

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Earth is a place to live for all living beings. In the 20th century, environmental issues are the main spotlight to be resolved. According to Tillman, scientists have calculated that Earth is 4.54 billion years old, with an error range of 50 million years that is decreasing every year are reasons why these environmental problems are important to note (2021).

There are several examples of environmental issues; some of them are overpopulation, climate change, global warming, drought, precipitation, and deforestation. Adedeji argues that “the pace of change by the earth could potentially accelerate, having a significant and perhaps irreversible impact on species and ecosystems in addition to people” (122).

Overpopulation also has been devastating for environmental degradation. Overpopulation causes agriculture, deforestation, and industrialization to advance further it can lead to various environmental problems. According to the Inter Academy Panel Statement on Population Growth, several environmental issues such as the increase of greenhouse gasses, climate change, and environmental pollution have arisen because of rapid population growth (Blunten and Boyer, 56). Owing to overpopulation, humans have to expand so that buildings, agriculture, and villages can be built. However, to expand human territory action that humans usually do is deforestation. Deforestation causes some of the flora and fauna to extinct.

Bodo, Gbidum, and Seomoni's article claim that the issue of deforestation should be considered a global concern because of the exploding human population, the continuous scientific advancement of new poses for biological diversity, and currently the extinction of some rare plants and animals that live in the forest (2021). Voigt, Meijaard, and Wich wrote an article that states one-hundred-thousand Orangutans have been extinct for the last 16 years because of deforestation in Kalimantan (2018). It all happens because people in Kalimantan are afraid that Orangutans disturb the harvesting of the oil palm plant. Orangutans are traded in the black market by humans. Humans not only take Orangutans home, which is a forest but also make our earth hotter by lumbering forests in Kalimantan.

Every temperature rise that occurs every decade could cause global warming, because global warming, causes glaciers at the North Pole to melt, and because of melting glaciers, sea rising level occurs. In some other parts of the globe, a massive change in precipitation occurs. By using observational data sets with the most complete global coverage, that is, the gauge-based product from the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC), worldwide precipitation on average increased from 2019 to 2020 (Blunden and Boyer, 57). Nowadays, rain could last for a day or more and that could cause flooding. The strongest positive anomaly across the land was in eastern China, which frequently experiences disastrous floods that extend for weeks or even months. If some other part of the globe gets wetter,

then some other part of the globe will get drought.

In many regions of the United States, climate change raises the likelihood that droughts will get worse. Particularly at risk are areas like the U.S. Southwest, where droughts are predicted to become more regular, harsh, and long (Heim, 2022). In Heim's article, drought and climate change are caused by evaporation, evaporation is accelerated by warmer temperatures, which decreases surface water and dries out soils and vegetation. In this instance, because of evaporation caused by climate change, many regions in the part of the globe where subtropics will get dryer, then tropics regions where usually mostly rain, will become wetter.

Since humans lived in this world, Human have coexisted with nature. Nature always gives human what they need. However, human tends to think that they are the center of this world. Thus, Humans become arrogant and fight with each other to achieve what they want. An environmental crisis is a big problem for the earth today. Rapid exploitation and rising energy use, which produce the destruction of the environment, are the most striking causes of environmental disasters (Appanagari, 153). As long as humans live without thinking about the environmental condition, humans will keep evolving to damage the environment.

The future of the earth is at stake. Environmental crises can lead to destruction of the world in the future. These conditions described in *Exodus* by Julie Bertagna represent the world state in the future. *Exodus* is a Young Adult novel written by Julie Bertagna an author who comes from Scotland.

Exodus is one of the trilogies written by Julie Bertagna. The first one is *Exodus*, the second one is *Zenith* (2007), and the last is *Aurora* (2011). *Exodus* was published in August 2002 by Bloomsbury. This research only focuses on the first trilogy, *Exodus*. *Exodus* is about rising sea levels that threaten the people of Wings who live on an isolated island. The novel is set in the year 2100, on earth that has been swallowed by the ocean because of the melting glacier. The people of Wings begin to realize that the sea is slowly drowning the land. Additionally, they started to roam the sea to search for a new home. Mara Bell as the main character, is a fifteen-year-old girl that has a vision leading her people to find their new home.

Julie Bertagna is a contemporary young adult author from Scotland and the author of *Exodus*. Julie Bertagna, who was born in 1962 in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, relocated to Glasgow when still a young child. She earned her master's degree in English language and literature at Glasgow University. Before working as a freelance journalist for numerous magazines, Julie Bertagna held the position of editor at a small magazine and then began teaching. She released *The Spark Gap*, her debut book in 1996. Julie Bertagna has won numerous awards for her works. According to Adami, Julie Bertagna has won for Scottish Arts Council Award for *Soundtrack* (1999), her second novel for young adults, and the Lancashire County Library Children's Book of the Year Award, the Friends of the Earth Eco Prize and Santa Monica Green Literature Award for Young Fiction for *Exodus in 2002* (2019). One of the best works of dystopian

young adult fiction, *Exodus*, by this author nominated for the Whitebread Children's Book of the Year that same year. *Exodus*, published in 2002, is hailed as a groundbreaking work for Young Adult dystopian climate change literature. *Exodus* received a great deal of praise from critics and readers alike, and it later joined *Zenith* (2007) and *Aurora* (2011) to form a trilogy of "eco-epic novels". In "*The Story Behind the Story*," Bertagna recounts that she was inspired to write these novels in 1999 after reading in the news about two South Pacific islands that had vanished beneath the sea, leaving residents without a place to go and their whole settlements evacuated. She conducts research and learns that "by 2100, the year of my future narrative, global warming is expected to ruin over 100 million lives and produce the worst refugee crisis the world has ever known". Julie Bertagna wants her readers to understand that when humans keep damaging the environment, the same prediction in *Exodus* could happen.

Some people do not want to provoke nature. They believe that nature is their source of life. It shows that nature has its natural power beyond human capability. Julie Bertagna, through her novel *Exodus*, suggests to her reader to care for the environment. In her literary work, she wrote her worries about the environmental crisis on the sea represented in *Exodus*.

There are some reasons why I choose to analyze this novel on this topic. First, *Exodus* is one of the best Young Adult fiction and got nominated for Whitebread Children's Book of The Year in 2002 and Friends of the Earth Eco Prize and Santa Monica Green Literature Award

for Young Fiction. *Exodus* has qualified and been awarded several awards for one of the most influential novels regarding the topic environmental crisis. Second, nature plays an important role in any fiction. The environment surrounding the character affects how they behave throughout the story. Third, the novel depicted how environmental crisis is a serious issue that could affect the future of many living creatures. These are the reasons why I choose *Exodus* as my object of research.

1.2 Identification of Problem

Environmental crisis is a serious issue that can impact many living creatures that depend on the environment. Many environmental crises that I want to analyse are climate change, sea rising levels, and marine pollution. Humans have an important role in managing natural resources. However, many of these environmental crises happen because of human negligence toward nature. These phenomena are also depicted in Julie Bertagna's *Exodus*. In *Exodus*, the setting of the novel is 2100 where the world has drowned by the sea because of the sea rising level that is triggered by climate change. In this research, I want to analyze how Bertagna's novel represents the potential risks of environmental crises in the future, and how this representation can be used to warn and educate readers about the importance of taking action to protect the environment today.

1.3 Scope of the Research

The environmental crisis is the main object of this research. This

research applied with the extrinsic method. I will mainly focus on how many researchers have discussed climate change, sea rising levels, and marine pollution.

1.4 Research Question

This research will answer the following questions:

1. How does Julie Bertagna present the environmental crisis in *Exodus*?
2. What are the impacts of the environmental crisis in Julie Bertagna *Exodus*?

1.5 Objective of the Research

First, this research aims at how Julie Bertagna represents environmental crisis in the novel *Exodus*. Second, this research will try to explore the impacts of the environmental crisis in Julie Bertagna's *Exodus*.

1.6 Review of Related Studies

The first study is an article by Yvonne Hammer with the title "Confronting Ecological Futures: Global Environmental Crises in Contemporary Survival Quest for Young Adults" which was published by Barnboken in 2010. The study focuses on the depictions of concern in three British authors' utopian environmental crisis fiction, there are *Exodus* and *Zenith* by Julie Bertagna, *Riding Tyco* and *Voyager* by Jan Mark, and *Floodland* by Marcus Sedwick. Yvonne Hammer focuses on the depiction of refugees that survive in environmental crisis from the five literature works from three different authors. In her analysis, she found

that the five literary works that discussed environmental crisis contain about how a refugee's journey to survive in a post-apocalyptic world is not a prediction of the future but a reminder to the people. I decided to choose this article because it shows that changes in human behavior in terms of preserving and protecting the environment are to blame for environmental degradation.

The second study that is related to my research is "*Harmony between Human and Nature: A Utopian Landscape in Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe*" by Md. Nuruzzaman and Sheikh Shareeful Islam, this research article analyzes the relationship between humans and nature through the novel *Robinson Crusoe*. The article discussed how Robinson Crusoe who is the main character of the novel, survives in Abandon Island. In their findings, Nuruzzaman and Islam argue that man and nature share the same important meaning on earth. I decided to choose the article because it shows humans not destroying and exploiting nature, instead, it suggests humans take care of nature by only taking the necessary things to coexist with nature. It helps to examine my research related to this article.

The third study is Mr. Anurag Jadaun's "An Assessment of Eco-Consciousness In The Novel of Mulk Raj" which was published by PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt in 2020. The study is focused on how to manage the problems of society with absolute realism. Eco-consciousness emphasizes the realization that humans and nature are in one ecosystem. In his findings, he found that humans as a part of nature

tend to exclude themselves from nature for their comfort. Thus, in Mulk Raj's works, Mr. Anurag Jadaun found that the way a man lives has an impact on the environment. Environmental impacts include disease, death, and poor sanitation. It is important to emphasize how closely intertwined the environment and man are. The land, which is a component of the planet, has an impact on people since it causes mortality and poverty. I decided to choose this study that reflected how humans seek comfort in nature. Instead of taking care of nature, humans tend to destroy it by their greed.

The fourth study that I found is "*Ecocriticism, Genre, and Climate Change: Reading the Utopian Vision of Kim Stanley Robinson's Science in the Capital Trilogy*" by Adeline Johns-Putra which was published by Routledge in 2010. This article discussed the importance of ecocriticism, genre, and climate change in *Science in the Capital* trilogy. In this research, she found that in *Science in the Capital* trilogy, the nature that surrounds the character influences how the character behaves throughout the story. I decided to choose this article because it portrayed the phenomenon of climate change, and how it brings human consciousness toward nature.

The fifth study that I found is "*(Environmental) Rhetorics of Tempered Apocalypticism in An Inconvenient Truth*" by Laura Johnson which was published by Routledge in 2009. An Inconvenient Truth is a film series about the effect of climate change and has the intention to give the viewer

a warning regarding the environmental crisis in the future. In her research, she found that climate change is a major issue that could cause various environmental crises, An Inconvenient Truth has succeeded in making the viewers feel desperate to encounter the potential risk of environmental crisis. However, she argues that humans should try to challenge how to solve environmental crises to prevent any disaster that could happen in the future. I decided to choose this article because it describes humans as the ones responsible for the cause of the environmental crisis and cannot change the earth for the better good.

