

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

Animals surround people because humans are inextricably linked to the life of animals. Animals live in homes with humans as companions, frequently treated as part of the family (Hosey & Melfi, 2014, p. 117). Some people even buy clothing for them, celebrate their birthdays, and take them on vacation. Humans eat animals or their products for nearly every meal and much of their clothing, and most human shoes are made of animal skins, fur, hair, or wool. Humans wash their hair with animal-tested cosmetics and take pharmaceuticals that were developed using animal models. Some individuals go to zoos, marine mammal parks, and rodeos to be entertained by animals, people frequently share their yards with wild animals whose habitats are being degraded by human presence (Hosey & Melfi, 2014, p. 118).

The thesis is written to analyze the novel entitled *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London. In the novel *The Call of The Wild*, in short, the animal character, a dog named Buck, lived contentedly in Judge Miller's home at the beginning of the story. However, his life was altered after he was kidnapped and sent to Seattle. Buck was not a beloved pet anymore, and he was put in a crate. He was unfed and beaten by the stout man with the red sweater. The background of this novel starts from economic depression that hit America in the 1890s, then there was a gold rush (discovery of gold mines in the Klondike in 1893) which made many people flock to look for gold there to change their lives.

Other than animals, nature is also identified with woods, plants, rivers, mountains, and many more. Furthermore, *The Call of The Wild* portray the connection between humans

and animals. Afterward, *The Call of The Wild* uses anthropomorphism which can be defined as animals creatures being similar to them on a psychological, cognitive, awareness, emotional, and even spiritual level (Ratanaruamkarn & Yimwilai, 2017, p. 2).

The Call of The Wild is a popular children book for a children started from twelve years old. The book also categorize as classic novel. Furthermore, it presents how the human characters interact with animals and their natural surroundings. Moreover, *The Call of The Wild* highlighted the connection between human and animal, it because both human and animals have their intrinsic values. *The Call of the Wild* explores the concept of establishing power over a primitive world through self-sufficiency and independence from others. Buck, despite being a leader, is primarily responsible for the group's well-being and serves a master or pack throughout the film. Buck meets his last master and explores uncharted territory. During their journey, they came across a cottage in the jungle surrounded by a gold-filled river. Buck's experience with wolves in the wilderness stirs up his savage side. The researcher believes that *The Call of The Wild* shows that the adaptations between humans and animals can have an impact on their personalities.

1.2 Identification of The Problem

Buck is the animal main character in Jack London's novel *The Call of The Wild*. The story sets in Alaska around 1897-1898, where big strong canines are made the commodity as letter carrier. The estate gardener secretly sells Buck. The dog then brought north by train and ends up in Alaska. Through the novel Buck has been kept by some different owners. Concerning to stay alive, Buck has to adapt with his owners in both the good and bad kind of treatment the owners give him. Therefore, the focus of this research is to analyze human and animal intrinsic values so that they can live side by side and to show the moral value of the story to the reader.

1.3 Review of Related Literature

The first thesis by Rikke Callow entitled “The Call of the Wild and White Fang: An Ecocritical Analysis and Interpretation of Jack London’s Two Wolf-Novels”. The research of the thesis was based on an ecocriticism approach to the connection between the main character which is Buck to humans. The writer shows the aspect of the connection between humans and animals in his research, interpretation of Jack London’s two wolf-novels. Moreover, the writer also shows how humans and animals dependency on each other in terms of affecting each other.

The second study is an article by Darshana Pachkawade (2021) entitled “Deep Ecological Reading of Mahasweta Devi’s *The Book of The Hunter*: An Eco-Conscious Approach”. Pachkawade uses deep ecology to analyze *The Book of The Hunter*. The writer introduces deep ecology in deeper terms. Moreover, the writer starts his own opinion about deep ecology in general. The author believes that Mahasweta Devi promotes Deep Ecology’s ecocentric views at every turn. Afterward, based on the point of view of the author, the writer thinks Devi’s incorporation of Deep Ecology ideas into her novel is theoretically straightforward, as she presents the reader with gently convincing events. The author says in *The Book of The Hunter*, benevolent Nature can meet all of human beings’ basic needs, and in the absence of urban greed, they may be able to live happily ever after. However, this new vision of human existence can only be realized if non-human entities are accorded the same rights and respect as humans.

The third study is a research article by S. Priya Dharsini (2021) entitled “Deep Ecology: A Framework for Sustainable Living in Thomas Coraghessan Boyle’s *A Friend of the Earth*”. In this article, Dharsini shows the relationship between humans and all the living things on Earth based on the story. Moreover, the author shows the impact that humans have on nature such as Deforestation, species extinction, global warming, climate change, and natural

resource depletion are only a few examples. The concept of deep ecology is to have equality among animals but, in the future humans could destroy nature if a forest becomes a target of human violence, the trees and hence all the animals and plants that live there will be extinguished. Governments, the commercial sector, civil society, and people are all working hard to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), often known as the Global Goals. These purposely to reduce the gap between human and animals in nature.

The fourth article is written by GAO Wen-ting and LIU Jin-Xia (2015), entitled “An Eco-criticism Reading of *The Call of the Wild*”. This article primarily examines Jack London's eco-critical concepts as they are presented in his seminal work, *The Call of the Wild*. The writer begins by outlining the idea of ecological concepts, particularly the idea of eco-criticism. The expansion of theoretical understanding aids readers in understanding eco-criticism. Readers can then comprehend how and why Jack London becomes an ecologist by first providing them with information about his life experience and the social climate of the time he lives in.

1.4 Research Question

The focus of this research is to answers these following questions:

- a. What are the values of human and animal presented in Jack London's novel *The Call of The Wild*? How do they coexist in their environment?
- b. What is the moral value of the story for the reader?

1.5 Scope of The Research

The researcher applies deep ecology theories to examine the story. Firstly, the researcher focuses on the values of both human and animals characters and how the main characters live side by side. Secondly, the researcher tries to find the moral value of the story for the reader.

1.6 Objectives of The Research

The objectives of this research are to examine the intrinsic value of both human and animal characters in the novel and to explain how they coexist in life. Furthermore, it aims at finding the moral values of the story for the readers.

