

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some subchapter such as the background of the study, research question, research objective, research significant, scope and limitation of the study. In this chapter, the researcher will describe the study generally.

1.1 Background

When we discuss about society, it comes to our mind that society could not stand alone without nature. For example, on any given days all labor must pass factories, machine shops, mines, on railroad tracks, in forests and fields, by land and sea. Society would not be able to sustain itself for one week, for even live with the existing preparation, it must be transported, moved and discussed (Bukharin, 2013:137). Society, according to Bukharin, adapt itself with nature by taking energy from nature in order to develop, only by doing so could society achieve its growth. Human society is the product of nature itself. Nature has given human so much chance to adjust themselves so that they could adapt well by maximizing what nature gave them. For instance, men cultivate land, plant rice, rye, wheat; they breed animal; they raise cotton, hemp and flax; they cut down trees, break stone in quarries; thus, satisfying their demands for food, clothing, and shelter. However, human often starts

being greedy and take whatever benefits them and leave The Earth and their surrounding dying slowly.

Therefore, as The Earth getting older, concern towards environment are getting higher. Starting in 1860s, Rachel Carson (1962:296), a scientist and a writer, start to emerge the idea of environmental movement. The environmental movement begin as the result of Rachel Carson's groundbreaking book *Silent Spring* publication. Rachel Carson, David Brower, along with Paul R. Ehrlich's works were also considered as a foundational to deep ecology movement. Deep ecology is an ecological and environmental philosophy that promotes a deep attention into actual reality of humanity's relationship with natural world. (Smith, 2014:141). The movement belief that the living environment as a whole should be respected as having a legal rights to live and flourish, independent from its beneficial use for human.

Ecocriticism based on Lawrence Buell (2005:3) is divided into 2 waves. The first wave, which rooted in deep ecology, see nature and human against one another. The first wave of ecocriticism begin in 1980; the first wave is more likely to romanticize and make a fetish of nature and the wilderness. This, later, resulted in the notion of "Second Wave Ecocriticism" which concerns more on how nature and human are interdependent with each other. Everything on earth depends on everything else on nature. Human, for instance, are living interconnected with other forms of life in aims to receive and process life sustaining energy. Instead of romanticize wilderness as did many of predecessors do in the first wave of ecocritic, the second wave have real

cultural and political relevance as it is directed to help human understand the emergence of their present environmental crisis.

To ecocritically read a text means to find a specific role the environment, the nature takes in the text. By doing so, we could find and offer the appropriate solution for the problem that humanity face which deals with the nature.

“Limited to having either non-human nature itself as a subject, character, or major component of the setting, or to a text that says something about human-nonhuman interaction, human philosophies about nature, or the possibility of engaging nature by means of or in spite of human culture.” (Murphy, 2000:5)

The Lord of the rings, in this case, if we look back at the definition of environmental writing by Patrick D. Murphy above, is basically not a writing or book about nature nor it is concern with nature because it is a bit unsuitable to be considered as a traditional writing of nature. The story, *The lord of the rings* itself tells more about a journey of four Halflings. Frodo Baggins (The ring-bearer, also the main protagonist of this story), Samwise Gamgee (A hobbit who serves Frodo, traveling with his master on his quest to return the ring to Mordor), Peregrin Took & Meriadoc Brandybuck (both of them are Hobbits, who is cut off from the rest of the Fellowship during a battle with Orcs), a Wizard (Gandalf the White, an enormously powerful wizard aids the Hobbits in their quest to destroy the ring), an Elf (Legolas, the only Elf in the Fellowship. Possessed of superhuman eyesight.), A ranger (Aragorn, a human warrior, the heir of Isildur), and a Dwarf (Gimli, a fierce Dwarf hero, expert in wielding his axe against Orcs.) to destroy the ring of Saruman. Having survived their journey in Mines of Moria without Gandalf and Boromir, the Fellowship continue their quest in separate way.

Frodo and Sam are going to Mordor through the pathless hills of Eryn Mui; Merry and Pippin are captured by a band of orcs; Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli decide to rescue Merry and Pippin, they pursue the orcs by running across the fields of Rohan towards Saruman's fortress at Isengard.

While figuring out Ecocriticism theory in *the Lord of The Rings: Two Tower*, there are also other studies that use Ecocriticism to examine a literary work related to this study:

The first one conducted by Ivan Gauzi Taufiq from Brawijaya University (2014) entitled "*Forest Exploitation As Represented In The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers movie.*" The writer uses ecocriticism to explain forest exploitation problem which is done by Saruman in the movie. The second one is from Janou Petit from Utrecht University (2012) under the title "*Deep Ecology and Stewardship in J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth.*" This thesis described a stewardship and use deep ecology to analyze the setting—Middle-earth in J.R.R Tolkien's novel. Third one is titled "*Far Over the Misty Mountains cold:an Ecocritical Reading of J.R.R Tolkien's the Hobbit.*"The study belongs to Benjamin Maxwell Garner from Bucknell University (2015). The writer uses an ecocritical reading of J.R.R Tolkien's *The Hobbit* by analyzing human philosophies about nature, or the possibility of engaging nature by means of or in spite of human culture hoping that readers would be able to understand its literary significance. The last is Amiril Bachtiar from UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya (2019) titled "*An Ecocritical Analysis of Nature Condition and Environmental Stewardship in J.R.R Tolkien's The Hobbit.*" The writer uses Ecocriticism to explain

nature condition of Middle-Earth and to describe an environmental stewardship by characters in *The Hobbit*.

Though all of the studies above use a similar theory, none of those studied focused on using Ecocriticism theory to explain about how nature takes part in helping the character's surviving their journey as well as the relationship between nature and human. Although there is one previous study that use similar source of data, it is in a form of movie, not literary work; that study focuses more on forest exploitation than a relationship between the nature and human in the novel. That is also the reason why the writer use ecocriticism theory and focus on explaining the role of nature in the journey and the relationship of nature and human in *The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers*.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background stated before, the problem of this study raises the following questions:

1. How does nature take role in helping the character surviving the journey in *The Lord of The Rings* Novel?
2. How is the nature and human relationship in *The Lord of The Rings* Novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems stated before, the objective of this study are formulated as follows:

1. To describe the role nature takes in helping character surviving the journey in the novel.

2. To outline the nature and human relationship in *The Lord of The Rings* Novel.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Not only this study made to contribute to ones who study in literature and interested on the environmental perspective present in Tolkien's writing and to expand upon it, this study are also expected to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoritically, this study aims to give an understanding and detailed information on Ecocriticism theory.

Practically, this study is expected to broaden other scholar's knowledge about Ecology and to illustrate how ecocriticism theory is applied into analyzing text. To society, the author wish that this study may give readers a new understanding of ecology and the important role of nature in human life, as well as how ecocriticism takes part in raising the awareness of people through literary work.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study would discuss ecology issues by using ecocriticism theory which represented through the story in *The Lord Of The Rings* novel. The analysis of this study would be limited on discussing the role nature takes in helping the character surviving their journey as well as how is nature and human relationship depicted in the story.