

Ecological Crisis in *Into The Forest* by Jean Hegland

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the relationship between human being and nature in *Into the Forest* by Jean Hegland. This study uses ecocriticism theory to analyzes the phenomenon of ecological crisis. Ecocriticism is a theory about human being and nature. Nature and human being are related to each other. It is impossible to separate them. When human being exploits nature, it creates a horrible condition for human being and nature. This thesis analyzes the problems, which are: (1) How is nature portrayed, (2) How is the impacts of the devastation of the earth to the human being, and (3) How do the main characters act towards ecological crisis. The result of this study shows that ecological crisis occurs because of the human being. Human wants to fulfill their additional needs, such as war. The main factor of ecological crisis is human desire. It makes famine, disease, barren field, hostility, and death.

Keywords: *Ecocriticism, Human, Nature, Disaster*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisis hubungan antara manusia dan alam di *Into the Forest* karya Jean Hegland. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori ecocriticism untuk menganalisis fenomena krisis ekologi. Ecocriticism adalah teori tentang manusia dan alam. Alam dan manusia saling terkait satu sama lain dan tidak mungkin dipisahkan. Ketika manusia mengeksploitasi alam akan menciptakan kondisi yang mengerikan bagi manusia dan alam. Penelitian ini menganalisis masalah, yaitu: (1) Bagaimana keadaan alam digambarkan, (2) Bagaimana dampak dari kehancuran bumi terhadap manusia, dan (3) Bagaimana karakter utama bertindak terhadap krisis ekologi. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa krisis ekologi terjadi karena manusia. Manusia ingin memenuhi kebutuhan lain, seperti perang. Faktor utama krisis ekologi adalah keinginan manusia. Hal ini menimbulkan kelaparan, penyakit, ladang tandus, permusuhan, dan kematian.

Kata kunci: *Ecocriticism, Manusia, Alam, Bencana*

1. Introduction

Nature and human being are connected to each other that it is impossible to separate them. Mankind are cutting down the forest to take woods and create a new area for farming or housing. The dangerous activities disturb the ecology and make. Human beings always have many activities by using natural resources, such as cooking and turning on electronic devices. To fulfill their additional needs, human beings exploit the abundances of natural resources. They always find and consume large quantities of natural resources. Many problems, such as devastation between animals and plants. This condition establishes the imbalance of ecology. If human beings population in the earth does not take instantaneous and forceful planned action to restrain the spoilation and the pollution that are being produced upon the regions of the surface and atmosphere of the earth by human desire, it will create those dangerous result within calculable period because living being is powerful enough to affect events throughout the biosphere (Love, 1990, pp. 225).

When the area in which species live on population changes in another way that disturbed with their condition of surviving, this condition emerges as ecological crisis (Kachhap, 2016, pp. 63). Desire is the main factor that is responsible for the ecological crisis. Many industries around the world established by human being. Humans build housing and industries by cutting down forests. Devastating mountains in order to build an island is also their desire. They are careless and ignorant with their activities of non-human nature. There are many extinct animals. Not only animal species, plants are also in critical condition because they lose their habitat. This condition affects the food chain and if it still happens, animals and plants will disappear from the world. Moreover, they consciously realized the effect of their activities in nature, but they want to fulfill their desire to explore, exploit, and invent the nature.

The main characters in Hegland's novel show the great message of ecocritical study. It portrays two young girls about ecology crisis. They must find their food and preserve it. Eva and Nell preserve the seed to plant it again. Nature is destroyed by mankind, and human being is hungry and afraid of this condition. This phenomenon is the ordinary object of the ecocriticism study. Hegland uses these main characters to show the resistance of ecological crisis.

Dr. Rabia Mukhtar (2017), Jelica Tosic (2006), Neema Bagula Jimmy (2015), Dr. K. Krishnasamy, Lawrence Buell; Ursula K. Heisen; Karen Thornber (2011), and Scott Slovic (2015) are some studies which discuss literature with ecocriticism study. According to them, the whole earth is an arrangement surrounding and a structured environment because nature is no more enormous range of unexplored, impossible to control non human activities or difficult to manage (Mukhtar, 2017, pp. 315). Living on a wise of collaborative, or symbiotic, connection between the non human environment is not human being style because they think that their comfortable and successful needs to manipulate and dominate nature (Slovic, 2015, pp. 1).

In studying ecocriticism in *Into the Forest* by Jean Hegland, there four steps. The first step is collecting the data. *Into the Forest* becomes the object of this study. It needs more than once to read the book in order to understand the whole content. The next step is selecting the data which getting the data through the quotations related to research questions and objectives of the study. The third step is analyzing the data by using theories from journals and books. Analyzing the portrayed of nature, the impact of ecological crisis to human being, and the act of main characters towards ecological crisis in literary work. The last step is concluding these analyzation.

Doing ecocriticism is as the same as that of other post-structuralism studies. Getting paid more attention on the binary oppositions in the novel which show the contradiction among the poles. Each pole will hold its own nature to resist againsts the other's ideas. In this case, the poles are nature and human being. They are put in the different side of opposition. The next step analysis is to find out the tension between the poles which are opposing each other and then to give meaning over the oppositions. After understanding the oppositions, the writer then reverse the binaries and give meanings over the reversed binaries. When the new meanings are held and disclosed, then the writer dismantled the new meanings over the binaries until the new meanings are undecidable.

Based on the explanation above, the problems are formulated as: (1) How is nature portrayed in *Into the Forest*, (2) How is the impact of the devastation of the earth to mankind in *Into the Forest*, (3) How do the main characters in *Into the Forest* response toward ecological crisis. This thesis examines ecological problems which are in the scope of literature with ecocriticism theory depicted in *Into the Forest*. Through this study, it gives the important understanding of the relationship among human and nature. If human being takes too much from the natural resources, it makes the ecological crisis. Phenomenon of the environmental crisis which is depicted in mankind's life.

It is really important to make limitation the study for focus on the analyzing. Scope and limitation also make the study easier to understand but the analysis of this study is limited by using ecocriticism theory. The analyzing will be limited on the nature and the main characters, such as Eva and Nell. Then, the analyzing would be analyzed based on the actions, statements, and conditions that regarded environmental messages.

The study analyzes the relationship among nature and human beings. If human being exploit the abundances of natural resources to fulfill their additional needs, it will create the worst situation for mankind. Human cannot do anything if nature is destroyed. There is no water to take a bath, no food, no internet, and no electricity. They exploit natural resources and kill the mankind itself. This study shows the advantages and disadvantages of the relationship among nature and human being. Hopefully, this thesis can use as the reference about how important to maintain nature, to keep nature, and to appreciate nature for mankind life. In addition, this study can give the positive contribution of ecological crisis.

2. Literature Review

Ecocriticism examines the way human being in real life effect and how special boards of imagine of story with nature (Buell, Lawrence, Heise, Ursula, Thornber, Karen, 2011, pp. 419). Ecological studies and literature have fough almost from the beginning to explain their place on the crucial chart as well as through story (Buell, 2005, 9). Ecocriticism can support to explore, define, and even settle

ecological problems, but it cannot participate much to discuss about other problems in ecology (Garrard, 2004, pp.4).

2.1 The Treatment of Nature by Ecologist

Understanding the meaning of nature is crucial in ecocritical perspective. In the journal of Neema Bagula Jimmy (2015) explains about nature. It has four main explanations, such as nature is God, nature is victim, nature is uncivilized area for people to get to know by themselves, and nature is literally everything. Some ecocritics use capital N to write nature, they want to link nature with Godliness. Romantic literature work considered nature in the same way, for example nature assisted man to escape from lacking in integrity of human society. In this specific event, nature is the same as God and human being are smaller and always ruin other things (Jimmy, 2015, pp. 373).

To understand and know the real of yours, you must realize where you are whether living being realizes or not, nature has the main role in religious, physical, and even emotional frameworks that settle living being ideas of who they are. Living beings have their own condition why they like certain areas or feel uncomfortable in other areas through their own sense of regions. It is generally for human being experience to miss some certain particular area that had interesting influence on their psyche (Dreese, 2002, pp.1). Ecocriticism, a term first coined by William Ruekert in 1978, addresses issues concerning landscape and the environment that have previously been overlooked by the literary academy. A few examples would include: how nature is represented, when it is represented, how the environmental crisis has influenced literature, and how concepts of the environment have evolved through the centuries (Dreese, 2002, pp. 4).

The recently ecocritics prefer to debate about nature as much as in national park with in a department store or shopping mall. It is quite different with previous thinkers. Dana Phillips, Lawrence Buell, and Serpil Oppermann as ecocritics are nowadays more active to change from argue about the explanation about unnatural or man made and the explanation about natural. These ecocritics think that human environment can be quite wild. They think that city can be considered as wilderness and there is little about nature in the outside that is really uninfluenced by living being hands, including things in the bottom of ocean (Jimmy, 2015, pp. 374). Ecology has the prior focus with the living creatures in their own natural surrounding. Moreover, ecology is the knowledge of science that learns about the relationship between living creatures or biotic component and their surrounding or abiotic component (Tosic, 2006, pp. 45).

Ecology is not only certain to technology modern and science but also the political aspect and concerned with principles of wrong and right of ecocriticism (Garrard, 2004, pp.4). How natural surrounding portrayed in literature is studied by ecocriticism. Having knowledge of results when conception are pestiferous swamp, untouched land, established Eden, violent wildernedd, arcadia, and when nonappearance are realized. The question is which one is the natural image? But this is not the main concerned of ecocritical studies of statement. Other issues including rivers, frontier, specific geographical areas, animal, desert, garbage, Indians, body, activities, and modern technology (Glotfelty, 1996, pp. xxiii). Living being love to believe that human are too smart to deal with the true physical realities of the earth, including eating any kinds of food they want, staying in cool room, living in humid areas, cozy living even in hot temperate, no problems about the month of the year and the season, they just use the other species for getting food or other aims (Slovic, 2015, pp. 2).

2.2 Impacts ff Devastation Earth

Ecological crisis is practically a problem of values and beliefs that science and technology without intervening and leading position toward nature (Glotfelty, 1996, pp.4). Toilets and televisions have created the need of God additional dose not be the situation for the most segments. The most frighten for man is unaware of the connection with modern technology rather than living in scare of nature, but they will scare when flood or earthquakes occurs. The state of extreme condition its manipulatable remedy, whether illness, cold, hunger, or just some space, and there is some needed, except crying to God or some moments during someone's lifetime (Fromm, 1996, pp. 30-31).

Abudances of the natural resource have attracted the stokeholds to come here and use its resource, but hazardous exploitation has given birth to many possible problems, like destruction, devastation, denudation low breeding rate of animals, uncommon disease to plants, habitat loss and many more (Kachhap, 2016, pp. 63). This greed of luxury has distrusted the balance of ecology and now this ecological or environment imbalance has taken a form of environmental crisis. The ecological crisis

happens if the surrounding of species on population switches in another way that destabilized it persisted remaining alive. Many factors are responsible for this crisis because of mankind lust (Kachhap, 2016, pp. 63).

Ecological crisis including soil degradation, global warming, and others are closely decide and related to each other, and moreover the resolutions should be extensive and suitable for their events (Docekalova; Kocmanova; 2012, pp. 218). Adding ecological destruction almost happened at the same time with the modernization process and capitalist industrialization is occurred through the development of living being history (Zhang, 2013, 69). Annie Booth and Harvey Jacobs stated that deep ecology attempts to examine the deeper root question concerning human interactions with the earth, rather than the simple matters such as like extermination or pollution, which it identifies equally more the indications than the reason of ecological breakdown (Dreese, 2002, pp. 5).

The world in the world have been broken due to human being ignorance and desire. Nature sends out an omen to living being, including famine, drought, and desertification (Zhang, 2013, pp. 70). If living being uses environmental track as the assessing, they require more than five planets to fulfill the lifestyle of human being, it happened when the whole world need to use the natural resources at the same level as United States as the most powerful as has done taking example to fulfill the fuel which conduct to present economic crisis around the world (Mshana, 2010, pp. 11).

2.3 Toward Ecological Crisis in Literature

Ecocriticism is methods in which living being oppose for the world sake in which they dwell, examines in culture and nature signs everywhere that create meaning and pattern. The sustain contemplation of this uneasy fight in the place of spirit and culture express to the urgent and vital need to do some actions in this respect. Moreover, there is a preparing to agree option that living being always lives within or without some natural environment (Krishnasamy, pp. 55). Ecocriticism shares the primary explanation that living being history is connected to the real world or nature, influencing it and influenced by it. Ecological criticism takes the relationship between culture and nature, particularly the cultural object of literature and language (Glottfelty, 1996, pp. xix).

Ecological criticism has the same meaning as the environmentally study of arts and literature, and using critical practices as its theories (Buell, 2005, pp. 138). This theory focus on environmental themes and nature writing in all literary works.

Ecocriticism deals with species extinction, global warming, air pollution, deforestation, climate changing, and other ecological crisis around the world. It is related to desire to fix and examine the current ecological crisis (Mukhtar, 2017, pp. 315). Ecological crisis are aspect of human organization that emerging mankind relationship with nature, of which living being should be independent by themselves, so that they do not consider as an unavoidable inference to which one is pleasant in that human society (Garrard, 2004, pp. 5).

Deep ecology is explored it does indeed offer an invitation to engage with the world in an entirely different manner, that has positive consequences for people and their wider environment (Watson, pp. 54). Since then "deep ecology" has been adopted by academics, environmentalists, and many others. Consequently, the term's meaning has been modified and sometimes misunderstood, like any term that slips into the popular vernacular; it has become many things to human (Watson, pp. 54). Sessions said that there are eight vital principles in the deep ecology policy, or a detailed plans for a reconstitute view of thinking about living being environment, it is not only about the whole area to animals and plants, but necessarily about the place the living being live, the world around them. There is a question about the platform is very crucial because the soul of this theory is its principles (Ambrosius, 2005, pp. 2).

Deep ecology had been analyzed for being anti mankind in order to divide human beings from their own surrounding. This understanding is often interpret wrongly that this theory sees only the way to get ecological harmony is in the nonattendance of human being, actually it is not the problems in the reality world. Deep ecology principles starts by stating that creatures in the earth interference is extravagant enough, but never stated that this condition requires to be discard them. This is also greatly crucial to recognize that even creatures who like nature. People still continued to debate that human being must be recognize their connection to nature, but stay out completely of nature world, uncommunicative with nature (Ambrosius, 2005, pp. 4).

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Depiction of Nature in The Novel

The natural setting of *Into the Forest* is a combination between the city and the forest, especially the environment around Eva and Nell. The hectic and beautiful city changes into the dead and frightful city. The sound of laughing loses in the. Not only in the city, but also in the world. Every place changes into terrible and unpleasant places. The changing from the beautiful and technologic world into horrible and shocking condition shows on every page in *Into the Forest*.

There are disappearance the number of forest, a lot of toxic food, unoccupied space in the ozone, no more food source, and farmlands need more and more pesticides and fertilizers to produce. (Chapter 1, p. 24-25)

There are many terrible phenomena about nature in *Into the Forest*. The changing of nature condition happens because of mankind. Human does the world war in order to conquer the world. The world war needs to have a lot of natural resources, such as like making the weapon, giving food, and providing shelter for soldier. There are many bad effects for nature, such as like decreasing the forest in the world, increasing the barren areas, and decreasing the number of human and animal around the world.

The idea of living place, homeland, and country assumes easy as the environment, what is surround those places. Once living beings see their area, as round them, their area of the nature world, they have already create a deep division among themselves and nature. They have stayed out the understanding of the way to communicate and surrender of the though so they and their areas create one another, put trust in each other, are academic part of each other that living being area employs out and in of each other, so that living creatures as neighbors there, animal, plant, and human, are part of each other creatures, and cannot grow alone, human culture should be their answer to their area and their history are illustration of one another and unavoidable from another, and be better than other creatures (Dreese, 2002, pp. 114). The theory above has something to do with what has been suggested by Neema Bagula Jimmy, Dr. Rabia Mukthar, and Lalatendu Kesari Jena; Bhagirath Behera.

The relationship between living being and nature are connected to each other. It is impossible to separate them. Nature gives everything to human being for a long time, but human never thinks about it. They always take everything without giving back good things to nature. If people do these things for a long time, it will give bad effects. Not only lacking natural resources but also killing mankind.

In the first month, January, they got information that a paramilitary organization had blasted the Golden Gate Bridge and more than several weeks they read that the foreign money market had decline. In the next month, March, the Mississippi River flooded more severely than had ever been though possible, and an earthquake made one of nuclear reactors in California melt down. (Chapter 5, p. 24)

The quotation above represents the changing of earth's condition due to human beings desire. Conquering the whole earth by using chemical weapons is very dangerous. If the place to keep chemical weapon is broken, it will affect another thing, such as natural condition. Chemical weapons can destroy soil, air, water, plants, and other creatures in earth. Even human beings understand and know the disadvantages of chemical weapons, they still make and use chemical weapons to conquer the earth.

Hegland describes two condition in her book which are before and during ecological crisis. *Into the Forest* portrays the beautiful natural condition before ecological crisis. Nature provides everything for human beings, but this book also portrays the condition during ecological crisis. Human exploits the abundances of natural resources to fulfill their desire. There is no longer left behind for human being. In her book, Hegland wants to convince the reader that exploitation of natural resources will destroy the whole earth.

3.2 The Impact of Ecological Crisis

The changing of nature condition happens due to the relationship between human being and nature. They need nature to do anything in life, such as dwelling and getting food. Human exploits nature excessive to fulfill their another purpose, such as conquering the world. Mankind do not realize that nature is limited and fragile. If they exploit nature careless and extreme, there is nothing natural resources for tomorrow.

People around the world faced in an oil crisis for least more than a generation. Over a century or a quarter century, the government's failure has been snowballing. People in the inside of the cities were facing with despair, rage, stress. There was an horrible unemployment condition. (Chapter 1, p. 24-25)

The quotation above represents the impacts of ecological crisis in *Into the Forest*. It is not only lacking food, but also the whole systems, such as energy, money, government, and emotional. Eva and Nell cannot do anything if nature is broken. They cannot rely on nature to get what they want like before. Mankind will face the horrible condition that they create for a long time. Even the warning of the natural condition appears more than once, people still do not recognize and stop doing exploitation.

With respect to modern environmental science, philosophical significance, and ecocritical has entirely changed their point of view about the nature world as the whole and their local surroundings. Modern scottish Literature and Ecology do not longer seen natural world as a dynamic system for beneficial commodities as a constant prehistoric to living being life, but as a fragile idea which human actions can upgrade, pollute, and even broken it (Gairn, 2008, pp. 6-7).

The theory above has something to do with what has been suggested by Rogate Mshana, Marie Docekalova, and Alena Kocmaova. In their ideas, human is part of nature's world that affecting and affected. Mankind must recognize and understand the rule in order to live with nature for a long time. It is the center of environmental consciousness. They also realize that larger amounts of providing energy and other natural resources are spent by every mankind generations. Human does not take care nature, they just exploit every time without stopping their action. It gives another threat to ecological crisis for mankind. Not only human being in the present, but also man in the future.

They got information that the White House was flaring and the National Guard was fighting the Special Service in the road of D.C., they also heard that the new president of the United States was planning for borrow money from the common wealth to help out its citizen, and then they heard that United has been neglected and Russia and China are at war. (Chapter 7, p. 25)

The quotation above represents the other impacts of ecological crisis in *Into the Forest*. Food and shelter are the basic and important things in order to live. If those things does not own by human beings, it will make human beings becoming hurtful and annoyed. The maincharacters in Hegland's novel face the condition of the powerful country in the earth falling down due to ecological crisis. It happens because human being and nature cannot be separated. Hegland portrays the horrible and chaos condition during ecological crisis. There are many changing of natural condition in the earth, such as lacking of water. The main characters in *Into the Forest* have to understand and aware of nature. They must realize that nature cannot give everything to fulfill mankind's greedy. Nature is limited. Mankind must take care nature carefully and respectfully. If human beings still exploit nature, they will face the horrible condition. There is nothing left for the next generation because nature is broken and cannot be repaired again.

3.3 The Main Characters Response toward Ecological Crisis

The main characters in *Into the Forest* are Eva and Nell. These characters represent the human beings who face the horrible condition. Eva and Nell also show the struggle of human beings to find and preserve their food. There is no another choice for them if they do not want to resist this horrible condition. There is no food and water around their neighborhood again. Humans are sick, hungry, and dead because of ecological crisis. This horrible condition happens due to mankind.

They have already planted every vegetable seeds they have received, each seed their father left behind, even the having an unknown seed that shifted change into the lower side of the box. They are fertilizing every pleading, volunteer with every seed to blossom, grow, thrive, live into food. (Chapter 8, p. 268)

The quotation above represents the resistance of Eva and Nell to face the horrible condition. They try to fertilize the soil and plant the leftover seeds around their house. It shows the sincerity of them to live event in the worst condition. These characters have to figure out how to get and preserve the food for a long time because they do not know how long this terrible condition happens. It is not easy to change human behavior from exploiting natural resources into preserving natural resources. Hegaldn in *Into the Forest* wants to show that living beings must change their behavior in order to live longer and do not face the horrible condition.

Ecological criticism attempts to create mankind to take care the same degree about all living creatures that had in every single natural world. In practice, every part of the ecological that is victimized by other creatures must be restored as soon as possible so as to receive the quality of non human and human individuals who ought be loved at the same view (Jimmy, 2015, pp. 317). These

idea has approved what Cheryll Glotfelty, Harold Fromm, and Greg Garrard have said before. The theory above shows the real action of mankind toward nature. When human being exploits nature extreme, it will give bad effect for them. Human must repair the nature as soon as possible because it is impossible to live without nature. It shows the unique relationship between them. In the beginning, mankind destroy nature, but in the end, living being repairs their activities toward nature.

All morning they selected, rinsed, peeled, chopped, packed, and made until the whorls and wrinkle in their fingers are marked by the juices of beets, plumps, and tomatoes for good, their arms and faces are swollen and coloured from the pot of boiling water it looked like they are regularly deflected over. (Chapter 8, p. 268)

The quotation above represents the resistance of the main characters in *Into the Forest*. They want to live even in the worst condition. They do everything to face and struggle in ecological crisis. They have to figure out how to get food and live longer and longer. It is not easy to restrain in this horrible condition, but they does not have another choices. Hegland in her book wants to say that human being must be responsible towards ecological crisis. If they want to survive and live, they must face and restrain towards ecological crisis.

Hegland portrays Eva and Nell as the main characters in *Into the Forest*. These characters show the way to resist ecological crisis. There is nothing left for mankind in this condition. Eva and Nell show the action to protect and preserve nature in order to change the horrible condition. Trying to plant the leftover seeds is better to preserve the nature. If Eva and Nell do nothing for nature, it will be worst condition again. Every page on *Into the Forest* shows the great and beautiful messages about mankind and nature. Human being must stop exploiting the abundances of natural resources. If they still exploits nature, they will face the horrible condition and also kill them.

4. Conclusion

This thesis concludes that ecological crisis occurs because of human being. They are connected to each other. Mankind always use natural resources to do their activities, such as cooking. Human being exploits the natural resources to fulfill their additional activities, such as war. Human uses a large number of natural resources. They build many factories by cutting down the forests. They are also careless with their activities toward nature. The main factor for ecological crisis is their desire.

Through the analysis of the first statement of the problems, the research shows that the beautiful and busy city changes into the horrible and dead city. There are many holes in the ozone, vanishing forest, and barren field. It happens because of their desire. They exploitation changes the beautiful nature condition into the terrible nature condition. If human being still exploits nature excessively, this behavior will kill mankind. There is nothing left for the next generation of mankind or there is not the next generation of mankind.

The second problem of the research is answered by showing the impacts of the devastation of earth towards to mankind in *Into the Forset*. Mankind face the horrible condition in the earth. Eva and Nell's condition as the main characters in *Into the Forest* shows the example of horrible nature condition. People are sick, hungry, distrustful with each other, and die quickly. There are many horrible conditions due to desire to conquer natural resources.

The last problem of the study is discussed by showing the action of the main characters toward ecological crisis in *Into the Forest*. Hegland portrays the ecological condition by using Eva and Nell. These characters resist the horrible condition by doing anything, such as like planting leftover seeds. Planting the lefover seeds is better than do nothing in this condition. There is no food, medicine, and water around human being's neighborhood. It is difficult to get anything. Eva and Nell show the great struggles to resist the ecological condition. Human beings are the one who cause this horrible condition, and they are also the one who must repair this terrible condition.

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