

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents five sub-chapters that are background of the study, research questions, research objectives, scope and limitation of the study and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The damage of nature and ecosystems cannot be separated from human intervention. Marx and Engels (1975:198) argue that humans can never break away from the environment, and even when he controls nature, he is merely using nature's laws for his ends. Therefore, the environment has a positive impact on the overall development of human society (Bachtiar, 2019: 4). Exploiting the earth is endless, causing damage and instability to the ecosystem. Our world today faces serious environmental problems such as: the destruction of the ozone, toxic waste, air pollution, the destruction of animal and plant species, and more (Latumeten, 2017:1). Animal abuse is one of the cruelest acts committed by humans throughout history. Humans continuously use land, living creatures around it, and natural resources without paying attention to the consequences that can occur. However, certain people forgo these rights and torture animals for personal as well as organizational gain. Singer drew on arguments by Utilitarian philosopher Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), who claimed that cruelty to animals was analogous to slavery (Garrard, 2004: 136). This act cannot be tolerated, as they do this act only for their own satisfaction without any thought for the welfare of the animal.

Animal rights refers to all issues concerning the physical and mental health of animals in accordance with their natural behavior, which must be implemented and enforced in order to protect animals from any person's inappropriate treatment of animals used by humans. The use of animals as objects of attraction is not only exploitation, but also an act of animal abuse, as it pushes animals beyond their biological and physiological capabilities without regard for the animals' rights. Singer drew on arguments by Utilitarian philosopher Jeremy

Bentham (1748-1832), who claimed that cruelty to animals was analogous to slavery and that the ability to feel pain, rather than the power of reason, entitled a being to moral consideration (Garrard, 2004: 136). As a result, damage to nature and the ecosystem has become a usual phenomenon in the world today. Therefore, the ecological crisis is not only placed in the field of science and physical ecosystems but it is interpreted in the context of life as a whole because it also involves complex and comprehensive problems.

As we can see these days, green campaigns have been held on a regular basis in an effort to save the nature that is no longer so green. People have attempted to raise public awareness about the importance of caring for our Mother Earth by utilizing the power of the media, such as the internet. Various actions are being launched to raise public awareness. Another way to contribute to these efforts is through literature. The existence of the relationship between nature and literary works raises an ecological concept in literature among literary critics. The term ecocriticism is used as a term regarding the concept of literary criticism related to nature and the environmental issue. Cheryll Glotfelty, one of the prominent critics of ecocriticism, states that ecocriticism theory is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. The term ecocriticism was possibly first coined in 1978 by William Rueckert in his essay entitled *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism* (Glotfelty & Fromm, 1996). The environment has already had an increasing academic movement by the early 1990s in America. They focused on the critical field that has been known previously as the study of nature writing. Ecocriticism is the study of culture and cultural products that have a connection between humans to the environment. It means that ecocriticism study takes an earth-centered approach to literary studies. Therefore, ecocriticism study is used to evaluate the coherence and usefulness of text as responses to nature and environmental crises. The nature and environmental crisis are not only revealed or shown in literary works for adults but also in children's literature.

Literature has played a role in raising people's awareness of the earth's current environmental problems. By incorporating environmental awareness into

their work, writers can use literature to encourage people to save the environment (Latumeten, 2017: 2). The experience in the story provided by literature will provide the readers with a better understanding of such experience and attempt to absorb it in their minds, which will eventually change their way of thinking. Without a doubt, the story contained in literature has a powerful impact on the readers. As states by Green and Brock (in Gottschall, 2012: 1), the more readers absorb the story's values, the more the story changes them. With the increase of the destructions in nature, literary critics have felt compelled to reflect on and avoid the greater danger that may be posed by reference to the nature presented in literary texts. Nature has long been part of the representation of many literary works. The relationship between literary works and nature is used by literary critics to voice problems and solve crises of the natural environment around them because many literary works use the natural environment in the storytelling. They make an effort to give the green earth to children who will live on earth in the future.

All efforts may result in positive effects on the earth's sustainability, but it is debatable whether teaching children about nature is more effective. As stated by Parker (2012: 1), "Children can become an important ally in our overall efforts to enhance the environment and our children's awareness of these issues is critical in this cause". Medress (2008:5) adds that teaching children, who have open minds and routines, is easier than teaching adults, who have fixed habits and philosophies. Thus, educating children about nature from a young age is critical to developing a strong ability to care for the environment in which they will live as adults. There are numerous ways to raise the children's awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship. Children literature is a simple way to accomplish this.

One of the children's literature authors is Katherine Applegate. Through her novel that is *The One and Only Ivan*, Katherine Applegate presents animal exploitation. *The One and Only Ivan* is a fictionalized story based on a real-life silver-back gorilla named Ivan that was caged and displayed at a mall circus for 27 years. Thus, the writer uses the novel as the source of data. Furthermore, the

novel was published in HarperCollins Publisher became Newbery Award Winning and #1 *New York Times* bestselling.

Katherine Applegate is an American children's author. Her novels often discuss the relationship between humans and other creatures. How families, friendships, humans, and animals relate to each other. Her novel *The One and Only Ivan* were published in 2012. Ivan's story is based on the genuine story of twin apes who were caught in Africa and transported to the United States. His sister died en route to the United States, and the real Ivan lived alone in a cage until 1994 when he was relocated to Zoo Atlanta. The story is told with a gentle sense of humor and pulsates with kindness, friendship, and compassion. The concept of animal abuse and unnatural habitats, on the other hand, is never far from view, and as a result, there is an underlying somber tone, and the story is simply sad in some places.

This study uses the ecocriticism theory by Cheryll Glotfelty. As in Glotfelty's book entitled *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*, William Howarts claims that eco and critic both stem from Greek, Oikos and kritos, and together they mean "house judge". So the Oikos is nature, which Edward Hoagland refers to as "our widest home", while the kritos is an arbiter of taste who wants the house to be kept in good order, with no boots or dishes thrown about to detract from the original decor (Glotfelty & Fromm, 1996: 69). Ecocriticism theory is used to evaluate the coherence and usefulness of texts and ideas as responses to nature and environmental issues. Since *The One and Only Ivan* novel is about animal exploitation, this theory is used to analyze the novel.

The writer found five previous studies that used ecocriticism theory. The first is a thesis entitled *The Impact of Anthropocentrism on the Environment in Colin Thiele's February Dragon* by Nurul Hikmah in 2021. The second is thesis entitled *The Destruction of Natural Resources in The Secret Wisdom of The Earth Novel by Christopher Scotton: An Ecocritical Analysis* by Eva Salmani Putri Salsabila in 2021. The third is a journal article entitled *Recognition of Diversity in The One and Only Ivan from Literature-Based Language Lessons* by Hyunhee Song in 2015. The fourth is a journal article entitled *Man versus Wild: Illusion of*

Nature-Culture Dichotomy in Sean Penn's Into the Wild (2007) Film by Ajeng Dini Harsoyo Putri and Gesang Manggala Nugraha Putra. The fifth is a journal article entitled *Exploitation of Human, Animal, and Bird: An Ecocritical Study of the Glass Palace and Sea of Poppies* by Sunil Uttam Sulfawange and S. I. Noorani in 2020. Referring to those previous studies, there is no study using novel *The One and Only Ivan* which is analyzed using ecocriticism theory. Thus, the writer analyze the novel that was written by Katherine Applegate using the theory of ecocriticism to identify the animal exploitation represented in the novel.

1.2 Research Questions

The focus of this study is the animal exploitation in Katherine Applegate's *The One and Only Ivan*. The writer formulates the focus of this study into the questions below:

1. What are the impacts of animal exploitation to the characters in *The One and Only Ivan* novel?
2. Why are the animal exploited in *The One and Only Ivan* novel?
3. How are the animal rights regained in *The One and Only Ivan* novel?

1.3 Research Objectives

This study conducted to find out:

1. The impacts of animal exploitation to the characters in *The One and Only Ivan* novel.
2. Causes of animals being exploited in *The One and Only Ivan* novel.
3. The way animal regained their rights in *The One and Only Ivan* novel.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

In this study, the writer discusses animal exploitation, the impact on the main character, and the struggle of humans to regain the animal rights in *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. The scope of this study is the applying of the ecocriticism theory proposed by Cheryll Glotfelty to analyze the novel. In addition, the analysis limited to the words which describe the representation of

animal exploitation, the impact on the main character, and the struggle of humans to return the animal rights in *The One and Only Ivan*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

There are two points of significance of this study that are theoretical and practical. The theoretical significance is that the finding of this study supports the existing theory and is expected to give information about ecocriticism theory. This study is expected to reveal the animal exploitation in Katherine Applegate's *The One and Only Ivan* novel if her words are analyzed with ecocriticism theory. Meanwhile, the practical significance is that the finding of this study will practically be a significant struggle in promoting environmental awareness. The writer also hopes this finding can be a reference for the next researchers. It is also expected that the results of this study will offer opinions for people to keep living creatures around us and our environment.