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THE CIRCLE: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey from Literary Exploration



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PREFACE

In the labyrinth of human existence, a profound and intricate connection exists between God, Humanity, and Nature. It is within this interwoven tapestry that "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" finds its purpose, offering a comprehensive exploration of the intricate relationship among these three entities. This book delves into the realms of literature, specifically through the lens of Ecocriticism, unraveling the threads that bind God, Human, and Nature. As we embark on this intellectual journey, we traverse landscapes of thought and reflection, examining the profound impact of human actions on the delicate balance of the natural world.

The pages of this book unfold a rich tapestry of resources that echo the voices of critics who scrutinize the human footprint on the planet. Through the prism of Ecocriticism, we dissect literary works that unravel the threads of environmental consciousness, revealing the stark realities of the delicate dance between humans and the natural world. Nature, often viewed as a silent observer, emerges as the resounding voice of God, questioning, admonishing, and calling humanity to account for its actions. The critics cited in this book become guides, illuminating the intricate paths through which literature serves as a mirror reflecting the consequences of human hubris on the environment.

"The Circle" seeks to bridge the gap between spirituality, literature, and environmental consciousness. It explores how narratives have been shaped over time to reflect the evolving perspectives on our place within the natural order. As we navigate through these pages, we confront the poignant question: What does it mean to be stewards of the Earth, entrusted with the care of God's creation? The book not only dissects the consequences of environmental degradation but also challenges readers to reflect on their own roles in the interconnected web of existence. It is an invitation to embark on a journey of self-discovery, accountability, and, ultimately, a harmonious coexistence with the world around us.

Through the lens of Ecocriticism, "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" is not merely a compilation of critiques but a call to action. It urges readers to consider the impact of their choices on the fragile ecosystems that sustain life on Earth. As we immerse ourselves in the

various literary works analyzed within these pages, we come face to face with the urgency of the environmental crisis. The voice of God, manifested through the cries of the natural world, compels us to reevaluate our relationship with the environment and rekindle a sense of responsibility for the planet's well-being. This book, therefore, is not only an intellectual exploration but also a catalyst for change, challenging us to break free from destructive patterns and forge a new narrative that respects the sanctity of God, Human, and Nature.

"The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" invites readers to step into the circle of awareness, where the intersections of God, Humanity, and Nature converge. It is a journey into the heart of literature, where words become vessels carrying the weight of ecological truths. As we traverse the landscapes of this book, we navigate the intricate pathways of thought and reflection, ultimately arriving at the realization that the circle is not a closed loop but an expansive continuum, demanding our active participation in the co-creation of a sustainable and harmonious world.

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INTRODUCTION

In the intricate dance of existence, the profound interconnectedness among God, Human, and Nature unfolds as a timeless narrative that transcends cultural and temporal boundaries. "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" emerges as a significant exploration within the expansive landscape of literature, particularly through the discerning lens of Ecocriticism. Within the pages of this book, a comprehensive reservoir of resources awaits, offering a nuanced and critical examination of the relationship between humanity and the natural world. At its heart, the narrative unfolds as an illuminating discourse on how nature's problems are portrayed as the articulate voice of God, beckoning humanity to a deeper understanding of the consequences of its actions on the fragile ecosystems that sustain life.

The intersection of God, Human, and Nature within literature forms the crux of "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration". The book unfolds as an intellectual journey, delving into the myriad ways in which literature serves as a mirror reflecting the intricate dynamics of this triad. Through the lens of Ecocriticism, we embark on an exploration of narratives that not only dissect the environmental consequences of human actions but also position nature as the poignant voice of God. The text draws from a rich tapestry of resources, presenting critiques from various perspectives that scrutinize the impact of human behavior on the delicate balance of the natural world. As we navigate through the literary landscape, the book invites readers to contemplate the role of literature in shaping our perceptions of the interconnectedness between the divine, the human, and the environment.

The core thesis of "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" lies in its assertion that nature's problems serve as a divine voice, resonating through the challenges humanity faces in its relationship with the environment. The book draws upon an array of critics who, through their analyses, guide readers in unraveling the intricate threads of ecological consciousness embedded in literary works. These critics become interpreters of the subtle dialogues between God and humanity, as reflected in

the stories and poems that populate the literary realm. By presenting these diverse voices, the book aims to foster a deeper understanding of the moral dimensions inherent in our interaction with the natural world and the responsibilities bestowed upon us as stewards of the Earth.

As we delve deeper into the pages of "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" the narrative encourages us to view literature not merely as a repository of stories but as a dynamic force shaping our perception of the world. It challenges us to recognize the intrinsic connection between spirituality, literature, and environmental consciousness. Nature, portrayed as the voice of God, becomes a narrative force urging humanity to reconsider its role in the intricate web of existence. The book positions itself as a guide, facilitating a dialogue that extends beyond the academic realm into the collective consciousness of readers, compelling them to reflect on their own place within the ecological narrative and the moral imperative of harmonious coexistence.

In essence, "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" is more than an academic exploration; it is a call to action. The narrative navigates the reader through the urgent terrain of environmental crises, challenging preconceived notions and inciting a transformative shift in perspective. The book serves as a catalyst for change, inviting readers to recognize the voice of God echoed through the challenges posed by nature and to acknowledge the pressing need for a recalibration of our relationship with the environment. Through a synthesis of literature, critical analysis, and a deep sense of spiritual inquiry, the book aims to guide individuals toward a renewed sense of responsibility, inspiring them to become active participants in the co-creation of a sustainable and harmonious world.

"The Circle Concept" beckons readers into a journey of introspection, understanding, and transformative action, where the circle of God, Human, and Nature converges in a delicate dance of interconnectedness. It is an invitation to explore the profound depths of our relationship with the natural world, to reconsider the narratives that have shaped our perception of environmental stewardship, and to embark on a collective endeavor toward sustainable coexistence. In the midst of the myriad voices within the book, a unifying thread emerges the call to recognize the intricate symphony where

God's intentions, human actions, and the responses of nature harmonize in a cosmic ballet.

As readers navigate this intellectual odyssey, they encounter a mosaic of literary works that mirror the evolving consciousness of humanity's place within the ecological tapestry. The narratives within the book unravel stories of ecological degradation, of landscapes scarred by human hands, and of nature's resilience in the face of adversity. Each page whispers the urgency of heeding the voice of God, transmitted through the distress signals of a planet in peril. The stories become a mirror reflecting not only the consequences of human actions but also the potential for redemption and renewal.

"The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" serves as a compass pointing toward transformative action. It challenges readers to move beyond passive contemplation and embrace an active role in reshaping the narrative of our relationship with the environment. In recognizing nature as the articulate voice of God, the book instills a sense of moral responsibility, urging individuals to become custodians rather than mere consumers of the Earth's resources. The transformative journey beckons readers to assess their daily choices, to question the narratives that have normalized environmental exploitation, and to become architects of change in their communities.

Moreover, the book extends an invitation to cultivate a spiritual ecology a framework that transcends the dichotomy between the sacred and the secular. It encourages readers to find a sacred connection within the natural world, fostering reverence for the divine presence embedded in every leaf, stream, and creature. This spiritual ecology becomes a catalyst for ecological ethics, inspiring actions grounded not only in environmental sustainability but also in a deep sense of reverence for the interconnected web of life. Through this lens, "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" becomes a guide for those seeking a holistic approach to environmentalism, one that recognizes the sanctity of all life and honors the divine essence within the natural world.

In conclusion, "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" is not merely a book; it is a transformative journey that transcends the boundaries of academic discourse. It is an exploration of the symbiotic relationship between God, Human, and Nature, beckoning readers

into a narrative where literature becomes a bridge connecting the spiritual and the ecological. The delicate dance of interconnectedness invites introspection, understanding, and, above all, transformative action. As readers turn the pages, they embark on a pilgrimage of ecological consciousness, where the voice of God echoes through the rustling leaves, the flowing rivers, and the silent plea of a planet in need. This book is an anthem for a new era, a call for a harmonious coexistence that honors the sacredness of all life within the grand circle of God, Human, and Nature.

CHAPTER I

CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Ecological literature is a literary approach that focuses on interactions between humans and the natural environment. In this context, literature not only functions as a reflection of human culture, but also as a way to reflect on the role of humans in ecosystems and their impact on the environment. The concepts and principles of ecological literature integrate ecological thinking into literary writing and bring awareness of environmental issues into literary works. Ecological literature has an important role in increasing environmental awareness and inspiring behavioral change and positive action to better protect our ecosystems. Ecological literature is not only a form of literature, but also an important tool for spreading messages about the importance of preserving and respecting the natural environment. In the discussion of literary ecology, it includes the study of ecology as a science that studies nature and also ecocriticism which is action or criticism of the environment.

Humans are the main cause of environmental damage, without us realizing that this ecological damage will at any time threaten human survival itself. The main cause of environmental damage is the uncontrolled use of natural resources and ignorance of environmental sustainability itself. According to Darman (2017), environmental problems do not stand alone, but are always closely related. Environmental problems that are closely related include human overpopulation, pollution, decreasing number of resources, and environmental change. Apart from that, Pranoto (2014), stated that climate change makes an already damaged environment even more destroyed. Sukendar (2013) , assume that the environmental pollution faced is generally caused by economic activities. Humans have a very important role in protecting or destroying the environment. Having awareness and responsibility in protecting and preserving the environment is the duty and responsibility of humans as rational and moral creatures. Therefore, literature is needed not only as a means of obtaining entertainment, but also as a means

of providing input and criticism in language that is smoother and easier to understand.

1. ECOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Sumardjo & Saini (1997) explain that literature is an expression of human personality in the form of experiences of thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, beliefs in the form of concrete images that arouse attraction to language tools. Literature is able to change people's perspective from a different perspective. The relationship between the environment and humans is also what gives birth to literary works about the environment. In his research, H. in essence is life through the form of language. Meanwhile, Taine in Sikana (2005) said that literature is based on contextual texts that reflect society. According to Susanto (2012), the definition of literature depends on context, perspective, region, cultural geography, time, purpose, and also various other factors. Meanwhile, according to Mursal Esten (1978), literature is the expression of artistic and imaginative facts as a manifestation of human life (and society) through language as a medium and has a positive effect on human life (humanity). In general, literature is an art form that uses written or spoken language to express ideas, emotions and human experiences through works such as poetry, prose fiction, drama, essays and the like. Literature involves the use of different styles, structures, and language elements to create works that have aesthetic value and deep meaning. The aims of literature often include entertainment, education, human understanding, and enlightenment. Literature can also reflect aspects of culture, history and social values of the society where the literary work is produced. Sukmawan (2016), said that literature has the potential to express ideas about the environment, including the environmental wisdom values contained in it. The value of environmental wisdom in literature can inspire and guide readers to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, contribute to nature conservation, and understand human dependence on healthy ecosystems. Literature has the ability to stimulate feelings, deep thinking, and deep understanding of the values of this environment.

Pranoto (2014) stated that sensitivity to ecosystems expressed in pen writing will inspire readers to love the earth in their own way. In other research, it is stated that "authors create works of course based on

circumstances, anxiety, reality and imagination, each of which has a specific purpose" (Darman, 2017). Literature will be able to increase our knowledge of the meaning contained in it. According to Semi (1988), many literary works are related to other fields of science. One field of science that can be related to literary works is ecology.

According to Sumardo (2007), there is a close connection or relationship between humans and the environment which ultimately gives birth to thoughts or literary works with the theme of the natural environment. Literary works related to the environment are what are called ecocritical studies or ecocriticism. Ecocriticism is literary criticism related to the environment. Although literature does not serve the purpose of overcoming man-made problems but it can certainly create awareness of ecological wisdom to understand the environment in a better way (Pattnaik and Itishri Sarangi, 2017) .

Literature and the environment are two different things but are related to each other, because literary works are a depiction of the environment around them. According to Larasati et al. Al. (2022), Literature is in an ecosystem, so literature needs the environment, while ecology is a science that studies the reciprocal relationships between living things and their environment. Ecological literature or environmental literature is a literary genre that discusses the relationship between humans and the environment or nature. This literature discusses problems related to the environment, ecological principles, and the impact of human activities on the environment. This literary genre has become a hot topic in contemporary society due to concerns about climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation. This involves analyzing texts that depict concern for the environment and examining the various ways literature handles natural themes. Endraswara (2016) explains that literary ecology is a way of understanding the environment from a literary perspective. This opinion illustrates that literary ecology is a discussion of how humans adapt to their environment.

Aminuddin (2004) stated that literary works are born in the midst of society as a result of the author's imagination and his reflection on the social phenomena around him. Endraswara (2016) said, there are two forms of human conversation in literary works, namely: (1) Conversation that

deliberately uses the environment and (2) Conversation that simply uses the environment as a complement. Endraswara (2016) also states that the meaning of humans as individuals' approach to their environment can be further clarified based on two elements, namely: (1) Phenomena or physical facts that individuals see, hear and touch are intended to play a driving role in efforts to protect, preserve, and reconciling the environment related to the shaky condition of the earth due to human activities and revealing the role of humans on the environment and vice versa in the literary map. The environment in human hands can be profitable because humans are gifted with ecological intelligence. Human ecological intelligence itself refers to an individual's ability to understand, interact and adapt to the natural environment and act responsibly towards ecosystems and natural resources. Ecological intelligence includes a deep understanding of environmental issues, environmental and sustainability policies, and the ability to make decisions that consider environmental impacts.

Forster (1998) in his book entitled *Aspects of the Novel*, places humans in an important position in literature. Humans are elements that form novels that cannot be separated from their environment. Stanton (2012) also stated the same thing that the humanitarian aspect is considered the main thing. Humans are able to make the environment red and green, meaning that environmental sustainability depends on the behavior of the people around them. (2) The invisible meaning of this phenomenon is the power and laws that surround it, both scientific, moral and spiritual, which are related to the search for important things regarding human identity as a traveler who is always identified with nature. Physical environment.

Getting to know nature in literary works is a form of nature's presence in human life as a result of human interaction with the various ecologies around it. As stated by Buell (in Endraswara 2016), this is intended to emphasize our ability to know nature closely. According to Endraswara (2016), there are two important things in the study of ecological literature, namely: (1) Literature is often friendly to its environment, wants to describe as much detail as possible about the universe, glorifies nature, and always behaves kindly. interested in changes in nature; (2) Literature often runs away from its environment, wanting to describe it with beautiful language bias,

polishing it with a style that is difficult to achieve, and not being captured by ecological literature reviewers.

a. Ecology

Ecology is defined as a science that studies the relationship between plants, animals, humans and their environment, while criticism can be interpreted as a form and expression of assessment of the good and bad of something (Sartina et al (2021). Endraswara (2016) explains that literary ecology needs to reveal: (1) application of ecological concepts to literature, if the approach is taken by making the earth (nature) the center of study; (2) capturing literature as texts that reflect ecological conditions, perhaps dirty, clean, flooded, and so on; (3) studying the reception of a particular environment towards literary works; (4) capturing the role of the environment in the creation of creative literature. Furthermore, ecological theory can be used as a critical tool, so that the meeting with literary theory produces ecocriticism (Harsono, 2008), while Pranoto (in Efendi 2019) says ecocriticism is a movement oppose all forms of environmental exploitation that simply oppress the earth.

According to Mc. Naughton and Wolf (in Kaswadi, 2015) explain that ecology is a science that studies the relationship between organisms and the environment. Meanwhile, according to Endraswara (in Widiанти, 2017) literary ecology is an extrinsic literary science that explores the problem of the relationship between literature and its environment. In an ecological view, the existence of organisms is influenced by their environment or there is a reciprocal relationship and interconnection between organisms and their environment (Asyifa et al , 2018). It is further said that the environment means all external factors that directly influence the life, growth, development and reproduction of an organism. In the ecological paradigm, literary works are positioned as a species or component in an ecosystem (Kaswadi, 2015).

Widiанти (2017) describes that ecological studies are known in two forms, namely ecological studies which emphasize natural aspects as inspiration for literary works and ecological studies which emphasize defense or advocacy against environmental damage caused by human actions (Widiанти, 2017) . Mc.Naughton and Wolf (in Kaswadi, 2015) stated that there are three important questions in the study of ecology.

The first question is about what organisms and environmental factors are found in a particular area and in what quantity, the second question is about the functional relationship between these organisms and their environmental factors. as well as the form of connection, the same or different, in the same ecosystem or different ecosystems, and the third question regarding the reasons why these organisms are functionally related to each other and related to their environment in certain ways.

b. Ecocriticism

In the Indian Journal of Applied Research, Shoba, et al (2013) explain that "Eco-criticism is the study of culture and cultural products (works of art, writing, scientific theories, etc.) which are in some way connected with humans' relationship with nature." Likewise, Tomic (2006) in his article Ecocriticism-Interdisciplinary Study of Literature and Environment states that ecocriticism is an interdisciplinary study that examines the relationship between the environment and literature and vice versa, namely the relationship between literature and the environment. This article describes how the environment is depicted in literary form. Kuswadi (Endraswara, 2016: 80) states that ecological linkages in literary works are always present. As stated by Anggarista and Munasip (2020), literary works with ecological nuances, especially those that provide representations of natural conditions (the environment), are one of the objects of study for ecocriticism.

Ecocriticism comes from the English ecocriticism, which is formed from two words, namely ecology and criticism. Ecology is the scientific study of the relationships between living things (humans, animals and plants) with each other and with their environment. with the environment. Meanwhile, criticism can be understood as a form of expression of assessment of whether something is good or bad. In simple terms, ecocriticism can be interpreted as criticism of the environment. By analogy, ecocriticism is concerned with the relationship between literature and the environment or how humans' relationship with their physical environment is reflected in literature (Shankar, G. 2017).

Ecocriticism or environmental criticism is the act of treating nature fairly and in a friendly manner. Ecocriticism views the relationship between literature and the physical environment as a result of the global

environmental crisis as well as practical and theoretical efforts to improve this crisis (Wiyatmi et. al, 2021). Endraswara (2016) argues that ecocriticism can also be understood as criticism with an environmental perspective. Another opinion, Harsono (2008), states that ecocriticism has a basic paradigm that every object can be seen in an ecological container, and ecology can be used as a science that helps this approach. Ecologically oriented criticism basically aims to provide explanations using an ecological approach to find solutions to ecological problems in literary works. Furthermore, Harsono (2008) said that there are two main approaches in ecocriticism, namely the discourse approach and the reality approach. The discourse approach emphasizes library research, while the reality approach emphasizes aspects of field research. Naess (in Keraf, 2010) believes that environmental damage is actually rooted in the philosophy or way humans view themselves, their environment, and the natural place where they are in the entire ecosystem. The focus of ecocritical research is the relationship between culture, humans and nature. Ecocriticism seeks to discover environmental ideas and their representation in literary works (Korridge, 1998).

Ecocriticism is a stream of literary criticism that focuses on the relationship between literature and nature, as well as the impact of the environment on literary works. Ecocriticism analyzes how nature and the natural environment, including ecological issues such as climate change, biodiversity, and human interactions with nature, are reflected in literary works. The ecocritical approach seeks to understand how literature represents, influences, or responds to environmental issues, and how literature can be a tool for ecological awareness. In the opinion of Garrard (2004), ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between humans and non-humans (the environment), throughout the history of human culture and requires critical analysis of the term 'human' itself in relation to the environment. Ecocriticism explores the ways in which literature reflects human worldviews about nature, environmental change, and the impact of human activities on the planet. Ecocriticism also seeks connections between literature and the environmental movement, and how literature can be used to raise awareness of environmental and sustainability issues.

Ecocriticism in literary science was first introduced in 1978 by William Rueckert in his essay entitled *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*, and then became widely known in the 1990s (Endraswara, 2016). In his research, Oppermann (2006) explains how ecocriticism has developed since 1998 in the writing of Michael Branch et al entitled *New Directions in the Study of Literature and Environment*, Kerridge and Sammell in the same year in an essay entitled *Writing the Environment: Ecocriticism and Literature*. According to Endraswara (2016), literary criticism is a perspective of interpreting literature by considering the environment . In 2000 Coupe wrote in his article *The Green Studies Reader: From Romanticism to Ecocriticism*. These writings describe the development of ecocritical studies in literary criticism.

An ecological approach to literature, often referred to as "literary ecocriticism", is an approach to literary criticism that explores the relationship between literary works and the natural environment. This approach analyzes how literature reflects, influences, or responds to environmental and ecological issues. An ecological approach to literature emphasizes the complex relationship between humans and nature. This approach considers how humans interact with the natural environment and how they influence the environment. Literature often creates various representations of the natural environment. Through the use of language and imagery, literary works can create images of nature that is beautiful, threatened, or changing. Ecological approaches in literature often explore ecological issues such as climate change, biodiversity, deforestation, pollution, and other issues. Literary works can help make readers aware of these issues.

Poets and writers often use ecological symbolism, such as mountains, rivers, forests, and animals, to convey ecological messages or deeper meanings. Several literary works with an ecological approach can criticize human indifference to the environment and ecosystem. These works can depict the negative impact of human activities on nature. This approach also explores how culture and human values influence attitudes towards the environment and how humans see themselves in relation to nature.

Several literary works with an ecological approach can encourage thinking about sustainability, how we can protect the environment and how we should act ethically towards nature. Writers sometimes include the environment as an element that influences the narrative, characters, and plot of the story. The environment can be a living element in literary works. An ecological approach to literature seeks to understand how literature can influence human thoughts and actions towards the environment, as well as how nature influences literary works themselves. This approach is a relevant approach in the context of current global environmental issues and can provide deep insight into the complexity of human relationships with nature.

Literary ecocriticism, also known as ecocriticism or ecological literary criticism, is an approach to literary analysis that focuses on the relationship between literary works and the natural environment. This approach involves the study of the ways the natural environment, ecological issues, and human understanding of nature are reflected in literary works. Ecocriticism examines how literature depicts the relationship between humans and nature, environmental change, and how literature can help raise awareness of ecological issues. Literary ecocriticism analyzes how authors use language, symbols, and themes to create representations of the natural environment in their works. Literary ecocriticism also considers how literary works can influence human thought and action in relation to the environment. Literary ecocriticism is often associated with concerns about climate change, biodiversity, environmental degradation, and other ecological issues.

According to Glotfelty (in Sukmawan, 2016) literary ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. The theory of literary ecocriticism includes the social environment in which the writer finds himself. Meanwhile, according to Zulfa (2016), literary criticism theory tries to expand the meaning of the world in question to include the entire ecosphere or ecosystem on this earth. Endaswara (2016), states that literary ecocriticism aims to show how literary works show concern for the environment. The targets that need to be expressed in ecocritical studies are (1) as a reflection that the difficult struggle in the field of cultural ecology requires a spirit of urgent,

wise action towards the environment. In the 21st century, there are many people who still don't care about the health of the earth, for that reason literary works with an environmental perspective (ecocriticism) are an image, reflection, mirror of environmental conditions that deserve attention. (2) literature as a support for environmental conditions, which will indirectly stand in front of the wailing of the earth. Writers can show their concern for natural conditions by immortalizing them in literary works, this aims to move readers to care about the environment. (3) irresponsible human actions towards the environment are the concern of literary ecocriticism.

Sartina et, al. (2021) believes that literary ecocritical theory discusses the relationship between humans and nature, not only explaining conventional attitudes, but also as a bridge to conceptualize humans and their lives, both the relationship between humans and nature, humans. and plants, or humans and animals. Shoba (2018) also expressed a similar opinion that ecocriticism is the science of culture (art, literature, scientific theory, etc.) in relation to humans and nature. Ecocriticism pays attention to the reciprocal relationship between literary works and the environment, including the relationship with socio-cultural and physical reality, which is usually a concern in ecology (Endraswara, 2016). According to Garrard (2004), ecocriticism can help determine, explore, and even solve ecological problems. Greg Garrard introduced literary ecocriticism, the first target of which was literary works that were sensitive to the natural (ecological) environment. Ecocritical theory has a multidisciplinary nature. This theory uses literary theory on the one hand and ecological theory on the other. The meeting of these two scientific disciplines gave birth to ecocriticism.

Garrard (2004) further explains that ecocriticism explores the way we imagine and describe the relationship between humans and the environment in all areas of cultural production. Ecocriticism is inspired by (and also critical of) the modern environmental movement. Garrard (2004) traces the development of the movement and explores concepts related to ecocriticism, as follows:

Pollution

Environmental pollution concerns safety, health and life in the story. Anyone can participate in solving this environmental pollution problem. Starting from the smallest environment, to a wider environment.

Forest (wilderness)

Forest studies the relationship between living things and the environment in a story. This relationship is so close and complex that it states that ecology is environmental biology (Eviromental biology). Forests are plant communities that are dominated by trees and have different environmental conditions from outside the forest.

Disaster

Disaster is a situation where natural and environmental conditions are not as usual, there is climate change, damage, biological decline, extinction of ecosystems and an increase in natural disasters. (1) Housing/residence (dwelling): Residential housing is a house that functions as a residence or residence which is equipped with infrastructure, namely basic environmental equipment, for example the provision of drinking water, waste disposal, availability of electricity, telephone and roads, which enable the residential environment to function as it should. (2) Animals: Animals are living creatures that are able to move (change places) and are able to react to stimuli but are not intelligent, such as dogs, buffalo, chickens (animals). (3) Earth: Saving the earth includes its contents relating to animals and plants, efforts to preserve the earth can be made by promoting tree planting or reforestation activities.

Discussing literary criticism means discussing the activity of interpreting and assessing literary works. Yudiono (1990), describes literary criticism as an assessment (interpretation, explanation, assessment) of literary works. From this description, literary criticism only examines works, does not discuss the creator/writer. Pradopo (2011) explains that literary criticism can be interpreted as considering the pros and cons of a literary work. Criticism requires knowledge and theory so that its goals can be achieved. Literary criticism is a scientific discipline that analyzes, evaluates, and provides an in-depth understanding of literary works. Literary criticism aims to discuss, interpret and understand literary works and express ideas or judgments about aspects

of the work. Literary criticism often involves critical and analytical reading of literary texts using a variety of approaches and methods.

According to Setiaji (2020), how the ecology of literary criticism works: (1) Understanding science - science related to the environment. What is meant by this step is that analysts of literary works who study based on ecocritical theory must understand sciences related to the environment. (2) Observe and truly understand and care about the environment (ecological awareness). The provision of a literary analyst is to have sensitivity to the environment. Love for the environment is the basis for love for ecological sciences. (3) Evaluate texts and ideas in terms of coherence and usefulness as a response to the environmental crisis. This can be studied from the value elements - ecological values contained in literary works. What is the coherence of ecological values in the plot, in the characterization, in the setting, and of course in the storytelling style chosen by the author in the literary work being analyzed.

Ecocriticism aims to describe the efforts of a literary work that cares about the environment in touching on several aspects in solving real and urgent ecological problems. According to Buell (1995), the criteria for a literary work to be considered ecocritical literature are: (1) The environment does not only depict human presence as a frame, but this human presence can explain that human history has implications for natural history, (2) Human interests are not understood as the only absolute interest, (3) Human responsibility towards the environment is part of the ethical orientation of the text, and (4) Some understanding of the environment is as a process, not as an understanding that occurs in place or a gift that at least implied in the text. In addition, the main goal of literary ecocriticism is to understand how literary works influence and are influenced by environmental issues, and how literature can contribute to understanding, awareness, and behavior change in relation to the environment.

Environmental problems are becoming more complex as time goes by, so appropriate ways are needed to increase human awareness of the importance of preserving the environment. For this reason, ecocritical studies contained in literary works such as novels, short stories, poetry,

songs and other literary works that have inherent humanist characteristics, are expected to be able to build human understanding of the importance of preserving the environment.

2. THE NATURE OF LITERARY WORKS

The essence of a literary work is the essence or essence of the literary work itself. This essence includes the main characteristics and objectives of literary works, as well as their impact on readers or listeners. The following are several elements that form the essence of literary works: (1) Expression: Literary works are a form of artistic expression. It is a way for writers or poets to express their ideas, feelings, experiences, or worldview through creatively chosen language. (2) Creativity: Literary works are often the result of a highly creative process. Writers use their own language and style to create something unique and original. (3) Use of language: Language is the most important tool in literary works. The author uses language carefully to achieve aesthetic effect and deep meaning. This may include the use of metaphor, symbolism, or special figures of speech. (4) Structure and form: Literary works often have a particular structure or form, which may include specific stanzas, lines, rhymes, or sections. This structure can provide a framework for the message you want to convey. (5) Communication objectives: Literary works aim to communicate with readers or listeners. This can be in the form of conveying certain messages, emotions, thoughts, or understanding. (6) Aesthetics: Literary works often seek aesthetic value by creating a beautiful or powerful experience for their readers. This includes aspects such as rhythm, sound and visuals that accompany the text. (7) Awareness and reflection: Literary works can stimulate awareness and reflection. Literary works can invite readers to think more deeply about the issues raised or to see the world from a different perspective. (8) Artistic freedom: Literary works provide artistic freedom to the writer or poet to express themselves. They can take creative risks, explore personal feelings, and create new fictional worlds. (9) Ability to change minds and hearts: Literary works have the potential to influence, change, or inspire their readers or listeners. This can be related to cultural, social or political influences.

The nature of literature is basically very broad and can vary depending on the type of literature and the author's goals. Ultimately, literature is a

powerful art form that creates a connection between writer and reader through creative expression and carefully chosen language, namely:

a. Poetry

Poetry is one of the richest and most diverse forms of literature, and it allows poets to express themselves with great artistic freedom. Poetry can evoke emotions, stimulate thought, and offer the unique beauty of language. Lafamane (2020), summarizes the meaning of poetry according to experts, namely: (1) According to Herman Waluyo: poetry is the earliest written literary work written by humans. (2) According to Sumardi: poetry is a literary work with language that is condensed, shortened and given rhythm with a unified sound and the choice of figurative (imaginative) words. (3) According to Thomas Carlye: poetry is a musical expression of thoughts. (4) James Reevas: poetry is an expression of language that is rich and full of charm. (5) According to Pradopo: poetry is a recording and interpretation of important human experiences, transformed into the most memorable form. 6. According to Herbert Spencer: poetry is a form of expressing emotional ideas by considering beauty.

Dunton (in Pradopo, 1987) states that poetry is concrete and artistic human thought in emotional and rhythmic language. In a poem there are building elements. The building elements in poetry are physical elements and mental elements (Waluyo, 2002). Physical elements are referred to as linguistic elements, while mental elements are the author's inner expression.

The physical elements of poetry are elements that build poetry from the outside (Waluyo, 2002), namely: (1) Diction or Word Choice The choice of words used in a poem can convey the poet's inner elements clearly and touch the reader's feelings. Tarigan (1984) stated that the right choice of words can correctly reflect the space, time, philosophy, message, effect and tone of poetry. (2) Imagination is a word or arrangement of words that can clarify or concretize what is stated by the poet (Waluyo, 2002). Through the form of images, things depicted can be seen, heard, or felt. (3) Concrete Words In poetry, the poet will convey his feelings or ideas in a concise and concrete manner. This can concretize the feelings captured by the poetry reader, so that the reader is

able to truly see, hear, feel and experience everything written by the poet (Tarigan, 1984). (4) Figure of speech: Keraf (2008) states that figure of speech can be interpreted as a way of expressing thoughts through language in a unique way. Figure of speech is the use of language that is not based on dictionary definitions, but rather the imaginative use of language by poets. (5) Rhyme is the repetition of sounds in poetry to form musicality so that the poetry becomes more interesting to read. Rhyme creates the sound effect of the meaning desired by the poet, so that the poetry becomes beautiful and creates a stronger meaning and is able to convey the message more clearly. (6) Typography is the first physical element of poetry that appears to the reader's visuals. Typography in poetry has various forms. Typographic forms in poetry can form certain meanings.

The inner elements of poetry are the feelings expressed and conveyed by poets in their poetry (Waluyo, 2002). The inner element in poetry refers to the organization, composition, and feelings contained in the poem. These are elements that are not always explicitly visible in the text of the poem, but influence how the reader perceives and understands the poem. Internal elements in poetry: (1) Theme, which is the main idea that the poet wants to convey through his poetry. According to Waluyo (2002), the themes that are often found in poetry are the themes of wholeness, living things, nature, justice, social criticism, democracy and the theme of solidarity. (2) Feelings in poetry that express the poet's feelings. According to Waluyo (2002), a poet's feelings in poetry can be known through the use of expressions in his poetry. (3) Mandate is a message or advice which is the impression received by the reader after reading a poem. The message is formulated by the reader. The reader's attitudes and experiences greatly influence the message of the poem that the reader understands. Even though it is determined based on the reader's perspective, the message cannot be separated from the theme and content of the poem expressed by the poet. There are several important components of inner elements in poetry: (1) Central meaning or theme: The internal structure contains the central theme or message that the poet wants to convey. This theme can refer to the idea, feeling, or concept that is the main focus of the poem. (2) Feelings and emotions: Poetry often

contains deep feelings or emotions. Internal structure includes the feelings the poet wants to convey and the way these feelings are expressed through poetic language. (3) Imagery and symbolism: Poetry often uses symbolism and imagery to create powerful images. Internal structure includes the way these symbols are used to reinforce the meaning of the poem. (4) Language, style, and voice: Internal structure includes the poet's choice of language and style. This includes word choice, rhythm, rhyme, similes, metaphors, and other figures of speech that create a unique feeling in the poem. (5) Narrative delivery: Some poems have narrative elements that can be part of the internal structure. How the story is told in a poem, including the plot and characters, is an important part of the internal structure. (6) Tone (atmosphere): The tone in poetry is the general feeling conveyed by the poet. Whether a poem is serious, joyful, introspective, or melancholic, tone is an important part of its internal structure. (7) Context and background: The poet's context and background when writing poetry can influence the internal structure. Personal experiences, culture, and history can shape understanding and feelings in poetry. (8) Emotional Resonance: Internal structure includes the ability of a poem to evoke deep feelings or understanding in the reader. How the poem makes the reader feel or think is an important part of the internal structure. It is important to remember that the internal structure in poetry is not always immediately or explicitly visible and often requires interpretation. Readers of poetry are often given the freedom to reflect on and explore the meaning and feelings contained in the inner structure of poetry according to their own perspectives and experiences.

Poetry is a form of literary work that focuses on the aesthetic use of language to express ideas, feelings or deep understanding. Poetry often has characteristics that differentiate it from other types of literary texts. Following are some of the main characteristics of poetry as a literary work: (1) Aesthetics of language: Poetry is known for its use of carefully chosen language, word order and rhythm that creates an aesthetic experience for the reader. Poets often pay careful attention to the sounds, rhythm, and meaning of words to achieve rich literary effects. (2) Structure and form: Poetry often has a particular structure or form, such

as specially arranged stanzas, lines, or rhymes. Some commonly known forms of poetry are sonnets, poems, and verses. These structures can provide a framework for a writer's creative expression. (3) Imagery and symbolism: Poetry often contains imaginative and symbolic elements that allow readers to interpret meaning beyond the literal words. Poets can use symbols, metaphors, or imagery to convey messages or feelings in a profound way. (4) Condensation of meaning: Poetry tends to condense meaning into a limited space. Poets often use words carefully to express ideas or feelings in a limited number of words. This often makes poetry a very dense and profound medium. (5) Subjectivity: Poetry is often highly subjective, allowing poets to express their personal feelings, thoughts, or views. This makes poetry a powerful form of personal expression. (6) Hidden meaning: Poetry often has deep layers of meaning and readers are often invited to interpret the deeper meaning behind the words. This gives the poem a strong aspect of mystery and reflection.

b. Prose Fiction

Prose fiction is a type of literary work written in narrative or prose form that describes stories or events that are completely fictional or imaginary. This differs from non-fiction prose, which refers to writing that aims to convey actual facts, information, or worldviews. Prose fiction covers a variety of genres, such as novels, short stories, graphic novels, science fiction, romance, historical fiction, fantasy, and more. In these works, writers use language in creative ways to create worlds, characters, plots, and themes that are not necessarily based in reality. Fiction writers use their imagination to develop stories, create characters, and convey messages or meaning through narrative.

Important characteristics of fictional prose include: (1) Plot: Fictional prose has a plot, which is the sequence of events that make up the story. It includes the beginning, middle, and end of the story. (2) Character: A character in prose fiction is a fictional person or entity developed in the story. They have traits, motivations, and changes over the course of the story. (3) Setting: Setting is a description of the place and time where the story takes place. Describing the setting helps establish the tone and context of the story. (4) Style: Fiction writers use

language carefully to achieve aesthetic effects, to describe characters and create an atmosphere appropriate to the story. (5) Theme: Prose fiction often deals with complex themes such as love, friendship, justice, identity, and more. These themes convey deep messages or meanings. (6) The purpose of prose fiction is often to entertain, educate or reflect. This allows writers to express their ideas, beliefs, and worldviews through the stories and characters they create. Readers of prose fiction often engage in deep inner experiences and can reflect on the meaning, moral, or values implicit in the story.

c. ***Drama***

Drama is a form of literary work written to be performed on stage, whether in the form of theater, opera or other dramatic performances. Drama involves dialogue between characters, physical actions, and situations that serve to illustrate a story or conflict. Drama also includes visual and auditory elements such as actors' performances, lighting, music, and stage props that play an important role in the performance experience.

There are several important elements in drama: (1) Dialogue: Drama is mainly conveyed through dialogue between characters. It is these verbal interactions between characters that shape the narrative and reveal the action of the story. (2) Characters: Drama involves characters who have different roles and conflicts. These characters often have goals, motivations, and traits that influence their interactions in the story. (3) Plot: Drama has a plot, which is the sequence of events and conflicts that make up the story. The plot focuses on the conflict between the characters and how this conflict develops over the course of the show. (4) Setting: The setting in a drama is the place and time where the story takes place. Setting descriptions can provide context for the story. (5) Physical Action: Drama often includes physical actions and character movements that add visual and physical dimensions to the story. This includes character movements, facial expressions, and body movements. (6) Conflict: Conflict is an important element in drama. Conflict is a contradiction or problem that must be resolved by the characters in the story. Conflict is often the driving force of the plot. (7) Performance: Drama is not only about written texts, but also about performances on

stage. Actors, directors, and visual elements such as sets, costumes, lighting, and music all play a role in bringing a drama to life.

Dramas can vary in genre and type, including comedy dramas, tragedy dramas, historical dramas, romantic dramas and others. Drama is a form of literary work that focuses on visual and aural interpretation and experience. Dramas are often intended to be performed before an audience and present stories in a more dynamic and interactive form than typical literary texts.

d. *Essay*

An essay is a form of non-fiction literary work that contains various ideas, views and thoughts of the author about a particular topic. Essays are used to convey personal views, analysis, reflection, or understanding on a broad or specific topic. An essay is a form of writing that allows the writer to present an argument, discuss a problem, or explain a concept in more detail. The main characteristics of an essay are: (1) Personal point of view: An essay reflects the author's own views and thoughts on a particular topic. This allows the author to convey his personal point of view. (2) Argument or main point: Essays often have an argument or main point that the writer wants to convey. This can take the form of a statement, analysis, or in-depth understanding of a topic. (3) Clear structure: Essays usually have a well-organized structure, including an introduction, body, and conclusion. This helps the reader to follow the author's train of thought. (4) Use of facts and evidence: Essay writers often support their arguments with facts, evidence, or concrete examples. This strengthens the argument and makes the essay more convincing. (5) Language style: Essay writers use effective language to convey their messages and ideas. Language style may vary depending on the type of essay and the audience. (6) Narrative: Some types of essays can include narrative elements to create a more interesting story. This may include personal experiences, anecdotes, or illustrative stories.

Varied themes and topics: Essays can cover a wide range of topics and subjects, ranging from social, philosophical, political and historical issues to personal experiences. There are different types of essays, such as argumentative essays (which present a specific argument and try to convince the reader), descriptive essays (which describe a subject or

event), narrative essays (which tell a personal experience), and many more. The type of essay you use depends on the purpose of writing and the audience. Essays are a powerful way to express a writer's ideas, thoughts, and views on various topics. Essays also serve as a tool to debate issues, stimulate critical thinking, and encourage discussion.

e. *Short story*

Short stories are a genre of literary work that provides opportunities for writers. Literature conveys its perspective on the world, both in the form of fiction and non-fiction. Short stories must be understood by the widest possible reading audience (Sarumpaet and Budianta, 2010). Short stories, also known as short stories, are a shorter and more concise form of literary work than novels. Short stories are short narrative literary works, usually consisting of a plot or main conflict. Short stories create a fictional world in a limited number of words and often focus on character development or conveying a specific message in a short amount of time. Short stories usually only consist of a few pages or chapters, and their main purpose is to entertain, move, or convey meaning in a short time.

According to Kosasih (2008), a short story is a story that can be read in about ten minutes or half an hour with a word count of around 500-5000 words which can be read in one sitting. A short story is a story that depicts a small part of the circumstances, mental events and lives of the characters (Karmini, 2011). Kusmana (2011) further said that a short story is a literary work in the form of fictional prose that tells an event as its central theme.

Ramadhanti, et al (2015) stated that short stories are stories that are presented concisely with a simple plot. Meanwhile, according to Hikmat (2009), a short story is a story that focuses on one main event. Short stories have unique characteristics where short stories are written with a short story line so that they are easy to understand and are not bound by any conditions in writing. Apart from that, the uniqueness of the characters in short stories will be very interesting to readers (Purwahida, 2020).

The main characteristics of short stories are: (1) Timeliness: Short stories tend to focus on one main moment or conflict and develop briefly within a limited time. (2) Characters: Even though short stories are short,

writers can still develop characters well and in depth, depending on the writer's style. (3) Plot: Short stories have a plot that is usually straightforward and simple, with a problem or conflict that must be resolved by the main character. (4) Setting: Short stories provide a brief description of the setting or time and place of the story. (5) Language Style: The language used in short stories is often carefully chosen to achieve an aesthetic effect or deep meaning in a limited number of words. (6) Theme: Short stories can convey complex themes or meanings in a short period of time, often through conflict or story events. (7) Specific points: Short stories often have a specific point or message to convey to the reader.

Short stories are a versatile form of literature and can cover various genres such as realism, mystery, science fiction, horror, etc. Because of their limited length, short stories often demand precision of words and the writer's ability to tell a good story in a short time. Short stories are an effective way to convey strong ideas or stories in a format that is relatively quick and easy for readers to digest.

Novel

According to Tarigan (2015) a novel is a fictional prose story with a certain length, which depicts representative characters, movements and real life scenes in a plot or a situation that is somewhat chaotic and tangled. A novel is a type of literary work in the form of prose which contains elements of events, plot, theme, characters, setting, point of view and so on.

Nurgiyantoro (2019), explains that novels can express things freely, present things in more detail, in more detail and involve more complex problems. Meanwhile, according to Warsiman (2017), a novel is a narrative type literary work in which there are characters, plot, and settings that form events.

A novel is a narrative literary work that consists of a large number of pages of text and presents a variety of characters, conflicts, events, and thematic developments that engage readers in a deep and long reading experience. Novelists, or novelists, use words carefully to create a compelling plot, develop complex characters, and convey a specific message or theme. Novels have several main characteristics, namely: (1)

Plot: Novels have a structured plot with a beginning, middle and end. It involves a series of events that move the story forward and create conflict. (2) Characters: Novels usually have well-developed main characters and secondary characters. These characters have characteristics, motivations, and development that can change as the story progresses. (3) Setting: The setting in a novel describes the place and time where the story takes place. A careful description of the setting can provide a strong sense of atmosphere and context for the story. (4) Language Style: The novelist uses language carefully to create a unique nuance, atmosphere and style that fits the theme of the story. (5) Theme: Novels often deal with complex and deep themes, which can include social, psychological, moral or cultural issues. (6) Character development: Novels allow writers to describe in depth the development of characters from the beginning of the story to the end, making these characters more realistic and complex. (7) Narrative: Novels usually have narration that serves to advance the story and provide a particular narrator's perspective.

Novels can consist of various genres, such as fiction, romance, mystery, fantasy, science fiction, history, and many more. This allows the novel to cover a wide range of stories, experiences, and literary approaches. As a longer and more detailed form of literature, novels often allow writers to explore characters and themes in depth and present them in a form that appeals to readers.

f. *Oral Literary Works*

Oral literature refers to forms of literature that are transmitted orally, often through stories, poems, or fairy tales that are spoken or sung rather than written down. It is an important part of oral literary traditions in cultures around the world. Oral literary works differ from written literary works in terms of how they are conveyed, but have similarities in terms of narrative, aesthetics and cultural elements. Characteristics of oral literature include: (1) Oral tradition: Oral literary works are conveyed orally through speech or singing. These works were probably passed down orally from generation to generation without being written down. (2) Narrative or poetry: Oral literary works can be stories, poetry, or other forms of literature that contain narrative or aesthetic elements. These works often have similar elements to written literary works. (3) Culture

and traditions: Oral literary works are often rooted in specific cultures and traditions. These works reflect the values, beliefs and stories of the communities where they originate. (4) Use of language: Oral literary works use language carefully to create rhythm, sound, and aesthetic effects that influence the listener. (5) Orality and social interaction: Oral literary works are often sung or spoken in a social context with an active audience. This allows for social interactions and unique shared experiences.

Examples of oral literature include various forms such as folk tales, spoken poetry, myths, folk songs, legends, and many more. Oral literature often provides a platform for stories that teach ethical, historical and cultural values, and provide valuable experiences and knowledge. Through oral literature, the culture and history of a society can be preserved and passed on from one generation to the next.

g. *Novela (Continued Story)*

The novel, or serial story, is a form of narrative fiction consisting of a series of chapters or episodes, published at regular intervals, that tell a story. Novels are often published in magazines, newspapers, or other formats that allow them to be published in stages. This is different from a novel, which usually consists of one volume. Novellas or serial stories have several key elements, namely: (1) Episodic: Novels consist of several episodes or parts which are part of a larger story. Each episode may have its own plot, but it also contributes to the overall development of the story. (2) Staged publication: Novels are published in installments, often weekly or monthly, in magazines or newspapers. Readers have to wait for each next episode to find out how the story continues. (3) Unity of the story: Even though the novel is divided into several episodes, the whole story has a strong unity. Characters, plot, and themes are usually continuous and develop throughout the novel. (4) Character development: Novels allow for deeper character development as the story progresses. Readers have the opportunity to better understand the characters and the relationships between them. (5) Emotional impact: Novels often create suspense and an emotional bond with the reader, as the reader has to wait for each episode to find out what will happen next. (6) Written for regular publication: Novels are usually written with the

understanding that they will be published in a format that allows for regular publication, such as a magazine or newspaper.

Novellas have a long history and have become a popular form of literature. They have been found in various magazines and publications throughout history, providing readers with ongoing entertainment for weeks or months. Novellas can cover a variety of genres, including romance, mystery, adventure, love story, and more. In the digital era, the concept of novelas has moved to online media, including web novellas and serialized stories on blogs or other online platforms.

3. LITERARY LENS

a. Ecological literature

Ecological literature refers to texts that study the interaction of living organisms with their environment. Theories in ecological literature help us to understand how ecosystems work, how organisms interact with each other, and how environmental changes affect life on Earth. Pranoto (2014) states that sensitivity to ecosystems expressed through the pen in the form of writing will inspire readers to love the earth in their own way.

Ecological literature is a literary approach that focuses on the interaction between humans and the natural environment. Yacinta Kurniasih's poem *Aku, Hutan Jati, dan Indonesia* is one example of a literary work that is able to package a form of criticism of environmental problems very well (Darman, 2017). One Indonesian novelist who also raises conservation issues in his work is Jalu Kancana with his novel *Kekal* (2019). The poem "Rain in June" by Sapardi Djoko Damono is one of the literary works that describes the representation of nature in a poem.

Ecological literature is a field of study that combines elements of literature and ecology to explore the interaction between humans and the natural environment. Relevant suggestions or implications related to the topic of ecological literature are: (1) Ecological literature can play a role in raising environmental awareness. Literary works that raise environmental issues can provide a better understanding of the ecological challenges facing the world today. (2) Ecological literature often addresses issues of environmental ethics, such as human responsibility towards nature. This can encourage readers to reflect on their relationship

with the natural environment and the impact of their actions. (3) Ecological literature often celebrates the beauty of nature and promotes respect for it. This can motivate people to care more about the beauty of nature and to contribute to its conservation. (4) Ecology literature often shows the negative impact of human activities on the environment. This can encourage changes in behaviour and more sustainable practices. (5) Ecological literature can help to improve environmental literacy. Many literary works contain scientific elements that can help readers understand ecological concepts. (6) Ecological literature promotes an interdisciplinary approach, combining literature with ecological and environmental sciences. This can enrich our understanding of human interaction with the environment. (7) Ecological literature can inspire concrete action to protect the environment. Literature can help generate enthusiasm and motivation to contribute to conservation efforts. (8) Ecological literature often reflects a critique of unsustainable environmental practices and policies. It can encourage critical dialogue and change in policies and practices that are harmful to the environment. (9) Ecological literature can take a variety of forms, including poetry, short stories, novels, essays, drama and non-fiction. This provides flexibility in conveying messages about the environment. (10) Ecological literature often deals with biodiversity and the importance of preserving it. This can promote an understanding of natural diversity and the need to protect it. (11) Ecological literature can also be a source of inspiration for further research in environmental science and ecology. Literary works can stimulate questions and further research into the relationship between humans and the environment.

Ecological literature has great potential to be an important tool for describing, understanding and addressing the ecological challenges facing the world today. By using literature as a tool to convey environmental messages, we can inspire positive action and changes in behaviour and policies that support the preservation of the natural environment.

b. Ecology

Ecology is the study of the relationship between living organisms and their environment. There are several theoretical concepts underlying the discipline of ecology. Ecology itself, as stated by Anggarista and Munasip (2020), that literary works with ecological nuances, especially those that provide representations of natural conditions (environment) are one of the objects of ecocritical studies.

One example of a literary work with ecological nuances is the novel *Aroma Karsa* by Dee Lestari. This novel describes the interactions of characters who form a tangle of relationships and their roles in the natural environment (Sartina et. al, 2021).

Ecology is an important field of study for understanding the interactions between living organisms and their environment. To this end, there are some relevant suggestions or implications related to ecology: (1) Support broader and more comprehensive environmental education at all levels of education. (2) Encourage efforts to protect and conserve biodiversity worldwide, including the establishment of protected areas, habitat conservation and the monitoring of endangered species. (3) Promote sustainable management of natural resources such as forests, land and water to prevent environmental degradation and resource scarcity. (4) Continue global climate monitoring and support action to address climate change. (5) Promote the establishment and implementation of effective environmental policies at local, national and international levels to regulate human impacts on the environment. (7) Support efforts to conserve natural habitats to sustain populations of endangered organisms and maintain the integrity of ecosystems. (9) Promote practices that reduce waste and pollution. (10) Promote international cooperation in environmental protection. (11) Encourage research and innovation in environmentally friendly technologies, including renewable technologies, more efficient transport systems and technologies to improve energy efficiency. (12) Encourage active community participation in environmental issues, such as environmental clean-up, local habitat conservation and environmental monitoring. (13) Supporting the development of businesses and enterprises that focus on sustainable practices and environmentally friendly products. (14)

Promote awareness of the impact of human consumption on the environment and encourage behavioural changes that reduce the consumption of natural resources. (15) Integrate ecological knowledge with other disciplines such as economics, sociology and political science to address environmental challenges holistically. (16) Provide funding and support for conservation projects and research that contribute to nature conservation.

These proposals and implications aim to support more sustainable practices and policies and the conservation of the natural environment. Collaborative efforts across society, the private sector and government are essential to address global environmental challenges.

c. Ecocriticism

Chandra (2017) mentions that there are several recent Indonesian writers who have produced short stories with an ecocritical perspective, including: S. Prasetyo Utomo; Adi Zamzam; Tjak S. Parlan; Muliadi G.F; and Manaf Maulana. These writers often appear with their short stories in various Indonesian mass media. S. Prasetyo Utomo with the short story *Performing the Seventh Day*; Adi Zamzam with the short story *Rob*; Tjak S. Parlan with the short story *Going to the Hill*; and Muliadi G.F. with the short story *Al-Fatihah for the Trees*. The mass media that covered the short stories that discuss ecocriticism include Kompas, Republika, Jawa Pos, and Tempo. There is also the novel *"Lemah Tanjung"* by Ratna Indraswari, which raises a writer's concern about the destruction of the nature where she lives (Setiaji, 2020). Similarly, the novel *"Lelaki Harimau"* by Eka Kurniawan discusses pollution.

Ecocriticism is a critical approach to literature and the humanities that examines the relationship between literature and the natural environment. Here are some suggestions and implications: A deeper understanding of man's relationship with nature, environmental literature, understanding environmental issues, using literature as a means of environmental education, encouraging reflection and behavioural change, criticism of consumerism, understanding local literary traditions, preserving the environmental literary heritage. The study of ecocriticism can help to enrich our understanding of how literature can reflect, respond

to and influence environmental issues. It can also contribute to efforts to preserve and protect the natural environment.

Ecological literature has a very important role in today's society because it provides a deep understanding of humans' relationship with nature and environmental issues. An ecological literary work was created to increase human awareness and concern for the fate of nature and social realities that occur in the surrounding environment. Apart from that, it is hoped that ecological literature can help increase readers' awareness of pressing environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity and environmental degradation. This is an effective educational tool in teaching the importance of protecting nature.

Through these literary works, readers can reflect on the impact of human actions on nature and encourage changes in environmentally responsible behavior. Ecological literature is useful for providing strong encouragement for humans to take positive actions. Ecological literature is also able to connect human culture with the natural environment. This helps us to understand how our culture, values and traditions play a role in how we interact with nature.

Humans and nature essentially have an interdependent relationship. When humans can protect the natural environment around them, nature will also maintain human survival. For this reason, ecological literature is taught to increase our understanding of our dependence on nature. This allows us to see how human well-being and survival are closely linked to ecosystem health.

Works of ecological literature often have a strong aesthetic and emotional impact. These works can evoke feelings, deep thoughts and a deep understanding of the environment. These works are also able to express diverse perspectives where ecological literature often presents different and varied perspectives on environmental issues. This opens up space for dialogue and better understanding of these issues.

Work - Ecological literary works have a long-lasting impact because they continue to encourage positive thinking and action long after they have been read. This can influence the way people view nature and its impacts and as climate change and environmental issues become increasingly urgent, ecological literature has an important role to play in

helping us face these challenges. It is not only a literary form, but also a powerful tool for raising awareness, encouraging action, and inspiring positive change in human attitudes and behavior towards nature. Ecological literature teaches us to love nature so that nature will continue to protect us and our children and grandchildren in the future.

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"The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" offers a profound exploration of the intricate dynamics among God, Human, and Nature within the framework of literature, specifically through the lens of Ecocriticism. The book is a comprehensive repository of resources that navigate the critical landscape, delving into the relationship between humanity and the natural world. At its essence, the narrative unfolds as an exploration of nature's problems serving as the resonant voice of God, compelling readers to reflect on the consequences of human actions on the environment.

This insightful work ventures beyond the conventional boundaries of ecological discourse, immersing readers in a rich tapestry of literature and critical perspectives. The book meticulously stitches together various critics' analyses, presenting a compelling argument about the interconnectedness of humanity with the divine and the natural order. Through the lens of Ecocriticism, the text elucidates how literature becomes a reflection of the evolving relationship between God, Human, and Nature, portraying the environmental challenges as a call from a higher power to reassess our impact on the planet.

"The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" is not merely a collection of critiques; it is a narrative that beckons readers to confront the urgent need for environmental introspection and stewardship. Nature is depicted as the voice of God, communicating displeasure and concern in response to the ecological imbalance created by human activities. The book becomes a guide, urging readers to navigate the intricate pathways of self-awareness and accountability. It challenges preconceived notions, encouraging a transformative shift in the human narrative towards a more responsible and sustainable coexistence with the natural world. In essence, the book is a call to action, inspiring readers to recognize their role as custodians of the Earth and to embrace the moral imperative of preserving the delicate harmony between God, Human, and Nature.

In conclusion, "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" is a compelling literary journey that transcends the boundaries of traditional ecological discourse. It weaves together the threads of literature, spirituality, and environmental consciousness, presenting a holistic view of humanity's relationship with the natural world. Through the lens of Ecocriticism, the book not only analyzes the critiques of nature but also propels readers towards a deeper understanding of their own ecological footprint. It is a timely exploration that challenges us to listen to the voice of God through the challenges posed by nature and prompts a re-evaluation of our collective responsibility to preserve the sanctity of our planet. "The Circle: Ecological Lens on Life's Journey in Literary Exploration" stands as an invitation to embark on a transformative journey, fostering a renewed sense of connection and responsibility towards the environment that sustains us all.



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