



# ECOSYSTEMS IN THE POETICS OF EXPERIENCES

Editors

Dr. Barnashree Khasnobis | Dr. Lyola Thomas | Dr. Arsha Subbi

Centre for Publication, Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru





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## CHAPTER TWO

### ID, ECO, AND EGO: AN ECOPSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO C. RICHARD MILES' *WHEN WE WERE YOUNG*

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**Abstract:** Ecology is the unsurpassed invisible link that binds the microcosms together and connects them with the macrocosm. When communion with nature is established, an unexplainable blissfulness manifest quite unconsciously. This state is a special gift to children yet awareness of the link or eco-consciousness prompts one to such state. Just like garbage dumped upon an aromatic rose, the fragrance of this pure state is lost owing to the contemporary materialistic attitude and lifestyle. The significance of and need for re-sensing the lost link buried deep inside humanity, have been highlighted by many writers worldwide. C. Richard Miles is one such writer who underscores the communion with nature through reliving the past; through reminiscences, he attempts to recapture the spirit of the early days that were spent meaningfully. In his poem "When We Were Young" he throws light on what is lost through an element of contrast. The current research paper attempts to study the poem "When We Were Young" under the theoretical framework of Ecopsychology. The unconscious bonds that a human being has with nature and the environment are focussed on for the analysis of the poem. The ecopsychological approach explores the emotional connection that exists between human beings and the environment. The making of self, though a conscious manifestation of ego most of the time, can be chiselled in tune with the rhythms of the Id that echoes the blissfulness of the ecocentric state. Ecopsychology offers a holistic vision of reality in addition to its practical contributions including ecotherapy.

**Keywords:** *Ecopsychology, ecocriticism, eco-consciousness, ecology, psychology, ecocentrism*



