

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

The Earth, the planet we live on, is the product of millions of years of development from only moss and water creatures to many different species that we can find nowadays. There are some creatures that go extinct or evolve into different form. The civilization began after humans started living on this Earth. Since then, humans made adjustments against predators by living in groups and opening the forests for their place to live. Despite the changes that they made to the nature, humans still need it to fulfill their needs. Humans live side by side with nature to support their daily live activity. Nature provides life necessities such as animals and plants to eat, water to drink, trees that can be processed to be anything, and many more.

The relationship between human and nature have been captured by many authors in their literary work. Out of those pieces of work, the writer chose *Lord of The Flies* by William Golding to be analyzed in this thesis. *Lord of The Flies* is a novel, published in 1954, that won The Nobel Prize in Literature in 1983 and is the first book by William Golding that rapidly became a world success. The novel explores the dark side of human nature and the importance of intelligence even under pressure to avoid chaos and unwanted tragedies (Britannica). William Golding, the author of this novel, is a British novelist born on September 19, 1911

in Cornwall, England. He started writing a novel at the age of 12, but published his first novel at the age of 43. That novel was *Lord of The Flies*.

Lord of The Flies is a novel about a plane that evacuated boys from Great Britain, but the plane crashed and stranded on a deserted tropical island. Without adults to supervise them, the characters might be trapped in their anxiety, confusion, and hope to get rescued in no matter of time. To survive in this situation, nature is their only option, and they viewed nature as their slave or a mere provider and a tool for every benefit. To stay alive, they started to disturb nature by hunting animals and burning the leaves to make fire and create smoke to lead people into their island and rescue them.

In late 1970s, the word ecocriticism was coined in the WLA (the Western Language Association) meeting, and the term is used to talk about the symbiosis between human and nature. It later was revived again in Glotfelty and Fromm's essay (1996), which stated ecocriticism studying of the relationship between literature and the physical environment (18). Human beings and nature are two things that can never be separated. Human needs nature to live, and nature needs humans to preserves it. The relationship between those two is symbiotically connected, which means they benefit of each other. In his book, Lawrence Buell concludes ecocriticism 'as a study of the relationship between literature and the environment conducted in a spirit of commitment to environmentalist praxis' (*The Environmental Imagination*, 430)'. The writer intends to make this novel, *Lord of The Flies* by William Golding, an example of the effects of human behaviors on the sustainability of nature.

1.2 Identifications of the Problems

Lord of The Flies by William Golding is a novel about a group of boys isolated on a deserted island because the plane, who aimed to evacuate them, crashed. In that group, two characters show contradicting behaviors. One of them value the nature as he thinks nature is attractive and powerful, while the other one has destructive behaviors and tend to show his power that he has over nature. The writer argues that these contradicting behaviors have the negative effects on nature and lead to the imbalance of nature's sustainability. The writer wants to find out the relationship between humans and nature by elaborating on human behaviors and their impact on the sustainability of nature.

1.3 Review of Related Literature

Lord of The Flies is a famous work of literature that gets many researcher's attention, including the writer. The writer uses articles and these from previous research that are relate to the topic that the writer wants to analyze. The first related study is the article by Iman A. Hanafy entitled 'Deconstructing Dichotomies: An Ecocritical Analysis of William Golding's *Lord of The Flies*' (2011). This article helps the writer to understand how ecology is essential to human. Hanafy specifies that the sets of this novel are about the characters' alteration that leads to identity confusion. This confusion makes them engage with the new environment where there is no law and order and pushing them to act differently from the culture where they lived before. Hanafy considers *Lord of The Flies* as a tool that helps to understand the interaction between man and

nature. The writer can conclude that the dichotomies between nature and culture explained by Hanafy might help to understand nature and make a stronger bond to love and take care of it as the richness of the Earth will affect the way the creatures inside live in it.

The second study is an article in NOBEL Journal of Literature and Language Teaching from Mariwan Hasan and Diman Sharif entitled ‘William Golding’s *Lord of The Flies*: A Reconsideration’ (2020). This article tells about the reconsideration of the novel *Lord of The Flies* by using allegory to look for the hidden meaning of the work. They found that *Lord of The Flies* is an allegory from what Golding experienced during his time in the military, which human can loss their innocence and turn into evil in a desperate situation. The evil deeds of human being occurs in a civilized society as well. Allegory defines as a form of imaginative literature where the readers are encouraged to seek a hidden meaning in the literary works itself. An allegory used in this article and gives the writer an alternate understanding about the evil feature of human beings that can emerge everywhere regardless of any situation.

The third is the article from Taufik Rahayu, Teddi Muhtadin, and Cece Sobarna on a journal Jentera: Jurnal Kajian Sastra Padjajaran University in 2020 entitled ‘Hubungan Manusia dan Lingkungan dalam Cerpen Sunda “*Kawung Ratu*” Karya Wahyu Wibisana Kajian Ekokritik’. In this article, they tried to analyze the relationship between humans and nature that is close and friendly. They elaborate this short story by mentioning that nature’s existence is not for humans to exploit excessively, but for being humans’ best friend for living. The

researchers found that the act of being responsible to the plant that humans grow and give true love and affection to it makes nature give the best harvest in return. The writer concludes that nature is essential to support humans' life. Nature needs humans to take care of it so that it can give the best result of cultivation. That is why the acts of caring and being responsible toward the nature are essential as a reciprocal relationship.

'An Eco-theological Discourse of Edward Abbey's *The Monkeywrench Gang*' by Rayees Ahmad Bhat and Shabina Fatima in 2020 is the following study that helps the writer. Ecotheology is the sub-branch of ecocriticism that deals with the relationship between nature and religion. This sub-branch explores the role of religion and spirituality in maintaining a strong relationship between humans and non-human world.. The article elaborates the author's personality that being projected to the character in the novel. One of the characters believes that God created every species with a purpose that cannot be dominated by one species over others. The researchers conclude that Abbey believes God blessed humans with land and nature which are the oldest companion of humans where we depend our life in it. Even though this article is a little bit blurry about the exact point that they want to explain, the writer still get the point about the correlation between religion and the author's point of view that he projected through Smith. The elaboration of this sub-branch of ecocriticism helps the writer understand another point of view and enriches the writer's knowledge about ecocriticism.

Next is an article entitled 'An Ecological Analysis of Indonesian and American Novels: The Representation of Anarchism and Moral Violence' by Eva

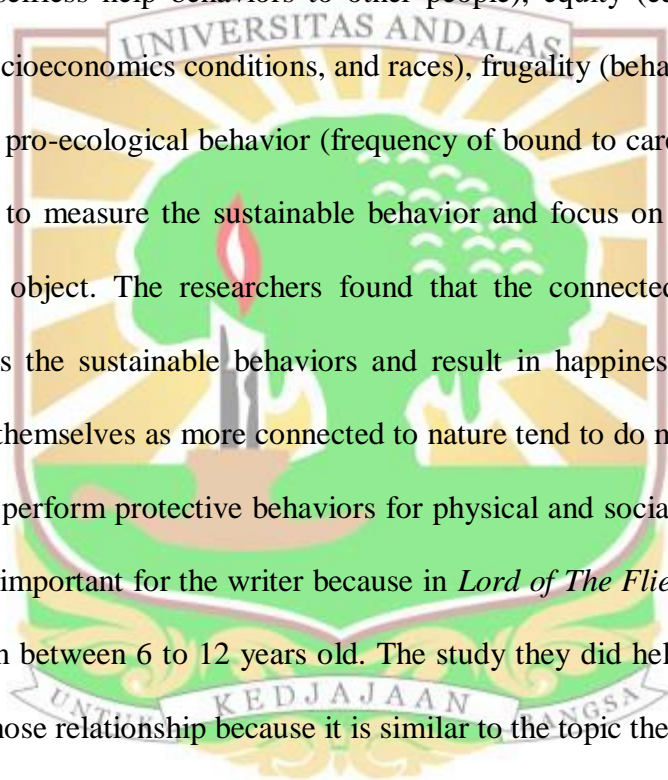
Najma in Proceeding of the 13th International Conference on Malaysia-Indonesia Relations (PAHMI) book in 2019. She compares two novels from America and Indonesia and talks about the anarchism and moral violence in their natural and animal phenomena representation. This article captured that greediness over money makes human beings neglect the crucial thing that could support their lives. By exploiting nature, they put their lives in danger because the natural ecosystem will be damaged. Najma against natural exploitation in her article, which is important for the writer because of the similar background in doing this thesis. Humans shall not exploit nature because it supports every living creatures in the Earth. By damaging the environment, humans and animals will struggle as they depend their lives on nature. There are many ways that humans can do to save nature, but based on this article, Najma points out that cultural and moral disasters should be the government's concern. Contrary to her, in the writer's opinion the actions to preserve nature should be everyone's responsibility, considering how nature carries an essential roles fulfilling human beings' necessities.

This following article is talking about the human's behavior to do violence against nature. The article by Eva Najma and Febrianti Syafitri entitled 'Representation of Human Violence Against Nature in Ted Hughes' Selected Poem' (2022) is important to help the writer's analysis because of the similar topic to analyze. They show that Ted Hughes, through his selected poems, emphasizes the bad relationship between human and nature. They found that those selected poems show how violence human is against nature and explain it. It is

important to the writer to read this as preference because in *Lord of The Flies*, the bad behaviors of humans against nature also described blatantly.

Furthermore, the article by Horacio de la Cueva Salcedo entitled 'Environmental Violence and Its Consequences' helps the writer to understand that in the meaning of time, sooner or later, human will be one species that are going to be extinct but in this case the extinction is as the result of our own fault. Human exploitation of natural resources leads to the extinction and change the face of our Earth. Salcedo argues that the environmental violence could be repaired by the sustainable use. This article explains about the the violence in nature can be found because the of the disruption of humans. The inventions and the development in *Homo sapiens* succeeded to reduce the child mortality, increase life expectancy which leads to the expansion of agricultural frontier, efficient fisheries, and large-scale forestry and mining. Thus, Salcedo mentioned that human is the most successful primate to inhabit the planet makes it the prime suspect of a violent use of resources. The modification in the wildlife more or less has changed the habitat of the animals and become the main cause of its extinction in the wild. The writer found that this article relate much to the chapter three in this thesis. The overpopulation of humans which become the main reason of the butterfly effects in the environment, thus the violence of human being to the environment ruin the balance life on this planet. This article also give an example from the wildlife to strengthen his idea about the violence that human do to the nature and its consequences.

Lastly, since the writer is talking about the behavior of human to the nature, this article is considerably perfect for the writer's preference. This article from Capaldi et. al entitled 'Connectedness to Nature: Its Impact on Sustainable Behaviors and Happiness in Children' (2014) found that it is important to increase the study on children's pro-ecological attitude to gain early awareness on reducing environmental problems. They ran the research using four determinants, which are altruism (selfless help behaviors to other people), equity (equality between sexes, ages, socioeconomics conditions, and races), frugality (behaviors on money management), pro-ecological behavior (frequency of bound to care for the natural environment), to measure the sustainable behavior and focus on the children as their research object. The researchers found that the connectedness to nature indeed impacts the sustainable behaviors and result in happiness. The children who perceive themselves as more connected to nature tend to do more sustainable behaviors and perform protective behaviors for physical and social environments. This article is important for the writer because in *Lord of The Flies* the characters are all children between 6 to 12 years old. The study they did helps the writer to comprehend those relationship because it is similar to the topic the writer wants to talk about. However, this study is not completely done because the researchers still face some limitations on their research and open for the further research in the future.



1.4 Research Questions

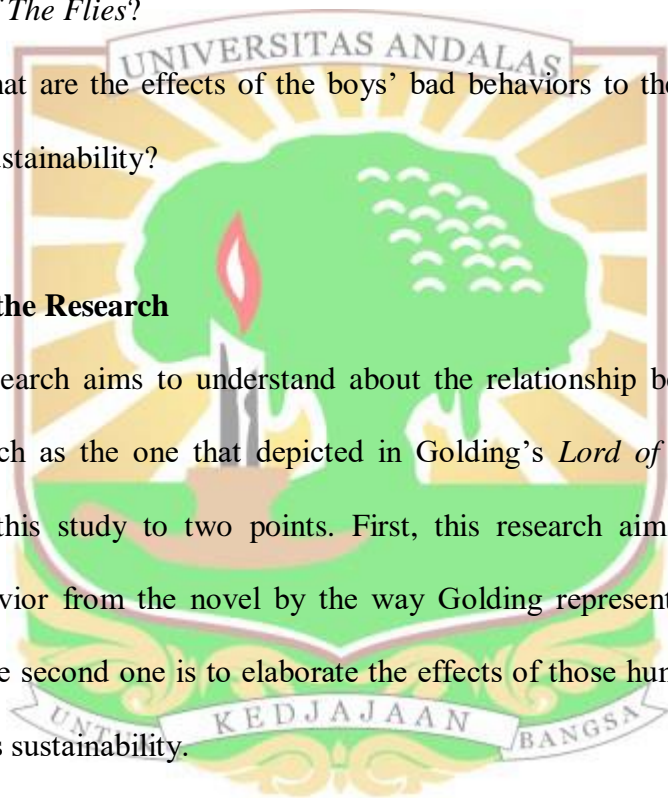
The main focus of this research is to analyze the behaviors of the human being depicted through the novel *Lord of The Flies* by William Golding and its effects on the sustainability of nature. Therefore, this research is expected to answer these questions:

1. How does Golding represent humans' behavior toward nature in *Lord of The Flies*?
2. What are the effects of the boys' bad behaviors to the nature and its sustainability?

1.5 Scope of the Research

This research aims to understand about the relationship between humans and nature such as the one that depicted in Golding's *Lord of The Flies*. The writer limits this study to two points. First, this research aims to depict the humans' behavior from the novel by the way Golding represent it through the characters. The second one is to elaborate the effects of those humans' behaviors on the nature's sustainability.

This study analyzes humans' behavior toward nature whether the nature are treated badly or not. The writer believes that through this novel, Golding wants us to realize that humans rely on nature a lot as it provides many things to fulfill their necessities. Therefore, the act to preserve nature should be taken. This topic is different from any previous study, as the writer talks about the impacts of harming



nature on its sustainability. So far, the writer has not found any studies that are similar to the topic that the writer wants to analyze in this research.

1.6 Objectives of the Study

Through this research, the writer aims to analyze the way Golding represent humans' behaviors toward nature in *Lord of the Flies*. The writer sees the similarities between what humans' do to the nature in the novel and in the reality which the world's population have concerned about. Through those similarities, the writer continue to discuss about the effect of the humans' behaviors to the sustainability of nature. In *Lord of The Flies*, the destructive behaviors show continuously to the human and non-human objects. This matter concerns the writer to discuss about it further, and the writer expects the reader to realize how essential the nature is in fulfilling human necessities. The writer hopes this study can help the future analysis of literary works using ecocritical theory.

