

**THE REPRESENTATION OF PLANTS IN CHILDREN'S FANTASY LITERATURE- A
PHYTOCRITICAL STUDY OF *HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE* AND
*HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS***

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ABSTRACT

Phytocriticism explores various ways in which plants are represented in literary works. A phytocritical analysis focuses on similarities and differences between real and fictional plants, plants' narrative roles in plots or settings, their usefulness to human and animal characters, and so on. Children's fantasy novels often depict magical plants, which ignite their imagination. In fact, fantasy novels can provide alternate discursive spaces for plants and help defy prejudices against them, which is also a key function of phytocriticism. The imaginative rendering of human-like plants can help foster empathy in children. A Phytocritical approach to teaching-learning literature can develop children's plant awareness. The following paper aims to study two selected texts from the Harry Potter series by J.K Rowling- Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets using the ideas of phytocriticism. It will try to examine some aesthetic, cultural as well as botanical aspects of plant representation in the texts under scrutiny. It will evaluate anthropocentric and ecocentric approaches towards plants in the texts. It will attempt to analyse plants in the two novels using the phytoanalysis map developed by plant studies theorists. Through the map, it will examine general points like plant body, plant agency and plant symbolism.

KEYWORDS: *Phytocriticism, Children's Literature, Fantasy, Anthropomorphism, Ecocentrism, Anthropocentrism*