

**ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROBLEMS IN ROBERT C. O'
BRIEN'S NOVEL *MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH***



A Thesis

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University
In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to obtain an Undergraduate Degree in English
Literature Study Program*

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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

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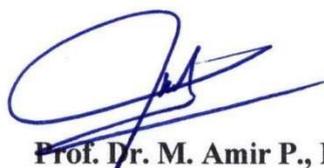
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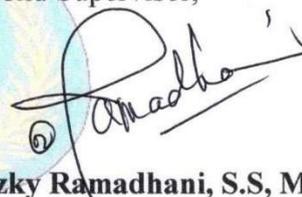
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THESIS

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ROBERT C.O' BRIEN'S NOVEL *MRS.FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH***

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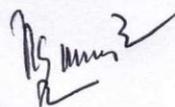


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Today, August 4th 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **RHOMY MUHAMMAD** (Student Number: **F21116303**) entitled:

**ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROBLEMS IN
ROBERT C.O' BRIEN'S NOVEL *MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH***

Submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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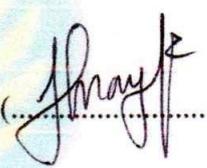
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The thesis of **RHOMY MUHAMMAD** (Student Number: **F21116303**) entitled, "ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROBLEMS IN **ROBERT C. O' BRIEN'S NOVEL *MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH***" has been revised as advised during the examination on August 4th 2023 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by himself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

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Rhomy Muhammad

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6. Robert C. O' Brien's as the author of *Mrs.Frisby and The Rats of NIMH*.

ABSTRACT

Rhomy Muhammad. Analysis of Environmental Sustainability Problems in the Novel *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O' Brien

This study aims to analyze the types of environmental damage and the factors that cause environmental damage in the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O' Brien.

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method using Garrard's literary ecocriticism study which focuses on the idea of the animal in this novel, namely rats.

The results of this study indicate that in the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien there are types of environmental damage, namely land damage, ecosystem damage, biodiversity extinction and protection forest damage. Meanwhile, the factors that cause environmental damage are: Natural factors and human factors. In this novel, the writer makes a critical story from the point of view of another creature, namely rats. Mice are described as intelligent beings who actually want and are able to create new civilizations without relying on stolen human food. The rats even made their own food barns, thus changing the stigma of rats known as human food thieves to become an independent and environmentally sustainable species.

Keywords: Environmental Sustainability, Ecocriticism, *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*.

ABSTRAK

Rhomy Muhammad. Analysis of Environmental Sustainability Problems in the Novel *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O' Brien

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis jenis kerusakan lingkungan dan faktor yang menyebabkan kerusakan lingkungan pada novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* karya Robert C. O' Brien.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan kajian ekokritik sastra milik Garrard yang berfokus pada gagasan tentang binatang yang pada novel ini yaitu kawanan tikus.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pada novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* karya Robert C. O' Brien terdapat jenis kerusakan lingkungan yaitu kerusakan lahan, rusaknya ekosistem, kepunahan keanekaragaman hayati dan kerusakan hutan lindung. Sementara itu, faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan kerusakan lingkungan yaitu: Faktor alami dan faktor manusia. Pada novel tersebut penulis membuat suatu cerita kritik dari sudut pandang makhluk lain yaitu tikus. Tikus digambarkan sebagai makhluk intelijen yang sebenarnya mau dan mampu untuk membuat peradaban baru tanpa bergantung pada hasil curian makanan manusia. Kawanan tikus tersebut bahkan membuat lumbung pangan mereka sendiri sehingga mengubah stigma tikus yang dikenal sebagai pencuri makanan manusia menjadi spesies yang mandiri dan melestarikan lingkungan yang berkelanjutan.

Kata kunci: *Environmental Sustainability*, Ekokritik, *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| APPROVAL FORM | ii |
| LEGITIMACY SHEET | ii |
| AGREEMENT SHEET | iv |
| DECLARATION | v |
| STATEMENT LETTER | vi |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | vii |
| ABSTRACT | ix |
| ABSTRAK | x |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | xi |
| CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| A. Background of Study | 1 |
| B. Identification of Problem..... | 6 |
| C. Scope of Problem | 6 |
| D. Statement of Problem | 6 |
| E. Objective of Research..... | 7 |
| F. Significance of the Research..... | 7 |
| G. Sequence of Writing | 8 |
| CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW | 9 |
| A. Previous Study | 9 |
| B. Theoretical Approach | 13 |
| 1. Basic Concepts of Literary Criticism | 13 |
| 2. Ecocriticism | 15 |
| 3. Types of Enviromental Damage..... | 19 |
| 4. Enviromental Damage Factors | 21 |
| CHAPTER III | 22 |
| RESEARCH METHODOLOGY | 22 |
| A. Methodology | 22 |
| B. Data Sources..... | 22 |
| 1. Source of Research Data | 22 |
| 2. Data Research..... | 22 |
| C. Technique of Data Collection | 23 |

| | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| D. | Technique of Data Analysis | 23 |
| E. | Research of Procedures..... | 23 |
| CHAPTER IV FINDING AND DISCUSSION | | 25 |
| B. | Data Analysis | 33 |
| 2. | The Causes of Enviromental Damage Happened Based on Robert C. O' | 46 |
| CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION | | 55 |
| A. | Conclusion | 55 |
| B. | Suggestion | 56 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY..... | | 59 |
| APPENDIX | | 61 |
| A. | Synopsis of the Novel <i>Mrs.Frisby and The Rats of NIMH</i> | 61 |
| B. | Biography of Robert C. O'Brien | 69 |

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of study, identification of the problem, statement of the problem, objectives of study, and sequence of writing.

A. Background of Study

The Earth will always undergo changes. Every growth and development in life also always brings changes to the nature. The increase in the number of human populations that exceed normal capacity and rapid technological advances have contributed to various unexpected impacts on this world. However, human activities on earth can make the status of the Earth in a critical condition. The environmental crisis is a thorny one. Planet Earth continues to undergo transformation over time. Every day that process happens faster and faster. Al Gore, an American activist who has persistently voiced concern over global warming, called such a situation a "*new period of hyper-change*". The term stems from a premise that we live in a time that is changing very fast and profoundly. The radical chaos in humanity's relationship with the universe's ecosystem is the most fundamental reason for global change. This arises because there is a Cartesian-Newtonian worldview that puts humans in a position to dominate nature and this is what causes radical chaos (Yudari, 2020).

So far, literature has been seen anthropocentrically as a cultural artifact that is centered on humans. As a logical result, moral values and messages as the substance of nature in literature tend to be seen, considered, and addressed as a reference to the ideal standards of human behavior in their lives as individual and

social beings, not as biological beings, especially as ecological beings. Ecocritical disclosure is considered to be able to explain that literature is a creative product of nature in which humans are an inseparable part of it. Thus, messages of wisdom in literature will reach the whole of life in the universe (Sukmawan, 2014).

The existence of literature itself is seen in various points of view, even literature which is a work cannot be separated from a criticism, which has come to be known as literary criticism. The definition of literary criticism, like the previous one, is not absolute, since there is currently no general agreement on the meaning of literature. Literary criticism is the study of literature that directly confronts literary works, directly talking about literary works with an emphasis on their judgment. In other words, literary criticism is a good and bad inequality of literary works, illumination and judgment of literary works (Pradopo, 2021). But literary criticism is an activity or action to find and determine the intrinsic value of literary works through a system of understanding and critical interpretation in the form of writing. Literary criticism is hereby an evaluation activity that manifests itself in literary works or texts. However, because all literary works are the work of their authors, literary criticism covers the issue of the relationship between literature and humanity, the main purpose of literary criticism is literary works or texts and their meaning for critics, not authors (Herawati, 2021).

One of the popular literary criticisms in the modern era is the environmental literature movement (ecocriticism). The term ecocriticism comes from the English language ecocriticism which is a combination of the word *ecology* and the word *criticism*. Ecology is a study of science that studies the pattern of relationships

between plants, animals, and humans to each other and to their environments (Sukmawan, *Literary Ecocriticism: Menangkap Sasmita Arcadia*, 2016). Literary criticism is the same as judging literature. A critic is a person who is interpreting texts and words. Criticism can be interpreted as a form of expression, a judgment related to the good or bad qualities of something. Literary ecocriticism is the perspective of interpreting literature by considering the environment (Atfalusoleh, 2018).

This literary ecocriticism is also a concern for one of the authors, Robert C.O' Brien, entitled *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH*. The novel tells the story of a widowed mouse mother, Mrs. Frisby, struggling to save the life of her youngest son, Tim, with the help from a group of rats who are also trying to change, from greed and stealing into a self-sustaining community of rats. The mice are trying to escape the NIMH (National Institute of Mental Health) experimental laboratory, where they have been genetically altered by injections that have increased their intelligence and learning ability to almost the same level as humans. Mrs. Frisby's flock of rats had been living in the rose bushes on Mr. Fitzgibbon's Family farm. The rats have plans to move away from Mr. Fitzgibbon's family farm, as their land will be levelled and damage the home of Mrs. Frisby and several other rats. In the end, one of the leaders of the rat herd named Nicodemus is increasingly turbulent because the rat colony continues to rely on stealing even though they are intelligent. For him, stealing produces boredom and anxiety, because colonies cannot be independent and will contribute to the destruction of other creatures' civilizations such as humans.

Based on the story, once Timothy recovers, Mrs. Frisby and their family move to their summer home, and the rats escape from the NIMHers once again, it is known that the author tries to describe the problems faced by other creatures due to human actions, especially environmental problems, population, and greed control all aspects of the earth without thinking about sustainable development for other creatures.

In this novel, the most highlighted thing is freedom and balanced civilization. Robert C. O'Brien focuses on human behavior of catching rats for the purpose of scientific discovery, but ignores the lives and populations of these animals. When Robert C. O'Brien wrote his novel, he was inspired by a real-world experiment conducted by scientist John B. Calhoun, which put hundreds of mice into what he called a rat utopia. Overcrowding and psychological stress led to the complete destruction of the rat community in Calhoun's experiment, and some of the concerns with the results of this real-world experiment are reflected in Robert C. O'Brien's fictional world of NIMH rats.

The environmental damage depicted in the novel is mostly caused by human greed factors that make rats as experimental animals which can then reduce the world's rat population. In fact, making mice as laboratory test material has been widely criticized because the impact on humans themselves is also very risky. In addition, another visible criticism of the novel is that the sustainable environment depicts explicitly the rats plan to build their own food barns while preserving nature without relying on human possessions which they usually do by stealing.

The desire of the rats to remove the stigma that they are thieves is one of the main visions in the novel's story.

According to Garrard, ecocriticism includes the study of the relationship between humans and non-humans, human history and culture as it relates to critical analysis of humans and their environment (Khomisah, 2020). Garrard in his theory summarizes various environmental issues that are problems of contemporary society including pollution/pollution, wilderness, dense settlements, natural disasters, wildlife extinction, and global/earth warming (Afandi & Nahak, 2022). Garrard provides an understanding that ecocriticism is closely related to nature. However, the relationship between humans and nature still needs to be critically analyzed which is focused on the way humans treat nature. Thus, this research goes into the type of damage to the natural environment that occurs on human actions.

The problems of environmental issues and animal populations described in the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* (National Institute of Mental Health) are very close to the current state of the environmental crisis situation. According to Robert C. O' Brien, the main message is more or less to change the perception of humans who initially considered themselves as rulers to become custodians of the earth who have the right to protect the population of other living things, so as to realize sustainable environmental conservation.

Thus, research related to the relationship of the environment with humans in the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* is important to do. This is because, ecocriticism can help determine, explore, and even solve ecological problems in a

broader sense. In its function as a medium of representation of people's attitudes, views, and responses to the surrounding environment, literature has the potential to express ideas about the environment, including the values of environmental wisdom.

B. Identification of Problem

As for the identification of the problem in this study, after the writer read the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O' Brien, found:

1. Environmental pollution due to research waste.
2. Dense human-caused settlements .
3. The problem of animal rats and populations.
4. The greed of man who considers himself the ruler of the earth.
5. Independence of rats sustainable environmental preservation.

C. Scope of Problem

Based on the identification of the problems mentioned above, in researching the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O' Brien, the writer focused on representing environmental issues and rat populations in maintaining their populations and other living things to create sustainable environmental conservation.

D. Statement of Problem

Based on the background description of the problem that has been explained by the writer above, several problem formulations can be made as follows:

1. What are the types of environmental damage in Robert C. O' Brien's novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH*?
2. How the environmental damage happened based on Robert C. O' Brien's novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH*?

E. Objective of Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, several research objectives can be made as follows:

1. Describe the types of environmental damage are in the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O' Brien.
2. Describe the causes of environmental damage in the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O' Brien.

F. Significance of the Research

1. Theoretically

Theoretically, this research is an application of the theories of the courses obtained during education and to meet one of the academic requirements in obtaining a bachelor's degree at Hasanuddin University. In addition, the writer also hopes that this research can be a source of reference and academic studies in the future related to the ecological paradigm in literary works, especially the novel *Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O' Brien with an ecocritical perspective, orin other literary works.

2. Practically

Practically, the writer hopes that the results of this thesis are expected to be a treasury of research in the field of literature, especially related to novels and other works of fiction using an ecocritical approach. In addition, through this research, it is also expected to increase appreciation and benefits to readers of literary works, especially related to ecocriticism in literary works.

G. Sequence of Writing

This research is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is an introduction, consists of background of writing, scope of problem, research question, objective of the study, and significance of the research. Chapter two is the literature review, consist of previous studies that similar with this research and some explanations used in the research. Chapter three consists of methodology which explains about what method that the researcher used in analyzing the novel, including the method of collecting data, method of analyzing the data and research procedure. The fourth chapter deals with the analysis of the environmental problems that reflected in the novel. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion of this research which examines the whole analysis in brief.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter is divided into two parts, where in the first part is an explanation of previous studies that have same theory of approach or research is used. The second parts as the last section in this chapter presents the theoretical framework that will be used as a big picture and the main steps in this research.

A. Previous Study

In an effort to obtain the results of scientific research, it is hoped that the data used in the preparation of this research can provide answers to all problems formulated. This is so that there is no duplication of scientific essays or repetition of scientific essays or repetition that has been researched by other parties with the same problem. The following is relevant previous research to be used as a guideline for this research.

First, Chalmers, (1992) conducted a study entitled "*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH: A Journey for Children*". This study aims to make a fun learning method by reading children's story books that are slightly heavier than usual, namely *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* (National Institute of Mental Health). The results showed that the novel *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* (National Institute of Mental Health) can help readers to form problem-solving skills. The rats show a desire to change their fate, struggling to make themselves independent to avoid the stigma of a species that steals in order to survive.

Second, Seiter, (1990) conducted a study entitled "*Mrs. Frisby and The Rats of NIMH go to Hollywood*". This research shows that the novel *Mrs. Frisby and*

The Rats of NIMH was accepted among art connoisseurs and made into a film. The results showed that the novel *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* (National Institute of Mental Health) can change the views of art connoisseurs both literary and film about the human view of himself and his behavior in other creatures. In fact, this study shows that film lovers are willing to accept the novel *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* (National Institute of Mental Health) as a literary work that builds empathy for civilizations other than humans.

Third, Khomisah, (2020) conducted a research entitled "*Ecocriticism in the Development of Literary Studies*". This paper aims to explain the development of literary ecology studies (ecocriticism) which appears as a new symptom in literary studies in Indonesia. This research uses qualitative methods and is descriptive. The results of the study explain that literary ecology focuses on the moral and political 'green' agenda, which is oriented towards preserving environmental values, where an author is located to give birth to his inspiration. In the perspective of the literary approach, literary ecology has its roots in mimetic studies oriented that literary works are a reflection of the existing reality of life, referring to Abrams' universal theory as a development of Plato's imitation thought, in which everything is the result of imitation. In its development, the interdisciplinary nature of literary ecology studies can utilize disciplines, such as ecofeminism, ecoimperialism, political ecology, cultural ecology, and ecobiology. Therefore, literary ecology as a paradigm of literary studies in Indonesia although intensified continuously, so as to foster interest in interdisciplinary literary studies on green literature or ecological literary works.

Fourth, Yudari, (2020) conducted a study entitled "*Literary Ecocriticism: An Environmental Wisdom in the Novel 'Ping! A Message From Borneo'*". This article discusses the relationship between humans and the environment contained in the novel '*Ping! A Message from Borneo*' by Riawani Elyta and Shabrina W.S. The writing of this article requires a clear understanding of the two-way relationship between intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. In a sense, the author uses the analysis of the intrinsic elements of the text first before discussion with an ecocritical approach. In this article, what is analyzed are the elements of narrative structure in novels with an ecocritical approach. The results of the analysis and conclusions found from the novel contain a central idea that the nature of man and nature is one. There is a complete and strong message conveyed by the author to Indonesian teenagers to care about logging forests and endangered animals, especially orangutans in Kalimantan.

Fifth, Waluyo, (2021) conducted a research entitled "*Ecocriticism on Kalu Kancana's Eternal Novel and Its Use in Literature Learning in High School*". This study aims to describe: (1) ecocriticism contained in the novel Kekal by Jalu Kancana; (2) the value of character education contained in the novel Kekal by Jalu Kancana; and (3) the relevance of the novel Kekal by Jalu Kancana as literature teaching material in high schools. This research was carried out with descriptive qualitative research methods and ecocritical approaches. Data sources are documents in the form of novels and informants consisting of students and teachers. The subjects of the study were taken by purposive sampling technique. Data collection is carried out by document analysis and interviews. The validity

tests used are data source triangulation and method triangulation. The data analysis technique used is flow model analysis. The results of this study show that: (1) the theme raised in the novel is the environment and highlights a lot of anthropogenic ecocriticism including: the encroachment of nature reserves, the destruction and clearing of forests, the destruction of the environment, carbon trading, and the indifference to wild animals and their habitats; (2) the educational values of the characters contained in the novel include religious, hard work, independence, love to read, care for the environment, social care and responsibility; and (3) the novel Kekal is relevant as learning material when viewed from its relation to the instructional goals that must be achieved, as well as from the aspects of content, presentation, language, and graphics. Thus, it can be concluded that the results of this research can contribute to the development of ecocriticism in Indonesia. In addition, the results of this study provide an overview of the importance of providing character education to students, especially regarding caring for the environment.

From some of the research above, it can be seen that the previous research objects used were novel, both local and international. In previous studies, the perspective of the study used was to use literary psychology, art and entertainment, social values, and ecocriticism in novels. While in this study only using theory or ecocritical approach to interpret data. This study then found limitations in finding previous studies with the same novel, due to the fact that the novel *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* is rarely used in research even though it

is a popular novel, so the analysis of this novel can be a renewal in research on ecocriticism.

B. Theoretical Approach

1. Basic Concepts of Literary Criticism

Criticism comes from the word *krites* (Greek) meaning judge, from the verb *krinein* meaning to judge. Criticism is devoted to the investigation and correction of ancient texts. In the 17th century Europe and England expanded to include all systems of literary theory and practical criticism. Partini Sardjono Pradotokusumo (1992) gives the understanding that interpretation, judgment, and judgment of literary works are called literary criticism. It goes on to say that 'criticism' (literature) comes from the word *krites* (Ancient Greek) meaning 'judge'. *Krites* was originally derived from *krinein* 'judging'. Later *kritikos* were originally used on the Pergamons led by Crates to distinguish them from the grammarians or grammatists led by Aristarchus in Alexandria. However, in the second century AD the term *kritikos* was used to mean grammar, and over time the term *kritikos* even disappeared from the vocabulary of that era. (Gasong, 2018)

In classical Latin literature the term *criticus* is defined higher than *Grammaticus* with the explanation that the term *criticus* also means 'interpretation of manuscripts' and 'interpretation of words'. Now the term literary criticism is very strong and the understanding has changed several times. It can be concluded from the writings of Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in *Theory of literature* (1957) that literary criticism means talking about a particular literary work.

However, it is also said that the meaning of a word, like literary criticism, cannot be ascertained or established precisely because each word has its own history (Gasong, 2018).

Abrams in the *Glossary of Literary* (1981) explains that literary criticism is a branch of science that deals with the formulation, classification, description, and assessment of literary works. Rahmat Joko Pradopo in *Modern Indonesian Literary Criticism* (1988) stated that literary criticism is a consideration of good and bad literary works. furthermore, it is said that the research imposed on literary works is classified as literary criticism (Gasong, 2018).

In essence, literary criticism has three uses or three tasks, namely: (1) for literary scholarship; (2) for the development of literature; and (3) for the interests of people who want enlightenment about literary works. In literary criticism what is important is analysis. This is in accordance with Jassin's opinion in *Tifa Poet and His Region* (1965) that literary criticism is the good and bad of a literary result by giving reasons about its content and form (Gasong, 2018).

Thus, literary criticism is an assessment activity indicated on literary works or texts. Given the fact that every literary work is not material that exists by itself, but material created by the author. Literary criticism covers aspects of authorship related to the nature of literary works or includes problems of literary relations with humanitarian problems. However, the main target of literary criticism is the literary work or text, not the author. Some definitions of literary criticism are the following (Gasong, 2018):

Literary criticism is the study of literature that directly confronts literary works, directly talking about literary works with an emphasis on their judgment. In other words, literary criticism is a good and bad inequality of literary works, illumination and judgment of literary works (Pradopo, 2021). But basically literary criticism is an activity or action to find and determine the intrinsic value of literary works through a system of understanding and critical interpretation in the form of writing. Literary criticism is hereby an evaluation activity that manifests itself in literary works or texts. However, because all literary works are the work of their authors, literary criticism covers the issue of the relationship between literature and humanity, the main purpose of literary criticism is literary works or texts and their meaning for critics, not authors (Herawati, 2021).

In short, literary criticism is an effort to respond, consider, assess a work by showing the advantages and weaknesses of a work (Gasong, 2018).

2. Ecocriticism

Literary ecocriticism is a term derived from the English ecocriticism which is a formation of the word ecology and the word criticism. Ecology can be interpreted as the scientific study of the pattern of relationships of plants, animals, and humans to each other and to their environments. Criticism can be interpreted as a form and expression of judgment about the good or bad qualities of something (Sukmawan, 2020).

The term ecocriticism was coined by William Rueckert in his essay "*literature and ecology*" (Güngör, 2020). The definition of ecocriticism is very

broad, which according to Garrard, ecocriticism includes the study of the relationship between humans and non-humans, human history and culture related to critical analysis of humans and their environment (Khomisah, 2020). In terms of ontology, literary ecocriticism is a perspective of literary understanding that relates aesthetic facts to its environment. Ecocriticism is at the point of environmental and literary relations. From the epistemological side, it is based on the concept that literature comes from the demands of its environment. The axiological aspects of literary ecocriticism are useful for revealing the symbiotic relationship between the environment and literature (Wirawan, 2019).

Ecocriticism has a basic paradigm that every object can be seen in an ecological network, and ecology can be used as an auxiliary science in this approach (Harsono, 2012). This ecological-minded literary criticism intends to provide an explanation through an ecological approach to solve ecological problems in literary works. Ecocriticism focuses on the study of the relationship between culture and humans and the surrounding nature. The rationale for using environmentally sound literary research (ecocriticism) is an effort to understand the relationship between humans and the environment, the environment and other humans. According to Harsono (2008: 35), ecocriticism theory is multidisciplinary, on the one hand ecocriticism uses literary theory and on the other hand uses ecological theory. Literary theory is a multidisciplinary theory as is ecological theory. Literary theory has the basic assumption that literature is related to reality. This relationship makes literary works a form of social criticism that can be used as an object of research.

Man is considered a creature entitled to his power on earth. The endless exploitation of the earth, causing damage and instability of the ecosystem. As thinking creatures, humans are constantly using land, natural resources without paying attention to the consequences that can occur. For the sake and in the name of welfare, humans hide their greed in draining natural wealth (Setijowati, 2010: 46). With the interdependence of other creatures, living together for the sake of harmonious and balanced ecological continuity became a science that is now beginning to develop. Environmental problems require scientific cultural analysis because these problems are the result of interactions between ecological knowledge and cultural changes (Juliasih, 2012: 87).

Based on the experts' understanding of ecocriticism above, researchers can conclude that ecocriticism is a perspective of literary understanding that relates aesthetic facts to their environment. Ecocriticism is at the point of environmental and literary relations, and is the study of the relationship between humans and non-humans, human history and culture as it relates to the critical analysis of humans and their environment.

Ecocriticism studies can be based on the concept of environmental (ecological) local wisdom in literary works. Local wisdom is a system of values or living behavior of local people in interacting with the environment where they live wisely. Local wisdom is all forms of knowledge, beliefs, understandings or insights as well as customs or ethics that guide human behavior in life within ecological communities. In another sense, local wisdom can be interpreted as intelligence and strategies for managing the universe in maintaining ecological

balance that has been tested for centuries by various disasters and human constraints and negligence (Sudikan, 2016: 12-13).

According to Garrard (2004) ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. Ecocriticism takes an earth-centered (environmental) approach to the study of literature. Moreover, ecocriticism explores ways of imagining and describing the relationship between humans and the environment in all areas of cultural outcomes. Ecocriticism is inspired by (as well as a critical stance of) modern environmental movements.

The importance of ecocriticism in literary studies can be expressed in the form of the following statement: first, nature represented in the poem; secondly, the role physical environment play, in the flow of literary works; Third, ecological wisdom that accordance with the values expressed in literary works; Fourth, the environmental metaphors influence how we treat them; Fifth, we can characterize writing about nature as a literary genre; Sixth, the environmental criticism influence the categorization of contemporary literature and popular literature; and seventh, the relationship between nature and literature. These seven statement are the basis for the study of literary ecocriticism, which confirms the relationship between the environment (nature) and literary works that literary works, so that ecocriticism as a liaison between the two (Khomisah, 2020).

In line with some of the explanations above, ecocriticism can also help determine, explore, and even solve ecological problems in a broader sense. In its function as a medium of representation of people's attitudes, views, and responses to the surrounding environment, literature has the potential to express ideas about

the environment, including the values of environmental wisdom. This is very reasonable considering that literature grows, develops, and is sourced from the community and natural environment.

3. Types of Environmental Damage

Humans are created with sufficiency because everything has actually been provided by nature. However, not infrequently humans also do things that harm nature as well as humans themselves. For example, displacing wild land to make homes or human farmland, making rats as experimental material so as to potentially reduce rat populations in the world, and using protected forests as a place to live and looking for wood used to make toys. This is done without considering the complexity of nature. Garrard in his theory summarizes various environmental issues that are problems of contemporary society including pollution, wilderness, dense settlements, natural disasters, wildlife extinction, and global/earth warming (Afandi & Nahak, 2022). Garrard said that ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between humans and the environment. Throughout human history requires critical analysis of the term "human" itself (Sawijiningrum, 2018).

Garrard provides an understanding that ecocriticism is closely related to nature. However, the relationship between humans and nature still needs to be critically analyzed which is focused on the way humans treat nature. Thus, this research goes into the type of damage to the natural environment that occurs on human actions.

Garrard's environmental damage theory, also known as eco-criticism or the environmental criticism, focuses on the representation of environmental issues and ecological concerns in literature. This theory examines how literary texts portray the negative impacts of human actions on the natural world, including land destruction, ecosystem damage, and biodiversity extinction, as follows (Ikhwan & Suyatno, 2020):

a. Land Destruction

Land destruction refers to the alteration or degradation of natural landscapes due to human activities such as deforestation, urbanization, mining, and agriculture. In literature, land destruction can be depicted as the devastation of forests, wetlands, or natural habitats caused by human intervention. This destruction often leads to negative consequences for the environment, wildlife, and human communities that depend on these ecosystems for their well-being.

b. Ecosystem Damage

Ecosystem damage refers to the disruption of ecological systems caused by human actions. Human activities such as pollution, introduction of invasive species, and overexploitation of natural resources can lead to imbalances in ecosystems, affecting the delicate relationships between different species and their environment. In literature, ecosystem damage can be portrayed through narratives of environmental degradation, the loss of biodiversity, and the struggle of living organisms to adapt to the changing conditions of their habitats.

c. Biodiversity Extinction

Biodiversity extinction refers to the loss of various plant and animal species in an ecosystem. Human activities, particularly habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change, are major contributors to the decline and extinction of species worldwide. In literature, the theme of biodiversity extinction can be explored through narratives of endangered species, vanishing ecosystems, and the impact of human behavior on the survival of diverse life forms on Earth.

4. Environmental Damage Factors

According to Garrad environmental damage is caused by two factors that can be explained as follows:

a. Natural Factors

Damage originating from the earth itself, for example: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, the passage of time and the day/night, cycle storms, Predators (food chain), and landslides.

b. Human Factors

Environmental damage that occurs due to human behavior to improve the quality and comfort of life without paying attention to environmental sustainability. This damage is caused by activities including: industries that pollute the environment, exploitation of natural resources, excessive use of fossil fuels, and household waste Judging from the occurrence of environmental damage is divided into two, namely:

1. Self-inflicted damage caused by man and nature;
2. Damage caused by pollution, both from soil, air and water.