

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1. Conclusion

Melt is a middle-grade novel written by Ele Fountain about the impact of climate change. This novel was written by Fountain after being inspired by her journey as an environmental activist in Africa as an impact of climate change. Even so, she decided to write a critique on climate change by taking a different place, namely in Alaska, and after doing some research and observing the life of the Inuit community there. In this novel, the researcher found how the environmental damage caused by climate change has a major impact on the life of the Inuit community. From this issue, the researcher also found the reciprocal relationship between humans and their environment, which is proven through the actions or attitudes that humans take towards nature around them. The novel has divided the characters in this novel into two groups, namely native people consisting of the Inuit community and outsiders corresponding to city people and oil industry workers. The novel also stressed that the treatment carried out by these humans reflected their relationship with nature and its impact.

As the result of this research, the researcher derived that the novel *Melt* by Ele Fountain really represents environmental damage in Alaska, as proven by the similarity of data in the novel and events in the field. The researcher concludes the findings with some points. The researcher found that the novel describes the relationship between humans and nature through the attitudes of the characters to their surrounding environments. Attitudes refer to the treatments, actions, and views

of humans towards their environment. The researcher addresses humans in this novel as the natives and the outsiders. There are two types of attitudes possessed by the characters in the novel, namely, human as preserver and destroyer. Human as preserver is loving-nature human and aware of the environment. The researchers found four attitudes, namely loving animals, recognizing environmental change, self-restraint, and respecting the mutual relationship with nature. Based on the findings, the natives mostly present preserver attitudes depicted in the novel. In reality, human as preserver is a representation of the natives of Alaska who reject the oil drilling plan along the coastline in Alaska as a result of President Trump's policy. These attitudes delineate their fights to save and preserve the ecosystem in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

On the other hand, human as destroyer corresponds to destructive humans and careless of the stability of nature. The attitudes that indicate destroyer attitudes consist of greedy, ignorant, abusing, and disrespecting animals. The result shows that the outsiders mostly indicate destroyer attitudes than others in the novel. This destroyer attitude also represents reality. It illustrates President Trump's actions as the government approved the oil drilling plan in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by ignoring climate change and ecosystem degradation. This is also supported by his skeptical opinion of climate change inexistence and China's political propaganda towards America.

The researcher also discovered that the novel reflects on the impact of environmental damage on the lives of the Inuit people. Environmental damage is happening as a result of climate change and oil mining plans in Alaska. In this novel, the researcher found four types of impacts from environmental damage that had the

greatest impact on the lives of the Inuit people, namely the food crisis, the collapse of tradition and customs, the reduction of land and settlements, and the increase in mortality. The food crisis in the novel represents a 56% depopulation of caribou in two decades and other game animals caused by migration due to temperature changes. The collapse of traditions and customs describes the continuing conditions resulting from caribou depopulation and ice sheet instability that endanger the activities and customs of the Inuit people in Alaska. Reduction of land and settlement depicts the housing crisis experienced by Alaskans due to melting permafrost and infrastructure destruction. An increase in mortality refers to the number of deaths of people in Alaska caused by falling-through-the-ice (FTI) and attacks by wild animals while carrying out activities in the wild. These impacts demonstrate environmental crises that have occurred in recent decades in Alaska and the Arctic. These impacts also portray the interdependence of the Inuit people towards their environment and reflect the Inuit view of nature as part of the existence of the Inuit community.

5.2. Suggestion

After doing this research, the researcher realized that this research is not limited to this result. Therefore, the researcher proposes some suggestions for future researchers related to this novel as the object. Since this research only focuses on the attitude and impact of environmental damage on the Inuit community in general, future researchers can conduct studies related to the cultural impact and philosophical thoughts of the Inuit community on nature. This is because cultural practices and philosophical views can be used as tools to transform humans from anthropocentric to ecocentric. Some other approaches or theories can be applied

and used to investigate Ele Fountain's *Melt*, such as the sociology of literature and the philosophical approach. Future researchers can also apply an expressive approach to see the role of Ele Fountain's personal experiences as an author while being an environmental activist that has inspired her to write *Melt*. Besides, a comparative study can also be conducted by using other Ele Fountain's novels, especially in the study of children's literature.

