

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Recently, the environment condition is getting worse and worse and this condition will become a threat for people in this earth. A lot of environmental problem such as the vandalism of biodiversity, degrading the ozone layer, toxins, dying ocean and changing climate make human should think and be aware of the natural condition (Olson online). The degrading ozone layer and changing climate are a couple of threat that human feels right now. Wildfires and flood are very common to happen right now. Those are kind of threat not only happen today but it will happen more and more in the future. A lot of disaster which happens today not only we feel today but it will be felt by our generation and will threat them in the future.

The environmental problem such as climate change and global warming are very familiar now. Those are the effects of unawareness of human with their environment and make disaster happen. The impact of global warming and climate change has been felt by human from last several years in their surroundings. The data from Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP), the literature on climate change and security focuses on two interrelated processes of environmental problem. First, increasing temperatures, precipitation anomalies, and extreme weather which are expected to aggravate the ongoing

degradation of environmental resources. Second, the rising of sea levels, as well as more extreme weather conditions, will force millions of people to migrate (Raleigh and Urdal 2). Obviously, climate change will bring about more damage and more abrupt forms of environmental change than we have experienced in the past. Based on United State Environmental Protection Agency, Earth's average temperature has risen by 1.4°F over the past century, and is projected to rise another 2 to 11.5°F over the next hundred years. Although the impacts can be felt in future but in recent day human can feel the small changes of potentially dangerous shifts in climate and weather. The rising global temperature is marked by the changing weather and climate which are very significant. For example in Indonesia, sometime we feel heat but not too long the rain comes and the intensity of rain causes flooding and diseases. Climate change also causes many animals in the world are threatened.

The effects of global warming and climate change make the condition of this planet change. It makes the melting ice caps and the rising of the sea level. Scientific research indicates that climate change will cause hurricanes and tropical storms to become more intense — lasting longer, unleashing stronger winds, and causing more damage to coastal ecosystems and communities (The Nature Conservancy online). Those indications should make people think and should be aware of the nature to avoid the coming of hurricanes and storms. People should know how to be prepared to avoid this condition and know the types of storms such as Hail Storms, Thunderstorms, Ice Storms, Tornado, Lightning, Heavy snow, Floods, Derecho Storms, Tropical Storms, and Hurricanes (National Storm

Damage Center online). Those types of storm bring different impact and damage for environment and human.

Since 2000s in America, there are many disasters destroyed environment such as Katrina hurricane. In 2005, Katrina hurricane destroyed America. The more astonishing event is the melting of ice at the two poles of the earth and causes the rising of the sea level and climate change extremely happened in Europe during the winter of 2008 (Lewis online). The National Storm Damage data finds that hurricanes are some of the most powerful and wildly destructive storm systems on earth. Katrina made a second landfall in Louisiana as a Category Three (Winds 178-209 km/hour). After the hurricane passed, 80 percent of New Orleans was under water. Katrina caused catastrophic damage to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. This event killed more than 1,300 people. It was the costliest natural disaster to strike the United State because the estimated damage costs more than 100 billion dollars (Armentrout and Patricia 23). In 2005, the well documented Hurricane Katrina that ravaged Louisiana caused more than \$75 billion in property damage with estimated economic impacts of more than \$160 Billion. Katrina hurricanes initially developed as a tropical depression and it has the impacts such as the loss of life, flooding, oil industry, power of outages, cost and travel (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration online). From these data, it proves that hurricane is one of the most dangerous natural threats which people should be aware. People should realize that their activity causes the environmental problem and leads the natural threats like hurricane increasingly happen.

Actually, the existence of hurricanes is already happened in 1900s around the world and killed thousand people. The NBC News data said that the Category 4 storm destroyed Texas in 8 September 1900 through 8 to 15 foot storm surge leveled the low-lying city and 6.000 until 12.000 people were killed. In 1970s, there are several storm happened in eastern such as East Pakistan, China, and Southern India. Besides that, there are more storm happened through the year 1991 until 2008 such as in Philippine and Bangladesh (1991), Central America (1998), India (1999), Southern Florida (2005), and Myanmar (2008). Recently, tropical storm which brings heavy rains destroyed Southern Philippine in March 2014 (Humanitarian Early Warning Service Online). The threat of hurricanes is imminent around the world and there are many people were killed because of hurricanes. The hurricane's coming is unpredictable and people should be aware and prepared with the hurricanes sign.

The increasing number of people were killed by hurricane has correlation with the increasing people in this Earth. The increasing people in this Earth lead the natural threats which actually arise from human culture. The global risk of hurricane disaster is increasing due to human activity. Populations are concentrating along the world's coastlines and particularly in large urban areas (Hanwerk online). The cause of natural threats is not solely derived from nature but it is the result of what human culture has done that could ultimately threaten the human itself. In order to make the balance of life between human and nature, human has to maintain and take care of the nature. Actually, Human culture is connected to the physical world, affecting it and affected by it (Glotfelty and

Fromm xix). The interconnection between nature and human is seen through the natural threats which happened because of human culture. Natural threats happened because the unawareness of human towards nature and human itself who feel the effects of that.

Nowadays, the recent phenomenon effects about global warming can be seen in the news program but also in the film. There are many films which brought the environmental issue as the objects of the film maker. Film such as *Wall-E* (2008) which tells about the condition of this Earth in 2805 will be covered by waste, *Avatar* (2009) tells about human visiting another world in order to get the greener nature, 2012 film (2009) which describes the condition of Earth in 2012 gets its catastrophe and many other science-fiction films. Those kinds of film describe that the condition of nature cannot be separated with human. They also make indication that the film which brings environmental issue influences the society to keep this Earth through the film.

One of the recent fantasy drama films which brought environmental issue is *The Beasts of the Southern Wild*. The writer will use *The Beasts of the Southern Wild* film in this research. The writer will analyze this film because it describes about the impact of environmental issue as same as people in this earth feel right now and shows what people should do to save this earth. *Beasts of the Southern Wild* film is directed by Benh Zeitlin in 2012. This film is set in the Gulf of Louisiana and threatened by hurricane. *Beasts of the Southern Wild* is the portrayal of some people in a forgotten community live in the *Bathtub* who are the southern levee community who try to survive from the hurricane and ancient

aurochs. Even they live in dirty place but they are still aware and keep their place very much. They also tried to survive themselves and their environment as strong as they can. This film depicts what human has been conducted to the earth and also shows the audience how human should do in order to survive from the natural threats which will happen in the future.

The strongest effort to survive in this film is portrayed by the main character called Hushpuppy. She is a six year old girl who had strong determination to take care of what she has, in this case is to take care of her father and her environment. Even she is a little girl but she can do something as same as boy can because her father always taught her become strong like boys. Wink as her father always teach Hushpuppy how to survive with his own way. Beside from her father, Hushpuppy also learns how to survive from Miss. Bathsheeba as her teacher. Miss. Bathsheeba always teaches children how to survive in this Earth by caring the environment and close to the nature. During the apocalyptic condition because of hurricane which happened in the *Bathtub*, Hushpuppy learns how to survive with her own way which is close to the nature.

Quvenzhané Wallis roles as Hushpuppy, she deserves an Academy Award because her impassioned presence and plain speaking bestow an unexpected path for assessing the mess we have made; her measured voice endows the film with a new myth that addresses a world we have broken: a human cosmos that may be dirtied beyond repair (Yaeger online). Hushpuppy is a little girl who has intimate terms with the natural world, with the pigs she feeds and the fish she captures with her bare hands. Sometimes she believes animals can speak with their codes and

she can listen the heartbeat of animals. Many critics from the online film review said that her ability to communicate with nature is a kind of magic or mystic. In this case, her ability is not a kind of magic but it can be classified as children's imagination and because she is very close to the nature.

The writer interested analyzing this film because the story of this film depicts what human has been conducted to the earth. This film also shows to us how human should do in order to survive from the natural threats which will happen in the future. In order to build human's awareness, this film was packaged in science-fiction to make the audience get the logical message of this film.

This research wants to analyze about the relationship between human and nature which is depicted in this film. The most dominant aspect in this film is the narrative aspects which are storyline, characters and setting to analyze the issue based on *Ecocriticism* approach. Non-narrative aspects are become the supporting aspects to complete the analysis because it has many important meaning which can be read by the camera angles, camera shots, costume, and color which appear during the film.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Considering the background of the study above, the writer proposes the problems as the follow:

1. How is the concept of human-nature relationship represented in *Beasts of the Southern Wild* film?
2. How is the ideology constructed in *Beasts of the Southern Wild* film?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are going to answer the questions which are already mentioned in the statement of the problems by using the chosen theories to analyze it. The objectives of the study are:

1. To give explanation about the relationship between human and nature which is represented in *Beasts of the Southern Wild* film
2. To reveal the ideology which is constructed in *Beasts of the Southern Wild* film

1.4 Significance of the Study

By analyzing this film, the writer hopes that it will give information for the readers. It can be a notification for the readers to be able to care with this Earth because remembering that this study is related to the environmental issue which describes about the real condition about this Earth. It also hopes that the study of this film can build awareness of the society with the condition of this Earth today. Hopefully, this study can give some information for the further study in English Department Airlangga University. The writer decided to choose this film for her study not only because this film gives the attraction to be analyzed but also this film can be a tool to deliver the message of environmental issue to the society and the writer also wants to ask the readers to be more aware to this Earth after they read this study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The analysis topic of this study focuses on the environmental issue which happens today and the main character's effort to survive from the disaster. This

study uses *Beasts of the Southern Wild* film by Benh Zeitlin as the object. The writer has limitation for this study which is only to analyze the effort of the main character to survive from apocalyptic situation and how main character saves her place. To analyze this study, the narrative and non-narrative aspects are used to support the writer's argument such as characters, setting and storyline as the narrative aspects which the writer will focus on and the supporting aspect like the non-narrative aspect such as camera angles, camera shots, and costumes are also needed to complete this analysis. The other subject beyond the limitation will not be considered in the process of this study.

1.6 Theoretical Background

In analyzing the *Beasts of the Southern Wild* film, the writer decided to use Ecocriticism as the approach. Ecocriticism was firstly used in the late 1980s in America and in the beginning of 1990s in England with the term "green studies". Ecocriticism gets great development in America since the global warming issue became an international issue. People who support this theory found that natural damage is caused by the difference's paradigms to nature. This study tries to look for the solution of ecology problems by using literary works as the media to build the awareness of environmental problems (Maimunah and Diah Arimbi 5). To analyze this film, the writer used Ecocriticism theory by Cheryll Glotfelty to answer the statement of problem in this study. According to Glotfelty, Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment, Ecocriticism takes an earth-centered approach to literary studies (Glotfelty and Fromm xviii).

Ecocriticism takes earth as the main concern to literary studies and sees how nature is represented in the literary works. According to Glotfelty, there are three steps to analyze the works based on Ecocriticism. The first is to describe how the representation of nature or environment within the works is. The second is how the texts or images deliver the issue in different way, for example, nature was described beautifully but then in other works it could be found that nature can also be described terribly. The third is how do the people see the work using Ecocriticism and consider it as a kind of ideology that should be broken down where the meaning is needed to be revealed (Maimunah and Arimbi 9-10).

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

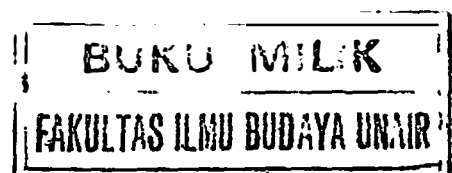
In analyzing this film, there are some specific terms which need to be explained by the writer to ease the reader in getting better understanding about the specific terms. This section will explain some definition of specific terms in order to make the better understanding of the reader.

Bathtub : the fiction place known as *Isle de Charles Doute* which is inspired from the real condition of *Isle de Jean Charles* in Southern Louisiana (Bevilacqua online).

Ancient auroch : the ancient animal known as *Bos Primigenius* inhabited in Europe, Asia, and North Africa but this species is now extinct. Aurochs lived in the swamps and swamp forest (Large Herbivore Network online).

Apocalyptic : an unveiling or unfolding of things not previously known and which could not be known apart from the unveiling.

For example, natural disasters like landslides, storms, floods and earthquakes it can be a small apocalyptic situation (Goswiler online).



CHAPTER 2

LITERARY REVIEW