

Narratives of Nature: Indigenous Wisdom and Environmental Crisis in Wu Ming-Yi, Robin Wall Kimmerer and Elizabeth Kolbert

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Abstract: *This research paper offers a comparative ecocritical analysis of environmental sustainability as explored in three seminal works: Wu Ming-Yi's *The Man with the Compound Eyes*, Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, and Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction*. By weaving together literary narrative, indigenous wisdom, and scientific inquiry, the study highlights how these authors interrogate humanity's relationship with the natural world and advocate for ecological stewardship. Wu Ming-Yi's novel situates Taiwan's unique geography within the context of global environmental crisis, using metaphor and indigenous perspectives to illuminate the interconnectedness of ecological challenges and the concept of world environmental citizenship. Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass* blends indigenous knowledge with scientific botany, emphasizing reciprocity, kinship, and gratitude as foundational principles for sustainable living. Her narrative challenges dualistic thinking and demonstrates the practical and ethical value of integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern science. Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction* documents the alarming rate of biodiversity loss in the Anthropocene, urging readers to recognize human agency and responsibility in shaping planetary futures. Through scientific reportage and compelling storytelling, Kolbert critiques anthropocentrism and calls for urgent collective action. The paper further explores the synergy between indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge, illustrating how collaborative stewardship and education can foster environmental consciousness. Ultimately, the works of Ming-Yi, Kimmerer, and Kolbert transcend literary boundaries to serve as catalysts for empathy, ethical engagement, and transformative action. Together, they offer a tapestry of insights that deepen our understanding of environmental sustainability and our role as stewards of Earth's biodiversity. This synthesis of narrative, knowledge, and wisdom underscores the urgent need for harmonious coexistence and responsible action in the face of escalating ecological crises.*

Keywords: Environmental sustainability, Indigenous wisdom, Ecocriticism, Biodiversity, Anthropocene

