

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After analyzing *The Road*, the writer concludes that *The Road* portrays the relationship between human and non-human world. Even though the story is written only to give a description of one-way relationship, the writer is able to make an assumption of the two-way relationship from the real fact happening in today's world. *The Road* represents the relation between nature and human, the way nature affects human's morality seen through characters' behavior. However, it is implied in the story that human's moralities which are negative cause the change in nature.

The story begins with a rich description of natural environment which was pastoral turns into something meaningless. *The Road* represents a clear image of post-pastoral world which has no more natural environment. The change of nature starts right away after the cataclysm happened which is not explained what it is. Then the cataclysm destroys the natural world and its substance. It causes gray ashes and murk covering the sun and every inch of land which sooner will be followed by other damages. The changes include almost every property of environment such as water, sun, species, weather and landscape. The absence of sunlight and the undrinkable water ruins the ecosystem where plants and animals grow. The cataclysm also makes

the weather dropping and always cold. The grayness of landscape cannot be avoided because of gray ashes and flakes cover the land in *The Road*.

Beyond that, the meaning of nature is no longer the same. Based on the comprehension of space and place by Tuan, *The Road* is space since it is worthless. The characters become aliens on their own planet. Humans, in this case the characters can no longer feel the beautiful nature ever since it is hollow. Everything includes time and place are unknown. However, the writer interprets the journey in *The Road* as if it is from space to place. The destination of their journey to South is defined as place since the father and son already give the meaning into it even though there is no physical evidence that the place is real. McCarthy pronounces the better place very strong as if it is real through the phrase “carrying the fire”. “Carrying the fire” symbolizes the hope McCarthy brings into the novel represented as children who carry the future destiny.

All changes in natural environment forces human into becoming ignorant, individualistic and greedy creature. The priority is to survive so that they refuse to help others. Nevertheless, McCarthy gives a clear boundary between adult and young characters. An adult character tends to be selfish and self-centered while the young one is pure and innocent, care others intensively. However, greediness through the act of cannibalism is not understandable because it is not the nature of human being. As the writer mentioned earlier, *The Road* stands as a warning of what might happen in the future. So, the greediness in the novel somehow is related to what is happening in

the world. The greedy human does exploit and damage the nature consciously or not only for their benefit. Human being is capable of doing whatever they think is necessary. Among all creatures, human is the most powerful one. The power that human has is reflected in the novel as a weapon or a gun the cannibals have. Then they become most vicious as if they think they run the world and control everything around them included another human being. Edmund Burke – an Irish Statesman once said the greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse is somehow prove the theory. Overall, if *The Road* stands as a warning, then the relationship between human and non-human world should be symbiotic.

