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ECOCRITICAL ANALYSIS OF NATURAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION IN JESYCA TINA'S SHORT STORY *BUMI TAK SEINDAH DULU*

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Abstract
The study meticulously examines the pervasive theme of nature exploitation through an in-depth analysis of Jesyca Tina's evocative short story, *Bumi Tak Seindah Dulu*. By focusing on the adverse effects stemming from humanity's excessive exploitation of natural resources, such as environmental degradation, disasters, and ecosystem transformations, the research aims to provide profound insights into the intricate dynamics between humans and their natural surroundings as depicted in the short story. Through a carefully designed descriptive qualitative research methodology, the study meticulously gathers primary data directly from the narrative canvas of the short story, allowing for a comprehensive exploration of the themes and motifs therein. By grounding its analysis in the principles of eco-criticism, the research illuminates the complex interplay between human actions and environmental consequences, underscoring the urgent need for conscientious and sustainable practices. Moreover, the study emphasizes the narrative's pivotal role in fostering environmental consciousness and advocating for responsible stewardship of the planet. By shedding light on the intersections of literature, ecology, and ethical responsibility, the research serves as a compelling call to action for a paradigm shift towards more harmonious and sustainable coexistence with the natural world. Through its nuanced examination of these themes, the study seeks to inspire readers to reevaluate their relationship with the environment and embrace a more environmentally-conscious lifestyle.

Keywords—ecocriticism, ecology, environmental consciousness, ethical responsibility, exploitation

Introduction

The term "nature exploitation" encapsulates the phenomenon wherein humans excessively utilize natural resources, leading to ecosystem harm and, at times, natural disasters. Nature, in this context, refers to landscapes largely untouched by human civilization, echoing Garrard's concept of wilderness as pristine nature (Garrard, 2004). Recent concerns over environmental degradation and climate change have heightened the relevance of this issue.

The interaction between humans and nature has long been a subject of debate, especially as human populations and technological advancements grow. Nature exploitation has emerged as a significant concern, contributing to environmental degradation and crises. As populations expand and technologies evolve, the impact of human activities on the environment becomes more pronounced, amplifying the urgency of addressing exploitation.

In addressing this issue, it is crucial to comprehend the relationship between humans and nature. Eco-criticism, a discipline within literary and cultural studies, examines this interaction, investigating how literature mirrors and influences our perceptions of nature. Literature functions as a platform to challenge exploitation and promote environmental

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preservation. Through the analysis of literary texts such as Jesyca Tina's *Bumi Tidak Seindah Dulu*, valuable insights into the repercussions of unbridled exploitation can be gleaned. This narrative depicts the consequences of human neglect towards ecosystems and underscores the bravery required to combat exploitation. In addition to literature, science and technology also contribute to nature exploitation. While they can exacerbate environmental degradation, they also hold the potential to create solutions and promote ethical conduct. Scientists and technologists have a responsibility to develop sustainable practices and technologies that minimize harm to the environment.

In conclusion, addressing nature exploitation requires a multidisciplinary approach involving literature, science, and technology. Eco-criticism offers a valuable framework for understanding and addressing this issue, emphasizing the need for greater awareness and responsibility towards the environment. By integrating insights from various disciplines, human beings can work towards a more sustainable and harmonious relationship with nature.

Literature Review

Ecocriticism

Ecocriticism critiques contemporary environmental issues and movements (Khomisah, 2020). These movements, addressing pollution, wildlife preservation, natural disasters, ecosystems, and land conservation, underscore the synergy between the physical environment and literature (Garrard, 2004). Unlike traditional literary analysis, ecocriticism views "nature" holistically, encompassing both natural and human-made elements (Devi, 2023).

According to Garrad (2004), ecocriticism explores the intricate relationship between humans and their environment, encompassing human history and culture in its critical analysis. Consequently, ecocriticism delves into how humans portray and reflect upon their interconnectedness with the environment through cultural expressions.

In essence, ecocriticism goes beyond mere literary analysis; it serves as a scholarly endeavor to understand the interdependence and symbiosis between humans and their surroundings. It examines how literature and cultural manifestations articulate this relationship, shedding light on humanity's role in shaping and being shaped by the environment. Expanding on this, ecocriticism is deeply rooted in interdisciplinary approaches, drawing from fields such as ecology, sociology, anthropology, and philosophy. It seeks to uncover the ways in which human narratives, ideologies, and behaviors influence and are influenced by the natural world. By analyzing literary texts, ecocritics aim to reveal underlying cultural attitudes towards nature, as well as how these attitudes impact environmental practices and policies. Moreover, ecocriticism is not solely concerned with the portrayal of nature in literature but also with the ethical and political implications of human-environment interactions. It interrogates power dynamics, environmental justice issues, and the distribution of resources, recognizing that literature and culture play a crucial role in shaping environmental discourse and action.

In summary, ecocriticism offers a comprehensive framework for understanding the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary inquiry and cultural analysis in addressing contemporary environmental challenges.

Natural Resource Exploitation

The utilization of natural resources should ideally yield benefits for societal welfare and the nation's economy. However, instances of exploitation often result in environmental and societal losses (Nugroho, 2021). Exploitation entails the unchecked or excessive utilization of resources solely for economic gain, disregarding propriety, justice, and welfare considerations. Essentially, it involves exploiting something disproportionately and arbitrarily for personal gain, often exceeding ethical boundaries.

Exploitation primarily serves self-interest, aiming to control or extract the potential of resources, whether natural or human, leading to harm to both individuals and the environment (Supian, Manugeren, & Purwarno, 2022). While exploitation may contribute to development, its impacts are dual, influenced by how humans manage nature. Thus, sustainable development

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necessitates a holistic approach considering economic, ethical, and social dimensions, along with natural resource capacity and sustainability (Kasmawati, 2011).

Natural resources encompass all environmental elements utilized by humans to meet various needs, from basic necessities to hobbies or talent development (Murti, 2021). Preservation of these resources is vital for human survival and quality of life, emphasizing the importance of ethical resource exploitation (Kasmawati, 2011).

However, exploiting natural resources unsustainably leads to environmental degradation and harms both humans and animals. This heedless exploitation contributes to the current precarious state of nature, resulting in natural disasters exacerbated by human neglect and exploitation. Moreover, the consequences of exploitation extend beyond immediate environmental damage, affecting future generations and the overall health of ecosystems. By exploiting resources unsustainably, we compromise the ability of ecosystems to regenerate and provide essential services, such as clean air, water, and fertile soil, upon which human civilization depends. For this reason, actions to protect and preserve the environment cannot be delayed any longer and socialization regarding nature conservation can be carried out through literary media (Manugeren, et al., 2023).

In essence, addressing the issue of exploitation requires a paradigm shift towards more responsible and ethical resource management practices. This entails not only regulating resource extraction but also promoting conservation, renewable energy sources, and equitable distribution of resources. Only through such concerted efforts can we ensure the long-term health and resilience of both human societies and the natural world.

Research Method

The research methodology employed in this study is the descriptive qualitative method. As defined by Sugiono (2020), this method is grounded in the philosophy of postpositivism and is utilized to investigate the conditions of natural objects, with the researchers serving as the primary instrument. In this particular study, primary data sources were utilized, comprising information obtained directly by the researchers without intermediary sources, directly from the research site (Sugiono, 2020). Data collection methods involved the analysis of the research objects pertinent to exploitation, ecocriticism, and natural resources. Following the analysis of the short story, the researchers collated the findings, which manifest as textual expressions in the form of words and sentences.

Results and Discussion

Exploitation

After analyzing this data, it becomes evident that the Earth has undergone significant changes and is no longer as picturesque as it once was. These alterations can be attributed to human exploitation and the disregard for the environment. The narrative sheds light on harmful practices that contribute to Earth's degradation, aiming to raise awareness. It emphasizes the accountability of our actions and the importance of mindful interaction with the environment. By illustrating the adverse effects of exploitation, the authors prompt readers to contemplate their behavior and opt for more sustainable practices. Presented below is an excerpt from the data:

> "*Ternyata, pak kades benar benar menyetujui pembangunan perusahaan pengelola kayu jati, apakah beliau tidak sadar tindakannya yang gegabah itu, dia seenaknya saja mengambil keputusan, tanpa meminta pendapat ibu" ucap ibu dengan emosi memuncak.* (Tina, 2017)
>
> "It turns out that the village head really approved the construction of a teak wood processing company. Didn't he realize that his actions were rash? He just took the decision at will, without asking for your opinion," said the mother, her emotions running high." (Tina, 2017)

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In the excerpt above, the focus is on the exploitation of natural resources, particularly the management of teak wood. The lines suggest that the village head has approved the establishment of a teak wood management company without considering the consequences or consulting the community. This decision is portrayed as hasty and unilateral, implying a lack of awareness or concern for the potential environmental and social impacts. The emotional reaction of the speaker, presumably a member of the community, underscores the gravity of the situation and the frustration with the village head's decision-making process. This portrayal highlights the theme of exploitation, where decisions are made without proper consideration for the long-term sustainability of natural resources or the well-being of the local community.

Natural Disasters

A disaster, whether triggered by human actions or natural forces, is an event that disrupts the natural order. Human behavior, when irresponsible, can lead to significant destruction of the environment (Aulia, 2023). According to Republic of Indonesia Law Number 24 of 2007 on Disaster Management, disasters are defined as events or sequences of events that pose threats to human lives and livelihoods, stemming from both natural and anthropogenic factors, resulting in casualties, environmental degradation, property damage, and psychological impacts. The short story, *Bumi Tak Seindah Dulu* narrates the plight of a village afflicted by a disaster caused by exploitative activities. The disaster unfolded because the community failed to oppose the teak wood project proposed for their village.

> *"Seiring berjalannya waktu, desaku semakin tak terkendali, desaku tertimpa bencana akibat proyek besar pembangunan perusahaan kayu jati itu."* (Tina, 2017)
>
> "As time went by, my village became increasingly uncontrollable, my village was hit by a disaster due to the large construction project of the teak wood company." (Tina, 2017)

The text above describes a natural disaster unfolding in the village over time, attributed to the uncontrolled development project of a teak wood company. The phrase "desaku semakin tak terkendali" ("my village became increasingly uncontrollable") suggests a gradual loss of control over the situation, indicating a worsening state of affairs. The phrase "desaku tertimpa bencana" ("my village was hit by disaster") implies that the consequences of the development project have led to a catastrophic event. The disaster is indirectly attributed to the large-scale development project of the teak wood company, indicating human-induced factors as the underlying cause. This aligns with the notion that human activities, such as deforestation or unsustainable development, can contribute to environmental degradation and increase the likelihood of natural disasters, such as landslides or floods. Overall, the text highlights the interconnectedness between human actions and natural disasters, emphasizing the importance of responsible and sustainable development practices to mitigate the risk of such events.

Human activities in the environment can have either positive or negative impacts. Therefore, it is the responsibility of humans to preserve the environment (Sakina, 2019). In reality, nature does not directly harm humans; rather, humans harm themselves through their own actions. The reckless cutting down of trees without subsequent reforestation efforts can lead to numerous disasters. As stated in Republic of Indonesia Law Number 18 of 2013, Article 1, regarding the Prevention and Eradication of Forest Destruction related to Timber Forest Utilization, activities such as tree felling, regeneration, transportation, processing, and marketing should be conducted without causing harm to the environment or compromising its primary function. These activities are classified as non-destructive environmental use.

However, the actions depicted in the short story, *Bumi Tak Seindah Dulu* do not align with these principles. Deforestation in the story results in environmental damage and triggers disasters.

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> *Pada suatu hari, hujan yang sangat deras menerjang desaku, pohon pohon di desaku, tidak bisa menyerap air hujan lagi, waduk desa juga sudah tidak dapat membendung, banyaknya air hujan*. (Tina 2017)
>
> "One day, very heavy rain hit my village, the trees in my village could no longer absorb the rainwater, the village reservoir couldn't hold it anymore, there was so much rainwater." (Tina, 2017)

The lines above describe a natural disaster, likely a flood, that strikes the village depicted in the story. The heavy rain mentioned suggests a significant downpour, which overwhelms the village. The phrase "pohon-pohon di desaku, tidak bisa menyerap air hujan lagi" ("the trees in my village could no longer absorb the rainwater") indicates that the trees, which typically help mitigate flooding by absorbing water, are unable to cope with the excessive rainfall. Additionally, the mention of the village reservoir ("waduk desa") being unable to contain the overflowing rainwater further emphasizes the severity of the flooding. This natural disaster is likely the result of environmental degradation caused by human activities, such as deforestation or improper land management, as hinted by the earlier references to exploitation activities in the story. The inability of the trees and reservoir to cope with the rainwater suggests a disruption in the natural balance, leading to increased vulnerability to floods.

Overall, the lines illustrate the consequences of environmental exploitation and the interconnectedness between human actions and natural disasters, highlighting the importance of sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

According to the information provided in the story, trees play a crucial role in retaining rainwater. The volume of rainfall necessitates ample absorption capacity to mitigate the risk of flooding. Additionally, riverside trees devoid of debris help contain the air, thus reducing the likelihood of overflow and subsequent flooding. Conversely, if trees are absent and rivers are polluted due to excessive litter, flooding becomes more likely. This assertion is supported by the following quotation.

> *"Sungai di desaku akhirnya meluap, karena alirannya yang tersumbat oleh banyaknya sampah. Air bah sungai desa, menghancurkan desaku." (Tina, 2017)*
>
> "The river in my village finally overflowed, because the flow was blocked by a lot of rubbish. The floodwaters from the village river destroyed my village." (Tina, 2017)

The lines above describe a natural disaster, likely a flood that occurs in the village due to the overflowing river. The phrase "Sungai di desaku akhirnya meluap" ("The river in my village finally overflowed") indicates that the river exceeded its normal boundaries and flooded the surrounding area. This suggests that the river's capacity to contain water was exceeded, leading to inundation. The cause of the flooding is attributed to the river being clogged with a large amount of garbage ("alirannya yang tersumbat oleh banyaknya sampah"). This implies that improper waste disposal practices have contributed to the obstruction of the river's flow, exacerbating the flooding. The phrase "Air bah sungai desa, menghancurkan desaku" ("The floodwaters from the village river destroyed my village") further emphasizes the destructive impact of the flood on the village. This suggests that the floodwaters caused significant damage to homes, infrastructure, and possibly agricultural land, resulting in widespread devastation.

Overall, the lines highlight the consequences of environmental negligence, particularly improper waste management, which can exacerbate the severity of natural disasters such as floods. They underscore the interconnectedness between human actions and environmental disasters, emphasizing the importance of responsible environmental stewardship.

Irresponsible individuals who harm nature and disrupt ecosystems often fail to recognize that their actions affect not only humans but also other species. Ironically, when faced

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with natural disasters, such individuals are quick to shift blame onto others, sometimes even blaming nature itself, revealing a sense of hypocrisy. It is crucial for them to understand that every action has consequences; their destructive behaviors towards nature will inevitably trigger various forms of backlash from the environment. In essence, the above quote underscores the importance of humans caring for nature to ensure a better, safer, and more comfortable life for all.

Ecosystem Changing

In the short story "Bumi Tak Seindah Dulu" by Jesyca Tina, the narrative portrays the destruction of ecosystems caused by human exploitation. These ecosystems, which once provided numerous benefits to previous communities, are now under threat. Ecosystems are intricate and dynamic systems that undergo constant change due to various influences. These changes can significantly impact the ecosystem and its resident species.

The exploitation of natural resources can result in a range of environmental issues, including climate change, soil degradation, air pollution, and species extinctions. Every ecosystem comprises two distinct components: abiotic and biotic. Abiotic components consist of non-living entities such as rocks, weather patterns, and bodies of water, while living biotic components include trees, mushrooms, and animals like leopards. Living organisms must adapt not only to each other but also to the abiotic elements of their environment, driving change within the ecosystem.

Humans, as integral parts of ecosystems, are also affected by these changes, which can alter their way of life. This impact is evident in the following quotations from the short story.

> *Setelah melihat video tersebut, ibu bercerita tentang kondisi lingkungan alam desaku, pada saat ibu masih muda. "Kalau kamu tau Sya, lingkungan desa kita, sekarang jauh berbeda dengan dahulu, dulu itu setiap warga di sini sangat antusias menanam berbagai jenis tumbuhan di depan rumahnya, sehingga desa kita menjadi sangat rindang dan sejuk, hutan desa dulunya, menjadi habitat banyak rusa, tetapi sekarang warga justru memburunya dan akhirnya punah, dulu ibu sering bermain dengan rusa rusa itu, semua warga sangat menyadari pentingnya menjaga lingkungan alam, tetapi, seiring dengan kemajuan teknologi, warga justru berbuat seenaknya pada lingkungan," jelas ibu.* (Tina, 2017)

> After watching the video, my mother recounted the state of the natural environment in our village when she was young. "If only you knew, Sya, our village environment is now vastly different from before. Back then, every resident here was very enthusiastic about planting various types of plants in front of their houses, so our village became very lush and cool. The village forest used to be the habitat of many deer, but now the villagers are hunting them down, leading to their extinction. I used to play with those deer when I was young. All the villagers were very aware of the importance of preserving the natural environment, but, with the advancement of technology, the villagers now act arbitrarily towards the environment," my mother explained. (Tina, 2017)

The lines illustrate how natural exploitation has led to significant changes in the local ecosystem. In the past, the village environment was lush and cool, with every resident enthusiastically planting various types of vegetation in front of their homes. This proactive approach to gardening contributed to the verdant and refreshing ambiance of the village. Additionally, the village forest, which used to be home to many deer, has now been depleted due to hunting by the villagers, resulting in the extinction of the deer population.

The anecdote shared by the mother reflects a shift in the community's attitude towards environmental conservation over time. While in the past, residents were deeply aware of the importance of preserving the natural environment and even interacted positively with the

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wildlife, technological advancements and changing societal attitudes have led to a decline in environmental stewardship. The reference to villagers acting "seenaknya pada lingkungan" ("arbitrarily towards the environment") highlights a disregard for the consequences of their actions on the ecosystem.

Overall, these lines demonstrate how human exploitation, in the form of habitat destruction and hunting, has disrupted the delicate balance of the local ecosystem, leading to a loss of biodiversity and a degradation of the natural environment.

Changes to ecosystems can be broadly categorized into two main groups: natural causes and human causes. Alongside natural selection and natural disasters, human-induced environmental degradation plays a significant role in driving changes within ecosystems. It is ironic that humans, as integral components of the biotic ecosystem, can contribute to both the destruction and recovery of ecosystems. While humans possess the intelligence to lead efforts in ecosystem restoration, they must also possess the awareness to protect their environment and ensure its sustainability.

> *"Entah sampai kapan, manusia melakukan semua itu, secepatnya kita harus melakukan pencegahan" lanjut ibu yang kebetulan seorang aktivis lingkungan. "Iya bu, kalau tidak segera ditangani akibatnya sangat fatal" jawabku khawatir.* (Tina, 2017)

> "My mother, an environmental activist, said, 'I don't know how long humanity will do all that, we must immediately take safeguards. "Yes, mother, the consequences are extremely deadly if not handled right away," I worriedly answered. (Tina, 2017)

In the sentences quoted above, the focus is on the urgency of addressing natural changes caused by human activities. The mother, who happens to be an environmental activist, expresses concern about the ongoing actions of humans and emphasizes the need for immediate preventive measures. Her statement implies that human activities are accelerating environmental degradation and that urgent action is necessary to mitigate the potentially catastrophic consequences. The response from the speaker, expressing worry about the potential severity of the consequences if the situation is not promptly addressed, further underscores the urgency of the matter. This exchange highlights the recognition of the significant impact of human activities on the environment and the importance of taking proactive steps to prevent further damage. Overall, the excerpt above emphasizes the importance of addressing natural changes caused by human actions and the need for swift preventive measures to avoid potentially disastrous outcomes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis reveals the intricate relationship between human exploitation, natural disasters, and ecosystem changes as depicted in the short story "Bumi Tak Seindah Dulu" by Jesyca Tina. Human exploitation of natural resources and disregard for environmental conservation have led to significant alterations in the Earth's landscape, resulting in adverse consequences such as natural disasters and ecosystem degradation.

The excerpts from the narrative highlight the consequences of human exploitation, particularly the unilateral approval of a teak wood processing company without considering its environmental impacts or consulting the community. This decision reflects a lack of awareness or concern for the potential repercussions, contributing to environmental degradation and ultimately leading to a natural disaster in the village. Furthermore, the narrative illustrates how human actions, such as deforestation and pollution, disrupt the delicate balance of ecosystems, leading to devastating consequences such as floods and loss of biodiversity. The anecdote shared by the mother underscores the shift in societal attitudes towards environmental conservation over time, emphasizing the need for increased awareness and proactive measures to protect the environment.

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Overall, the analysis emphasizes the interconnectedness between human activities and environmental changes, highlighting the importance of responsible environmental stewardship to mitigate the risk of natural disasters and preserve the Earth's ecosystems for future generations. It underscores the urgency of addressing environmental degradation and implementing sustainable practices to ensure a better, safer, and more comfortable life for all.

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