

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

In this modern era, attention to environmental issues is one of the biggest challenges facing global society today. This has resulted in increasing environmental damage and becoming a serious global problem. and increasing excessive exploitation of the environment by humans. Lack of awareness of the importance of protecting the environment and giving rise to environmental exploitation so that awareness is important to protect and preserve the environment. However, what is happening is the opposite, namely the destruction and exploitation of nature which is considered normal. However, without realizing it, this is a problem that has a negative impact on other living creatures. So, the problem of natural exploitation arises and occurs because of the existence of a patriarchal system which prioritizes male domination over nature in all aspects of life.

Talking about environmental damage cannot be separated from acts of exploitation which refer to arbitrary use or politically excessive use of something that is exploited solely for economic gain without paying attention to ethical values, justice and protection of the sustainability of life. The use of exploitation is a vital element in a capitalist economy, where exploitation is carried out through an economic system that does not involve personal relationships and objects.

Overexploitation of natural resources can cause serious damage to the environment, which in turn results in extensive and significant impacts on the ecosystem. For example, forest destruction or clearing of trees in forests for agricultural or residential purposes, which may result in loss of habitat for various species, soil erosion, and changes in climate. Exploitation of nature can occur in various forms, such as irresponsible mining and industrial activities, which have a detrimental impact on the ecosystem. The level of awareness regarding environmental problems which are of public concern which is very important in various fields of science, economics and especially in literature which also describes the relationship between humans and nature, in literary and environmental studies it is called ecocriticism

Ecocriticism is the study of human and non-human relations. humans, throughout the history of human culture and requires critical analysis of the term 'human' itself. There are various terms for this green branch of literary studies. In *The Comedy of Survival: A Study of Literary Ecology* (1972) Joseph W. Meeker introduced the term literary ecology which refers to "the study of the biological themes and relationships that appear in literary works. It is at the same time an attempt to discover what role has been played by literature in the ecology of human species." Meanwhile, the term ecocriticism was probably first coined in 1978 by William Rueckert in his essay "Literature and Ecology: Experiments in Ecocriticism". What Rueckert means by ecocriticism is "the application of

ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature. He was concerned specifically with the science of ecology.

Literature is a reflection of reality. A number of literature discusses and review the events that occurred in this is the real world. A number of literature was created to reflect phenomena and conditions in real life. According to Wellek and Warren that literature is a creative process that includes reflection or understanding through writing or works of literature that mirror themselves. There are several types of literary works, such as drama, poetry, novels, films, short stories, and novels. That is, novels originate from Italy, Novella, interpreted as a small new staff. Novels are stories in long prose form. Shaping long refers to complex plots, lots of characters, and many kinds of settings. temporary Novella is a written narrative, fiction, prose shorter than novels and are longer than short stories. Novellas were introduced to literature earlier Renaissance. But they began to be established as a literary genre in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

"The Word for World is Forest" is a famous science fiction novella by American author Ursula K. Le Guin. The story is set on the planet Athshe, which is inhabited by a native tribe called Athshean. Earthlings (yumen) came to Athshe to exploit their natural resources and oppress the Athshe residents and force them to follow the values of their way of life. This reflects how the social system experienced colonialism. This story focuses on the character named Selver, an Athshean who leads the resistance against colonialism, highlights the spirit of liberation and fights to defend their identity and rights.

Based on the background, the reason the researcher is interested in analyzing the novella "The Word for World is Forest" by Ursula K Le Guin with an ecocriticism approach is because it is rooted in the environmental theme that is raised in depth in this novella. and this novella also explores the issues of exploitation and the relationship between humans and nature which are the main focus in the study of ecocriticism. through the character of Selver and the community of Athshe Le Guin shows resistance to oppression and exploitation in line with the principles of environmental justice sustainability. In addition, the issues discussed in this novella are very relevant to the environmental challenges faced today, such as deforestation and climate change so that this analysis can draw between the context of fiction and reality. Thus, "The Word for World is Forest" serves as a significant example of how literature can be a tool for understanding and criticizing environmental issues, as well as for building awareness and critical thinking about the relationship between humans and nature.

1.2. Statements of Problem

According to the background of the study, the statement of the problem as following are:

1. How does the relationship between non- humans and nature as reflected in the novella?
2. What are the forms human exploitation of nature and impact on the environment?
3. How does Selver resistance to environmental exploitation is reflected in the novella.?

1.3. Scope of the Study

The scope of this research is intended so that the problems to be discussed are not scattered everywhere and remain focused on the subject matter. This research is focused on analyzing the flow of analyzing ecocriticism approaches, namely How does the relationship between non-humans and nature as reflected in the novella, What are the forms human exploitation of nature and impact it have on the environment and How does Selver resistance to environmental exploitation is reflected in the novella.

1.4. Objectives of the Study

Related with the problem formulation above, the research objectives are as follows, of course in accordance with the existing problem formulation:

1. To Identify the relationship between non- humans and nature as reflected in the novella?
2. To find out the forms human exploitation of nature and impact on the environment?
3. To Identify the does Selver resistance to environmental exploitation is reflected in the novella.?

1.5. Significances of the Study

The researcher hope, that this research could have an influence both theoretically and practically, which is useful for adding insight to readers as follows:

1.5.1. Theoretically, The researcher hopes that this research could provide insight and understand to the readers who do the analysis of how science fiction novels could be used to explore environmental issues and examining Representations of Nature and Environmental Crisis by analyzing the way Le Guin depicts the relationship between humans and the environment, as well as responses to ecological change and examining how resistance to colonial powers and exploitation of natural resources is presented in texts, contributing to ecocriticism theory. Thus, providing a new perspective in the study of environmental literature, connecting ecocritical theory with science fiction narratives.

1.5.2. Practically, The researcher hopes that this research to could provide more understading how to apply theory in text analysis, an ecocriticism approach to assessing environmental representation

and resistance in literary works, which could be a model for analyzing other texts in literary studies. and increasing environmental awareness among readers or academic audiences on environmental issues through fictional media, which could promote awareness about the ecological crisis and the importance of pro- environmental action and improve the ability to use ecocritical theory to analyze literary texts, which is useful in academic or educational research.

1.6. Review of Related Studies

A review of related research is a presentation of the results of research conducted by other researcher. A literature review aims to determine the authenticity of a scientific work. This is intended as a reference in conducting research. The researcher found three previous studies regarding the detective formula.

The first is Dr. Ağrı İbrahim, from Faculty of Arts and Sciences Çeçen University, Department of English Language and Literature, Ağrı, Turkey (2022) with research entitled “Ecofeminism and Marxist Ecocriticism in Ursula K. Le's The Word for World is Forest” In his research, This analysis highlights the causes and impacts of systematic destruction and exploitation of nature and the environment. By using the same novella, namely The Word for World is Forest Dr. Ursula. Le Guin, the difference between her research and this research is that her research uses an Ecofeminism and Ecocriticism Marxist approach, whereas this research

uses a theoretical ecocriticism approach by analyzing the relationship between humans and nature, forms of natural exploitation and resistance.

The Second is Setya Pujana from Sunan Ampel State Islamic University, Surabaya, (2019) with the research title Environmental Issues in The Word For World Is Forest By Ursula K. Le Guin This study aims to analyze environmental issues that occur on a foreign planet called Athshe. This study then shows how human cruelty to nature and its inhabitants. using ecotheology as an analytical tool with new criticism. the similarity in the study uses the same novella, but the difference is that the study uses ecotheology, namely how Islam views nature. while this study uses an ecocriticism approach by analyzing environmental issues and resistance.

The third is Romadhon R, from the Syarif Hidayatullah Islamic University Jakarta (2011) with the research "An Analysis of Environmental Issues Using Ecocriticism in James Cameron's Film Avatar". In his research he analyzed the relationship between humans and nature as well as the colonialists' views on it and the exploitation of nature. similarities in research using an ecocriticism approach. The difference between this research and this research is that it uses different literary media, namely films and novella.

1.7. Theoretical Bases

1.7.1. The Definition of Ecocriticism

Ecocriticism as a postmodern literary approach posits high stress on eco-consciousness. "Eco-criticism might succulently be defined as study of the relation between literature and environment conducted in

a spirit of commitment to environmental praxis (Buell, 1995: 138)". In the modern literary world, eco-criticism plays an essential role in upholding literature and environmental ethics. It also synthesizes human being with physical environment. Garrard (2004) view it as "the relationship between humanity and nature is best described as asymmetrically co-independent" (155). Eco-criticism not only studies nature as depicted in literature but also renders human being to have a broader view of nature.

It is inescapable to human for the harmonious relationship with the non-human world. Down through ages, nature is a subject which has fascinated too many writers. Many writers have become ecoconscious or environment conscious. Literature has become a mode of expression about environment and its importance in human life and universe environment protection is a hot issue of present time. Due to the eco-imbalance and the environment pollution, the whole world is under the curse of global warming. Human nature is essentially anthropocentric. We try to dominate nature as the only literary beings in the earth. Ecocriticism tries to rectify our anthropocentric vision which assumes the primacy of humans, so we may save our earth from catastrophic end. Eco-criticism strives hard to keep the earth in a good order, so that the earth's basic life system remains fresh for a sustainable future.

1.7.2. Ecocriticism Theory

Ecocriticism, a concept first arose in the late 1970's at the meeting of Western Literature Association (WLA). It began developing in 1990' s which focuses on the relationship human and nature, which tells us man belongs to the earth in much the same way as animals and plants do. The term eco-criticism was first coined by William Rueckert in his critical writing Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism. Rueckert (1978) defines "eco-criticism as the application of ecology and ecological principles to the scholarly study of literary works" (72). Ecology means the scientific study about the relationship between air, land, water, animal while ecocriticism considers human as a part of environment and studies interconnection between man and nature. The word 'Eco' comes from the Greek word 'Oikos', which etymologically means household or earth and 'critics' means judge. Cheryll Gloytfelty is considered as the pioneer ecocriticism. In 1990s ecocriticism had become a recognized field of literature. In 1996 it was officially announced by the publication of the seminal work: The Ecocriticism Reader which was edited by Cheryll Gloytfelty. Glotfelty (1996) defined in The Eco-criticism Reader- "Eco-criticism is the study of the relationship between literature and thephysical environment" (xviii). Peter Barry (1995) writes,

For the eco-critic, nature really exists out there beyond us, not needing to be ironized as a concept by enclosure within inverted commas, but actually present as an entity which affects us, and which can affect, perhaps fatally, if we mistreat it". (Beginning Theory: 114)

Later in 20th century people realized the significance of nature and to save the planet earth from environmental crisis caused by industries and other sources created pollution Ecology has two shades; they are the shallow ecology and deep ecology. Shallow ecology is essentially anthropocentric, which believes that the whole purity of nature is to serve mankind and humans are the masters of nature. Man being is the only literary creature who thinks himself superior over the others. It also advocates systematic uses of natural resources like coal, gas, oil etc. for a sustainable future. But deep ecology changes this conservation mode and advocates preservation of nature to keep its original form without interference of man, as nature has its own right to survive. All organisms on this earth have their own intrinsic value and no one is the master of anybody. This realization will give equal rights to every organism maintaining a balance in the eco-system. Eco-criticism gives emphasis on this eco-consciousness removing the ego consciousness man. The present environmental crisis is a bi- product of human culture. It is not caused by how the ecosystem functions, but how our ethical system functions, how we behave with mother, nature etc. eco-criticism builds this awareness among man.

There are two waves of eco-criticism as identified by Lawrence Buell. The first wave eco- critics “focused on nature writing, nature poetry and wilderness fiction” (Buell: 138). They used to uphold the philosophy of organism. Here environment effectively means natural

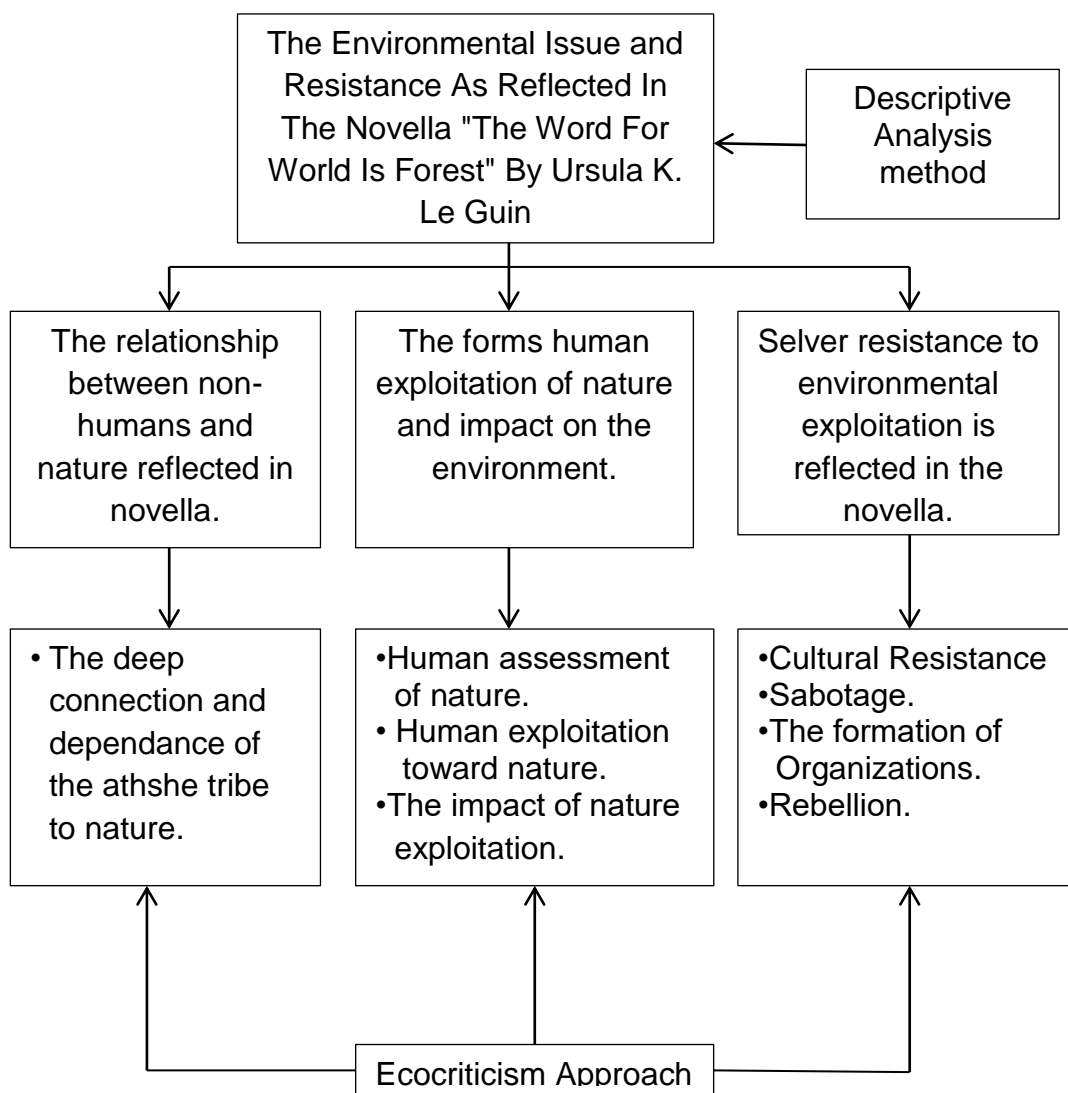
environment (Buell 21). The aim of the wave was to preserve 'biotic community'. So, ecocriticism initially aimed at earth care. The second wave eco-critics inclined towards environmental justice issues and a social ecocriticism that takes urban landscape as seriously as 'natural landscape' (Buell122). This wave ecocriticism is also known as revisionist ecocriticism.

1.7.3. Ecocriticism Movement

The Ecocriticism is considered as the youngest movement of recent times. Though the term was first coined in 1978 by Rueckert but the root of this movement was in Vedas and Upanishads. Rigveda appeals not to cut trees because they remove pollution. Ayurveda refers man not to disturb the sky and do not pollute the atmosphere. In view of present environmental scenario, the eco-critics want the earth to be kept in good order for mankind. There is no single dominant worldview defending eco-critical practice as it is being defined and redefined everyday by actual practice of thousands of literary scholars round the globe to find out the solution to the contemporary environmental crisis through literary study. So, eco-criticism is a branch of science that creates awareness among readers. In order to meet with the present environmental crisis, the ecocriticism plays an important role in building up the eco-consciousness among the readers.

1.8. Conceptual Scheme

In this section the researcher will explain the concepts used in analyzing the novella, *The Word for World is Forest* by Ursula K. Le Guin which will briefly provide an understanding of the problems that have been described above. To understand the concept of this research, the researcher will outline the framework below:



In the Conceptual Scheme above, it is explained that the researcher analyzes the novella "The Word for World is Forest" by Ursula K. Le Guin by examining how the relationship between humans and nature is reflected, and also how forms of exploitation of nature take place. reflected in the novella as well as Selver resistance to environmental exploitation is reflected in the novella. Researcher use the Ecocriticism Approach is and use qualitative methods to explain descriptively the problems studied

1.9. Method of the Study

The researcher uses qualitative methods. The qualitative method used is explain descriptively the problems discussed. According to Bogdan and Taylor defines qualitative methodology as a research procedure that produces results descriptive data in the That form from written or text words from people and observable behavior. In this case, this method can be used to analyzed how the relationship between humans and nature is reflected, and also how forms of exploitation of nature take place. reflected in the novella as well as resistance to colonial exploitation of nature shown in the novella. Researcher use qualitative method because the data in research is in the form of words and narration in novella dialogue in "The Word For World Is Forest" By Ursula K. Le Guin.

1.9.1. Source of Data

The data used comes from the novella "The Word for World is Forest" by Ursula K. Le Guin. As an object of analysis and data source. As well as other reference materials as secondary sources of data, in

the form of journals from the library and another from the internet to support this analysis.

1.9.2. Technique of Collection Data

In Data collection from course, that researcher must read understand the novel then write the data accordingly the approach, namely the ecocriticism approach, is an interesting method to use used in related research on colonization and the impact of researcher to determine an appropriate research sample with the topic to be studied so that the results can reflect the actual situation condition that happen in the that novella. and final use modern digital today's technology could be an effective tool in the search process data resource from that internet and social media as addition reference and library research.

1.9.3. Technique of Analyzing Data

In data analysis, researcher carry out the process of collecting and analyze data. The data analysis process was carried out by researcher includes activities with several aspects, namely: Researcher reading Ursula K. Le Guin novella *The word For World is Forest* several times, the researcher keeps secret which part will be analyzed. Researchers suggest that the data analysis process involves activities such as collecting and verifying data to reach meaningful objective conclusions and meaningful insights. It is equally Healthy to check journals and articles regularly to extract meaningful

data and identify repetitive data. The patterns or themes that stand out are the relationship between humans and nature, exploitation of the environment and resistance. This involves carefully examining the text to analyze language, symbolism, and characterization, which could provide insight into the author's depiction of ideas and the related relationships between humans and nature, exploitation and resistance. After the final classification, the researcher provides an explanation so that the reader fully understands the meaning of the statement.