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Architecture of Space: Domestic, Public, and Political Spaces in P. Sivakami's Works

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Abstract: This paper explores climate change in Kim Stanley Robinson's novel *New York 2140*. Robinson imagines a flooded New York City in the year 2140 due to drastic climate change. The book explores how people adapt to this new reality, highlighting both the challenges and the resilience of human communities. It emphasizes the importance of fighting climate change and shows different ways people can respond to environmental issues. Through the characters, the novel provides important insights into the current ecological crisis and challenges that one face in one's day to day life. The novel presents both hope and the need for urgent action to protect our planet.

Keywords: Climate Change, Human, Environmental, Ecology, Planet.



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“Ecocriticism was a term coined in the late 1970s by combining criticism with a shortened form of “ecology” - the science that investigates the interrelations of all forms of plant and animal life with each other and with their physical habitats” (98). It encourages readers to consider the ecological implications of narratives, focusing on themes such as nature, human interactions, and the consequences of environmental degradation. Through ecocritical analysis, readers gain insights into how literature reflects societal values and attitudes toward nature.

Kim Stanley Robinson is an American science fiction author well known for his Mars Trilogy. His writings have been translated into 24 languages and often explore themes related to ecology, politics, and culture. He has received prestigious awards including the Hugo Award for Best Novel, the Nebula Award for Best Novel, and the World Fantasy Award. Many of his novels have scientists as protagonists. *New York 2140* published in 2017. The novel is set in the future where climate change has led to significant sea-level rise, causing New York City to be submerged underwater. The novel examines how people adjust to this new world, with a focus on the experiences of several individuals as they attempt to negotiate the challenges of this changed metropolis.

New York 2140 is not just a backdrop but a complex character that interacts with the lives of the inhabitants. The flooded city symbolizes the fragility of human constructs in the face of climate change. As the city adapts to the new reality, the natural elements of water and flora take the centre stage.

New but old sea transport grew into the idea of the townships, again replacing the lost coastlines to a small extent; in the air, the carbon-neutral airships turned in some cases into skyvillages, and a large population slung their hooks and lived on clippers of the clouds. Civilization itself began to exhibit a kind of eastward preponderance of movement, following the jet streams; where the trade winds blew there was some countervailing action westward, but the drift of things was generally easterly. (379)

Robinson emphasizes the value of comprehending and respecting the environment, arguing that even in the most difficult situations, a harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world is still achievable.

One of the central themes of this novel is human resilience. The characters adapt themselves when faced with environmental challenges. They create innovative solutions to thrive in a new world showcasing the human spirit. This resilience is a hopeful message amid the bleakness of climate change, suggesting that humanity can overcome obstacles by working together and bringing new transformation.

New York 2140 raises important questions about environmental ethics and responsibilities. It urges readers to consider their relationship with the environment and the impact of their actions on future generations. The characters often grapple with moral dilemmas regarding resource use, sustainability, and the rights of nature. Through their experiences, the novel encourages readers to reflect on their roles in addressing climate change and protecting the planet. Technology plays a significant role in *New York 2140*, illustrating both positive and negative aspects.

Carbon-burning cars having become a thing of the past, little electric cars took advantage of the world's very extensive road systems, but these roads were now also occupied by train tracks and biking humans, and many were also taken out entirely, to create the habitat corridors reckoned necessary for the survival of the many, many endangered species coexisting on the planet with humans, other species now recognized as important to humanity's own survival. (380)

Technological advancements facilitate adaptations to the new environment, such as creating floating buildings and improving transportation. The novel critiques overreliance on technology without considering its environmental consequences. This duality serves as a reminder that technological solutions must be implemented thoughtfully to avoid exacerbating the climate crisis.

A vital aspect of ecocriticism understands the interconnectedness of all living beings. In *New York 2140*, Robinson highlights how the lives of the characters are intertwined with their environment. This interconnectedness calls for a collective effort to address ecological issues. "The advent of anthropogenic climate change, or 'global warming', has changed the situation, fundamentally contaminating the whole planet" (70). The solutions to climate change require collaboration among individuals, communities, and nations, reflecting the idea that no one can thrive alone in a changing world.

New York 2140 serves as a poignant exploration of climate change through the lens of eco-criticism. The novel emphasizes the necessity of understanding our connection to nature, the tenacity of humanity, and our ethical obligations to the environment. Robinson invites readers to face the facts of climate change by depicting a future impacted by rising sea levels, but he also provides a sense of optimism and potential. Nature's balance has to be maintained for the betterment of the future.

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