

Narrative Practice of Ecological Utopia: The Long Summer's Narrative Response to the Climate Crisis and Ecological Redemption

Ying Liu

School of Language, Culture and Communication, Hunan University of Technology, China

How to cite this paper: Liu, Y. (2026). Narrative Practice of Ecological Utopia: The Long Summer's Narrative Response to the Climate Crisis and Ecological Redemption. *Social Sciences and Humanities*, 3(3), 72-84. ISSN Print: 3104-4328; ISSN Online: 3104-4336. <https://doi.org/10.63313/SSH.9086>
Published: 2026-04-20

Copyright © 2026 by author(s) and Erytis Publishing Limited.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Abstract

In the context of the Anthropocene, the climate crisis has become a core challenge threatening human survival and the continuation of civilization. The dilemmas of traditional development models and the urgency of ecological governance have driven literature to respond to this epochal proposition through utopian narratives. Kim Stanley Robinson's *The Long Summer*, grounded in rigorous climate science and rejecting illusory science fiction imagination, constructs an ecological utopian narrative that balances realism and idealism. It not only depicts the harsh reality of the climate crisis with unflinching prose but also explores feasible pathways for humanity to break ecological dilemmas and achieve ecological redemption through constructive narrative logic. Supported by ecological utopian theory and ecological narratology, this paper systematically analyzes how *The Long Summer* responds narratively to the climate crisis, examines the dimensions, practical paths and value orientations of the novel's ecological utopian construction, and reveals its innovative significance and practical implications in climate narration. Research shows that Robinson forms a complete narrative chain of "realistic critique–ideal construction–redemptive practice" through diverse narrative perspectives, spatiotemporal structures and a narrative strategy integrating science and humanism. His ecological utopia is not a fantasy divorced from reality but a realistic utopia based on scientific rationality and humanistic concern. It provides important references for contemporary climate fiction and offers literary intellectual guidance for climate governance and ecological redemption in the Anthropocene.

Keywords

Ecological Utopia; The Long Summer; Climate Crisis; Narrative Response; Ecological Redemption; Ecological Narration

Introduction

1. Research Background: The Anthropocene Climate Crisis and the Ecological Turn of Utopian Narrative

Since the Industrial Revolution, the predatory exploitation of natural resources and the unrestrained consumption of fossil fuels have completely disrupted the natural balance of the Earth's ecosystem. The climate crisis — marked by global warming, glacial melt and frequent extreme weather — has intensified, placing humanity firmly in the Anthropocene, an epoch defined by human activity dominating planetary ecological evolution. The global, persistent and partially irreversible nature of the climate crisis not only endangers the integrity of natural ecology but also undermines the existential foundation of human civilization, forcing a re-examination of the human-nature relationship and a critical reflection on the flaws of modern developmental models.

As a narrative form embodying human ideals, utopia has always emerged in response to the dilemmas of its time. Traditional utopian narratives mostly focused on social equity and institutional improvement, yet the outbreak of the Anthropocene climate crisis has driven an ecological turn in utopian narration: ecological utopia has become the central vehicle for contemporary literature to respond to the climate crisis. Distinguished from the abstractness of traditional utopias, ecological utopia takes ecological balance as its core value, scientific rationality as practical support and human-nature coexistence as its ideal goal. It attempts to construct an ideal order that is both ecologically sound and socially feasible through literary narration, offering spiritual guidance and practical references for humanity to overcome ecological predicaments.

As a leading figure in contemporary climate fiction, Kim Stanley Robinson consistently upholds a dual stance of “scientific narration and humanistic concern” and is hailed as “a master who transforms climate science into literary art”. As a classic work of his ecological writing, *The Long Summer* abandons the fanciful imagination common in science fiction and draws on real-world climate science to portray the existential crises and breakout attempts of human society amid 21st-century global warming. Instead of descending into pessimistic disaster narration, the novel centers on ecological utopia. Through realistic depiction of the climate crisis and construction of an ideal order, it delivers a literary response to the Anthropocene epochal question, standing as an exemplary work of ecological utopian narrative practice.

2. Textual Positioning and Research Status

The Long Summer takes global warming as its main narrative thread, focusing on the survival struggles and resistance of people from different countries and social strata under the climate crisis. Through scientists' explorations, ordinary people's life changes and international governance games, it fully presents the formation mechanism, social impacts and response pathways of the climate crisis. Unlike Robinson's science-fiction utopian works such as the *Mars Trilogy*, the ecological utopia in *The Long Summer* is not a heterogeneous spatial construction detached from reality but a “realistic utopia” rooted in planetary reality and supported by

climate science. Its core value lies in integrating ecological ideals into realistic narration, turning utopia from “an otherworldly fantasy” into “this-worldly practice”.

Current academic research on *The Long Summer* has achieved certain results, mainly along three lines: first, focusing on the novel’s scientific narrative characteristics and its literary transformation of climate science; second, analyzing its critique of anthropocentrism and construction of ecological ethics from an ecocritical perspective; third, examining its social critical implications regarding capitalism and geopolitics. However, existing studies largely overlook the novel’s essence as ecological utopian narration. Few systematically analyze its narrative response to the climate crisis and pathways of ecological redemption from the perspective of ecological utopian practice, leaving its unique value in the history of ecological utopian narration insufficiently explored.

3. Research Significance and Methodology

Taking ecological utopian theory and ecological narratology as its core framework, this paper adopts close reading, interdisciplinary research and theoretical interpretation to systematically dissect the ecological utopian narrative practice in *The Long Summer* and explore its modes of narrative response to the climate crisis and logic of ecological redemption. Theoretically, this study enriches the research dimensions of ecological utopian narration, expands the boundaries of climate fiction and ecological narratology, and provides a new perspective for the study of contemporary ecological utopian literature. Practically, by interpreting the novel’s construction of ecological utopia and redemptive paths, it offers literary references and spiritual guidance for contemporary Anthropocene climate governance, ecological protection and developmental transformation, highlighting the practical value of ecological literature.

1. Theoretical Interpretation of Ecological Utopia and Climate Narration

1.1. Core Connotations and Epochal Characteristics of Ecological Utopia

The term “utopia” derives from Thomas More’s work of the same name, originally meaning “no place”, and has gradually evolved into a narrative category embodying ideal social forms. As a contemporary form of utopia, ecological utopia emerged from ecological crises and environmental movements. Its core connotation is “to construct an ideal social order based on ecological balance, centered on human-nature coexistence, and integrating ecological rationality, social justice and sustainable development”. Compared with traditional utopias, contemporary ecological utopia possesses distinct epochal features:

First, scientificity. Rejecting the abstractness of traditional utopias, contemporary ecological utopia is theoretically supported by ecology, climatology and environmental science. Its ideal order is not unrealistic fiction but rational

exploration based on scientific laws, emphasizing the feasibility and practicality of ecological redemption. Second, realistic criticality. Ecological utopian narration always takes real ecological crises as its starting point. By criticizing anthropocentrism, capitalist logic and anti-scientific thinking, it reveals the social and ideological roots of the climate crisis, achieving reflection on and transcendence of reality. Third, symbiosis. Ecological utopia breaks the dualism of “anthropocentrism vs. biocentrism”, emphasizes that humanity is part of the natural ecosystem, pursues harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, among people, and between individuals and society, and organically unites ecological justice and social justice. Fourth, practicality. Ecological utopia is no longer “an otherworldly ideal” but focuses on “this-worldly practice”. Through literary narration, it presents concrete human actions to address ecological crises, providing replicable pathways for real-world ecological governance.

1.2. Internal Connection Between Ecological Narration and Ecological Utopia

Ecological narration is the core expressive form of ecological literature, centered on the “human-nature relationship”. Through the construction of narrative structure, perspective and detail, it conveys ecological ideas, criticizes ecological destruction and reconstructs ecological values. As an important narrative form of ecological literature, ecological utopia is deeply coupled with ecological narration: ecological narration provides the expressive vehicle for ecological utopia, while ecological utopia endows ecological narration with ideal orientation and constructive significance.

In the context of the climate crisis, the core mission of ecological narration is to respond to the ecological dilemmas of the Anthropocene, and ecological utopia represents the highest form of such response. Through narrative construction, it transforms abstract ecological ideals into concrete social landscapes, character actions and value pursuits, allowing readers to perceive the possibility of ecological utopia through literary experience and stimulate conscious ecological action. Robinson’s *The Long Summer* precisely integrates the idealism and realism of ecological utopia through artistic ecological narration. It not only depicts the harsh reality of the climate crisis but also constructs a tangible and practicable ecological utopia, achieving a perfect unity of ecological narration and ecological utopia.

1.3. Core Missions of Ecological Utopian Narration Under the Climate Crisis

The emergence of the Anthropocene climate crisis has assigned new epochal missions to ecological utopian narration: First, realistic response: to restore the true landscape of the climate crisis through literary narration, reveal its formation mechanism and social impacts, dispel fluke mindsets and cognitive

misunderstandings, and awaken ecological awareness. Second, root-cause critique: to criticize anthropocentrism, capitalist logic and anti-scientific thinking that cause ecological crises, reflect on the flaws of modern development models, and lay an ideological foundation for ecological redemption. Third, ideal construction: to build a scientific and feasible ecological utopia, explore pathways for humanity to break ecological dilemmas, and provide spiritual support and action guidance. Fourth, value reconstruction: to reshape the human-nature relationship, establish the idea of the ecological community, and promote a value shift from “conquering nature” to “coexisting with nature”.

2. Narrative Response to the Climate Crisis in *The Long Summer*

Taking the climate crisis as its core narrative subject, *The Long Summer* abandons sensationalist disaster writing and adopts a strategy of “realistic narration”. It comprehensively responds to the Anthropocene climate crisis from three dimensions — crisis manifestations, crisis roots and crisis impacts — laying a realistic foundation for the construction of ecological utopia.

2.1. Concrete Narration of Crisis Manifestations: From Natural Abnormality to Social Turmoil

Based on rigorous climate science, the novel uses concrete narrative techniques to present diverse manifestations of the climate crisis, turning abstract global warming into perceptible literary experience. On the natural ecological level, it depicts a landscape of rising global temperatures, accelerated polar ice melt and frequent extreme weather: summers extend indefinitely, temperatures exceed human survival limits, and persistent heatwaves and droughts strike many regions; Antarctic ice shelves collapse on a large scale, and freshwater from melting glaciers disrupts ocean circulation, triggering global climatic chaos; extreme rainstorms, floods and typhoons become normalized, destroying agriculture and infrastructure and drastically reducing biodiversity.

On the social level, the climate crisis triggers a series of knock-on effects leading to social unrest and fragmentation: agricultural collapse causes food shortages and price surges, plunging the poor into existential crisis; sea-level rise submerges coastal cities, creating large numbers of ecological refugees and exacerbating regional conflicts and social contradictions; disease outbreaks and resource competition driven by extreme weather further split social classes, widening the survival gap between privileged groups and the underprivileged. Through this dual “nature-society” narration, Robinson fully presents the cruelty and systematicity of the climate crisis, enabling readers to intuitively grasp the ecological predicaments of the Anthropocene and completing a realistic response to the climate crisis.

2.2. Critical Narration of Crisis Roots: Dual Alienation of Anthropocentrism and Capitalist Logic

The novel does not stop at depicting disaster symptoms but digs deep into the roots of the climate crisis. Through critical narration, it exposes the dual alienation of anthropocentrism and capitalist logic, providing an ideological prerequisite for ecological redemption.

Anthropocentrism constitutes the ideological root of the climate crisis. In the novel, humanity has long upheld the value of “human supremacy”, treating nature as a tool for conquest, transformation and utilization while ignoring its intrinsic value and operational laws. Since the Industrial Revolution, the unrestrained consumption of fossil fuels, deforestation and pollution of land and water in pursuit of economic growth and material comfort have eventually invited nature’s retaliation. Even in the face of severe climate reality, some politicians, capitalists and ordinary citizens remain trapped in anthropocentric arrogance, attempting to control the climate through technology rather than respecting and conforming to nature, further aggravating the ecological crisis.

Capitalist logic forms the institutional root of the climate crisis. The capitalist system prioritizes profit maximization and promotes a linear “produce-consume-discard” economic model, treating nature as a free resource warehouse and waste dump while shifting ecological costs to the underprivileged and future generations. In the novel, fossil fuel enterprises obstruct the promotion of clean energy to protect monopoly profits; politicians collude with capital groups, prioritize economic growth over ecological protection, ignore climate science warnings and implement short-sighted policies. By criticizing capitalist logic, Robinson reveals the anti-ecological nature of capitalism and the intrinsic link between the climate crisis and social systems.

2.3. Multi-Dimensional Narration of Crisis Impacts: Dual Plights of Individual Fate and Human Future

From multiple perspectives, the novel narrates the far-reaching impacts of the climate crisis on both individual lives and humanity’s future, underscoring the urgency of ecological redemption. On the individual level, it portrays characters of different classes and nationalities, showing the brutal impact of the climate crisis on human beings: scientists work around the clock to develop climate solutions, facing both research pressure and practical resistance; the poor struggle under heat, hunger and disease, losing dignity and hope; although privileged groups temporarily insulate themselves from crises through resources, they still face existential collapse once the ecosystem breaks down.

On the level of human future, the novel uses climate science projections to narrate a terrifying scenario of runaway climate crisis: most coastal cities submerged, ecosystems completely collapsed, species extinction accelerated, and humanity facing extinction. This predictive narration of the future is not pessimistic nihilism but a means to awaken crisis awareness, emphasize the urgency of ecological

redemption and provide realistic motivation for the construction of ecological utopia.

3. Narrative Practice of Ecological Utopia in *The Long Summer*

The core narrative value of *The Long Summer* lies in constructing an ecological utopia that integrates realism and idealism. Through multi-dimensional narrative practice of “spatial construction–temporal arrangement–subject shaping–value transmission”, it turns ecological utopia from an ideal into a perceptible and practicable literary landscape, completing an ideal response to the climate crisis.

3.1. Spatial Utopia: From Local Ecological Communities to Global Collaborative Governance Spaces

Space is a core vehicle of utopian narration. *The Long Summer* constructs a three-level spatial utopian system — “local ecological communities–regional ecological corridors–global collaborative governance spaces” — presenting the spatial practical path of ecological redemption.

Local ecological communities serve as basic units of ecological utopia. In the novel, visionary people abandon traditional urban development models and build eco-friendly communities worldwide: these communities use clean energy (solar, wind, hydro) instead of fossil fuels, adopt circular economies to achieve efficient resource use and zero waste discharge; they restore vegetation and ecosystems, creating living environments where humans and nature coexist; residents follow ecological ethics and practice low-carbon lifestyles, forming a mutually supportive communal atmosphere. For instance, the “Green Community” in the novel achieves ecological self-sufficiency through rooftop greening, rainwater harvesting and organic farming, setting a model for local ecological redemption.

Regional ecological corridors act as connecting bonds of ecological utopia. Ecological communities in different regions interconnect to form transregional ecological corridors, breaking geographical barriers and enabling shared ecological resources and coordinated governance. These corridors are not only natural ecological links but also bridges for human cooperation, allowing people across regions to exchange governance experience, share clean energy technologies and form regional ecological cooperation communities.

Global collaborative governance spaces represent the highest form of ecological utopia. The international community abandons geopolitical games and capitalist interests, establishes a unified global climate governance body, formulates fair emission-reduction responsibility schemes, and promotes coordinated global climate governance under the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”. Developed countries assume greater ecological duties and provide technical and financial support to developing countries; developing countries actively participate in governance and pursue ecologically oriented developmental transformation. This

global collaborative structure transcends national borders, realizes worldwide ecological cooperation and provides institutional guarantees for ecological utopia.

3.2. Temporal Utopia: A Temporal Loop from Historical Reflection to Future Redemption

Time constitutes an important dimension of ecological utopian narration. The Long Summer adopts a linear past-present-future narrative to form a temporal loop of “historical reflection–realistic action–future redemption”, endowing the practice of ecological utopia with rationality and continuity in the temporal dimension.

Narration in past time centers on historical reflection. Through memories and scientific records, the novel reviews human development since the Industrial Revolution, criticizes long-standing anthropocentrism and capitalist logic, and reflects on the flaws of modern development models. This reflection is not mere criticism but a lesson-learning process that helps humanity recognize the historical inevitability of ecological crises and provides ideological references for present ecological action.

Narration in present time focuses on realistic action. The core narrative centers on the contemporary moment, depicting concrete human practices to address the climate crisis: scientists conduct climate research to develop emission-reduction and ecological restoration technologies; ordinary people practice low-carbon lifestyles and participate in conservation; the international community promotes climate negotiations and builds global governance systems. These depictions of real action turn ecological utopia from fantasy into present-day practice, demonstrating the feasibility of ecological redemption.

Narration in future time focuses on redemptive prospects. Based on climate science, the novel portrays a future where ecological utopia is realized: global temperatures stabilize, glacial melt is curbed, ecosystems recover and biodiversity is protected; humanity achieves harmonious coexistence with nature, social and ecological justice prevail, and civilization develops sustainably. This future vision is not illusory imagination but rational prediction grounded in real action, offering spiritual support and action guidance and forming a temporal loop of “history–reality–future”.

3.3. Subject Utopia: A Multi-Cooperative Ecological Action Community

The realization of ecological utopia relies on coordinated action by diverse subjects. The Long Summer shapes various character types to construct a multi-actor ecological action community of “scientists–ordinary people–social elites–international organizations”, presenting the subjective practical path of ecological redemption.

Scientists are core leaders of ecological redemption. Upholding scientific rationality and humanistic concern, they abandon utilitarian research and focus on climate

governance. They study climate change mechanisms, develop clean energy and restoration technologies, and provide scientific support; they also popularize climate knowledge, raise public ecological awareness and promote ecological ideas.

Ordinary people form the foundational force of ecological redemption. Transformed by the climate crisis, they gradually abandon anthropocentric cognition and embrace ecological symbiosis. They practice low-carbon living, reduce energy use and waste, participate in reforestation and ecological restoration, and engage in community governance, turning ecological redemption from an elite project into a mass movement and laying a popular foundation for ecological utopia.

Social elites and international organizations are important driving forces. Entrepreneurs, politicians and scholars gradually set aside capitalist interests and power ambitions to assume ecological responsibilities, promote corporate and policy reform, and provide funding and institutional support; international organizations break geopolitical barriers, coordinate global climate action and build a global ecological cooperation community.

3.4. Value Utopia: Value Reconstruction of Ecological Ethics and the Ecological Community

The core of ecological utopia lies in the reconstruction of values. Through narrative practice, *The Long Summer* breaks the value bias of anthropocentrism and constructs a value utopia centered on “ecological symbiosis”, achieving dual reconstruction of ecological ethics and the ecological community.

The reconstruction of ecological ethics breaks the dualism of anthropocentrism and biocentrism and establishes an ethics of human-nature coexistence. Humanity no longer treats nature as a tool for exploitation but recognizes its intrinsic value and right to exist, viewing itself as part of the ecosystem and respecting natural laws. This ethical reorientation repositions the human-nature relationship, shifting from “conquering nature” to “coexisting with nature” and providing ideological support for ecological utopia.

The reconstruction of the ecological community breaks individualistic, class-based and nationalistic egoism and builds a multi-symbiotic community of “humans and nature, people and society”. Threatened by the shared climate crisis, people of all classes and nations transcend divisions to form collective resilience; humanity and all living beings become interdependent in a shared ecological destiny. This idea unites ecological justice and social justice, offering value guidance for ecological utopia.

4. Redemptive Logic and Practical Paths in Ecological Utopian Narration

The ecological utopian narration in *The Long Summer* is not mere ideal construction but embodies a complete logic of ecological redemption. Through three intertwined

paths — scientific redemption, social redemption and ethical redemption — it achieves comprehensive salvation from the climate crisis and provides replicable practical schemes for Anthropocene ecological governance.

4.1. Scientific Redemption: Synergy of Rigorous Science and Technological Innovation

Scientific redemption constitutes the core support for ecological utopia. The novel emphasizes that solving the climate crisis must rely on scientific rationality and technological innovation while rejecting anti-scientific ignorance. Grounded in rigorous climate science, Robinson details scientists' technical pathways for climate governance: promoting clean energy (solar, wind, hydro, hydrogen) to replace fossil fuels and cut carbon emissions; developing ecological restoration technologies to repair forests, grasslands and marine ecosystems and enhance resilience; building a global climate monitoring network to accurately predict changes and guide governance.

The novel also stresses that technology is not panacea and must be guided by humanism to avoid alienation. Technology should serve ecological protection and human well-being, not capitalist profit or power struggles; scientists must uphold ecological ethics alongside technical breakthroughs to ensure ecological rationality. This “science + humanism” path upholds scientific rationality while pursuing humanistic value, providing feasible technical support for ecological redemption.

4.2. Social Redemption: Dual Guarantees of Institutional Reform and Global Collaboration

Social redemption provides the institutional guarantee for ecological utopia. The novel holds that resolving the climate crisis requires institutional transformation and a global collaborative governance system, free from capitalist logic and geopolitical constraints. Institutionally, it advocates transcending capitalism to establish societies centered on ecological protection, implement circular and low-carbon economies, restrict the commodification of nature by capital, and ensure fair distribution of ecological resources and shared risks.

Globally, it calls for breaking national and regional barriers, establishing a unified global climate governance body, formulating equitable responsibility allocations and promoting cooperation between developed and developing countries. Developed nations should bear greater historical ecological duties and offer technical and financial aid; developing nations should actively participate and pursue green development. This “institutional reform + global collaboration” path provides institutional safeguards for ecological utopia.

4.3. Ethical Redemption: Spiritual Support of Value Reconstruction and Public Awakening

Ethical redemption offers the spiritual foundation for ecological utopia. The novel

stresses that resolving the climate crisis requires the awakening of ecological consciousness and value reconstruction. Its core is to abandon anthropocentric bias, establish the value of ecological symbiosis, recognize the interdependence of humans and nature, and awaken a sense of ecological responsibility.

Through characters' spiritual transformation and the spread of ecological ideas, the novel promotes universal ecological awakening: ordinary people move from indifference to active participation; elites shift from profit-seeking to ecological stewardship; scientists combine research with public education. This mass awakening makes ecological protection a conscious collective practice, providing spiritual support for ecological utopia. The novel also advocates intergenerational ethics, emphasizing that the present generation must not overdraw future survival resources and must ensure intergenerational ecological equity.

5. Contemporary Value of Ecological Utopian Narration in *The Long Summer*

The ecological utopian narration in *The Long Summer* carries not only important literary value but also profound practical implications for contemporary climate fiction, ecological governance and ecological culture construction, highlighting the epochal significance of ecological literature.

5.1. Literary Implications for Climate Fiction Writing

The Long Summer provides crucial artistic references for contemporary climate fiction, correcting the tendency to “emphasize disaster over construction” and “prioritize fantasy over realism”. First, it upholds the unity of science and literariness, translating abstract scientific knowledge into concrete narrative and enhancing persuasiveness and emotional resonance. Second, it constructs a narrative chain of “realistic critique–ideal construction–redemptive practice”, positioning climate fiction as not only a crisis alarmist but also a builder of ecological ideals and a guide to action. Third, it creates multi-dimensional characters that link ecological redemption to individual fates, infusing climate fiction with human warmth and real-world concern. Robinson's practice has elevated climate fiction from niche literature to mainstream discourse, improving the artistic quality and intellectual depth of ecological literature.

5.2. Practical Implications for Ecological Governance

The novel's ecological utopian narration offers significant real-world guidance for contemporary Anthropocene climate governance:

1. Climate governance must adhere to scientific rationality, relying on ecological science and technological innovation for feasible mitigation and restoration.
2. It must pursue global collaboration, transcending geopolitics and capital interests to build a fair global governance system.

3. It must encourage public participation, awakening mass ecological awareness and making conservation a collective duty.
4. It must pursue value reconstruction, abandoning anthropocentrism and embracing ecological symbiosis for harmonious coexistence with nature.

5.3. Value Implications for Ecological Culture Construction

The novel also provides important value guidance for ecological culture:

5. Promote the popularization of ecological ethics, rooting the idea of human-nature coexistence and building ecologically sound and humanistic ecological culture.
6. Advance ecological education, disseminate climate and ecological knowledge, and cultivate public ecological literacy.
7. Reshape ecological values, reject “human supremacy”, place ecological protection at the core of social development and integrate ecological culture into societal progress.

6. Conclusion

The outbreak of the Anthropocene climate crisis calls for ecological utopian narration. Kim Stanley Robinson’s *The Long Summer*, centered on ecological utopia, delivers a literary answer to the epochal question of the Anthropocene through realistic response and ideal construction of the climate crisis. Grounded in rigorous climate science and rejecting empty fantasy, it builds an ecological utopia that balances realism and idealism, presenting a complete path of ecological redemption through spatial, temporal, subjective and value-based narrative practice.

The novel’s ecological utopia is not an otherworldly ideal but a this-worldly practice rooted in planetary reality and scientific rationality. Its core value lies in integrating ecological critique and ideal construction, turning ecological redemption from “fantasy” into “action”. Through scientific, social and ethical redemption, it provides feasible solutions for humanity to overcome the climate crisis. Through ecological utopian narrative practice, it reshapes the human-nature relationship, establishes the idea of the ecological community, and offers important references for climate fiction, ecological governance and ecological culture.

As the climate crisis intensifies, the ecological utopian narration of *The Long Summer* not only demonstrates the practical value of ecological literature but also conveys hope and strength: humanity is not trapped in an insoluble ecological dilemma. By upholding scientific rationality and humanistic concern, breaking the shackles of egoism and acting collaboratively as an ecological community, humans can achieve harmonious coexistence with nature, find hope of ecological redemption amid the “long summer”, and steer human civilization toward a sustainable future.

References

-
- [1] More, Thomas. *Utopia*. Trans. Dai Liuling. Beijing: The Commercial Press, 2018.
 - [2] Wang Nuo. *Ecocriticism: Development and Origins*. Beijing: Peking University Press, 2015.
 - [3] Robinson, Kim Stanley. *The Long Summer*. Trans. Wang Lingxiao. Beijing: People's Literature Publishing House, 2012.
 - [4] Wang Shudong. Theoretical Construction and Practical Paths of Ecological Narratology. *Theoretical Studies in Literature and Art*, 2021(01): 187-196.
 - [5] Li Meng. Narrative Characteristics and Ecological Values of Climate Fiction. *Foreign Literature Studies*, 2022, 44(02): 89-98.
 - [6] Zhang Jinzhong. Scientific Spirit and Utopian Ideal in Robinson's Ecological Novels. *Contemporary Foreign Literature*, 2020, 41(03): 56-64.
 - [7] Chen Xiaohong. The Contemporary Transformation of Ecological Utopian Narration: A Case Study of Kim Stanley Robinson's Climate Fiction. *Foreign Literature Review*, 2023(01): 123-138.
 - [8] Zeng Fanren. *Ecological Aesthetics and Ecocriticism*. Beijing: The Commercial Press, 2021.
 - [9] Crutzen, Paul. The Anthropocene: A New Epoch of Geological Time. *World Environment*, 2002(04): 10-11.
 - [10] Li Rui. *A Study of Ecological Justice Theory*. Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 2018.