



A Peer-Reviewed International Multidisciplinary Research  
ISSN : 2584-1963 (Approved)

## *Environmental Issues and Social Justice in Helon Habila's Oil on Water*



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### **Abstract**

*This paper explores the environmental issues and social justice of the Nigerian people. Nigeria is the second-largest oil and gas producer on the African continent. Helon Habila is a Nigerian novelist and a poet. The Niger Delta, as now officially defined by the Nigerian government, comes under nine states: Abia, Akwa, Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, and Ondo Rivers. In these states, environmentally and socially, how were they losing their justice due to the oil spillage and gas flares, as Helon Habila portrays in his novel Oil on Water. Habila's concern was the people of*

*Nigeria and environmental destruction and degradation of Nigeria. The novel shows the connection between people and the environment and how oil spillage became a major problem for Nigerians as they lost the originality of nature. Environmental friction and the human cost of oil peregrination in the Niger Delta are powerful examples of Habila's affiance with social issues.*

**Keywords:** *Environmental Justice, Social Justice, Nigerian Delta, Oil Mining Companies, Ecology, Gas Flares, and Oil Spillage*

