CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

The Chronicles of Narnia: the Magician's Nephew is a fictional fantasy novel written by C. S. Lewis as the sixth book of the series. This novel was published in 1955 by HarperCollins. Even though it was published as the sixth book, chronically the story of the novel happened before *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which makes this novel as the first book of the series. *The Chronicles of Narnia* consists of seven books*; "The Magician's Nephew", "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe", "The Horse and His Boy", "Prince Caspian", "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader", "The Silver Chair"* and *"The Last Battle".*

The story of *The Magician's Nephew* is about Digory Kirke and Polly Plummer, two children characters, which have to protect and save Narnia from Queen Jadis and Uncle Andrew, two adult characters that want to exploit and destroy it. There is an irony about how children grow up with a lesson that they have to save the nature, but the adults ruin it. Based on that fact, I believe that humans can be divided into two types of behavior seen from the way they are treating the nature, the protector and the destroyer.

This novel describes that the serenity of nature is the important thing that becomes the reason of Digory and Polly to begin their journey. Based on that aspect, humans know nature is a thing that cannot be avoided in our life since humans grow

up in nature and most of bedtime stories and fairytales take nature as its settings. According to that image, children have learnt to protect the nature and to treat it wisely, but in reality, the adults are the ones that destroy our nature.

There are some reasons why I choose to analyze this novel with the particular topic. First, *The Chronicles of Narnia* series is a famous story that gains its popularity with the magical creatures and the nature that full of magic. Second, the readers intend to ignore the role of nature or environment since they believe the role of nature or environment is just the setting of the story. I believe the nature of the story is not just a setting, because the nature of the story has an important role in this novel, seeing from the way C. S. Lewis described the nature.

This research also reveals the underlying messages of C. S. Lewis, which I believe must have some values that portray the morality of humans seen from the way they are treating the nature. Therefore, this research also uses moral criticism as the second theory. Hence, I decided to analyze *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew* because this novel is related to the topic about human behaviors and the impacts on nature.

1.2. Identification of the Problems

I argue *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew* shows two different human behaviors reflected by four human characters. I assume there must be some impacts given by human behaviors that lead the sustainability of nature, whether nature will be safe or not. I believe *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew* also has an underlying message that Lewis wanted to deliver to his readers.

The underlying message of the author will change the perspective of the readers toward this novel and the real life.

1.3. Scope of the Research

I limit this research on several points. First, this research will focus on analyzing the human behaviors reflected by four characters in the novel, Digory Kirke, Polly Plummer, Uncle Andrew and Queen Jadis. Second, this research will reveal the impacts of the human behaviors on nature and how the impacts of human behaviors lead to the sustainability of nature. Third, this research will figure out the underlying message that C.S. Lewis wants to deliver to his readers.

1.4. Research Questions

This research will answer the following questions:

1. How are human behaviors reflected in *The Chronicles of Narnia; the Magician's Nephew*?

2. What are the impacts of the human behaviors on the nature that lead to the sustainability of nature reflected in *The Chronicles of Narnia; the Magician's Nephew*?

3. What are the moral messages of the novel that C. S. Lewis wants to deliver to the readers seen in *The Chronicles of Narnia; the Magician's Nephew*?

1.5. Objective of the Research

First, this research aims to describe that human behaviors in the novel are the reflection of the real life. Second, this research aims to explain the impacts of human behavior towards nature seen from two different types of human in treating the nature, the protector and destroyer. Third, this research aims to figure out the fact that this novel stands as the opposing tools against any exploitations of nature and protests against the negative behavior of human in treating the nature. Finally, I believe this research will be a part of a bigger research in literary field.

1.6. Review of Related Studies

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis is the famous fantasy novel that gets many positive comments from the literary researchers. However, there are three books from this series that had been analyzed and adapted into movies. There are *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe,* then *Prince Caspian,* and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Based on that fact, I decided to analyze *The Chronicles of Narnia; the Magician's Nephew* that had never been analyzed using ecocriticism approach. Therefore, I have included three related studies that are related to this research.

The studies are divided into three categories. The first study is an analysis of the last book of the series which is *The Last Battle* of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Second is analysis on literary works using ecocriticism approach. The last one is a previous study that discussing the same genre of the object of this research. The

three previous studies are very helpful to make me understand about the elements related to this research.

In analyzing the data, I put an analysis of the last book *The Last Battle*. On his research *The Beginning of the End: An Ecocriticism Analysis on Clive Staples Lewis' "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle"* (2015) Widodo Sungkono talks about destruction of nature, the exploitation of the forest and slavery of animals as the point of his writing. Using ecocriticism, his thesis comments about human behavior toward nature, and seeks the ideology of the author of Narnia from this novel.

I believe this thesis is helpful and related to my topic, since we use the novel from the same author that in fact it is in one series but I focus on the human behavior to nature while Sungkono's deals with the destruction of the nature in Narnia. Moreover, this thesis helps me in arranging the idea by giving more evidence or supporting ideas not only from the object but also from ecocriticism approach.

Rohmah Romadhon, in her thesis entitled *An Analysis of Environmental Issues Using Ecocriticism in James Cameron's film AVATAR* (2011), applies ecocriticism approach to analyze the environmental aspects in AVATAR film. The article portrays the relationship of human, non-human, and environment from other planet. She argues that the exploitation of the planet by human leads to crisis, and non-human is the one who protects their planet from human. It is one of the concerns in ecocriticism about two kinds of people and their contributions to nature and environment. Using the same theory as the guidance, this thesis helps me to

understand more about ecocriticism and give me more information about the sources that might be helpful for this research since ecocriticism is a new approach and people does not really know about it.

In addition, I have found a research focusing on literary works of the same genre, which is fantasy. *Once Upon an Ecocritical Analysis: The Nature-Culture of German Fairy Tales and its Implications* (2014) by Katherine Ann Adler is analyzing German fairy tales using ecocriticism approach, which also discusses the implications of the ecology, nature or environment that appears in the tales. I argue it will help me because this thesis is using fairy tales as the object which makes an obvious fact that ecocriticism is applicable in any genre.

The three previous studies are dealing with ecocriticism and fantasy. However, the articles only focus on analyzing the condition of nature. In *The Beginning of the End: An Ecocriticism Analysis on Clive Staples Lewis' "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle"* (2015) Widodo Sungkono only focuses on the destruction of nature and the condition of the end of the world. His study is related to *An Analysis of Environmental Issues Using Ecocriticism in James Cameron's film AVATAR (2011)* by Rohmah Romadhon that deals with the condition of nature after the war between human and non-human.

On the other hand, this research focus on analyzing the human behaviors reflected by the four human characters in *The Chronicles of Narnia; the Magician's Nephew.* This research will highlight the human behaviors as the main focus and

reveal the impacts of the behaviors on nature. Therefore, I believe this research is different from the two previous articles that also apply ecocriticism.

1.7. Theoretical Framework

1.7.1. Ecocriticism

The birth of ecocriticism begins with the statement of many scholars in 1980s; they are using the term of the environment to state their opinion about nature. Many scholars in the era write a book about ecocriticism or environmental studies but the rising age of ecocriticism and environmental studies happened in early of 20th century. Ecocriticism considered as a new approach to see literary works from the ecological perspective and the relations between nature and human.

In literary studies, readers tend to see nature and environment as the setting, we do not see the importance of nature and environmental that appears also has its own meaning. According to Cheryll Glotfelty in *Introduction to The Ecocriticism Reader* (1996) ecocriticism is "the study of the relationship between literature and the physical world." (xviii). The physical world here is nature. Therefore, I believe the use of ecocriticism is to give a chance to see how nature is portrayed in literary works.

The study about ecocriticism in literary works also related with another literary theory, like archetypal, and moral criticism. Nowadays, ecocriticism is popular because people realize the important role of nature in their life, the novels and tales that they were read, also movies and music show us about the importance of nature, about the end of the world and the exploitation of nature.

We can see the use of nature and environment aspects are the biggest part of our life, but we just tend to ignore it because we think humans are intelligent and powerful so we can do anything to non-human. However, we forget that an intelligent person knows how to keep everything in balance, take what we need and save the rest. The impacts of human behavior and actions are the important elements to see their environmental movement. The relations of these two appear in all of the literary genres like novel, drama, poem, or music.

1.7.2. Biophilical Behavior

In *Biophilia* (2003), Edward O. Wilson defines biophilia as "the innate tendency to focus on life and lifelike processes." (1), which means the willing to interact and close to nature. Biophilia is the idea where human wants to have relationship with nature, not only seeking for a good relationship but also humans are not afraid to interact with nature.

The Biophilical behavior leads human to save nature, because not only they are looking for the relationship but also because humans know it is necessary to save and protect nature. Simply speaking, biophilia means the eagerness of human to bind a close tie to nature that affects it on the positive side.

Scott Slovic states in his article "*Ecocriticism 101:* A Basic Introduction to Ecocriticism and Environmental Literature" (2015) that according to Edward O. Wilson in his book *Biophilia*, this behavior means the essential love of the world such as breeze and trees can motivate our life for living, it can stimulate the happiness and we intend to create the same love to the nature (2).
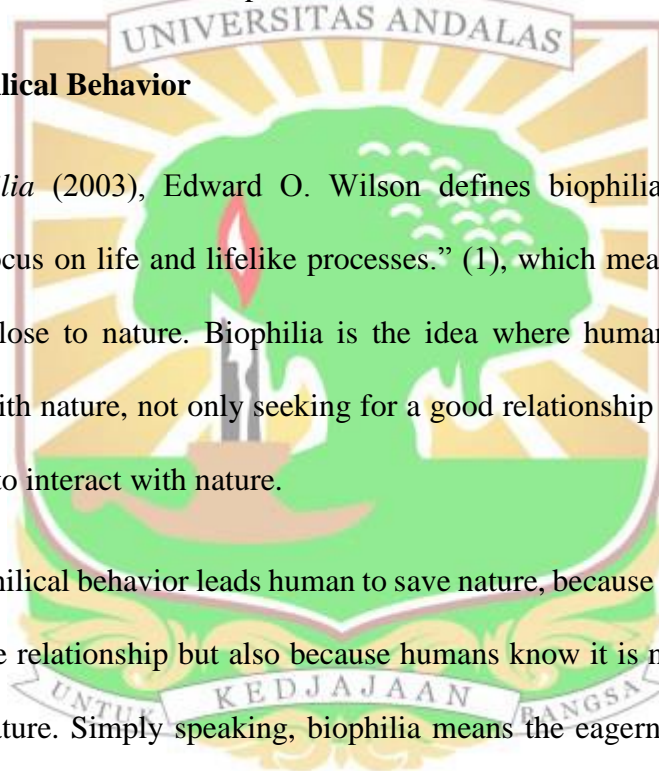
Different from another approach and criticism, the study of biophilia is rare to find in literary studies since the study about ecocriticism is new. However, an article written by Kara Rogers, "Biophilia Hypothesis" (2016), says that biophilia is the term of humans' interaction with nature. Biophilia or Biophilical behavior can be seen from the use of natural world in human languages, such as idioms and the use of natural term in conversation.

Another potential aspect of increasing biophilia is by using technology to study about "molecular biology" and "genetic engineering". It also proved technology can be used to develop humans' Biophilical behavior since the study about humans' life and nature becomes a new concern.

1.7.3. Ecophobical Behavior

Ecophobic is the term of ecocriticism about people who are afraid of nature and environment. In Ecophobical behavior, people tend to believe that nature can hurt them and human cannot overpower it. Humans are afraid of the power of nature that can harm them and they cannot feel safe when they live in nature. Therefore, humans with Ecophobical behavior tend to exploit and harm nature in order to overpower the nature.

In "Tracking Ecophobia: The Utility of Empirical and Systems Studies for Ecocriticism" (2015) by Simon Estok, ecophobia or biophobic contradictive with biophilia. Ecophobic in humans' life can be seen from the fear of humans to interact with the smallest unit of nature. The fear of animals, plants, rain, and the sun is the proof of ecophobic.

Scott Slovic states in his article "*Ecocriticism 101:* A Basic Introduction to Ecocriticism and Environmental Literature" (2015) that the term of "ecophobia" (also called biophobic) which is developed by Simon Estok means "believing that human success and comfort require us to dominate and exploit nature rather than live in a kind of symbiotic, or cooperative, relationship with the non-human world". (1)

The development of technology nowadays also influences the development of ecophobia. The use of technology makes humans forget to interact with their nature and environment. Even though technology cannot provide humans' need but they believe dealing with technology is much better than interacting with nature.

1.7.4. Moral Criticism

Moral criticism has the longest history. Started by Plato's idea, moral criticism has been developed by many scholars and theorists. One of the main moral critic is Mathew Arnold who gives a great contribution on moral education in late nineteenth century. In *A History of Literary Criticism* (2005) by M. A. R. Habib, it is explained that Mathew Arnold give an idea about moral and literature. He believes that every literary works must have moral values to teach morality to its readers. The most important thing in literary works is the moral and philosophical teaching. A great literary works with moral values will lead its readers to religion and spiritual inspiration.

In an article, entitled "A Person-Centered Approach to Moral Judgment" (2015) by Uhlmann, Pizzaro, and Diermeier, it is explained that readers need to see the

moral values from certain action of the characters. The way an author describes his or her story, character, plot, and themes can create some different moral values.

Moral value of literary works delivered by the author through his or her works. Moral value of literary works does not always come from the plot of the story; it can also be seen from the character's life and experience. Sometimes, moral values of the story influenced by author's personal opinion of particular topic. Religion and philosophy of the author also has an important role to lead the readers to some moral values.

1.8. Methods of the Research

I follow three steps in conducting this research. The first step is collecting data. In collecting data for this research, I use Library research methods; do a close reading with the primary data, which is *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis. The secondary data, which are the supporting data about the related issues of nature, environment, moral criticism, ecocriticism, biophilia, and ecophobic, is obtains from the collection of books, journal, article, essay, and other relevant sources that can be found by browsing the internet.

The second step is analyzing the data. I read, understand, and analyze the primary data using the naturalist point of view. I focus the analysis on the four characters' behaviors that are shown in the story and use biophilia and ecophobic as the tools to guide the analysis. The relationship between each character will show the impacts of their actions on nature.
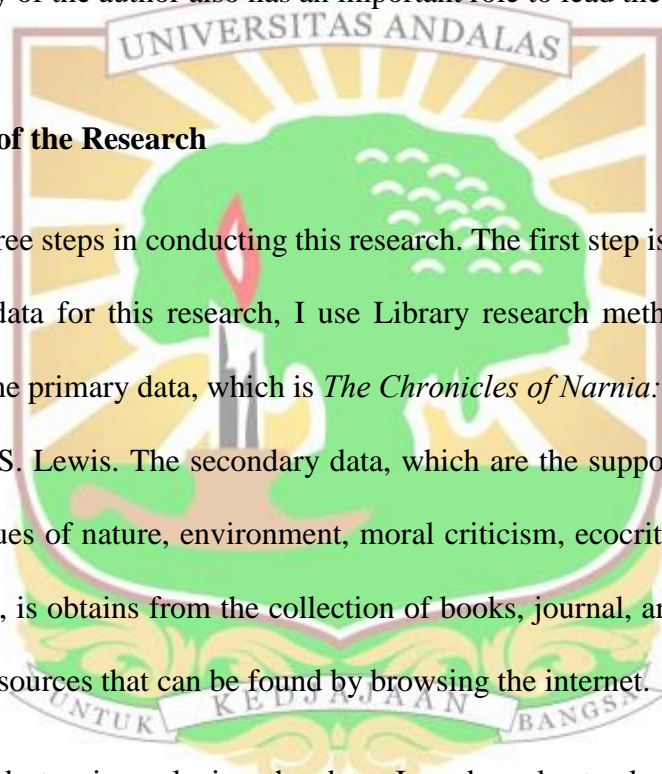
The last step is presenting the result of analysis using descriptive analysis; I report the analysis descriptively about the impact of humans' behavior on nature as seen in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis.