

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Earth is one of the planets in the universe with various living entities, and it is created by multiple biotic and non-biotic living. Deprived of recognizing the fact that nature was genuinely made to construct human life as it should be. The presence of healthy air, the need for sufficient water, or a clean environment can affect human survival. Importantly, maintaining healthy nature is one of the reasons humans survive. Optimizing pleasing naturalness is what humans need to accomplish before ecological failure emerges. According to Joel, the earth's capacity to support people is influenced by natural restrictions, which will highlight human decisions (Joel 1998, 26). Humans will subsequently be given the form by ecological quality on earth and environmental living. Environmental health that emerges accurately creates a healthy and comfortable environment.

However, this environmental health is not frequently in line with what is expected. Something that borders the healthy ecology is often found within the presence of ecological failures in society. Humans tend not to be able to manage and find the point of natural health, which can cause ecological failure from time to time. Environmental failures refer to conditions in which an ecosystem's carrying capacity for all creatures is drastically reduced, which might be permanently, typically culminating in mass extinction (Chloe F. Sato and David Lindernmayer

2017, 97–98). Ecological failures are commonly seen, such as forest fires, droughts, drastic climate change, deforestation, waste disposal, etc. Typically, an environmental collapse is triggered by a catastrophic catastrophe within a short period. As Sessions points out, the causes of ecological crises tend to move to a deeper level concerning human attitudes toward non-human nature (Sessions 1974, 71). Ecological failure is the basis of the main problems in the environmental realm that are faced. This failure occurs either due to human or non-human, which goes hand in hand with life continuity.

Alongside the ecological failures defined as the impact of ecosystem collapse on the biotic components, these issues are generally connected with the dystopian science fiction genre. This genre adequately describes the current environment's various problems regarding ecological failure. This ecological failure is evidenced by the definition of dystopia, which is the opposite of utopia or something "not good." The notion of dystopias, according to Jodie through his work *Closure in Dystopia: Projecting memories of the end of crises in speculative fiction*, is an area of narratives that depicts a dreadful future for humanity, yet they are fundamentally opposed to teleological determination (Serano-Munoz 2021, 349). Literary works in this genre are more balanced with unstable conditions, one of which is ecological failure that occurs over time. Jordi continued that fiction in the dystopian genre also seeks to embrace the political power of caring, social community, and thinking about the future with what is beneficial in what dystopias describe as expectancy (Serano-Munoz 2021, 350). In other words, dystopia provides an overview of events that can ensue in humans several years later.

Literary works have been prevalent since thriving, and prosperous academic work provided new trends in the last decade. There was dystopian fiction in the late 2000s, most of which featured explosions of a zombie apocalypse and messianic survivors of Young Adult. The existence of this work of fiction which is quite popular over time creates a trend where ecological failure and other apocalyptic catastrophes occur as purely imaginative. The presence of literary works that are pretty popular among young adults, such as *Maze Runner*, *Hunger Games*, and *Divergent the Series*, assembles reader interest in dystopia science fiction.

After the popularity of dystopia in the environment field, which mainly focuses on ecological failures, literary works produced several science fiction of the dystopian world—that discuss the environmental failure crisis and portray many positive responses from readers. Brendan, in his works entitled *Changing Planets and Climates in Select Fantastic Literature* (Brendan Ward 2015, 89), mentioned that some people interested in the world of fantasy state that the elements of fantasy and imagination have entered the evolution of literary studies as this affects the developing change of ecosystems in the 20th and 21st centuries. He also wrote about Jonathan and Matthew's book that the involvement of science fiction literature is an extrapolation of current environmental trends to create a possible future.

Frank Herbert's *Dune* is one of the literary works discussing the failure of the environment and human expectations of the domain. *Dune* is Frank Herbert's science fiction trilogy, published in 1965 with his sequels, *Dune Messiah*, *Children of Dune*, *God Emperor of Dune*, *Heretics of Dune*, and *Chapterhouse: Dune*. The

story begins with the galaxy as a multi-planetary system under a feudal monarchy's control, with mansions vying for hegemony. This place is called Arrakis, where Arrakis is the source of the spice that managed to survive. Arrakis is a vast expanse of desert where they risk their lives to exploit a spice known as *mélange*. It is inhabited by Fremen—people who control the planet's unique ecosystem. They are a group of people who live in Arrakis and maintain their lives by surviving in the desert with scorching temperatures and several other aspects of life, such as the lack of water and the struggle for power to manage the spice *mélange*.

Dune is a science fiction text that brings ecological awareness within the genre to a broader audience. This book has won several notable awards and is well worth researching over time. Some of the recognition that oversees this book are the *Hugo Awards* for Best Novel in 1966 and the *Nebula Awards* for Best Novel in 1966. *Dune* became one of the most substantial reasons for dystopia and forthcoming ecological failure remarks.

Researching this book requires the theory of Ecocriticism to examine some aspects of the ecological failure that occurred at *Dune*. Ecocriticism has become the developing field of study that examines the natural environments that can be explored in literature. The formation of this criticism raises many focuses and branches within it. The view in literary works of ecological criticism is different from social criticism, which tends to view gender, subject, or object. As a prompt of its importance to humankind, ecocriticism tries to bring back the notion of ecological prompt. Catrin Gersdorf and Sylvia Mayer believed that Ecocriticism

seeks to revise an anthropocentric cultural value system by recognizing a new cultural value independent of nature (Catrin Gersdorf and Sylvia Mayer 2006, 212).

Several previous studies from the last few years mention ecological criticism, one of which began in a journal article belonging to Giang Duong Puhc (2021) with the title, *Frank Herbert's Dune from the Ecocritical Perspective*, explaining the *Dune* from an ecocritical perspective in general terms. Kennedy's (2021) study entitled, *Spice and Ecology in Herbert's Dune: Altering the Mind and the Planet* discussed how spice and *mélange* there are varied and become one of the movement layers of meaning to take advantage of emerging trends in ecology, psychology, and politics. In his research, Kennedy explores the key features of world-building that tie the novel's storyline to the reader's message while promoting today's ecology. Then, the last previous study, Tara (2021), entitled, *The Anthropocene in Frank Herbert's Dune Series*, discusses and proves that Anthropocene and environmental criticism exist in *Dune's* novel. Her research examines human and planet interaction concerning their ecosystems in the Anthropocene.

The three previous studies that have been mentioned discussed spices, ecology, and anthropocentrism ensued in the novel. Meanwhile, in this study, the writers focus on portraying the ecological failure in Arrakis' *Dune*. The writer also concentrated on the Fremen by surviving the ecological losses in Arrakis. The environmental collapse will reveal how humans can survive in these circumstances of ecological failure. This research started by describing the theory dismantled through Greg Garrard's view—as the leading theoretical concept, with several

approaches and ideas based on *Ecocriticism, the New Critical Idiom*, to find out more about the concept of proving the power of ecology in the Arrakis. This research is worth analyzing since, apart from the many ecological failures that have occurred today will emphasize and prompt the readers that the forces of nature here are more vigorous where humans can no longer manage wildlife. Over time, ecological failure is also quite common in real life, and here one of the common goods of science fiction's purpose to society.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the statement written in the background, the formulation of the problems will be as follows:

1. How is the ecological failure in Arrakis portrayed in Frank Herbert's *Dune* (1965)?
2. How does the Fremen respond to ecological failure in Frank Herbert's *Dune* (1965)?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study aims to find out more profoundly following the writer's point of view concerning the description of ecological failures in Arrakis with the following objectives:

1. To further identify the portrayals of the ecological failure in Arrakis of Frank Herbert's *Dune*.
2. To reveal the response of Fremen to facing the ecological failures in Arrakis that are portrayed in Frank Herbert's *Dune*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research examined the ecological failure in Arrakis in the science fiction novel *Dune* by Frank Herbert. The concept of environmental failures gives rise to some leisure in the ecological. It uses the ecocriticism theory to dissect the different ideas of ecological failures in Arrakis and reveal the survival of the Fremen community. Besides, this study was conducted to contribute to literature studies at the University of Airlangga's English Language and Literature. This research needs to be done considering the lack of awareness about the importance of maintaining ecology in a phase experiencing difficulties in ecological failure. Hence, it is well expected that this can be a renewed development for researchers who like to further research in the environmental field throughout the ecocriticism theory.

1.5 Definition of Key-Terms

Ecolo gy	: Defined as the science of all living organisms and their interactions with one another and the environment (Levengood and Beasley 2007).
Ecocriticism	: The study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment (Glottfelty 1996).
Fremen	: A group of humans native to the planet Arrakis and hardy surviving in the arid environment of Dune and had adapted accordingly (Smith 2021).

Arrakis : A valuable desert planet within the Known Universe that contains the only source of *mélange*, and the native population are the *Fremen*, hardened men and women who have adapted to the hostile environment (Smith 2021).

Ecological Failure : The term refers to a condition where an ecosystem's carrying capacity for all creatures is drastically reduced, maybe permanently, typically culminating in mass extinction (Chloe F. Sato and David Lindernmayer 2017).