

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides five prominent sub chapters, namely background of the study, statements of research problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, and limitation of the study. All of the chapters are important to be discussed as the introduction of the study. The following are description of the sub chapters.

1.1 Background of the Study

The creations era was the popular narration within many holy texts around the world. Most of people believe that human are the second creatures that have been created by god, then plants, animals are become the first one. The life of plant and animal are later determined by the ability of human to manage those things. The sustainability and maintenance always work as the level of group discussion but too hard to be real even when it approaching modern era.

From group discussion into serious research project, environmental matters always spotted in the headline. Why it is important to put a huge attention toward environment sustainability, the answer relayed on how long human could live without plants and animals. Our life fully depends on the existence of biotic element in nature. From smallest part until the complex one, our life relay on those things. The sustainability always becomes the crucial issues since decade, people has been mastering on setting the mechanisms and theory but hard to apply it. As stated below, *Human life is dependent upon the natural environment, which, most would agree, is rapidly degrading and closely to trigger bigger effect* (Melville, 2010, p. 1)

The notions above has widely uphold by many of conservative community. Dealing with capitalism, in some cases business researchers has studied the topic of environmental

sustainability for decades. *Operations researchers have examined the adoption of environmental quality standards, lean production and environmental performance and sustainable supply chains* (Melville, 2010, p. 3).

Moreover, other crucial aspect related to the life of human being is that human unconsciously destroying the nature by doing simple things around them such as using too much plastic product, throwing rubbish everywhere and consuming too much paper based product. This sad fact continuously happened until the nature fight back by giving a horrible disaster and unforgettable moment toward human life. The effect of environment destruction not only something that we could feel it now but something that our grandson that could feel it.

Few decades ago, environmentalist has argues that the spread of environmental awareness could be set through various form and one of the unique form is through literature. The concern about environment has leaded those who love nature into new idea about spreading the awareness of save back nature. Today, many new authors create a new world on a story which telling about nature destruction in a novel.

Within many of literature genre, the issues about nature or environment are adopted to strengthen the main story. Dystopian genre, fiction and many more are employee nature or environment issue into the next level. Further, literature is concerned with social life and circumstance. Thus, the depiction of social life can be seen from literary work itself. As Wellek and Warren (1949:9) states that literature is regarded as the expression or representation of human life through the medium of social creation of language so, the literary work itself is a representation of human action and life through language.

Within literature, critics become the crucial part to ensure the sustainability of the literary work. Several of critics has addressed into lot of aspect, such feminist, Marxist, capitalist and many more. One of critic branches is the eco-criticism, which concern on the environmental matters. One of the well-known theorist proposed theory and classification about eco-criticism, name is Greg Garrard. Garrard poses the concept of the relationship between literature and physical environment.

Ecocriticism concerns in the nature and culture. The word “culture” is expressing the traditionally controlled to the human-created phenomena. Moreover, Ecocriticism has different typified from other critical theory approaches. Usually, the literary theory just analyses the relations between the authors, the literary works, and the surrounding. Most of the literary theory translating the word “surrounding” is just a society.

However, in the Ecocriticism perspectives the term “surrounding” might means the entire world, included the nature and the place of human-animal live at, as stated by Greg Gerrard below; *An Ecocritical thinking in the analyzing of the literary text might disclosed, for instance, anthropocentrism or separation from the natural world, especially the binary opposition of the culture against environment as a serious challenge dualist hierarchy* (Garrard, 2004, p. 3).

In the other sides, novel that summoned to be the source of data within this analysis has magnificently depicted the environmental matters. The matters or issues are triggers by the appearance of chemical disaster. The disaster has leaded a nuclear family into thrilling journey to seek for betterment. The novel serves historical background which portrait the life in twenty century. The issues of ecology which happened within the novel are fact that continuously happened until now.

The novel is chosen as the sources of data under several considerations. First, the novel depicts the current issues about environment problem caused by human behavior. The environmental problem has leaded some disaster to appear and destroyed everything. Second, the novel has received several award regarding the way of the author serve the story and shaped the plot such as Golden Spur Children's Literature Award in 2010. The award was given because of the issues of ecology that highly depicted within the novel.

Furthermore, ecology deals with the study of organism in their natural home interacting with their surroundings. Simply put that ecology is about the surroundings or environment. The environment consists of other living organism and physical elements. In dystopian literatures, ecology in literature is the interconnection across the historical, political, human, technological and natural that is created from those interconnections. Ecology in this study is analyzed using Garrard's concept in ecocritism. To analyze the ecology in recent literatures ecocritically, the writer uses some dominant tropes namely eco-Marxism, pastoral, wilderness, and apocalypse.

1.2 Research Questions

Regarding the focus of the study, the main questions will be composed as follows:

1. How is the portrait of ecology using Garrard's Ecocritism concept, represented in the novel?
2. How is Environmental Issue influence the life of main character?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to answer the question stated in the statement of the problem. That is correlated with the ecological issues, especially comparing the representation of the environment in urban and rural area in a young adult dystopian novel. Here is the following objective of the study:

1. To describe the representation of ecology using Garrard's Ecocriticism concept, such as, eco-Marxism, pastoral, wilderness, and apocalypse represented in the novel.
2. To explain how Environmental matters influence the life of main character.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is supposed to deliver the theoretical and practical values. Theoretically, the result of this study will contribute to the structural concept of human that the future of the nature depends on the culture and the value of society especially how close the relationship of human with the nature in a text. Beside practically, the main point of this analysis is to make the readers having a consciousness that the nature need to be kept by the human. Then, this research practically will capable of being further inspiring reference and be applied in analyzing a literary work.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This novel has many things that are needed to be discussed by using an Ecocriticism theory. The focus of this analysis is the ecological issues which illustrate in Andrea White's *Radiant Girl* using the Garrard's Theory of Ecocriticism.

The writer also examines how the portrayal of interaction between young adult protagonist and the ecology in Andrea White's *Radiant Girl* is. That is becoming the significant point to

describe the representation of ecology. Therefore, the limitation of this study is about the representation of ecology described in eco-Marxism, pastoral, wilderness, and apocalyptic in Andrea White's *Radiant Girl*.