

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Research

Nature is everything that not artificial by human and exists without human intervention. The existence of nature is derived from God and many people also believe that nature has big power. Like Jacques Pollini in his article entitled “Construction of nature” (2014), mention that; “We suggest calling Nature the world out there, as it has been created, by god or by itself, or as it has always been ... Nature is the essence of all things and cannot be socially constructed, by definition” (6). The existence of nature cannot be denied by the human being. Nature is not only as a place for humans to live, but also to fulfill human needs. On the other hand, nature also constructs culture and people’s identity. In literary works, the aesthetic word is the most important element by a human to express the value and the goodness of this whole world. We should admit that literature is not only to entertain but also can teach us how influential nature to human, such as beneficial mutual relationships, especially on healing human mental and physical illness.

Nature and humans naturally shapes the mutual relationship. Humans need nature to fulfill their lives and nature also needs humans to preserve it. The term reciprocal or mutual relations are explained in *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmark in Literary Ecology* by Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm (1996), “The reciprocal

relationship between humans and lands, considering nature not just as the stage upon which the human story is acted out, but as an actor in the drama” (xxi). The concept of reciprocal or mutual relationship is undeniable by a human. If human treat nature well then nature also gives everything that humans needed. On the contrary, if human treat nature badly and arbitrarily, nature can also make human suffered. Because as living things we cannot be separated to nature and that treatment is basically a mutual relationship or reciprocal relationship among them.

In literature, the mutual relation between human and nature is captured on English novel entitled *The Secret Garden* by France Hudgson Burnett and Indonesian novel entitled *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso. First, *The Secret Garden* is an English children’s novel published in 1911. The book is considered Burnett’s best and has become a classic of children’s literature. Burnett captured in her novels that nature is the biggest supporters to the story. How the different living thing such as human and nature have a close relationship between them. Frances Hudgson Burnett was born in Cheetham, England. After her father passed away, she began her career to help to earn money for her family and her publishing stories in magazines from the age of 19. From that age, she learns about writing the story and novel. Her first of work, *That Lasso’Lowrie’s* was published and had many good reviews. Then *Little Lord Fauntleroy* made her a popular writer of children’s fiction. After that, she moved to England and produced *The Secret Garden* and it is one of the popular children novels. She passed away in 1924 in Nassau Country, Long Island and buried in Roslyn

Cemetery. Then in 1936, a memorial sculpture was erected in her honor in Central Park's Conservatory Garden, it pictures her two famous Secret Garden characters, Mary and Dickon.

The second is an Indonesian novelist that also has the same concern with the relationship between nature and human named Tosca Santoso. His first novel entitled *Sarongge* highlights nature as the main theme and uplifting various interesting problems regarding environmental sustainability. Tosca Santoso is a journalist and serves as managing director at Green Radio. In the past, he was an activist who fought for environmental sustainability and the rights of the poor. Tosca Santoso also one of the participants who opposed the government, did not accept if the Sarongge forest was cleared and erected with a majestic building. In order to document each of these events, Tosca wrote them in a novel entitled *Sarongge*. This novel was published in 2012, by Dian Rakyat Publisher, contains 384 pages.

Both of the novels, *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge* are the novels which concern and raise the problems regarding the environment. There are some issues that are really interesting to discuss, such as the role of the mutual relationship between human and nature towards mental and physical healing of humans and also the relation to reality. These novels try to convince the reader that nature and human can contribute the universe to be the better place in the future especially on mental and physical health issues. As Wyk (2012) mentions in his article entitled "Different Natures: An ecocritical Analysis of Selected Films by Terrence Malick, Werner Herzog, and Sean

Penn”, he mentions that nature has the power to influence the lives of characters on an individual, cultural and national level (17). However, the good mutual relationship on the novels not really represent the reality of environmental condition in England on early 20<sup>th</sup> century and Indonesia on early 21<sup>st</sup> century through the amount of natural damage and various disease caused by such damage.

In *The Secret Garden*, the garden represents nature can be the media of mental and physical healing. The characters named Mary and Colin represent the relationship between human and nature through the transformation from mentally and physically because of the natural environment. The characters of this novel do not experience any significant mentally and physically changes from their outdoor interaction, until they are in the garden. As said by Imke Lichterfeld in his article entitled ‘There was every joy on earth in the secret garden’ – Nature and Female Identity in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *The Secret Garden*” (2012), he states that; “Nature, fresh air and friendship has allowed her to form a more positive and beneficial identity” (36). The positivity of nature influences the health of the protagonist body and mental. On the other hand, the garden will not be alive if the children did not take care of the secret garden.

While the second novel entitled *Sarongge*, the forests that they take care to become the media of Husin and Karen to fulfill their needs. Nature also becomes the healing media themselves and their children from the diseases. It was describes by the author writings in this novel that nature tends to give an element of joy, freedom, peace, and health to the characters when they have interaction with nature. The relationship

between humans and nature is also represented in from the main characters. Husin and Karen that also love nature through their smart ideas, they try to prioritize natural sustainability and utilize nature as much as possible without damaging the ecosystem. Thus are why nature becomes the media of mental and physical healing to human life, then it uplifting the idea of the mutual relationship between human and nature.

Meanwhile, with the mutual relationship between humans and nature, these two things cannot be separated. They have a close relation and also build a mutual relationship that benefits each other. The place is not only used for setting by the authors of those novels, but also as the media and example of the mutual relationship between human and nature. I believe that Burnett in *The Secret Garden* and Tosca Santoso in *Sarongge* want to show that nature and human benefiting each other with taking care of each other. By using these two different novels also with different language, culture, and nation, the research will be the comparative analysis and the title of this research is **“The Mutual Relationship between Human and Nature on *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge*: An Ecocritical Reading”**

## 1.2 Identification of the Problem

*The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge* imply deep views regarding environmental phenomena, including the human relation to the natural environment and the natural condition on England and Indonesia. Basically, the novels represent the mutual relationship between humans and nature. It appears because of the concern of the

authors about the environmental problem, especially the conserving environment issues.

In this analysis, I want to expose how the mutual relationship between humans and nature described in the novels and the effects on society. The problems of environmental imbalances that influence the mental and physical health that the authors notice in reality move them to create these novels, *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge*. Consequently, this research focuses on identifying the mutual relationship between human and nature, human mental and physical illness problems, and also the relation to society in reality.

### 1.3 Scope of the Research

This research focuses on analyzing the relation of human and nature that give a similar thing to each other. In other words, it is the mutual relationship between human and nature especially on how nature as the media of healing the mental and physical of someone that capture on *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge*. By being compared those two novels, I investigate the cause and effect the mutual relationship between human and nature which is based on Ecocriticism perspective. Also the relation to environment issues in reality. As a result that nature also becomes media of mental and physical healing to shaping one's identity and also the media to fulfill human necessities that represent on those novels. To limit this research, I find out what the benefiting relation

on both humans and nature especially on the healing mental and physical that shown on novels, *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge*.

#### 1.4 Research Questions

The main focus of this research is to observe and discover the relationship between nature and human that captured on *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge*. The questions I investigate are:

1. How do the authors depict the mutual relationship of humans and nature in *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso?
2. How do nature in *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso become the media to healing human mental and physical illness?

#### 1.5 Objective of the Research

This study aims to analyze the mutual relationship of humans and nature in English and Indonesian novels, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso. This research is also intended to explain how a natural environment is benefiting each other especially on how nature can heal humans mentally as described in *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso.

## 1.6 Review of Related Studies

The environmental issues are quite popular to discuss on the society. Since maintaining natural sustainability becomes an important thing to be noticed by a human. Therefore, many discussions highlight the environmental issues such as the influence of the mutual relationship between humans and nature especially on human mental and physical health that captured on *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge*. Due to this issue, the writer has found some articles and thesis that have analyzed the novels regarding the mutual relationship between human and nature and the relation to the concept of nature to be the media of healing human mental and physical. The First two articles are from Anja Drautzburg and Kathryn DiGiulio discussed the influence of nature to the human to the mental and physical of humans on *The Secret Garden*. Then the next two sources are from Kafwi and Antin discussed the mutual relationship between humans and nature on *Sarongge*. The last two articles are also quite important to support this research, which discussed the reciprocal relationship or mutual relationship between human and nature, and a comparative article by William Rueckert, and Eva and Rizka. Those several studies are aimed as the medium of comparison to achieve a deeper understanding. I review other studies conducted by other researchers in order to find a different point of view and opinion to enrich my analysis.

The first two articles are from Anja Drautzburg in her article entitled “It Was the Garden That Did It!-Spatial Representations with References to Illness and Health



in Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*" (2012). She attempts to ascertain that geography can be therapeutic landscape and she discusses that the concepts of the therapeutic landscape take from health geography in order to show in what ways *The Secret Garden* can be regarded as a healing power. In my opinion, it depends on the focus of human ideas and their activities in that place. There are three spaces that show the important place in this novel, India, Misselthwaite Manor, and the garden. Anja Drautzburg states that the entire place has a different effect to the character from illness and health. I agree with her statement that the garden is the biggest helper to the characters. That place became into powerful place because the character turns into more happy, peaceful, active and also healthier. The strength of her article is she compares with the other place that Mary live from India and Yorkshire that give the different perception between the unhealthy and healthy landscape that also can influence to the children health. I think, she should use moor to be one of the objects of the therapeutic landscape in her research. Because I believe that moor also gives the effect to the mental and physical to the character.

Another writing about the relationship of nature and human in *The Secret Garden* shows in Kathryn DiGiulio's article, entitled "Between Misselthwaite Manor and the "Wils, Dreary" Moor: Children and Enclosures in *The Secret Garden*" (2014). She state that nature can change from liminality to rapture depends on how children can negotiate both from natural and cultural in there. In her article, Kathryn argues that nature can influence the character from the weather on the place. Example like in India

is typically hot and covered with sand which is dry. Well, it pictures from the character that Mary when in India as the most disagreeable looking child and it changes when she moved to Yorkshire that covered with green and fresh air. I also believe in Kathryn article, she states that the space of the garden, Mary herself is transformed- sheds her contrariness and becomes more likeable, prettier and plumper. However, Kathryn also mentions not only the garden that made the transformation from the character but also the social environment.

“The Sowerby family, who “wouldn’t live away from th’ moor for anythin”, exude healthiness and happiness. Whereas Mary’s contrariness must be cured over the course of the novel, Martha and the Sowerby clan remain the “good-natured Yorkshire” family throughout the narrative (24).

I agree with her conclusion, not only the place but also the social environment impact the improvement of the characters. In my perception, the most powerful effect is from the goodness of nature itself. Because the characters do not experience any significant change before they met the secret garden. Thus two first articles give some useful thoughts about the role of landscape or place/setting on the novel. However, the focus of my research is how the mutual relationship of human and nature on the novels benefiting each other and the role of nature to influence the human to heal mental and physical.

The next two sources are discussed about the second novel, *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso. The first is Muhammad Kafrawi from Lancang Kuning University, “Mengembara ke Negeri Suram: Telaah Novel “Sarongge” Karya Tosca Santoso”(2016). In his research, he mentions that setting and characterization are the most important and become one of the points in *Sarongge*. I totally agree with this, because in this novel without the presence of the forest and also the characters, the message will not deliver well. This article is also talking about the importance of preserving the forest through the environmental activist who struggles and fights to keep the forest that tells on the novels. He also reviews the characters that do not have an ordinary love story. I think the focus of his article is about how the characters trying to preserve the forest and the entire environment only. In my research, the focus is how the authors trying to share the idea of beneficial mutual relationship, but unfortunately Tosca Santo not really represent the reality, the chaos and unbeneficial mutual relationship between human and nature in Indonesia. I think it could be better if he also discusses what are the biggest cause and the trigger for the character to preserve the nature itself.

This second writer is Antin Purwati from Tidar University. The point of her thesis is in line with what I discussed in this research. The title of her thesis is “Hubungan Timbal Balik Manusia dengan Alam: Tinjauan Ekologi Sastra terhadap Novel *Sarongge* Karya Tosca Santoso dan Implementasinya di SMA” (2018). she discusses the reciprocal relationship between human and nature on *Sarongge* novel by

Tosca Santoso. she mentions that: “Melalui ide-ide cerdasnya, mereka selalu mengutamakan kelestarian alam dan memanfaatkan alam semaksimal mungkin tanpa merusak ekosistem yang ada di dalamnya” (8). In other words, she claims that in this story the character is the biggest role. Because through their ideas, Husin and Karen who always prioritizing nature conversation and they use nature to fulfill their limit and their needs. In my opinion, with all examples of mutual relationship in the *Sarongge* novel, she only uses one example that nature or wind can be useful to drive the power generation to produce electricity. Whereas, there are many more mutual relationship between human and nature that can be discussed, but I will analyze this issue more deeply and fully in my research.

The last two articles are also quite important to support this research which discusses the reciprocal relationship or mutual relationship issues and the comparative article by using ecocriticism. The first is by William Rueckert, *Literature and Ecology: an Experiment in Ecocriticism* (1996). Rueckert mentions that “In that ecosphere there is a reciprocal independence of one life process upon another, and there is a mutual interconnected development of all of the earth’s life systems” (112). Rueckert believes that all of the living things on earth are having a mutual relationship with each other. In my opinion, this means that the presence of one another is really important for the survival of every living thing. I agree that this mutual relationship or reciprocal relationship exists on earth. Because as human beings we cannot be separated from other natural elements such as land, animals, plants and so on. In his essay, he also

discusses the term ecocriticism into literary community. By Rueckert explanation about how ecocriticism can take control the society, I think it is because nature is the basic lesson to human life. I believe that human is the unity of nature itself, not only human as living things that can control life but also they must preserve nature to take care of the natural sustainability.

The last related study which I found is my lecturer and my senior article from Andalas University, on Proceeding 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Culture, Arts and Humanities (ICCAH). The article by Eva Najma and Rizka Merdifa entitled “Song Lyrics Michael Jackson’ *Earth Song* and Tiar Ramon’s *Pasan Buruang* in Environmental Perspective”(2017). They discuss two literary works, one is song lyric and the other is a poem in different language and background. The focus of this article is the environmental damage because of humans in the song lyrics; *Pasan Buruang* by Tiar Ramon and *Earth* by Michael Jackson. In this article, I agree about the concept of comparative analysis that used by those writers that compared the American and Indonesian literature works with the same topic but in the different background of culture. The fact that I interested the most is with using different works, medium, language and also background, people also can criticize what is the same topic which was brought in this analysis. I also agree with the article that in nowadays people in the entire earth have begun to forget and destroy this earth. I began to think of nature must be guarded, because without the existence of nature on this earth, then gradually humans and all living things that depend on it will be destroyed too. With this article,

it also strengthens my research that critics can criticize a topic in different novels with different background and years using the same theory.

Based on those previous studies, I conclude that I have set different research from those previous studies. I emphasize the research on the mutual relationship between nature and human in *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso by applying Ecocriticism. Which means this research is purely and originally a new idea.

### 1.7 Theoretical Frameworks

In order to support the purpose of this analysis, I applying the understanding of the theory literature and society by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in their book entitled *Theory of Literature* (1949). Based on their book, literature is a concern with its settings, its environment, and external causes. This study is known as the extrinsic study. Based on Wellek and Warren, their mention that, “these extrinsic methods are not limited to a study of the past but are equally applicable to present-day literature”. This extrinsic study is useful until the future because it is not limited and it is because the study is criticizing the society itself. According to Wellek and Warren, they state that:

through the “extrinsic” study may merely attempt to interpret literature in the light of its social context and its antecedents, in most cases it becomes a

“causal” explanation, professing to account for literature, to explain it, and finally to reduce it to its origins (the “fallacy of origins”) (65).

Based on the statement above, they have categorized the extrinsic approach to the study of literature into several approaches. One of the extrinsic approaches in their book, I use literature and society theory. I noticed in their book that society is using literature to be a medium of language and it is a social creation. Based on Wellek and Warren mention in their book (1949), they state that, “literature “imitates” “life”; and “life” is, in large measure, a social reality, even through the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been the objects of literary “imitation”(89).

Furthermore, this research also applies ecocriticism. Ecocriticism is considered as a new literary criticism due to its first official emergence in 1993. The approach itself has been growing swiftly since early 1990. From Lawrence Buell in his book titled *The Future of Environmental Criticism* (2005). According to Buell, he states that; “ecocriticism is an interdisciplinary movement committed not to any one methodology but a particular subject: the subject of how literature and other media express environment awareness and concern” (7).

The idea of ecocriticism actually has long been pioneered by some experts, but this theory is not active and not many people who use this theory because of not many who fond of this theory. Then the theory was redefined in 1996 by Cheryl Glotfelty

and Harold Fromm. Ecocriticism is a study that examines the relationship between literature and the physical environment of nature. How literature itself has interconnectedness between man and nature. As Glotfelty and Harold Fromm reveals in his book:

...ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature, and the physical environment. Just as feminist criticism examines language and literature from a gender-conscious perspective, and Marxist criticism brings an awareness of modes of production and economic class to its reading of texts, ecocriticism takes an earth-centered approach to literary studies (xviii).

By using two different novels also with different language, culture, and nation, the research will be the comparative analysis. Based on *Comparative Literature: Theory, Method, Application's* book, Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek (1998) mentions that: "Comparative literature means the knowledge of more than one national language and literature, and/or it means the knowledge and application of other disciplines in and for the study of literature" (13).

Ecocriticism helps people and especially critics to maintain, encourage saving the earth and build awareness of the destructions of nature from humans who treat nature badly with taking action like criticize it. By applying the concept of the mutual relationship between human and nature in ecocriticism can be the suit tools to analyze



this topic on the novel, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso.

## 1.8 Methods of the Research

In conducting this study, as a researcher, I will apply library research. Based HLWIKI Canada (2017) state that successful library research is defined as the systematic study and investigation of some aspect of library and information science where conclusions are based on the analysis of data collected in accordance with pre-established research designs and methodologies. Therefore, I also follow several steps, which are collecting data, analyzing data, and presenting the result of the analysis.

### 1.8.1 Collecting Data

In collecting data, I use two kinds of data: primary and secondary data. The first primary data is an English novel entitled, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The second primary data is an Indonesian novel entitled, *Sarongge* by Tosca Santoso. The secondary data is the information taken from some books and articles related to this study.

### 1.8.2 Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, as the researcher, I tried to understand the characters and storyline in *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge* first, before identifying the mutual relationship between characters and nature in the novels. Then, I analyze the causes of

illness faced by the characters described by the author and how nature has a major influence on mental and physical changes. Besides that, I apply the perspective of Ecocriticism theory by Lawrence Buell and Cheryl Glotfelty. On the other side because I use two literary works in this analysis *The Secret Garden* and *Sarongge*, so it would be a comparative analysis, so I use Steven comparative theory.

### 1.8.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis

In presenting the result of the analysis, I use descriptive methods due to the qualitative research because in this analysis is free-flowing text that analyzes the literature deeply by learning and reading closely. Based on W. Lawrence Neuman in his book entitled *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches Third Edition* (1997), they state that; “the qualitative data research style values qualitative data. Its entire orientation is organized around theorizing, collecting, and analyzing the qualitative data” (328).

