



Ecocritical Analysis of the Marine Ecosystem in the "Documentary: Seaspiracy (2021)" Movie by Ali Tabrizi

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Abstract: The problem discussed in this research is what kind of ecocriticism is presented in the film "Documentary: Seaspiracy (2021)" by Ali Tabrizi? In this study the writer wants to provide ecocriticism of marine ecosystems with the title "ecocritical analysis of marine ecosystems" this research discusses literary ecocriticism, namely the relationship between nature and humans which focuses on the film "documentary: Seaspiracy". The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative, which describes the results of the research verbally. The writer also uses an ecological approach to focus and present the findings. The results of this study show that there are many criticisms that this movie wants to convey, and the images presented have many specific criticisms to show ecological damage, especially in the marine area. In this film, the author also uses Greg Garrard's theory of ecocriticism to clarify and dig deeper into the attitude of environmental criticism by the players in the form of images and conversations conveyed in through the "Documentary: Seaspiracy (2021)" movie.

Keywords: *Ecosystem, marine, ecocriticism*

INTRODUCTION

Humans are creatures that are considered civilized and cultured if the human soul has three aspects: reason, will, and emotions. Human intelligence is capable of creating science and technology. For this reason, people can evaluate something they consider true or false (truth value or actual value). Human will can be used to create good or evil. In this way, people can use their will to judge what is good and bad, even when it comes to literary works (Endraswara, 2016:44).

Literary works are the expression of human personality in the form of experiences, thoughts, emotions, ideas, enthusiasm, and beliefs. In a form of expression, life can arouse passion, with linguistic tools and expressed in written form. On this issue, (Glen 2003: 13) declared "Literature is a creative activity, a work of art. With literature being an artistic product, literary works can also add intelligence and intelligence to life". Many writers have long discussed nature and included it in their

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literary works. Often, nature is not only the setting for fictional stories in literary works, but it can also be the main theme of a literary work.

The connection between nature and literary works has given rise to the concept of ecological issues in literature among literary critics. The term ecocriticism is used as a term for the concept of literary criticism related to nature and the environment. According to (Dwi, 2019:8), The term ecocriticism was created by merging ecology and criticism. Ecology can be defined as the scientific study of the patterns of relationships between plants, animals, and humans with each other and their environment. Criticism can be understood as a form and expression of judgment about the good or bad qualities of something.

Previous research was conducted based on the results of an excavation "All Fishing Is Wildlife Poaching: Nonhuman Animal Imagery and Mutual Avowal in Racing Extinction and Seaspiracy" This type of research is descriptive using a qualitative approach. The similarity between previous research and this research is that the object of research reveals a discussion of the 2021 film *Seaspiracy* about the ocean, while the difference between previous research and this research is that the topic of previous research focused on Intertwining decolonial ethics with a critical animal studies perspective, this research reveals how disjointed images of non-human animal suffering facilitate racial scapegoating, cover up the exploitation of marine life by America, and divide uneven ethical responsibilities towards non-human animals. Meanwhile, this research shows that many of the criticisms that this film wants to convey through the images presented in the film *seaspiracy* have many specific criticisms to show ecological damage, especially in the marine area by using Greg Garrard's ecocritical theory to clarify and dig deeper into the attitude of environmental criticism conveyed, so it can be said that this research is another scientific research.

The other previous research was conducted based on the results of the excavation entitled "Analisis Semiotika John Fiske dalam Mengungkap Kondisi Ekosistem Laut pada Film *Seaspiracy Karya Ali Tabrizi*" This type of research is descriptive using a qualitative approach. The similarities between previous research and this research are, (1) The object of research reveals a

discussion of ecology in one issue and has a close relationship in this case, (2) The types and methods of research used all use descriptive qualitative methods.

While the differences between previous research and this research are, (1) The topic of previous research focused on the code of reality, representation and ideology. while this research discusses ecological criticism, so it can be said that this research is another scientific research, (2) In previous research it was explained that the results of the study showed a representation of the destruction of the marine ecosystem in the film *Seaspiracy* which can be seen from the three levels proposed by John Fiske. At the level of reality, the meaning of the destruction of the marine ecosystem is seen from the aspects of appearance, manner of speaking, behavior, expression and environment. while in this study shows that there are many criticisms that this film wants to convey through the images presented in the film *seaspiracy* has many specific criticisms to show ecological damage, especially in the marine area using Greg Garrard's ecocritical theory to clarify and dig deeper into the attitude of environmental criticism conveyed.

Ecocriticism is derived from the words ecology and criticism. Ecology is the scientific study of the interrelationships of plants, humans, and animals and the patterns of their relationships with the environments in which they live. Criticism is a form of expressing good and bad evaluations of something (Mu'in, 2013: 296).

Ecology is an interdisciplinary study that considers the relationship between humans and the environment and combines the humanities and natural sciences. Ecology can be defined as the scientific study of the patterns of relationships among plants, animals, and humans, and their relationships with each other and the environment. Ecology was practiced by humans long before the term itself was introduced by ecologists. In today's agriculture, humans have applied many natural principles to support good ecological processes. In the time of our ancestors, agriculture was carried out in a very simple way, the principles of ecology were applied at that time. For example, the use of manure, green manure, compost, and other natural fertilizers. (Endraswara, 2013: 7)

The term ecocriticism was coined by William Rueckert in his 1978 essay "Literature and Ecology: Experiments in Ecocriticism." In 1980, a paper was



published that applied ecocriticism to literary works with themes of nature and the environment. "Criticism" comes from the Greek word "little" and is defined as a form of "judgment" or "expression of judgment" about what is good or bad. Simply put, ecocriticism can be understood as environmental criticism. In the early 1990s, ecocriticism became widespread as an approach in literary studies, especially in America (Sukmawan, S. 2016: 12).

According to Garrard (2004: 5), "Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between humans and non-humans throughout human cultural history and involves critical analysis of the concept of "human". " Ecocriticism can be said to be one approach. The question of how humans relate to non-humans and human cultural history involves a critical analysis of humans and their environment. Garrard then traces the evolution of change and considers the insights most often associated with ecocriticism, such as: (a) pollution, (b) wilderness, (c) apocalypse, (d) dwelling, (e) animals, dan (f) earth.. here is a further explanation of Garrard's concept of ecocriticism.

a) Pollution constructivism is an effective method for environmental and cultural analysis. Lawrence Buell, in argues that "the myth of mutual constructionism of the physical environment (both natural and manmade) to some degree shapes culture and to some degree continuously reshapes culture" is explained. and artificial, it has shaped culture to some extent and continues to reshape it. Therefore, this rhetorical story is considered very clear and consistent with the truth of ecologists and environmental toxicologists. Although the existence of industrial factories has some insurance and compensation, it still carries a high degree of risk. The bottom line is that industrial factories create their own fear for the communities around them. (Garrard 2004: 10),

b) Wilderness Garrard (2004: 179) "It is a construction mobilized to protect specific habitats and species, a place of vitality for people tired of the moral and material pollution of the city. Wilderness is forest adjacent to grasslands. Forests contain wonderful natural resources. Therefore, wilderness is a habitat for wild animals. Opinions about wilderness prove that wilderness is a parameter for whether an environment is being destroyed or not. Nature also supports the needs of living things.

Wilderness involves animals. Animals are living creatures that can interact with stimuli and support human survival. Nature reserves are structures that serve to protect specific habitats and species. Nature is also considered a refreshing place for people who are tired of the moral and material pollution of the city. (Garrard 2004: 180)

c) Apocalypse, Garrard (2004: 86) "Apocalypse is necessarily connected with the imagination because it has not yet occurred". Eschatology can complement biblical writings with interpretations that lead to logical arguments. Revelation is a revelation that exists in the relationship between people and God. Apocalypse refers to the occurrence of abnormal conditions in nature and the environment, such as climate change, damage, biodegradation, extinction of ecosystems, and an increase in natural disasters. Greg Garrard points to the realization that even if civilization were never established, the world would not perish and that not only the environment but also people, such as today's youth, would likely survive (Garrard, 2004: 107).

d) Garrard (2004:108) "Dwelling is not a transient state, it implies the long-term imbrication of humans in a landscape of memory, ancestry, and death, of ritual, life, and work." Dwelling is a state in which the world has not yet entered primitive times. Dwelling and earth are some of the theories exploited by Greg Garrard. Broadly speaking, habitation is a place inhabited by humans for generations and produces a culture. Meanwhile, the Earth is the only planet inhabited by humans. The shelter is a long-term indication of humans in the landscape of memory, descent, ritual, life, and work (Garrard, 2004:117).

e) Animals, It can be said that they are objects of knowledge in the ever-expanding body of human knowledge. What humans know about animals is power for humans themselves, and that is what distinguishes them from humans. Animals are living beings that are constantly moving. And they can interact with stimuli, but they are not intelligent. From this perspective, the primary duty of humans is to protect animals because animals are part of living things. Animals were created to help humans. Humans, as intelligent beings, should help their fellow living beings by saving them from extinction.

Humans occupy an equal place in the universe. Humans live in close relationship with all life in the universe. Humans are expected to take moral responsibility for all life that exists. (Garrard, 2004:118)

f) Earth, Experts' opinions on dwelling identify that dwelling has a broad meaning, as it is closely related to human interaction. Dwelling also has an attachment to planets, such as the planet currently inhabited by living beings. Planet Earth is the only place inhabited by life. So that the earth is the only place inhabited by humans, many activities are carried out on the earth (Garrard, 2004: 116). Perspectives on the earth provide a sign that the planet is the responsibility of living beings. This sign is inseparable from how we as living beings who live in it maintain and are responsible as humans can apply ecological wisdom.

METHOD

The research method presented in this article uses a descriptive qualitative method with a qualitative approach. The qualitative method studies the natural conditions of an object, analyzing data using construction results and understanding. Understand the phenomenon experienced by the subject of study by describing it in words. The use of qualitative methods in this article will allow for a deeper and more nuanced exploration of the research topic. The main methods used in qualitative research are observation, interviews, and focus groups. These methods collect rich, detailed data that can provide valuable insights into individual experiences and perspectives.

Qualitative research methodologies produce descriptive data, with data in the form of descriptions formed from a series of words and language which can later answer an existing problem without the need for calculations or statistical data from a study. Another important aspect of qualitative research is the use of subjective interpretation. Qualitative research is not just about collecting data but also about interpreting and making sense of that data. Interpreting qualitative data involves examining and analyzing the patterns, themes, and relationships that emerge from the data to gain a deeper understanding of the research topic.

This subjective interpretation is an essential part of the qualitative research process, as it allows for the exploration of complex and multifaceted experiences and perspectives. This paper also uses

literature study data collection techniques sourced from various journals, books, and articles, as well as various sources from trusted and valid news. In addition, the data that the writers need in this research is data in the form of official documents which in this case will attach a lot of reports issued both from institutions and institutions

For case studies, this research is usually useful for exploring a particular event to be examined more deeply. In this research, it must require collecting data in detail with data collection methods in accordance with procedures. In contrast to case studies that examine an event directly, in document studies the subject under study is a document. The document can be a book, newspaper, movie, script, or others to be analyzed in depth based on its context. Last, there is the method of naturalistic observation which considers a given context but does not modify it. This research is useful for observing a group or individual in a variety of situations, for example, to study social behavior in coastal communities.

However, research subjects are not aware of data collection, which is why hidden cameras are often used. And, in his type of research is qualitative descriptive research. According to Ahmadi (2019: 3), qualitative research is research based on storytelling and data description. In qualitative descriptive research, in order to find answers to the questions posed, research must be conducted directly on the movie "Documentary: Seaspiracy". Description of data obtained from the movie "Documentary: Seaspiracy". is then communicated verbally by explaining the relationship between the data and the theory used. Qualitative research requires details and explanations regarding the data source information used in this research. The data source will later be used as the main element of this research. The data source in this study is a movie from the United States entitled "Documentary: Seaspiracy". The movie "Documentary: Seaspiracy". released in 2021. This movie is directed by Ali Tabrizi. The language used in the movie is English, this movie has a duration of 90 minutes.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The kind of ecocriticism is presented in the "documentary: Seaspiracy (2021)" movie by Ali Tabrizi

Pollution

The pollution and environmental crisis seen in this film is portrayed through the characters and the setting of the world's oceans.



Figure.1 (00:02:54) news of plastic waste found in stranded whales



Figure.2 (00:02:57) news of baby dolphins that died from plastic waste



Figure.3 (00:03:02) news of baby dolphins that died from plastic waste



Figure.4 (00:03:07) News of many stranded sharks

The article and accompanying images highlight the devastating effects of plastic pollution on marine

life. The article shows a stranded whale with 50 tons of plastic in its stomach, evidence of the dangers of plastic pollution. The image also shows several other stranded whales, highlighting the growing problem caused by the increasing amount of plastic waste in the oceans. In addition, a baby dolphin was found dead with plastic waste stuck in its stomach, highlighting how plastic pollution is affecting not only whales but other marine life. This article discusses the alarming trend of whales becoming stranded with their stomachs full of plastic, and blames the uncontrolled increase in plastic production and lack of recycling efforts. The article warns that if the problem of plastic pollution is not addressed immediately, the number of stranded whales will continue to increase, causing severe damage to marine ecosystems. This article highlights the need for collective action and government regulation to alleviate this problem and ensure the well-being of marine life.

Wilderness

Wilderness is a collection of trees where a variety of plants and animals grow and play a very important role in life on Earth.



Figure.5 (00:29:37) Junk news on the internet



Figure.6 (00:30:34) Plastic straws found in the ocean



Figure.7 (00:30:37) Forest fire



Figure.8 (0:30:42) making trees into toothpicks

The writer argue that focusing solely on plastic straw waste is not enough to address the problem of plastic pollution. They wonder why plastic straws are being thrown away when there are so many other plastic items that contribute to the problem, such as food and drink containers. The writer believes that reducing straw consumption alone will not significantly reduce the environmental impact of plastic waste. They highlight that plastic waste in forests and oceans comes from a variety of sources, including not only straws but also food scraps and toys. The writer suggests raising awareness of the broader issue of plastic pollution through social media, creating videos and documentaries that explain its impact on marine life, and minimizing human awareness. In addition to reducing plastic consumption, they also highlight the importance of considering other harmful practices such as deforestation and indiscriminate fishing. The writer concludes that focusing on something as small as plastic straws is necessary but not sufficient, and calls for a concerted effort to change harmful habits for the benefit of all living things.

Apocalypse

Apocalypse in the concept of environmental crisis, the impact of apocalypse will be realized from human actions and behavior towards nature.



Figure.9 (00:20:44)



Figure.10 (00:29:38)

This article highlights the problem of extinction in the ocean, especially sea turtles. Although the fisherman's main interest is to catch bigger fish, he unknowingly traps a turtle in his net. This unintentional act is contributing to the turtle's gradual extinction. The writer warns that if humans fail to protect the marine environment, not only turtles but all marine life will be at risk of extinction. The incident sparked criticism of fishermen who were unable to catch the desired fish without harming other animals. This behavior appears to be a genetic habit that ends up killing the unwanted fish, even though the nets catch them. This highlights the need for stricter measures to protect marine ecosystems to prevent further extinctions.

Dwelling

The environmental crisis in the concept of ecosystems is depicted by the writer through the scene conveyed in the movie which is fighting for marine sustainability in order to maintain a beautiful atmosphere that we can enjoy at any time.



Figure.11 (00:33:44)



Figure.12 (00:34:02)

Loss of marine ecosystems poses a threat to the survival of marine life by destroying food chains and their habitats. Loss or extinction of food chains affects food availability on coral reefs and disrupts the natural balance. This disruption is often caused by humans constantly harvesting fish from these habitats. Habitat disturbance can also affect marine life's ability to find food and cause ecosystem changes that can affect other marine life. As conscious beings with the ability to think, humans have the power to create positive changes in marine ecosystems and ensure a better future for everyone. It is important for us to recognize the impact of our actions on marine habitats and take action to conserve and protect these ecosystems.

Animals

In the concept of animals, the environmental crisis is manifested in the way humans treat animals. In the movie "Documentary: Seaspiracy" the concept is depicted through several groups of humans treating animals very badly, such as killing, and destroying the animal's home.



Figure.13 (01:15:51)



Figure.14 (01:17:18)

Ali visits a whale slaughter site and witnesses the brutal slaughter of his favorite animal. He feels a deep sadness as he watches the whales being rounded up, killed, their fins removed, and returned to the sea. This experience shows that people view animals as mere companions and ignore their ability to feel pain and sadness. In another scene, Ali watches a group of animals kill his friend by a fish vendor who carelessly ignores the live fish in the aquarium. A fish looking at its deceased comrade shows expressiveness of emotions and represents the sense of loss felt when a friend or relative is killed. The swimming patterns of aquarium fish show their frustration and fear as they too expect to be killed and used for human consumption.

Earth

Earth is the only place where humans live and many activities take place on Earth.



Figure.15 (00:40:12)



Figure.16 (00:40:45)

The earth needs functioning ecosystems, and humans must take steps to protect other living things from extinction. However, humans themselves pose a threat to the environment. The presence of humans as the dominant species is causing climate change, deforestation, and environmental pollution, all of which have serious implications for the sustainability of the planet. It is important for humans to recognize the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem and take sustainable actions. Humans must not become selfish and must realize that they are not the only inhabitants of the earth. Additionally, the earth provides important resources such as water, clean air, and fertile soil that support agriculture. However, overexploitation of these resources can lead to resource shortages and environmental destruction. Therefore, it is important to prioritize the sustainability and conservation of natural resources to maintain ecological balance and ensure the continuation of life on Earth.

CONCLUSIONS

This article explores the negative effects of plastic pollution on marine life, with a particular focus on whales and sea turtles. This draws attention to the presence of plastic waste in the stomachs of these animals and calls for greater awareness and action to solve this problem. The article argues that focusing on plastic straws is not enough and suggests leveraging social media and documentaries to raise awareness.

It also highlights the need to address other harmful activities such as deforestation and indiscriminate fishing. This article also discusses how sea turtles can be accidentally caught in fishing nets, potentially leading to their extinction. Stricter regulations and concerted efforts are needed to protect marine ecosystems and prevent further damage. Additionally, the article highlights the importance of human responsibility in the conservation of marine habitats, recognizes the emotional aspects of animal suffering, and emphasizes the need to prioritize sustainability and conservation of natural resources. Overall, it highlights the urgency of taking action to combat plastic pollution and protect marine life.

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