CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Literature is identical to language, since literature uses language to form human creativity in passing on information, opinions, or ideas through the expression of feelings and thoughts contained in literary works. According to Pradopo (1988), literary work is a complete structure which consists of complicated thought and written expression by using special language in order to express human's feeling and thought systematically.

Literature, specifically literary works, is classified into several categories or *genre*, one of them is fiction. Fiction comes from the word *fictio,* which means 'a shaping or counterfeiting'. Therefore, fiction means anything made up, crafted, or shaped. Kennedy (1983) states that fiction is a name for stories that are entirely not factual, but is partially shaped, made up and imagined by the author. Thus, fiction is often called as imaginative literature.

Short story is one example of literary works that is included to fiction, particularly prose fiction, and is considered as a short fiction if it is compared to novel. To this day, the term 'short story' is still complicated to be defined because the recent critics have started to be a little more hesitant in differentiating between short story and nouvelle (Hawthorn: 2001). This is because there is no exact number of words or the length that differentiate between short story and nouvelle. However, Abrams (1988) defines the short story in terms of artistic unity, the

"revelatory" possibilities of a single incident in the protagonist's life, and economy or "spareness":

> . . . by and large, the short story writer introduces a very limited number of persons, cannot afford the space for the leisurely analysis and sustained development of character, and cannot undertake to develop as dense and detailed a social milieu as does the novelist. The author often begins the story close to, or even on the verge of, the climax, minimizes both prior exposition and the details of the setting, keeps the complications down, and clears up the denouement quickly — sometimes in a few sentences. [173]

Chapman (1982) states that literature, as the other forms of arts, could give a way of looking at the world and significance of life that is unrevealed in the daily use of language. It gives social and ethical message that facilitate the readers to see the flux within their own society or others and the changing of value and mores. Literary work is an artifact and a non-living thing; it could have meaning and become the aesthetic object (Teeuw, 1984:191) if the readers give significance to the works. The process of giving significance to literary texts could be facilitated by literary criticism. Literary criticism helps the readers to appreciate and to comprehend literary works. It enables readers to capture the meaning and the value of the works.

One of literary criticism is Ecocriticism, which comes from the word ecology and criticism. Glotfelty (1996) states that ecocriticism is simply defined as the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. She revives and urges the adoption of ecocriticism to refer to the diffuse critical field that had previously been known as "the study of nature writing". According to Glotfelty (1996), in her history of the emergence of ecocriticism as a critical movement, she contrasts the prefix "enviro-" and "eco-":

> In its connotations, "enviro-" is anthropocentric and dualistic, implying that we humans are at the center, surrounded by everything that is not us, the environment.

"Eco-", in contrast, implies interdependent communities, integrated systems, and strong connections among constituent parts.

The statements indicate that "Enviro-" encourages the distinction between nature and culture; whereas "eco-" encourages seeing both nature and culture as interconnected parts. Most of ecocritical works share a common motivation: the troubling awareness that we have reached the age of environmental limits, a time when human actions are damaging the planet's basic life support systems. Today, we are facing the global warming crisis. The crisis emerges not because of how ecosystems function but rather of how our ethical and cultural function. Getting through, the crisis requires the understanding of our impact on nature as precisely as possible.

The selected short stories that will be analyzed in the research could be classified as the literary texts that present nature writing. The three short stories are taken from *Pikiran Rakyat* (daily newspaper). The first story written by Lan Fang entitled '*Pok Ami-Ami*', takes place in Sidohardjo in the famous spot of the tragedy '*Lumpur Lapindo*' (Lapindo Mud). The story mostly tells about the people who suffer from the natural disaster which was induced by the exploitation of nature. The story is narrated from the perspective of a boy whose house was flooded by the mud. The second story written by Damhuri Muhammad entitled '*Pawang Hujan',* tells about a person whose job is a rain tamer. He is depicted to be asked by people in a particular area to do his job in order to avoid the flood that annually attacks that area. The third story written by Wahyudi entitled '*Segelas Air',* tells about people's attitude towards the preservation of water. The main character of this story is a non-human character, because the story is narrated from

the perspective of the water itself. By those orientations, the writer decides that these three short stories could be analyzed by using ecocriticism.

1.2. Reasons for Choosing the Topic

There are four reasons for choosing nature and environment as the main topic of this research. The first is because nature and environment are the most current issues that affect the world in general. Our earth is now experiencing a lot of environmental problems. One example of the environmental problem is the global warming crisis. In fact, the crisis emerges not because of how the ecosystems function but rather because of how people function ethically on their environment. To see how people function ethically on their environment, we may look at how they treat their environment and how they interact with it in daily life, for instance the mass usage of air condition that leads to the damage of the ozone layers which is one reason of the occurrence of global warming crisis.

The second reason is the writer assumes that literary texts are potential in recognizing people about the importance of the preservation of nature and environment through the choice of the setting used in the texts.

The third reason is by doing an ecocritic analysis on literary texts, the writer would like to see the role of literature as the agent in conveying the issues of nature and environment through literary texts, by which the writer expects that people would realize that the environmental problems happen today are the result of human's greedy attitudes on the exploitation of nature.

The fourth reason is because in the prior research paper in English Department of Indonesia University of Education, there is no study that uses

ecocriticism in analyzing literary texts. Driven by those reasons, the writer would like to analyze the environmental issues in these three short stories by using ecocriticism.

1.3. The Scope of the Study

In this research, the writer analyzes short stories that present nature and environment within the story. The writer limits the research on the analysis of environmental issue focusing on the impact of human-nature interaction on their surrounding environment and on human life survival, as evidenced in the stories. The findings are expected to encourage people to think seriously about the relationship of human and nature, about the ethical and aesthetic dilemmas posed by the environmental crisis, and about how language and literature might construct the values with profound ecological implication.

1.4. Statements of Problem

The research is conducted to seek the answers for the following umbrella question:

- From the perspective of ecocriticism, how do the selected short stories reflect the impact of human-nature interaction?

This question will be guided by answering these following sub questions:

1. What kind of environmental settings are constructed in the stories?

2. What kind of people's attitudes on nature and environment issues is constructed in the stories?

3. What do these constructions mean from an ecocritical view?

1.5.   The Aims of the Study

The aims of the study are formulated as follow:

1. To find out the construction of environmental setting within the story;

2. To investigate human attitudes toward nature and environment as evidenced in the stories;

3. To encourage people to think about how language and literature might deliver the values with profound ecological implication.

1.6.   Research Procedures

The writer conducts the research, which is qualitative in nature by using a descriptive method. As a textual analysis, this is a case study which looks intensely into the presentation of nature and environment in the literary texts. The writer reads the three short stories by using the framework of ecocriticism, which is deliberately done to identify people's attitudes toward the environment as shown in the stories and to disclose the result of those attitudes toward the environment which will affect human life survival.

Library research technique is also used in doing this research in order to find numbers of books, journals, articles and other sources that have correlation to the topic of the study.

The research is started by finding the literary texts, in this case short story, that contain the issues of nature and environment. Then the selected short stories are read through the framework of ecocriticism. Next, the writer identifies and classifies the data obtained from the reading that relates to the environmental issue. The presentation of the textual evidences is listed in the table. The data will

be then analyzed from the perspective of ecocriticism which focuses on the interaction of people with nature, especially on the impact of this interaction on people's surrounding environment and on their life survival.

1.7.   Clarification of Term

Ecocriticism comes from the words ecology and criticism. Ecocriticism is simply defined as the study of the relationship between literature and physical environment (Glotfelty, 1996). All ecological criticism shares the fundamental premise that human culture is connected to the physical world, affecting it and affected by it. The spirit of ecocriticism says that nature is not socially constructed, so that the destruction of nature is a result of human-nature interaction. Ecocriticism takes as its subject the interconnections between nature and culture, specifically the cultural artifacts; language and literature. As a critical stance, it has one foot in literature and the other on land; as a theoretical discourse, it negotiates between human and non-human. Popular figures of ecocriticism are Lawrence Buell and Cheryll Glotfelty. Buell is a Harvard College Professor of American Literature and he is a peioneer of ecocriticism. In his book, *The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture,* he states that with the environmental crisis comes a crisis of the imagination, a need to find new ways to understand nature and humanity's relation to it. This is the challenge Lawrence Buell takes up in *The Environmental Imagination,* the most ambitious study to date of how literature represents the natural environment. While Cheryll Glotfelty is the acknowledge founder of ecocriticism in the United States. In her book, *The Ecocriticism Reader:*

Landmarks in Literary Ecology, Glotfelty revives and urges the adoption of ecocriticism to refer to the diffuse critical field that had previously been known as "the study of nature writing".

1.8. Organization of the Paper

Chapter I

This chapter invites the readers to answer the questions of what is being analyzed, what is the purpose of the study and why the study is conducted. The chapter consists of background, reason for choosing the topic, the scope of the study, the statement of the problem, the aims of the study, research procedure, clarification of terms, and the organization of the paper.

Chapter II

This chapter contains the theoretical foundations of the study. Related theories in doing the research are reviewed in this chapter.

Chapter III

This chapter provides a close description of the methodology applied to the study, the subject of the research, and the data collection and technique.

Chapter IV

This chapter presents the core unit of the research paper. It serves the findings and discussions obtained from the study.

Chapter V

This chapter reveals some conclusions drawn from the discussion and suggesting some suggestions for further research.