

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED STUDY

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Jean Giono's *The Man Who Planted Trees* is fully contained the environmental issues, especially human and non-human relationship. Therefore, researcher chooses Ecocriticism as basic theory to analyze natural degradation that explained by Cheryll Glotfelty. Furthermore, researcher uses Ecocentrism as point of view in order to limit broader analysis which is focusing at the relationship between main character, Elezeard Bouffier, and his natural surroundings.

2.2 Ecocriticism

The term Ecocriticism was possibly first coined in 1978 by William Rueckert in his essay "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism", he defined Ecocriticism as "the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature". His definition, mainly, focuses with the science of ecology.

Ecocriticism term did not fully deal with many environmental critics. They argued that it needs not any specific names, but others disagreed about it. Some of them think that a name is important, therefore, many scholars like the term Ecocriticism because it is short and can easily be made into other forms like *Ecocritical* and *Ecocritic*. Ecocritic means a person who wants to keep sustainable environment through literary work. Overall, Ecocriticism studies relationships

between things, literary work and environment, and between human culture and the physical world (Glotfelty xx).

The goal of Ecocriticism through literary criticism is to give contribution for solving environmental degradation and to preserve biotic sphere. It can be formed as motivational awareness of ecology which focuses at the landscape as the main concern of analysis. Additionally, Glotfelty believes that the objective of analyzing a literary study with Ecocriticism is to seek the ideology that constructed within the literary itself. This theory has relationship between nature and culture. Thus, built ideology within the text can be found easily if we understand the culture (Glotfelty 78).

According to Glotfelty, Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. Ecocriticism take an earth-centered approach to literary studies (Glotfelty xviii). Alternatively, William Howarth stated that the root of Ecocriticism is comes from Greek, *oikos* is nature like home and *kritos* is a judge of tastes who wants the house kept in good order (Howarth 69). *Eco* is short of *Ecology*, which is concerned with the relationships between living organisms in their natural environment as well as their relationships between with that environment. By analogy, Ecocriticism is concerned with the relationships between literature and environment or how human interrelated with their physical environment that reflected in literature.

In this world, human and environment have strong connection that cannot be separated. It means that human needs everything within the nature, because the nature affected the human's life. As Glotfelty explained on her book:

represent human and non-human life. Criticism judges the quality and integrity of works and supports their spreading. As a result, each discipline stresses the relation of nature and literature.

There are five steps that Ecocritic usually do in analyzing literary works using Ecocriticism theory as explained by Peter Barry on his book *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. First, they re-read major literary works from Ecocentric perspective with mainly focus to the representation of the natural world. Second, they expand the applicability of a range of Ecocentric concepts; such as growth and energy, balance and imbalance, symbiosis and mutuality, and sustainable or unsustainable uses of energy and resources. Third, they give special emphasis to writers who raise nature as a major part of their subject matter, such as American Transcendentalist, The British Romantics, etc. Fourthly, they do a critical practice through literary works and emphasize on doing factual writing; that is wrote by relevance of culture fact with contain of the text. Fifth, the last, they despite cultural and political point of view and instead emphasis Ecocentric values of particular observation, collective ethical responsibility, and the claims of the world beyond (Barry 169). As a result, researcher follows all of explained steps by Peter Barry as guidance at analyzing the main data.

“Ecocriticism seeks to redirect humanistic ideology, not spurning the natural sciences but using their ideas to sustain viable readings. Literature and science trace their roots to the hermeneutics of religion and law, the

Ecocentric perspective is to seek what is the meaning behind all of the cases that emerged. It leads us to see from nature as a centre.

“...it may help to inspire and prepare the ground for a new orientation toward nature and “give humanity prudential reasons for treating the biosphere with more care” but that “a change in scientific understanding alone cannot produce the needed change of consciousness.” (Eckersley 52)

Major ecosystem problem and its solution are requiring human's awareness. Thus, from Ecocentric perspective, people may help how to treat the environment well. Jean Giono's story has an implication meaning that this story will be revealed and built the awareness of the reader.

The ecological theories on which traditional Ecocentric ethics are based, theories we call collectively the “ecology of stability,” were developed by Frederic Clements and Eugene Odum, among others. They tended to view natural systems as integrated, stable wholes that are either at, or moving toward, mature equilibrium states. The terms *equilibrium*, *balance*, *stability*, and *integrity* often go unexplained in traditional Ecocentric ethics (Shrader-Frechette 65-67).

An Ecocentric ethic treats natural system as basically valuable or morally considerable. Ecocentric is raise holistic as their typical of ethic. Holistic is base moral concern as primarily on quality of natural system. It has evaluated human impacts on the environment primarily in terms of their effect on the integrity and stability of ecosystem.

A stability and integrity based Ecocentrism would have to judge human activity that developed ecosystem stability or integrity as value increasing. An

ecosystem was called as stable system if it is relatively constant over time, if it resists modification, if upon being disturbed it has a strong tendency to return to its pre-disturbance state, and if it moves toward some end point despite differences in starting points. Explanation above is become a guidance to analyze ecosystem stability that portrayed in *The Man Who Planted Trees* (Hettinger and Throop 5)

Ecocentrists believe that traditional moral norms and ethical theories that are focused on relationships between humans, including attempts to extend this norms and theory to cover animals and plants, are not sufficiently environmental and thus are inadequate to derive an environmental ethic. They take insights to heart from the science of ecology. Ecologists study the relationships between organisms and their environments, including collections or group of organisms. From an ecological perspective, one cannot fully understand what an organism is without also examining the species of the organism, how the organism interacts within species populations, how the organism is related to ecosystem processes (Wood 1)

2.4 Review of Related Study

Previous researches that used similar literary works, Jean Giono's *The Man Who Planted Trees*, until this work have been written is never composed before. Most of researchers use Ecocriticism theory to their research but with different literary work. Therefore, this is first time the short story *The Man Who Planted Trees* use in research through Ecocriticism theory.

Most of scholars, environmentalist especially, interest to discuss about natural crisis since it became major concern in 20th century that portrayed in literary works. Therefore, this study is maintained by some of academic writings and journals that discuss about environmental degradation and apply Ecocriticism as the main theory. There are three prior researches that have relationship with the topic of this research. First, the title is *Animal Rights in Sara Gruens' Water for Elephants: An Ecocriticism Study*, this is undergraduated thesis arranged by Evie Triana from Airlangga University, Surabaya (2013). Second, the title of prior research is *Sustainable Development in Walt Whitman's A Song of the Rolling Earth: An Ecocritic Study*, the author is Sheila Hapsari Resti Buanadewi from Airlangga University, Surabaya (2013). Third, is a thesis from Akhmad Kusuma Wardhana with the title *The Spirit of Coming Back to the Nature in Jean Craighthead George's My Side of The Mountain: An Ecocriticism Study*, undergraduated thesis from Airlangga University, Surabaya (2014).

The first undergraduated thesis discussed about the portrayal of animal rights and ideology constructed within that novel. She used Ecocriticism theory by Cheryll Glotfelty theory to gain the ideology constructed in the novel and animal rights by Tamara Roleff. Her finding in that research are animals in the entertainment industry were abused, violence towards animal especially elephant, the instinct of the animal in railroad circus, killing animal by using euthanasia method, and alcohol as a substitute water for animal in railroad circus. Therefore, she concludes that based on Ecocentrism, as an ideology in her study, and animal

rights, as the main theory, find that animal deserve to have a better life and animal have the same rights as human to be free from suffer, torture, and abuse.

The second prior undergraduated thesis discusses about the portrayal of nature and finds the poet's view towards nature in Walt Whitman's *A Song of the Rolling Earth*. In this reaserch, writer also chooses Ecocriticism theory by Cherryl Glotfelty to find the ideology of sustainable development constructed in the text.

The third previous study talks about natural resources that were available in wilderness as well as the perspective of people in country life are the positive point of non-urban area that can raise the spirit of coming back to the nature in *My Side of the Mountain* novel.

As a result, even though all of those previous studies are used Ecocriticism perspective, they are still having dissimilarities with this study. The first research is sought about animal rights occurred in the text and relationship between human and animal circus. Second research is about ideology that constructed within the literary work. And the third is talked about cause-effect relationship between the main character and his environment until he decided to life freely and coming back to the nature. Therefore, the result and the conclusion of those works are different. Subject and questions of problem are also different from those previous studies. It is also an evidence that the idea contain in this research is original. Furthermore, those previous studies will be functioned as comparison and guidance to enrich this research analysis.