

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This part presents some subchapters. The first is background of the study, the second is the research problems, the third is objectives of the study, and the fourth is the significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study is the last part.

1.1 Background of The Study

Environment becomes the important part of human life. Kachhap (p.63) stated that in the case of survival, human do various things to support their life .There are several problems occurring in society caused by human themselves. Recently, there are many disasters because people are lack of awarness in keeping natural resources for their grandchildren. The phenomena occur because people just indulge as a hope that natural resources will give them much money and wealth point. As a result, the damage of nature has become usual phenomena in the world today. There are many exploitation done by some capitalist or people in power such as a big company. This kind of phenomena has gained attention because of social problem on natural destruction increased by the technology development. Therefore, it gives chance to criticize human's bad behaviour of environment through literary works.

A novel as one of the genre of literary works, can be taken as example to show the role of literature in environment. Wellek and Warren (1956: 3) stated the literature reflect and expresses ambiguous life. It means that the literature was born from the events that happen in the society. Even there are a lot of definition of literatures, people can assume by themselves about the definition of literature. Literature sometimes related to the environment and it well portrayed through ecocriticism. Cheryll Glotfelty (1996,xix) said that ecocriticism can be further characterized by distinguishing it from crucial vantage point of ecocriticism.The critical approaches that literary theory, in general, examines the relationship among writers, texts, and the world.

Cheryll Glotfelty (1996,xviii) define ecocriticism as the study of the relationship between literature and physical environment. All ecological criticism shares the essential promise that human culture is attached to the physical world, affecting it and affected by it. There are many disaster in environment. Because of that condition, people try to save their environment. There are many effort that people do to save their environment, one of them is through literary works. One of books that touches in environmental issues is *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth* by Christopher Scotton. The novel is one of effort in saving our environment by describes the impact of some exploitation that caused damage of environment. It is portrayed how human exploit the natural resources especially coal mining for their survival.

There are three reasons why the writer chose this novel to be analyzed. First, *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth* is one of a new great novel that portrays environment issues include what we are doing to our environment. Second, the story provides environmental problems that often occurs in surrounding environment and provides examples of struggles in life to respect nature and protect the natural resources in nature. Third, *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth* story shows a beauty and richness of culture to maintain our natural resources as our legacy for our grandchildren in the future. So, the novel contains messages about environmental issues that occurs in the society today that well portrayed through the story.

The story set in 1980 of a small coal mining town in Kentucky. It tells about 14 years old boy named Kevin who is very trauma because his younger brother was died in accident caused by him. His mother was stressed and both of them sent to Kentucky (his grandfather's house) by his father. In Kentucky, he has many experiences dealing with the nature. He becomes the assistant of his grandfather's as veterinarian. Then he met with Bussy Fink that educate him about the mystery and the beauty of wilderness.

They experienced the wilderness, against the murder of the company of coal mining. He has an important role in Kentucky until he can survive the mountain top of coal mining and against the exploitation of the company. After his grandfather died and his parent was divorce. He stayed in Kentucky with his mother and keep coal mining from the exploitation of the company. He keep the natural resources from outside threat.

The writer finds some previous studies discussing the same interest about ecocriticism. One of the previous study discusses same source of data which is *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth* by Sarah Mawinney (2019). The thesis analyzes about the fight of people of the Appalachian Mountaintop Removal in three Contemporary Young Adult Novels. The same issue has been analyzed by Widodo Sungkono, Ikwan Setiawan, L Dyah Purwita SWW (2015) dealing with environmental issues portrayed in C.S Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle, 1956* using the theory of ecocriticism by Greg Garrad. The article explores same issue about environmental damage caused by exploitation. An ecocritical analysis also has been discussed by Rohmah Romadhon (2011 and by Diya Sri Widayanti (2015. Both studies use film as sources of data using ecocriticism on the various relationship of nature among the characters in the film.

This study has the differences with the previous studies which have been mentioned above. Although this study uses the same source of data with Sarah Mawinney (2019), but it has another focus in analyzing the data. Besides that, although using the same theory, the sources of data used in this study are different with the study by Widodo Sungkono, Ikwan Setiawan, L Dyah Purwita SWW (2015). The writer will analyze the effort of local people in keeping their natural resources using ecocriticism by Cheryll Glotfelty's Concept.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study related to the novel *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth* by Christopher Scotton. There are two questions which are offered:

1. What natural resources are destructed in *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth* Novel?
2. How do local people strive to preserve their natural resources in *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth*?

1.3 Research Objectives

Regarding the research questions above, The objectives of study are intended to reveal:

1. The natural resources destruction in *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth* Novel
2. The struggle of local people in preserving natural resources in *The Secret Wisdom of The Earth* novel

1.4 Significance of Study

There are two points of significance of the study. Theoritically, this study is expected to give information about ecocriticism study in Cheryl Glotfelty's concept, this study is expected to give a better understanding of the damage of environment that caused by human. Practically this study is expected as one of ways in which human can act and fight for the world they lived in respectful way. The benefit is for people and next generation to keep our environment from company who exploit natural resources to fulfill their needs excessively and wealth point. This study also expected to give benefit for the reader understanding to change their bad attitudes of exploitation through the nature, to save the environment for their generations. Although, it is not easy to carry out. Therefore, through this study, we start to save our environment from individual awareness, human should change their own way of life and thinking.

1.5 Scope and Limitation.

This research is focused on the ecocriticism theory of destruction of natural resources in the *Secret Wisdom of the Earth* novel. It observes about how people always sacrifice the environment for their needs in their life. It analyses about the relationship between human and natural resources. This study also analyses about the struggle of local people in preserving natural resources especially coal mining from the exploitation of company that caused the destruction of human. This study is limited to analyze the data which show the destruction of natural resources and how local people make effort to retrieve the natural resources. This study has some weaknesses. It is difficult to search the specific topic about ecocriticism that focus on destruction aspect. In the successive study, hopefully it will explore more about the destruction aspect of the natural resources using ecocriticism study proposed by Cheryll Glotfelty.