

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

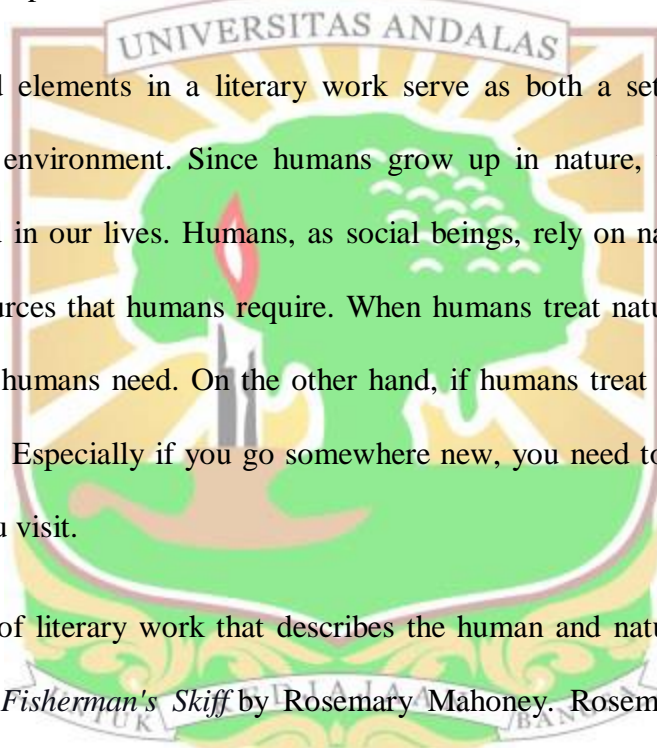
Humans and nature are intertwined. It is impossible to separate them. Even when someone travels, they will meet nature in new places. To travel is to make a journey, a movement through space. Possibly this journey is epic in scale, taking the traveler to the other side of the world or across a continent, or up a mountain; possibly, it is more modest in scope and takes place within the limits of the traveler's own country or region, or even just their immediate locality (Thompson 2011, 9). When someone begins their journey to other places, they become a tourist. Tourist is anyone who travels to places other than the one in which is his habitual residence, outside of their everyday environment, for a period of at least one night but not more than one year and whose usual purpose is different from the exercise of any remunerated activity in the place to which he goes. As tourists, they should mind their attitude towards the area they choose to visit. One of the things they should care about is nature.

Sadly, nowadays, some tourists are unconcerned about environmental issues towards nature. When the tourists go sightseeing, they sometimes throw their trash in any place. Despite that, some tourists care about nature. They make sure to toss the garbage into rubbish and even reprimand other tourists about their attitude toward nature. There are various ways to remind tourists about their attitude towards nature. One of the examples is literary work.

The human and nature relationship in literature is known as ecocriticism. Ecocriticism is a new way to look at literary works and the relationships between nature and humans from an ecological perspective. The theory first emerged in the 1970s by William Rueckert in his essay *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism* (1978). The human and nature relationship began in the 18th century in American literature. The famous writers that use nature as a theme are Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman. With the human and nature relationship as a theme, it helps spread awareness about environmental issues.

Nature-themed elements in a literary work serve as both a setting and a critique of how humans treat the environment. Since humans grow up in nature, they understand that nature cannot be avoided in our lives. Humans, as social beings, rely on nature to survive since nature provides the resources that humans require. When humans treat nature well, nature responds by providing all that humans need. On the other hand, if humans treat nature badly and arbitrarily, nature may suffer. Especially if you go somewhere new, you need to understand better nature in the new places you visit.

One example of literary work that describes the human and nature relationship is *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff* by Rosemary Mahoney. Rosemary Mahoney is one of the famous travel writers. Rosemary Mahoney was born on January 28, 1961, in Boston. She has published six books and has won various awards for her work. One of her books, *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*, was named one of the National Book Critics Circle's Best Books of 2007 and was chosen for Conde Nast Traveler's list of the 86 best travel books of all the time by writer Jan Morris. Mahoney is a writer who has been lauded for her extraordinary eye and storytelling abilities.



Her book, *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*, is a book about Mahoney, as the author, who visits Egypt and wants to row all by herself on the Nile. After two years, she returned to Egypt and challenged herself to row on her own. Things become interesting because plenty of people said what she was trying to do was quite foolish for a woman. Mahoney is dealing with Egyptian culture that limits woman's lives, and the most significant obstacle she meets is finding someone who can sell her boat to row by herself. From the book, we can see how Mahoney, as a tourist, shows her attitude toward Egypt, especially toward nature.

Because the novel is based on real-life experience, we can see how Mahoney portrayed tourist and nature relationships in Egypt from her perspective (Keiger, 509). Since humans grow up in nature, they understand that nature cannot be avoided in our lives even when we visit other countries. Because of that, tourists should mind their attitude towards nature in the country they visit. When tourists visit other countries, some tourists care about nature and do not care about nature. From *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*, we can see how the tourist minds their attitude in the country they visit.

There are some reasons why I choose this topic. First, it is because there is not enough research on this topic. The study talks about human and nature relationships but not about their attitude in particular. Second, I want to spread awareness about nature to other people. With the help of this research, I hope that when we visit different places, we can mind our attitude towards nature. This research aims to discuss foreign tourist attitudes towards nature from *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff* by Rosemary Mahoney (2007). The approach I use for this research is ecocriticism. I want to explore what kind of attitude toward nature the tourists will do when they stay around the Nile River. Hopefully, the study can benefit the reader who wants to know about tourist attitude.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

In *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*, Rosemary Mahoney shows the tourist attitude towards nature in the country she is visiting. Tourists should show their good attitude in the country they visit. But, sometimes the tourist does not care about their attitudes and do whatever they want. The novel precisely portrays the tourist attitude towards nature. In this analysis, I want to expose how the tourist attitude is represented in the book. Thus, this research focuses on how the author showed the tourist attitude towards nature.

1.3 Review of Related Literature

This review deals with the human and nature relationship in literature. The studies are divided into two categories. The first study analyzes the human and nature relationship in literature. The last research examines a literary work using the ecocriticism approach.

Starting with the first is a journal article by Armstrong entitled "Leviathan is a Skein of Networks": Translations of Nature and Culture in *Moby-Dick*," published in *The Johns Hopkins University Press* in 2004. Armstrong talks about the relationship between humans and non-humans in the novel *Moby Dick*. "Ahab's madness arises at the point of mediation between animal and human: the incommensurable contradiction produced by the human's material dependence on the animal's body, combined with the simultaneous exclusion of the animal from the cultural definition of what it is to be a human." In Armstrong's opinion, that's how humans and non-humans are brought into communication. In the article, Armstrong wrote that *Moby-Dick*

frequently uses mechanical imagery to describe nature. For this research, the writer can know about human and non-human interaction and how nature can be defined.

In his article entitled "The Spacious Foreground: Interpreting Simplicity and Ecocritical Ethics in *The Old Man and the Sea*," Hollenberg published in *The Hemingway Foundation and Society* in 2012 is another research that talks about a human and non-human relationship. The article observes nature move from the backdrop to occupy the narrative foreground. Hollenberg writes that "nature is neither an empty space nor something merely to be worked upon and worked over. Instead, nature simultaneously beckons the interpreting subject and resists his imaginative advances" (28). For this research, the author can understand other images of nature.

Furthermore, the article entitled "Landscape, Culture, and Education in Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*" was published in *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* in 2012 by Geert Vandermeersche and Ronald Soetaert. The article talks about "Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* as a narrative that translates nature and our dealings with it into a literary text." The report, "An analysis of *Robinson Crusoe* through the lens of the relationship between narrativity and cultivation (of nature) demonstrates that the book provides one of the foundational myths that determine the relationship between "man, his culture, and his biophysical surroundings" (Palmer and Neil 12)". In this research, the author can understand other perspectives on human deals with nature in their own culture.

The following article, "ROMANTICISM, NATURE, AND SELF-REFLECTION IN ROUSSEAU'S REVERIES OF A SOLITARY WALKER," published in *Cosmos and History: The Journal of Natural and Social Philosophy* in 2015 by PrabhuVenkataraman. The article examines "the role of nature in Rousseau's solitary walks, as well as its presence in his life as

revealed through his reveries." Venkataraman argues that "nature has played a central role in shaping Rousseau's soul both during his adolescence and his adulthood." With the help of nature, Rousseau can understand more about himself. The author can understand more about the human attitude towards nature through the article.

Suciati Agustin and Eva Najma, in their journal article entitled WILLIAM FAULKNER'S ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN HIS GO DOWN, MOSES (2021), applies an ecocriticism approach to analyze the environmental awareness in *Go Down, Moses* by William Faulkner (1942). The article portrays Faulkner's understanding of land ethic and views toward wilderness through Isaac McCaslin (Ike), the story's main character. The findings show that there are three forms of Faulkner's environmental awareness that he expresses in the novel. They are understanding the quality of human and nature; loving and respecting nature; and being aware of nature protection and preservation. Because the thesis uses the same approach as my study, this thesis has given me a better understanding of ecocriticism.

Lastly, another article entitled "The River Exists, Therefore I Am: Ecocriticism, Nature and Human Nature in Willa Cather's *The Enchanted Bluff*" was published in *the Journal of Literature, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies* in 2020 by Alireza Sardari. It gives the writer an understanding of how the theory of Eco-Criticism is applied. This article investigates the relationship between human culture and the natural world in Willa Cather's *The Enchanted Bluff*. Thus, it gives the writer some valuable insights into Eco-criticism.

All the previews above do not talk about the attitude towards nature. Meanwhile, in this research, the writer focuses on tourist attitudes towards nature in their visiting places. It is made clear because the novel uses the first-person point of view for telling the story.

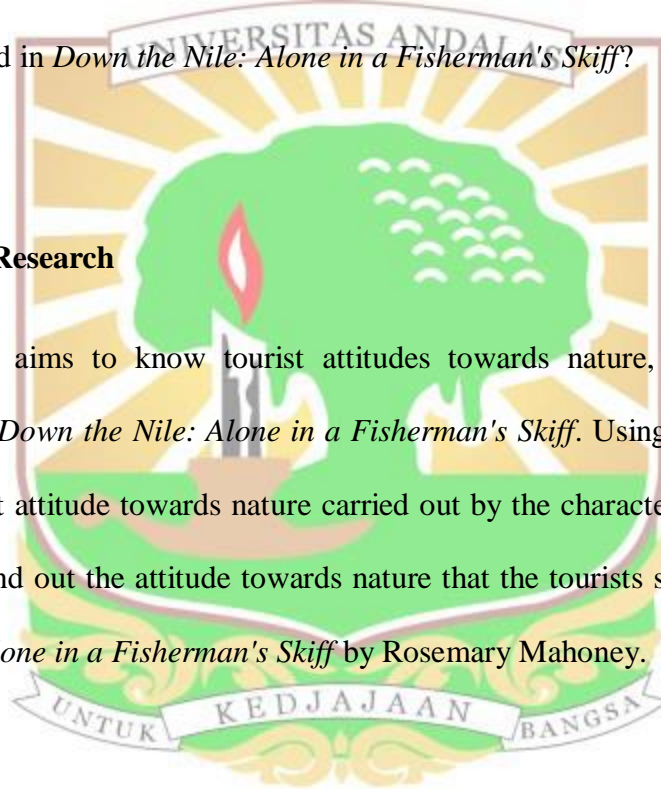
1.4 Research Questions

This research is conducted to answer the questions below:

- a) How is nature portrayed in *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff* by Rosemary Mahoney?
- b) How does Mahoney depict foreign people's attitudes toward the nature of their destination represented in *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*?

1.5 Scope of the Research

This research aims to know tourist attitudes towards nature, as portrayed in Rosemary Mahoney's novel *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*. Using an ecocriticism approach, I explore the tourist attitude towards nature carried out by the characters in the story. To limit this research, I will find out the attitude towards nature that the tourists show when visiting Egypt in *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff* by Rosemary Mahoney.



1.6 Objectives of the Study

This study aims to explain in detail how nature is portrayed in Rosemary Mahoney's novel *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*. This research is also intended to show how tourists show their attitude towards nature when visiting Egypt, as described in Rosemary Mahoney's

novel *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*. Hopefully, this research can help people understand nature better and spread awareness about our attitude towards nature.

