CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Environment becomes the one trending topic during the last decade. The rapid development of technology in the age of globalization makes people forget the other side that must be considered, fertility of the earth. The number of factory established, ending on the amount of waste produced. Shortage of land into one as a result of indiscriminate waste disposal and the river is the place. They need the land for factory development and forests are cleared for the factory purposes. Air pollution due to vehicle fumes and factory smoke resulted in an increase of respiratory diseases and the worst of the ozone layer depletion that makes the sun becomes more scorching. Another factor also come from nature itself. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, storms conveniently indicates the earth has its own free will to show its strength.

Nowadays, literature grows rapidly. Seing the frequent cases of the environment that getting worse by day, the experts put forward their concerns through writing form. Books and novels about the environment growing rapidly. In the mid-eighties, the field of environmental literary studies was planted in the early nineties it grew. The brief essay, literary journals about environmental issues and some universities begin to include literature courses in their environmental studies, like in the University of Nevada, Reno, created the first academic position in Literature and the Environment (Glofelty and Fromm 6).

According to Cheryll Glofelty and Harold Fromm in their book *The Ecocriticism Reader : Landmarks in Literary* Ecology, in 1992, a new Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) was formed, with Scott Slovic elected first president. In 1993, Patrick Murphy established a new journal, *ISLE : Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environmen*t, to "provide the forum for critical studies of literary and performing arts proceeding from or addressing environmental consideration (Glofelty and Fromm 7). These would include ecological theory, environmentalism, conceptions of nature and depictions, the human/nature dichotomy and related concern.

The study about environment is called Ecocriticism and becomes one of the literary criticism. Glotfelty and Fromm define ecocriticism as 'the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment' (Carter 139). Don Scheese says that, one of the some principles of ecocriticism is inherently interdisciplinary. Ecocriticism is most appropriately applied to a work in which the landscape itself is a dominant character, when a significant interaction occurs between author and place, character(s) and place (Scheese 11).

According to place, ecocriticism has two basic portrait when appear in literary text, dystopia and utopia. Literally, dystopia was created from utopia, the name of ideal country imagined Sir Thomas in 1516. Utopia means too good place or perfect world to be true where no problems like war, disease, poverty, oppression, discrimination, inequality and so forth. Dystopia is the opposite of utopia. The term is used to describe an unpleasant futuristic society inhabited by a number of people or a population where people have fearful live (Adams 1). One

major preoccupation of the dystopian imagination is the threat of environmental destruction because of global warming and other scenarios of ecological destruction like rising sea levels, storms, drought, and the end of fossil fuels create social, political, and economic nightmares. The environmental dystopian literature usually illustrates the dangers of environmental ruin and the young-survivor protagonists learn to adapt in the hard times.

Under the Never Sky is one of young adult dystopian novels which discusses about the new world after a major catastrophe has decimated the Earth. The book written by Veronica Rossi is a 2012 young adult debut novel the first in a trilogy. The story is about Aria, a 17 year old girl who has been exiled from Reverie(a doomed city that protect people from outside). She is blamed for starting fire and killing her friend and two others. This punishment means almost certain death: outside of her Pod and other similar Pods where the technologically advanced dwell, is a wasteland known as the Death Shop. Death Shop was a place known to be filled with cannibals and terrible Aether storms, even the air can kill. However, she soon discovers that she can breathe the outside air without fatal harm, though she has little other means of surviving in the savage land. Then she meets an Outsider named Perry, Aria eventually realizes that he is her only chance for survival. Despite his reluctance to help a sheltered girl from Reverie, Perry knows that Aria has the potential to help him redeem himself. The two must learn how to work together if they are to survive in this new dangerous world.

The portrayal of eco-utopia (utopian and dystopian) world in Under the Never Sky is the researcher's reason to analyze this novel. Nature is one of

conflict that appeared in novel. The portrayal of Reverie city was very safe and the world beyond the wall called the Death Shop has bad climate even the air can kill. Two different worlds have their own ways to survive and interact with nature. In different nature condition, Aria and Peregrine as main character in the novel have their own way to interact with nature. They breaks the system and role to know the truth of nature condition surrounded them and try to find safe place to life.

B. Statement of the Problem

The question of the research formulate by the writer are :

1. How is the representation of the natural environment in Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky*?
2. How do Aria and Peregrine as the main character interact with the natural environment in Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky*?

C. Objective of the Study

Related to the previous statement of the problem, this research is proposed to answer all questions stated in the Statements of the Problems. These answers will be:

1. To describe the representation of the natural environment in Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky*.
2. To describe the interaction of Aria and Pegrine with the natural environment in Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky*.

D. Scope and Limitation

The object of this research is Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky* novel. This study focuses on the ecology issues that appear in Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky* novel using Garrad's theory of ecocriticism and Basu's perspective on dystopian literature. It discusses about the interaction of main characters (Aria and Peregrine) and natural environment, also the representation of natural environment.

E. Significance of the study

The findings of the study are expected to provide valuable input to the English departement student and other researcher that need the data to get information and give the additional empirical data about the study. This study aims to give more knowledge about the ecological perspective focus on the nature and human interaction with environment in dystopian work, beside to improve the reader's knowledge in environmental work especially in Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky.* Also, the common readers who do not really well understand about literature can learn and add knowledge on how to protect and preserve nature for the life of next generation.

F. Method of the Study

Methodology used by the researcher is descriptive-qualitative. It tries to analyze the interaction of Aria and Peregrine character with environment. It also

explain the potrayal of natural environment in Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky.* The data are library based and data from the other source that can help.

a. Approach

The analysis uses the ecocritical approach in literature. It investigate the relationship between human activities and the natural world. Sometimes the human activities can influence environment badly or otherwise. Every people can give impact to environment whether it's big or small effect. And the study of literature and the environment from an interdisciplinary point of view called Ecocriticism.

b. Data Sources and Data

The main sources of the data are taken from the novel Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky.* The other sources that the writer used are from library research and also online sources to give better understanding. The data are taken with the related clauses and sentences about ecocritical environment in the novel Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky.*

c. Data Collection

The data are collected by closed-reading of the novel Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky.* In analyzing the subject materials, this research uses literary research. Moreover, the procedure of data collecting can be described as follows:

- Searching data source. The main data source of this research is ecocritical environment in the novel Veronica Rossi's *Under the Never Sky.*

- Reading the novel in order to accomplish a complete understanding.

- After deciding the data source, the researcher reads the novel and tries to find the interaction Aria and Peregrine with environment and the representation of nature.

- Choosing the data which have relation to ecocriticism theory.

- Classifying the selected data

 d. Data Analysis

Data are analyzed by using theory or concept of ecocriticism that is ecocritical theory. First step of analyzing is the represented nature in the novel. Secondly, to answer the second statement of problems, that is to analyze the interaction of Aria and Peregrine with environment.

 G. Definition of Key Terms

Dystopia : J. A. Cuddon's *The Dictionary of Literary Terms* defines dystopia as the converse of utopia. Dystopia forecasts "the doom awaiting mankind" and can range from whimsical fantasy to politically charged fiction (Cuddon 959).

Ecology : the interconnection across the historical, political, human, technological and natural – and the environment that is created from those interconnections. (Buell 13)

Young Adult Literature : the Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book

Award defines Young Adult literature as books that appeal primarily to

youth aged thirteen to eighteen.