

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Poetry is one of the literary works, which is valuable to be analyzed because it has complex elements such as themes, figurative languages, rhyme, and messages. Mark Mussari in his book *The Craft of Writing: Poetry* (2012) states that, “Poets write first and foremost to express themselves. They often choose the poetic form because, unlike or a short story, a poem is meant to be heard as well as read” (6). People have to read poetry more than one time to get a deep understanding. It is different when someone is reading a book. In addition to express feelings, a poet also can deliver some messages through a poem. People over the world can read poems. As Laurie E. Rozakis mentions in her book entitled *How to Interpret Poetry* (1995) “Poem is universal to all people, all places, all times poetry knows no barriers, neither culture, age, gender, nor religion.” (v). There is no specific limitation or requirement if someone wants to read poetry.

Nature is the Art of God that used to be the object of a poem. In literature, nature is an essential part of the emergence of a literary work. Many poets use nature as an inspiration for writing their works. For example, Ted Hughes, an English poet, successfully described the relationship between humans and nature in his collected poems. The use of nature in poetry shows that the emergence of a poem is inspired by the poet’s awareness and admiration towards natural conditions. Nature gives ideas and creativity to the poet. Then,

the poet identifies and writes it into a poem with the theme of nature. As a poet who is aware of the importance of nature in life, Ted Hughes conveys his ideas, experiences, and concerns about nature that are not in harmony with human life. The poet's relationship and concern with nature have positioned nature as an unlimited source of inspiration.

Nature is different from the environment. In *Oxford Dictionary*, environment is the natural world in which people, animals, and plants live ("Environment", def.N.2). Meanwhile, nature is all the plants, animals, and things that exist in the universe that are not made by people ("Nature", def.N.1). Humans and nature are two inseparable things, both of them have their roles in life and they have a mutual relationship. Nature is a gift from God, which has power in influencing human life. Many people lose their concerns toward nature because of several factors, including a lack of understanding and selfishness.

As social beings, humans need nature to survive their life because nature provides the things that humans need. Meanwhile, nature needs human help to conserve it, not to destroy or exploit it. The most important thing about the relationship between humans and nature is how humans utilize nature without damaging it. If nature is damaged, it will make a huge impact on human life. For example, humans need a river as a source of water, but if humans cannot take care of it, their life will be destroyed. They will not be able to utilize river in daily life anymore.

Literary works are a reflection of human life. One example of literary work that describes the relationship between humans and nature is collected poems by

Ted Hughes. Edward James Hughes or also known as Ted Hughes was an English poet, children's writer, and translator. In this research, I analyze nature poems by Hughes for several reasons. First, I assume that Hughes' nature poems can show his attention as a poet toward the world. It means the poets not only take nature as the object but also want to criticize the issues or phenomena in the world and show the relationship between humans and nature. Then, by reading nature poems readers can realize what problems occur in their lives and they can understand what they have to do to solve the problems. Moreover, readers can show their positive actions to preserve nature. Furthermore, I assume that the poems are portrayed as the reflection of the 20th century English society, which become the setting of these poems.

Second, Ted Hughes was an English famous poet for his nature poems. He was born in Mytholmroyd, Yorkshire, on August 17, 1930 and died at the age of 68 on October 29, 1998 in Devon. He loved animals and appreciated them so much because his life was close to nature. Most of his nature poems are related to his life and experiences. Ted Hughes was one of the best poets of his generation and he achieved several awards for his works. His book of poems *The Hawk in the Rain* won the Galbraith Prize in 1959. Then, his book *What is the Truth* won Guardian Children's Fiction Prize in 1985 and he won Forward Poetry Prize for his book *Birthday Letter*. Ted Hughes also became Poet Laureate in 1984.

The selected poems are *The River*, *The River in March*, *The Jaguar*, *Hawk Roosting*, *To Paint A Water Lily*, and *Pike*. I choose these poems because the

poems demonstrate the relationship between humans and nature. I describe the human violence that is depicted in these poems. *Hawk Roosting* shows the arrogance of humans and their superiority. Then, *Pike* explains humans bad attitudes against nature. *To Paint A Water Lily* describes the duality of nature, which human only see the beauty of nature. Also, *The Jaguar* reveals human cruelty to animals. Next, *The River* and *The River in March* portray human exploitation toward river. All of these poems were published in the 20th century, which is shown as the reflection of the 20th century English society and natural condition.

The poems also use the element of nature, such as animals, plants, and rivers to show the imagery. The imagery also compares to human behavior, and it is a bit easier to interpret the meaning and messages contained in it by choosing these poems. From the reasons mentioned above, I have a great interest in analyzing Ted Hughes' selected poems. This research is entitled **“Human Violence Toward Nature in Ted Hughes' Selected Poems”**.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Ted Hughes' nature poems depict the relationship between humans and nature, especially about how humans do not show their concern toward nature. It can be seen from the meaning of each line in the poems. Humans do not utilize nature wisely and they keep to harm nature. In fact, nature is something beneficial and essential to human. I want to find out how the relationship happens between humans and nature as depicted in Ted Hughes' selected poems

through the beauty of languages. The relationship depends on human attitude toward nature. Thus, this research focuses on describing the relationship between humans and nature, while humans live in nature but they do not show their good behavior toward nature. This topic is quite interesting to be analyzed and I assume that these poems have important messages related to nature that are useful for readers.

1.3 Review of Related Literature

Ted Hughes' nature poems are the object used by literary critics and they apply some theories in analyzing nature poems. Some of them also discuss the relationship between humans and nature. In writing this research, I use some references to strengthen the analysis. I deal with an article that analyzes the same theme in Hughes' poem to support my research. It can be seen in an article written by Dilek Inan and Merve Nur Boldan entitled "An Ecocritical Reading of Ted Hughes's *Hawk Roosting*" (*Journal of Social Science Institute*, Vol.4, No.5 (2018), pp. 53-62). This article discusses human cruelty toward nature by using ecocriticism as demonstrated in *Hawk Roosting*. They state that the eagle is a metaphor to convey the meanings and messages in the poem. Moreover, they also mention that the eagle as a symbol of human nature. This writing also contains the meaning of *Hawk Roosting* and its elements. The difference between this study with my research is the writers do not explain the messages that appear in this poem and this part is explained in detail in my research. *Hawk Roosting* is one of the poems that I analyze in my research and this article helps to complete this research which uses the same theory. It is easier for me to understand more deeply

about the meanings and the elements in *Hawk Roosting*. This article provides a clear explanation of ecocriticism and how this theory can be applied in the poem. In addition, it also contains a short biography of Ted Hughes and the writers show the evidence in each line of the poem when describing the relationship between humans and the eagle. The weakness of this study is when the writers relate this poem to war and politics at the end of the analysis, but they do not go into detail. Then, this analysis is also not previously mentioned on abstracts and theory.

Nibedita Bandyopadhyay, in her article entitled “Ted Hughes and his Animal World: Analysis of the Poems of Ted Hughes by the Yardstick of Eco-Criticism” (*International Multidisciplinary Research Journal*, Vol.2, No.4 (2013), pp. 1-6) discusses several nature poems by Ted Hughes, including *The Hawk Roosting*, *Thrushes*, *The Hawk in the Rain*, *An Otter*, *The Howling of Wolves*, *The Horse*, *The Bull Moses*, *The Jaguars*, and *Wind*. She says that Hughes used animals as objects in conveying messages to readers and every animal that appears in his poem also has a symbol of itself because animals have an important role in preserving nature. This research is very beneficial for me because it discusses the object from the same author and theory. The writer discusses some of Ted Hughes’ poems in her research, but she only shows lines in *The Hawk in The Rain* to support the analysis, not in each poems. Her explanations throughout this article do not refer to other’s opinions for the supporting idea.

The third is an article by Ashik Istiak entitled “Human Animals in Ted Hughes’ Poetry: A Thorough Study of the Animal Poems of Ted Hughes”

(*International Journal of English Language, Literature, and Humanities*, Vol.4, No.5 (2016), pp. 1-16). He is a senior lecturer in the Department of English, Green University of Bangladesh. This article describes the animal depictions in Ted Hughes' animal poems, including *Pike*, *The Jaguar*, *The Thought Fox*, *Hawk Roosting*, and *Crow*. Ashik Istiak states that animals are more than just cruel and vicious animals. Therefore, the writer analyzes by using two theories; they are deconstruction and psychoanalysis. However, the writer does not give a definition or explanation of how the theory can be applied to analyze Ted Hughes' poems. Ted Hughes successfully presents metaphors to animals, which also have symbols. Istiak mentions the comparisons between humans and animal character. She tries to investigate the comparisons and as a result, the poems provide different human characters. *Pike*, *Hawk Roosting*, and *The Jaguar* depict human cruelty. Meanwhile, *Crow* and *The Thought Fox* reflect the human spirit. This paper helps me discuss the metaphor in the poems which are also as the object of my research, even though her research uses a different theory.

Another study is an article titled "Ted Hughes' Poems as the Pessimistic Mirror of Nature" (*Research Journal of English Language and Literature*, Vol.7, No.1 (2019), pp. 122-127) by Faria Tasnim Chowdhury from University of Asia Pacific. She says that Hughes shows to the reader about the bad side of nature and it can be seen more prominently in some of his literary works. For example, in *Wind* where the situation in this poem is horrible, it is described through auditory, visual, and tactile. Also in *The Jaguar*, which explains that ferocity is

an attraction. This article mentions that Hughes did not just look at nature from its first 'layer', but he points out the terrible facts and tries to present them in positive things by combining the beauty and violence. In my opinion, the weakness of this study is when the writer analyzes *The Thought Fox*, she does not explain in detail how this poem relates to nature, she only describes the meaning of the poem, instead. This article also helps me to learn more about the meaning of Ted Hughes' poems.

The next study which used the same theory is an article written by Pushpalatha Umapathy. The title is "Eco-Critical Approaches in the Poem of Ted Hughes" (*Online International Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, Vol.9, No.4 (2019), pp. 5-9) This article explains that Ted Hughes uses animal imagery in some of his poems to show human cruelty. Humans lose their humanity, meanwhile the animals have to survive for their lives. This study uses ecocriticism by Cheryll Glotfelty. Ecocriticism is divided into three kinds; they are "nature writing", ecology (such as animals and plants), and eco - practices (such as ice melting and global warming). Umapathy, as the writer of this article focuses on the second type and relates it to Hughes' animal poem, *Hawk Roosting*. The writer explains the meaning of this poem by describing stanza by stanza. Then, she concludes that this poem describes the human characters who are arrogant, selfish, and cruel. The poem that is discussed in Umapathy's article is one of the poems discussed in my research, but there are slight differences with mine. My research reviews the intrinsic elements of the poem intensely and explains the message that emerges after analyzing it. Besides that, this

article is useful for me because it informs about ecocriticism waves. By focusing on a single poem, the writer is able to explain the analysis clearly, but she does not mention her findings in Ted Hughes' poem in the conclusion.

Then, in an article by Herdiana and Najma entitled "Mutual Relationship Between Human and Nature on *The Secret Garden and Sarongge: An Ecocritical Reading*" (*Journal of Language and Literature*, Vol.8, No.2 (2019), pp. 26-34) also describes the mutual relationship between humans and nature. They believe that nature can be media for physical and mental healing. The writers apply ecocriticism as the theory and they compare the two novels in different languages, *The Secret Garden* (1990) in English language and *Sarongge* (2012) in Indonesian language by using comparative analysis. This study is useful to support the ideas in the same issues. The weakness in this article is the writers do not mention the evidence of paragraphs or conversations in the novel that say the actual natural conditions with the natural conditions depicted in the two novels are contradictory.

The last writing is an article by Fazal Hayan and Muhammad Ali Khan. The title is "Analyzing on Nature of Extropianism in Ted Hughes' Poetry" (*International Journal of English and Education*, Vol.7, No.1 (2018), pp. 32-40). This article examines the extropianism depicted in Ted Hughes' poems, which say that culture and technology will make humans live without any boundaries. In this article, Hughes' passion is reflected in his several poems, including *Hawk Roosting*, *Crow*, and *The Pike*. The writers conclude that humans must use technology wisely to achieve their goals. If science and technology are not

used wisely, it will bring destruction to human. However, Ted Hughes as the poet does not mention modern technology in his poem and the writer's explanation about it needs other supporting ideas. This study mentions Ted Hughes' desire for modern humans. It indirectly helps me understand the message contained in Hughes' poems which is one of the research questions in my research.

All of the previous studies above help me to support the ideas about the issues in this research. I conduct this research by analyzing the relationship between humans and nature in Ted Hughes' selected poem by using ecocriticism theory from Garrard's concepts. The research is different from previous studies. I emphasize human behaviour toward nature in the poems, by focusing on human violence. Therefore, I put a new and original idea in my research.

1.4 Research Questions

This research is expected to answer the following questions:

1. How does Ted Hughes demonstrate human behavior toward nature in *The River*, *The River in March*, *The Jaguar*, *Hawk Roosting*, *To Paint A Water Lily*, and *Pike* ?
2. How does Ted Hughes reflect his poems as a representation of human life in the 20th century in England ?
3. What message does Ted Hughes give to the readers through his poems *The River*, *The River in March*, *The Jaguar*, *Hawk Roosting*, *To Paint A Water Lily*, and *Pike* ?

1.5 Scope of the Research

The significance of this research are the relationship between human and nature, also the messages of the poems. It can be a great benefit to the readers because it provides information about environmental issues, especially about the way of human treat nature and the relationship between human and nature. The study's goals are expected the readers to realize that nature is essential in human life.. They are also expected to conserve nature and solve the problems related to nature. For the readers, especially literary students, may find out ecocriticism and literary research, which are useful in their study.

1.6 Objective of the Study

This research is aimed to analyze the relationship between humans and nature by seeing human behavior toward nature in the selected poems by Ted Hughes. As social beings, humans cannot do all the activities by themselves, but they also need other things, such as society and nature. This research explains the human violence toward nature, especially on human arrogance and superiority in England society in the 20th century as captured in *The River*, *The River in March*, *The Jaguar*, *Hawk Roosting*, *To Paint A Water Lily*, and *Pike*. Then, I analyze the messages contained in the poems that the readers need to know. The messages can be applied by the readers to conserve nature and it continues to give harmony for humans.