

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study

In doing the analysis, the writer needs to review some previous studies as the reference. Previous studies also needed to see how other researchers who have similar topic discussion applied their theory and approach. In that case, the writer has review three previous studies with the similar topic discussion.

The first previous study is from Apriati (2013) in a thesis entitled *An Analysis of Human-Nature Relationship in Children's Book Julie by Jean Craighead George (An Ecocritical Study)*. In this research, the objectives are to identify the human-nature relationship as reflected in George's *Julie* and elaborate how the human-nature relationship is depicted in the novel. Further, in order to do the analysis, the researcher applied descriptive qualitative method and using ecocriticism theory of Garrard. As the result of the research, it shows that both of the good and bad human-nature relationship are portrayed in George's *Julie* and each of them determined by some indicators. The main indicators showing the good relationship are understanding the existence of plant and animal as a part of human life and respecting all kinds of living things on earth. Meanwhile the main indicator showing the bad relationship is having money-oriented principle. Furthermore, related to the Garrard's concept of ecocriticism theory, the researcher found that there are concept of animal and dwelling in the George's *Julie*. Thus, the writer needs to review this previous research since it applied the similar approach and theory that is

ecocriticism by Garrard. In that case, the writer can get more information about how it can be used for the analysis of ecology in a literary work.

The second previous study is from Bachtiar (2019) in a thesis entitled *An Ecocritical Analysis of Nature Condition and Environmental Stewardship in J.R.R Tolkien's The Hobbit*. The objectives of this research are to describe the nature of Middle Earth that represented in *The Hobbit* novel and to explain the role of the characters do to steward the nature in *The Hobbit* novel. In doing the analysis, the researcher applied descriptive qualitative method and using Garrard's theory of ecocriticism. The result of the research shows that the environment or the nature condition that is reflected from the novel indicated that there is no pollution yet in the Middle-Earth since the society (Hobbits) in the novel live in a very simple, pastoral life and with their agricultural ways, they keep the nature on earth stay green. However, this also can be indicated that the author, Tolkien would like to reminds the readers that this way of lives is better than live within the industrial area where there are so many pollutions whether in air, land and water. In other word, the role of the characters in *The Hobbit* novel are shown that they are respecting and caring the nature as part of their environment. Further, the writer needs to review this previous research because the writer needs to see how the ecocriticism study is applied in a literary work in order to analyze the condition of nature and the role the society in keeping them.

Finally, the last previous study is from Setyorini (2016) in the form of journal entitled *Ecology, Technology and Dystopia: An Ecocritical Reading of Young Adult Dystopian Literature*. In this study, the objective is to describe the representation of ecology and technology in three dystopian novels: *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*. In the research, the researcher applied Garrard's theory of ecocriticism and used descriptive method. As the result of this research, it shows that the novels draw a formulaic portrayal of dystopia by taking postapocalyptic natural condition as the setting of time and place. Here, the damaged environment is the result of natural disaster or war, and the advanced technology takes control in every aspect of human's life. As part of a larger discussion of the close relationship among literature, nature, technology and youth culture, the analysis is intended to be a twofold analysis which not only illustrates the representation of ecology and technology in the novels, but also reveals the motive behind their production by directing the attention to the young adult as the protagonist characters who have a positive vibe in responding the challenge of dystopian society. Thus, the writer needs to review this previous research since it contained with information about Garrard's theory which is similarly used in this recent research and the only difference that can be noticed from this previous study and this recent research is from the object of research.

Therefore, regarding to the previous studies above, it can be noticed that the similarity can be seen from the topic discussion that is talking about dystopia and ecocriticism. Meanwhile the difference is from the object of research where in this recent research, the writer uses *The Kill Order* novel by James Dashner while the other previous studies are using different novels.

2.2 Ecocriticism Approach

Ecocriticism derived from word “eco” that refers to “ecology” (branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings) and “criticism” that refers to the expression of disapproval of someone or something based on perceived faults or mistakes. In that case, ecocriticism is a study that investigates the correlations of nature (both animals and plants) with their physical habitats.

Further, Garrard (2014: 37) defined ecocriticism as “a general term for literary analysis informed by an ecological or environmental awareness since it studies the relationship between literature and nature through a range of approaches having little in common other than a shared concern with the environment.” Based on the explanation, it can be said that ecocriticism is a term in the literature that is related to an ecological or environmental awareness.

Ecocriticism is very appropriate when it is applied to a work in which the landscape is seen as dominant factor, also when a significant interaction occurs between author and place, character and place. Landscape by definition includes the non-human elements of place rocks, soil, trees, plants, rivers, animals, air as well as human perceptions and modifications (Garrard, 2014: 63).

In this case, ecocriticism specifically shows on how literature is connected to physical world, indicating how nature is affected by culture (from human) and vice versa. The important influence of literature on the conception of nature is made clear by Roderick Nash who argues that civilization created wilderness (Glotfelty, 1996: 13). In some cases of literary works, they are revealing human relationship

with nature, not only exposing conventional attitudes but also providing alternative models for conceptualizing nature and its relation to human society.

Furthermore, Lawrence Buell argues that “ecocriticism takes its energy not from a central methodological paradigm of inquiry but from a pure commitment to the urgency of rehabilitating that which has been effectively marginalized by mainstream societal assumptions” (Buell, 2005: 91). Thus, based on explanation from Buell, it can be said that the diversity of ecocritical practice stresses that such criticism should not focus just on trees and rivers that inhabit texts but also should focus on the nature inherent in humans and in settings in which humans’ figure prominently.

However, this research applied this approach to make it clear for every point. There are some points of this approach to analyze dystopia in *The Kill Order* novel. First is position of this approach, which each position will explain important points. The next is element of theory from Garrard where each element has characteristic to explain critical point.

2.3 Concepts of Ecocriticism

Ecocriticism derived from word “eco” that refers to “ecology” (branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings) and “criticism” that refers to the expression of disapproval of someone or something based on perceived faults or mistakes. In that case, ecocriticism is a study that investigates the correlations of nature (both animals and plants) with their physical habitats.

Here, the ecocriticism theory can be used to analyze the correlation between human and nature, it is highly possible that Garrard applied it to show how literary works basically representing the condition of nature (on earth) whether in the past, present days or even in the future.

Further, the concept of ecocriticism itself is focusing in analyzing the landscape as the dominant topic. Here, landscape includes the non-human elements of place, such; rocks, soil, trees, plants, rivers, animals, air as well as human perceptions and modifications (Garrard, 2014). Regarding to that, this research needs to examine the several actions present in *The Kill Order* and how they affect to nature. In other word, this research is focusing in the elements of text is related to the condition of nature in the story of the novel and how human live with nature.

Moreover, in the study of ecocriticism, there are some strategies, modes and concepts and why they are quite essential to ecocriticism text. In that case, Garrard (2014) mentioned that there are several concepts related to the ecocriticism which can be noticed as follow:

2.3.1 Pollution

Pollution is known as ecological problem because it tells a normative claim that refers to something excessive amount existing in the wrong place. Pollution is something that appears in massive amount in the wrong environment, for example air and water pollution which appear in the big city. Moreover, in order to look at the environmental problem, people need to study on cultural and scientific terms since environmental problems can be described as the outcome of the interaction between science and cultural inflection. The example can be seen from the literary

work of the trilogy of *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner. In the novel of *The Maze Runner*, after the survivors of the maze succeeded to get out, they just find out that the world that they know is not the same anymore. Air pollution make the atmosphere getting thinner day by day and when solar flare hit the surface of the earth, it gives a massive damage and huge impact. Thus, similarly just like the previous novel of James Dashner, the writer is able to use this concept in order to describe whether the concept of ecocriticism in the novel also showing pollution such as in the air, water or even sound.

2.3.2 Pastoral

Pastoral is defined as the nostalgia or the moment where people are more prefers to see history as better environment than the future. In that case, referring to the definition, it can be assumed that the condition of nature in the past is better than the future. Pastoral also shaped our construction of nature which means that nature is constructed based on humans' need. In that case, regarding to the dystopia, this concept of ecocriticism can be used by the writer in order to finds out whether there is a comparison of environment before or after the apocalypse or not. Further, Garrard (2014) classified pastoral into: Classical Pastoral, Romantic Pastoral and American Pastoral.

2.3.2.1 Classical Pastoral

Classical Pastoral heads the perception of the general crisis in human ecology during thousands of years and this perception also provides the set of literary conventions and cultural assumptions that transforms the way for Europeans and Euro-Americans to construct their landscapes. In other word, classical pastoral

becomes the first ideology when human get along with nature and take good care of it.

The characteristics of this pastoral commonly can be noticed when a society or group of community live along with nature, such planting rice and vegetables and they even raising animals such cows and lambs. As for the common example, the classical pastoral can be seen from the activities of those who live in village (villagers) who still traditionally using cattle for plowing. Further, related to the dystopia, the writer can use this concept to notice whether there is a condition where human did not take care of nature or not in the story of the novel itself.

2.3.2.2 Romantic Pastoral

Romantic pastoral deals with the works (poems) of Wordsworth and Clare. Wordsworth's poetry expressed how humans are able to work in nature and use it as part of their living, such farmers and shepherd. Meanwhile in Clare's poetry, he described that the modern environmentalist is actually destroying nature without even realizing it. In other word, it can be said that in the Wordsworth's era, humans still able to take care of nature by replanting and raise the livestock. However, during the Clare's era, humans start to grow more so that they consume more for whatever provided in nature. As the result, nature begun has eroded badly.

Therefore, regarding to the explanation, it can be said that romantic pastoral is the moment when two different of time (past and future) are described by those two poets where the relationship of human and nature are in the different situation. In addition, related to the dystopia, the writer can use this concept of ecocriticism in

order to see if there is any action that is related to nature destruction or reforestation during the story of the novel.

2.3.2.3 American Pastoral

American Pastoral explained by Garrard as the situation of American in old age where people or citizen of America lived harmony with nature and all of the description was oriented toward the revaluation of the non-fictional nature writing. Thus, American pastoral relates on the working rather than aesthetic relationship with the land. Since although people were lived harmony with nature, but societies has implemented land ownership.

As for the simple explanation, it can be seen from the example of Amish people who live around the US, Ontario and Canada who live by limiting themselves from modern technology such car and phone (smartphone). However, even though they live in harmony as if they are farmers, but they still apply land ownership. Thus, regarding to the dystopia, the thing that possibly happened in the story of the novel based on this concept of ecocriticism is when human becomes greedy to conquer every land and expanding it for their own benefit.

2.3.3 Wilderness

Wilderness is moving to the place that is uncontaminated by civilization. Garrard (2014) also mentioned that the area is out of civilization because there are lands that never been used commonly because it is very difficult for living being to live, whether because of an extremely cold or hot weather. The example can be seen from the land on the mountain. Since the land on the mountain can be very various,

some of them are able to be used to farm such tea leaves and some can be very hard to be used to farm because of the extreme weather.

Further, Garrard (2014) also explained that wilderness in ecocriticism are divided into two groups with different point of views, they are; old world and new world wilderness. In the Old World, wilderness displayed as a place beyond the borders of civilization and it considered as a threat place of exile. Meanwhile the New World wilderness assisting a place that is similar to a sanctuary.

2.3.4 Apocalypse

Garrard (2014) explains apocalypse from the different perspectives, such: religion, prophecy, natural disaster and other theories, but the most important point in this concept is the acceptance of apocalypse itself. In other word, the term apocalypse can be seen from many perspectives. In this case, the writer assumed that every person on the planet has their own perception of how the planet will meet it ends and it could be in the form of apocalypse as in natural disaster or even because of war (such world war). Moreover, apocalypse also described as the form of how nature finally expressing their rage to humans.

2.3.5 Dwelling

Dwelling is divided into two models, they are georgic and primitive (Garrard, 2014). Georgic relates on the relationship between the land and farming or productivity and it deals with the work, production and using the land to support human life, while primitive dwelling tells the good way of living or dwelling by American Indian which is known as “ecological Indian” (Garrard, 2014: 109).

Thus, it can be said that American Indians is the primitive people who successfully work harmoniously with nature.

2.3.6 The Earth

The concept of the earth is showing problems on earth, such as climate change, global warming, ozone layer and other environmental problems from various perspectives. Regarding to that, Garrard (2014: 162) explained that “globalization is the impact of the growth of population and also the overpopulation of human may lead to the idea of capitalism that leads to the destruction of the body of the earth.”