

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Earth is home to people, animals, plants, and all other living things because it is the only world with life. Because these things are linked to each other, they have a reciprocal relationship that is necessary for both of them to survive. The relationship between the ecosystems themselves needs to be protected as well as the connection between the places where people, animals, and plants live and grow. According to (Fithratullah, 2021) The human race has evolved into a formidable predator over the course of millions of years. People are the driving and dominant force in this world, and they play a key part in making sure that all living things get along and. Haeckel first described ecology in 1866 as the study of how living things interact with their surroundings. Ecology comes from the Greek words "*Oikos*," which means "home," and "*Logos*," which means "study" (Abbas & Saleem, 2022). This means that ecology is more than just learning how living things interact and are connected with each other. It also recognizes that people, animals, plants, and other living things all need to protect each other's habitats.

Ecological theory asserts that all beings, both human and non-human, living on Earth possess intrinsic value and an equal right to live and thrive. Ecological studies can be done on individuals, families, homes, and communities (Arman, 2021). Authors and the public created many literary works during globalization (Puspawarni & Amelia, 2023). Environmental issues can also exist in literary work, one can broadly define literature, some scholars define literature from different

approaches (Fithratullah, 2021). The analysis of literary works is accomplished by tracing the aspects that are contained within fiction, such as the characters and their characterisation, the story, the setting, and the topic or message (Kardiansyah, 2023). An example of approaching literature through the environment and nature is Ecocriticism. Ecocriticism is a branch of literary science that studies the relationship between humans, nature, and literature (Glotfelty, 1996). The issue focuses on harmony between living things and their place of residence is something that must be sustainable in order to create a livable life through literature. Therefore, the life expectancy of a colony of living things can be maintained and avoid extinction. However, not frequently humans as the holder of the highest throne in the chain of life, do environmental damage that can degrade the existing ecosystem. Therefore, we as living beings must maintain the ecology of life in order to create a common goal. In essence, environmental problems originate from humans themselves, how do they protect and preserve the environment wisely and not damage the natural surroundings. Then the ecological crisis that we are experiencing now will not happen.

The research serves as a compelling reason illustrating how literary studies can aid in addressing ecological problems by intertwining a sophisticated literary theory to analyze Earth's ecological issues, aiming to raise awareness among living beings, especially us humans. Ecological issues arise from the detrimental relationship forged between humans and other living beings, as well as the surrounding environment. It has been previously mentioned that humans hold a dominant position on Earth (Koski et al., 2015). Although ecological issues like environmental degradation and the extinction of animals and plants are tied to

specific time periods, the enduring mistreatment and disregard for ecological awareness by humans persist as the primary contributor to ecological problems, past and present, unless this matter is addressed comprehensively (Fedele et al., 2021). In cultivating ecological awareness, literary works play a pivotal role because through literary work we can get moral values in a lesson that has an impact on us, not only that for the surrounding environment as well, Literature is strong and morality is crucial (Mahendra & Amelia, 2020). The film *Dune* is viewed as a representation of environmental issues stemming from living organisms and their habitats.

Ed Skov's book on film studies talks about how experts use film studies to understand different issues that are shown in movies. These issues can be from sociology and psychology, like race, ethnicity, beliefs, and social class. In this research, the writer points out that *Dune* goes into more detail about a more complicated study of ecological awareness, looking at it from the point of view of ecocriticism, which can be seen as a repeating theme in the movie *Dune*.

This research will focus on the film *Dune*. This film is considered to represent an environmental problem caused by living things and their habitats. *Dune* is the work of a writer named Frank Herbert. The main plot of *Dune* is Paul Atreides' journey to the desert world Arrakis, also known as *Dune*. The story tells of the struggle of an indigenous group called the Fremen to protect their homeland from the exploitation of nature by The Padishah Emperor led by Emperor Shadam. This colony is a group of colonists who want to explore and control Melange or the spice, a very valuable natural resource from the planet Arrakis which has great benefits in

medicine and prolongs life. Melange is also used as a base material for short intergalactic travel.

Arrakis natives protect and grow melange and spice. In a barren desert, they are their only food and spirituality. The Fremen tribe works hard to preserve and enjoy its natural resources for everyone. A big sandworm helps Melange and Spice succeed in the story. Indigenous people, Sandworms, Melange, and Spice are linked in the film. To maintain an ecological, this relationship must be seen. If any of these things pollute the environment, people will die. The House of Atreides, commanded by Duke Leto Atreides, fought Shadam IV's violent exploitation of Arrakis. This led Paul Atreides, son of Duke Leto, to rebel against Shadam's anarchist and totalitarian rule. Paul, who can see the future, wants to defend Arrakis and the Fremen, an indigenous people. In my opinion, this film shows a plot, illustrating nobles' fight in the modern world. The character Shadam embodies power and greed in this tale, which depicts mass natural resource exploitation that destroys the ecosystem.

Investigating the *Dune* movie from an eco-criticism point of view is one of the ways to promote safe and quiet environment and stop an ecological crisis in the literature study. The utilization of ecocriticism theory to construct an eco-critical perspective inside literary works that emphasize the significance of ecological awareness represents a significant advancement. This subject also contributes significantly to the field of literary studies as it necessitates comprehensive deliberations from an ecocriticism perspective, which entails a heightened consciousness of the environment. Furthermore, this will foster increased discourse surrounding literary

subjects and act as a source of motivation for aspiring writers and academics. This is another reason why this research should go on. In-depth, Frank Herbert had written books like *The Dragon in the Sea* (1956) and *The Green Brain* (1966) that were about the same subject as *Dune*. Then, this thesis should help people understand how environmental problems become important in the future. The real purpose of this research is to make people more aware of how important it is to protect the balance between living things and the world so that everyone benefits by raising ecological Awareness. If people do not use natural resources in huge amounts, like in *Dune*, the environment will get worse because people are using too many natural resources.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

After providing an overview of the various reasons and theories in the previous section, the following are the problems identified in this research:

How is ecological awareness delineated in *Dune* by Frank Herbert (1984) as ecocriticism studies?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

This research is to portray ecological awareness as depicted in Frank Herbert's film *Dune* 1984. Ecological awareness can be seen and represented from the setting of place, time setting, characterization of the antagonist and protagonist, and also how the theory of ecocriticism plays a role in this research to emphasize ecological awareness.

## **1.4 Use of the Study**

This research provides the writer with optimism that the discussion will continue so everyone can grasp the writer's goals. This research can help the study about how ecocriticism theory is employed in literature to promote ecological awareness in the film *Dune*. This research uses theoretical and practical methodologies to examine literary ecological issues.

### **1.4.1 Theoretical Use**

In theory, the main point of this talk is to look into how ecocriticism might have a big impact on people's lives, which will lead to a thorough analysis. This research also details the link between how people act and how their ecological awareness grows toward the natural world. The writer mixes the ideas of literary experts and scientists to make a framework that everyone can understand and relate to. The study goes beyond the usual ways of protecting and appreciating nature; it also looks into the psychological side of things, suggesting that all living things are deeply connected in a way that goes beyond just recognizing and appreciating nature.

### **1.4.2 Practical Use**

This research said that as people, we need to take care of our planet and lessen the effects of the environmental damage that is happening right now. Make sure that everyone in the world knows about our problem. People hope that this research will also look into where we learn about nature on Earth and how our actions affect it as the living thing that rules this planet. This research is not only an academic one it also marks a major turning point in how literary works are seen as important sources

for learning about and studying ecological awareness. This research hopes to make a big difference in making people more aware of the need to protect and respect the environment through literature by giving us more information about ecocriticism. As a result, more people will be able to talk about this, and real steps will be taken to protect natural areas.

### **1.5 Scope of Study**

Ecocriticism perspective is a broader discussion therefore the writer likes to limit the discussions in this research so the writer focus on ecological awareness which are relationships between man to nature, especially in this case how people interact with sandworms and how people interact with the natural desert landscape in film *Dune*, and three key factors are needed to form ecological awareness: the system of knowledge, values, and rules of action. The study also looks at ecological awareness in depth using an ecocriticism lens, which is a view that is being discussed more in literature analyses. This research uses William Rueckert's ideas from "*Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*" and Cheryll Burgess Glotfelty's ideas from "*The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*" (Westling, 2012).