Stephen King's *The Stand*, or streaming movies such as Steven Soderbergh's *Contagion*" (Shwetz, Katherine 2020). Even in the novel *Station Eleven* Emily ST. John Mandel highlights an understanding of the cultural response to Covid-19. The novel *Station Eleven* is just an example of the pandemic of the twenty-first century. But except for this work, several works explore this pandemic crisis. To control the spreading of the virus, people stay at home; some people watch TV and read books investigating the causes of disease. At this time, as discussed earlier they have written the works on pandemics emphasizing the post-apocalyptic scenario. It indicates the writers' passion to examine the facts of ecological catastrophes reading pandemic literature.

Following these arguments, before the concept of post-apocalyptic engages many works published and elucidated on the natural calamities. But, J. C. Ballard proposes this in his works to study natural disasters and science after that it considered as post-apocalyptic vision. As discussed, his works stress Cholera, Typhoid, Leprosy Plague and some other diseases in exploring the destructions in the world. Hereabout, Daniel Devine analyzes in Covid-19 many countries undergo the pandemic destructions also he represents reason; “there are two broad concerns that might drive research on trust and coronavirus. The first is what the presence or absence of trust does for governmental policy responses. The second is the impact of the pandemic on trust. Another abbreviation of Gaurav Singla, Tanisha Singla, and Swati Singla critically inspect “This pandemic has led to worldwide lockdown, strangling of the global economy and devastation of human life.” Ultimately, Humans start to become scientific warm to invent a vaccine for the virus to get rid of the disease and maintains such disciplines to face the pandemic phobia.

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**To Cite the Article:** *Seems, Dudhagi* “Covid-19, Post-apocalyptic and J. C. Ballard’s Novels”. *Literary Cognizance*, II-2 (September, 2021): 34-36. Web.