

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of the research, statement of the problem, purposes of the study, significance of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Earth is the only planet which have much oxygen, so that it can used by people to live there. Just like human, earth also needs to be treated. One thing that must be guarded is the nature. Just like the proverb said “better to prevent, than to cure”. That word is often hearer in daily life, it remembers people to take care of what people have. For instance, when someone sick, of course it needs much money for go to local government clinic or hospital, to buy the medicine, and it can be for the transportation to go there. Furthermore, the wasted time in vain is to cure the sore and recover the energy and health. Otherwise, if people guard the health, they just need to spend their money to buy vitamin. Sometimes they do not need to buy any vitamin, just have a physical exercise in every morning such as jogging, riding bicycle, or just warming up in the yard. From the example above, it can be known that maintain what you already have is easier than fixing something broken.

Day by day, the nature has changed than before, it has not to be better but it has got worst. Whether consciously or not, people had destroy nature slowly. Sometimes, people do not realize that the little things what peoples do, it can give the big effect to the nature. When people throw the trash in everywhere everyday, they will not feel the effect directly, but in five or ten years later.

Lately, the disaster that happen in the world not only happen naturally, but it cause the human action. For instance, forest fire. How come, many people who are not responsible do illegal logging just to follow their desire to get money. They forgot if there are some step to cutting down the trees in the forest, one of them is they must get the license from department of forestry. They were going to ignore the nature. Another example of disaster that cause the human's act are flood, in 2014, Andi Zaenal Abidin Dulung as Director General of Social Protection and Security of the Social Affairs Minister said,

during the period, Indonesia has been hit by 161 natural disasters."The most frequent disaster is flood," ... Floods happened 71 times and it was the most frequent natural disaster, followed by a tornado that happened 45 times, landslide (22 times) and earthquake, which happened 12 times, and volcanic eruption that happened 11 times.

Not only that, they take a note the West Java is the biggest province that has the greatest number of disaster in 2014. Flood was hit 10 times, landslide was hit 10 times, and tornado was hit 8 times. They also said,

in total, all the disaster that happen in Indonesia in 2014 161 natural disasters also claimed fatalities. At least 93 lives were lost or missing, 202,796 households were displaced, and 678,661 people all over the country suffered from those natural disasters.

From the data above, it can be known that not all the disaster are happen naturally, but they also cause the human error.

In the beginning of 19th century, people assume that the study of ecology is not important. It can be known from the journal and essay which not discussed about ecology. They seem to ignore the environment. Whereas, environment has the important effect in daily life. Just as American Heritage Dictionary in Glotfelty said that,

The absence of any sign of an environmental perspective in contemporary literary studies would seem to suggest that despite its “revisionist energies,” scholarship remains academic in the sense of “scholarly to the point of being unaware of the outside world (1996: xv).

In the latest 18th until 19th century, the theory of environment and nature were starting to be discussed. In 1985 Frederick O. Waage in Glotfelty edited *Teaching Environment Literature: Materials, Methods, Resources*, which included course description from nineteen different scholars and ought to foster “a greater presence of environmental concern and awareness in literary disciplines (1996: xvii). Thereafter, many essays are written about ecocriticism.

Richard Kerridge in Catrin Gersdorf characterized ecocriticism as a project that “seeks to evaluate texts and ideas in terms of their coherence and usefulness as responses to environmental crisis” (2006: 11). Another statement from Catrin Gersdorf and Sylvia Mayer said that,

...ecocriticism as a methodology that re-examines the history of ideologically, aesthetically, and ethically motivated conceptualisations of nature, of the function of its constructions and metaphorisations in literary and other cultural practices, and of the potential effects these discursive, imaginative constructions have on our bodies as well as our natural and cultural environments (2006: 10).

From both of the statements, the researcher can conclude that ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between nature, environment, and human. Ecology and literature have a close relationship. According to Louis Westling in Gersdorf (2006: 26) ecocritics are reevaluating the Kantian Sublime and other Romantic concepts of Nature in European and American nineteenth-century literature.

In 20th century, ecology becomes more popular. Some of producers begin to make a movie with ecology as the issue. Avatar, for instance, this movie tells about a man who is ex-marines, he invited by scientist to follow their project that is approach the resident which is na'vy ethnic group. They do that because they find the rare metal in na'vy's region. Because the metal is in the big tree which na'vy's ethnic group assumes as holy tree, they have a planning to chase away that ethnic group. Furthermore, there also some movie that have issue about nature, such as Godzilla (1998), the Road (2009), War of the World (2005), Armagedon (1998), The Day After Tomorrow (2004), and many others.

Besides those movies, there are many others literary work that use nature as the issues in their work. For example song, many songs are famous with ecology as the theme. One of them is group band Naif with their single "Dia adalah Pusaka Sejuta Umat Manusia Yang ada Di Seluruh Dunia". The song that released in 2002, it tries to remind the listener that this world still need to be maintain. Many stanza of this song have emphasizing to do not destroy the nature. Another song which have the same theme are Boomerang with the single "Berita Cuaca", J-Rock with their single "Karena Kita", Iwan Fals with his single "Bencana Alam". There also the singer and group band from overseas/ foreign countries which also have the same theme. They are Micheal Jackson with his single "Heal The World", "We Are The World", Linkin Park with their single "What I Have Done", and many other songs.

Besides, one of the literary works which use nature as the issue is poetry. Poetry is one of the interesting literary works because poetry is written used

beautiful word. Besides, it has deep sense and interpretation meaning. Just as Riffaterre said in Spiegelman's book,

the primary function of literary description is not to make the reader see something. Its aim is not to present an external reality. Description, like all literary discourse, is a verbal detour so contrived that the reader understands something else than the object ostensibly represented. . . . Its primary purpose is not to offer a representation, but to dictate an interpretation (2005:5-6).

There are so many famous poets in this world, such as Robert Frost, John Keat, William Shakespeare, and many other. One of the famous poets is William Wordsworth. He is also known as romantic poet because his work always uses romantic word. He was born at Cockermouth, Cumberland, on April 7, 1770. He is a second child of five children from John Wordsworth and Ann Cookson. After his mother died in 1778, he was transferred at Hawkshead Grammar School. He continued his studied at St. John's College in Cambridge. He has published many collections of poetry. "Descriptive Sketches" and "An Evening Walk" was his first poems which printed in 1793. Other famous poems are "London" (1802), "The Prelude" (1888), "Lyrical Ballad" (1798), and many other poems.

"The World is Too Much With Us", "Lines Written in Early Spring", and "I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud" are chosen by the researcher to analyze. The first poem tells about the ignoring people to the nature. The second poem tells about the sadness of Wordsworth because many people destroy the nature. The last poem tells about the loneliness of the poet. He assumes that seeing the nature can make the better feeling. To sum up, those poems have the ecological issue which tells about the people who ignore the beautiful nature in this world. They are too busy with their activity. They forget if they have the beautiful scenery if

they want to pay attention. In those poems, the author wants to remind the busy people to forget for a while from all their activity.

As the researcher knowledge, there are some research's which analysis poet, but there is still no research, essay, journal ordissertation which analyzes William Wordsworth poems "The World Is Too Much With Us", "Lines Written In Early Spring", and "I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud" using ecocriticism, especially the ecological issue. Thus, this research is aimed to analyze the ecological issue which express in William Wordsworth poems.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

Based on the background above, the statements of problem are in the following question:

- 1.2.1 what is the imagery which represents nature described in William Wordsworth poems?
- 1.2.2 how is ecological issue represented in Wordsworth poems?

## **1.3 Purposes of Study**

This research is intended to:

- 1.3.1 describe the imagery which represents nature in William Wordsworth poems.
- 1.3.2 expose the natural issues represented in Wordsworth poems.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The researcher hopeful this research will be useful to everyone that want to know this poems deeply, because it can increase their knowledge about William Wordsworth poems. For instance:

1.4.1 For university student of English department, they will know the sense of William Wordsworth poems.

1.4.2 For the readers, they can get the information about the study of ecology and the three poems of William Wordsworth.

### **1.5 The scope and Limitation of the Study**

In this thesis, the researcher focuses on the ecocriticism as the topic. How the ecocriticism seen in those poems will be analyzed in this research. The researcher also limits her thesis to William Wordsworth poems: “The World is Too Much With Us”, Lines Written in Early Spring”, “I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud”.