

# Representation of Environmental Damage in Tere Liye's Novel *Rain* (Literary Ecocriticism Study)

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## Abstract

The sophistication of technology helps modern man in the pace of activity and creativity. However, sophisticated technology without control from humans as its creators can bring disaster and prolonged damage that has a global impact. This study aims to describe the representation of environmental damage in the novel *Rain* by Tere Liye. The type of research used is qualitative descriptive with Greg Garrard's literary ecocriticism approach. The research data was sourced from the novel *Hujan* by Tere Liye published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama with research data in the form of words, phrases, sentences related to environmental damage. Data collection techniques in this study are carried out by document techniques and literature studies, data analysis through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results of the study illustrate that in the novel *Rain* by Tere Liye there is environmental damage which includes pollution, wilderness, disasters, housing / shelter, animals, and the earth. Environmental damage occurs due to the utilization of sophisticated technology without control from humans, used as a savior with fast-paced action, but only helps in the short term. The conclusions of the research represent environmental damage in the novel *Rain* by Tere Liye due to sophisticated technology and low human empathy for the environment as a result of modernism.

**Keywords:** *representation1, damage2, environment3.*

## Introduction

According to the problem of living things cannot be separated from the relationship of living things themselves, especially humans with their environment. The science of the interrelationship of living things, namely humans with their environment, is then called ecology. In essence, environmental problems are also ecological problems. The term ecology comes from Greek, namely (Silalahi, 2014) *oikos* which means home or place of life and *Logos* which means science. Ecology can be interpreted as a science that studies between living things and their environment. Ecology discusses living things as a whole or system and its environment. Ecology is a branch of biology that utilizes a lot of information from various sciences. Ecologists have an interest in investigating the interaction of organisms with their environment with the aim of discovering the principles contained in the interrelationships of nature and humans.

Ecology is needed in solving problems related to the environment and life at large, even including in the application of environment-related management in the current era. Currently, with a situation that is wrapped with interests, ecology has developed as a science of ecosystem structure and function so that it can become a scalpel to analyze and provide answers related to questions about various natural events.

The development of the times and science continues to develop, including ecology which is then constricted again into ecocriticism which is then put forward by . Man and

nature were created to depend on each other, humans as part of nature have an important role to protect nature as humans take care of themselves. The development and advancement of technology have an impact on the development of science, including ecology which is then narrowed down again to ecocriticism. Ecocriticism is a study that analyzes literature from an environmental point of view. This study examines the environmental crisis that occurs, raises technical, scientific, and political questions but also touches the cultural realm related to literary phenomena. The term ecocriticism comes from English, (Greg, 2014) *Eccocritism*, derived from two word combinations namely *ecology* and *criticism*. Ecology or ecology is the science of the interrelationships between living things and the surrounding nature (conditions). *Criticism* Defined as criticism or condemnation of a work, opinion, or thing that happens in the surrounding environment while still considering the good and bad.

Greg Garrard (2014) traces the development of the movement and explores ecocriticism related to (1) pollution: environmental pollution is a problem that must be solved because it concerns safety, health, and life in the story. Everyone has a role in protecting the environment, starting from small and large environments. (2) wilderness: The forest understood is a community of plants controlled by trees, the environment is different from the environment outside the forest. (3) Disasters: Disasters occur due to conditions that are not in accordance with natural conditions that should be, such as climate change, damage, deterioration, and ecosystem extinction (4) Housing / residence: housing that functions as a place to live and is equipped with basic environmental equipment, drinking water, electricity, roads that are suitable for settlement. (5) animals: are animate beings that are able to move (move places) and react to disturbances but are mindless, and (6) earth: saving the earth includes everything in it including animals and plants.

Talking about ecocriticism cannot be separated from humanity which is realized in its role as a species globally that cannot be separated from the cosmopolitan that transmits the culture, environment, economy, and social of individual societies in the future as humans as observers. The culture of a society that lives in progress presents a ruler mentality. It is this ruling mentality that then dominates nature and the human environment itself so that it is not controlled, , , . (Juanda, 2018) (Chiras, 1985)(Hamzah, 2013)(Kerap, 2010)(Rahmadi, 2015)

According to Garrard, literary ecocriticism focuses on exploring and imagining man's relationship with nature in all fields as a result of culture. The target of ecocriticism is more specifically related to literary works with ecological nuances. Ecological vibrations arise in the diction of a literary work to be used so that literary works need to be selected not just criticized. It is important to remember that ecocriticism is a perspective that considers the environment into literature, literature and nature is indeed inseparable, close, and mutually guarding. When the balance of nature and man is disturbed, nature is turbulent, it will have an impact on humans themselves, at this point, literature will speak in a way that reveals the reality that happens to the environment. (Sarwiningrum, 2018)

Literary works are essentially representations of real life that occur in the midst of society that are observed, responded to and imagined by authors with writing in the form of literary works. The interaction of each character with other characters with other environments is created by an author with different characters, especially related to his acceptance of nature. (Bayu, 2020)

The universe became a source of inspiration in the creation of literary works. Environmental dynamics with all its problems are able to incarnate beauty in the

intrinsic and extrinsic elements of literary works. Environmental damage becomes a very serious thing if it must be compared with environmental wisdom. Farida and Andalas. Furthermore, it argues that representation is a reflection of all forms of events, a reflection in literature related to space and time, space and time alternate but both are entities that exist with regard to local context and culture. (Triastuti, 2021) (Farida & Andalas, 2019)(Sugiarti, 2019)

An environment with global problems that is the center of attention, including the attention of one of the Indonesian authors. Dervish or known by his pen name Tere Liye, one of the novelists who writes a lot about the environment. The novel *Hujan* was published in 2016 which tells about the environment with a time setting of 2042 to 2050, tells the story of life on earth with very rapid technological sophistication.

The technological sophistication in the novel *Rain* Able to save humans affected by disasters, people and scientists unite in developing sophisticated equipment used to make a kind of human rescue plane that will stay in space for a long period of time while waiting for the recovery of the earth from the disaster. On the other hand, it is also explained, technological advances are not necessarily able to save and fight the disasters faced. On the novel *Rain* Tere Liye's work, exploitation does not occur directly from the community as a figure to nature and the environment, but extraordinarily sophisticated technological advances without regard to impacts in the long term and are not handled nature-based cause ecological disturbances, environmental damage, extinction of flora and fauna. (Gutti, 2012) (Yuniarto, 2013)(Adinuhgra, 2016)(Fios, 2019)(Kamaruddin, 2020)

Literary ecocriticism research using Greg Garrard's theory has been widely conducted, the same research by, using a mimetic approach with ecocritical theory, discusses environmental damage in Viddy Ad Daery's poem Lapindo: Nature that takes revenge which invites people to care about the environment. The problem in the novel *Hujan* is a strong support for conducting research because there are representations of environmental damage contained in it in the form of environmental pollution, forests, disasters, housing / shelter, animals, and the earth. Environmental damage is studied with the theory of literary ecocriticism Greg Garrard (2014). Often, images of destruction are needed to reveal the reality of what happened. In fact, the awareness of each individual is very important in responding to disasters that occur.(Sungkowati, 2016)(Asri, 2018)

## Method

This type of research is descriptive qualitative research that seeks to explain the phenomena that occur by means of descriptions in the form of words and language that is the subject of research or problem formulation. The approach used in ecocriticism studies consists of discourse and reality approaches. The reality approach emphasizes research in the field while the discourse approach emphasizes literature research. The discourse approach to ecocritical research in its application opens up linkages between discourses. (Ratna, 2011)(Harsono, 2017)

According to discourse, it is a context building so it is very important to pay attention to the context of other discourses. Therefore, this study uses a discourse approach whose object of research is the novel *Hujan* by Tere Liye. The data in this study is in the form of words, phrases, sentences, which are in accordance with the problem formulation. The source of data in this study is the novel *Hujan* by Tere Liye, published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 320 pages thick, published in 2016 with a blue

cover design with a combination of white that reads rain and accompanied by a picture of rain falling right above the author's name. (Endraswara, 2016).

The research focused on environmental damage that occurred in the novel *Rain* by Tere Liye using Greg Garrard's literary ecocriticism approach which discusses pollution, wilderness, disasters, housing / shelter, animals, and earth, Data collection is carried out with document techniques and literature studies. reveals that there are three stages in collecting data: (1) reading against the data source; (2) provide markers on the puzzle that is used as data; (3) record and inventory data deemed most relevant; (4) While data analysis uses concepts by means of (1) data reduction; (2) presentation of data, (3) drawing conclusions from the overall research result. (Creswell, 2014) (Milles, 2014).

## Discussion

### Pollution

Environmental damage that occurs cannot be separated from excessive human behavior. Man as a perfect being on earth should take care of nature and protect it. However, it is quite the opposite. Technological developments affect the ability to process natural resources faster, technological advances force humans to work faster and easier so as not to be left behind, this triggers the emergence of the capitalist system. The advanced technology in the novel *Rain*, causes environmental damage, as quoted below

"There is no way out anymore. We can't suck up billions of gases that have been mixed up in the sky, then throw them on Mars. We have to pay a heavy price for each other's selfishness. The climate of extreme heat will sooner or later arrive in this city. Roasting a whole life." (*Rain*, 2016:269)

The quote occurred when *breaking news* anti-gas sulfur dioxide particles continued to be reported. The source said that the air temperature that continues to increase is caused by sulfur dioxide gas. The host came up with the idea that perhaps intervention over intervention could be a solution. The source said that there would be no way out.

Anti-sulfur dioxide gas released in the air with technological sophistication actually threatens the safety of the earth. The release changes the nature of the earth to restore state and damages the layers of the troposphere and stratosphere, clouds cannot form. Without cloud formation, rain will not fall. in the novel *Rain*, all scientists are aware of it but the high ego of knowledge encourages repeated trials whose effects are inevitable.

The data is included in environmental damage with pollution aspects and is included in environmental pollution indicators regarding safety because there has been air pollution that causes a hot climate. Hot climates are non-arid climates. In this climate, twelve months have temperatures warmer than 18 degrees *centigrade* or 64 degrees F.

### Wilderness

Forests are the source of life for all living things. Forests are not only a place for flora and fauna to live, forests are also protective for humans, forests keep humans from landslides, global warming, floods, and also act as lungs for humans. Therefore, the forest that is dry due to sulfur dioxide gas due to the waste of factories and giant

buildings that scrape the sky has a great impact on the level of soil fertility so that the wilderness in the novel (Bela, 2021)*Rain* becomes rumbling or dry.

The forest looks rumbling, leaving the trees gray.  
(Rain, 2016:294)

The data describes when Maryam and Lail asked permission to return home early to the city and the commander gave them permission. In the morning, they headed for the nearest train station, when they arrived in the nearest town they went straight to the station, riding the train. The high-speed train passed through a stretch of burning grass. The smoke billowed in the sky then disappeared and simply evaporated. In addition, the forest looks rumbling.

The data is included in environmental reflection with wilderness aspects and is included in forest indicators which include plants that are controlled by trees and have a different environment from conditions outside the forest. Kerontang forest is a very dry forest, drought in the forest can cause forest fires and kill living things in it.

### **Disaster**

Natural disasters that occur in the *novel Rain*, one of them, the eruption of the Ancient Mountain violently. The eruption defeated the eruption of Mount Krakatau or Tambora which was a hundred times more devastating. A split second. One of the quotes about disasters in the novel *Rain*

"Passengers inside the subway system did not hear the loud bang of the mountain. They are at a depth of 40 meters. Only the residents on the surface heard it. At 8:15 a.m., an ancient mountain in another part of the world erupted. The sound of the eruption was heard up to 10,000 kilometers, so loud, practically the inhabitants of a radius of 200 kilometers from the mountain were instantly deaf instantly before knowing what happened. They also did not realize each other's deafness when one second later, ash of volcanic material with temperatures of thousands of Celsius gushed as high as 80 kilometers, then rolled spread down, wiping out the entire life of a radius of 200 kilometers in just minutes. No remaining, charred roasted temperature as high as 5000 degrees celsius. The black mushroom-shaped volcanic ash rumbled horribly, enveloping the surroundings. The huge disaster arrived in seconds. It wasn't the hot ash that killed, but the 10-magnitude volcanic earthquake. Buildings collapsed, overpasses fell, the ground collapsed, houses were split, a third of the earth's surface felt an earthquake on a deadly scale." (Rain, 2016:21)

The data is included in the disaster aspect, which shows mass damage and is included in indicators of disasters that occur outside human intervention due to the eruption of ancient mountains. The result of the eruption was the occurrence of a 10-magnitude volcanic earthquake, various crises occurred, livestock died, water was polluted, plants died. After the disaster, ideas emerged from scientists with solutions that were able to be accepted by governments in various countries. By opening up possibilities, nature is increasingly exploited and it is evident that suggestions for creating artificial clouds actually bring deadly rainfall to plants and animals.

### **Housing/Residence**

Various problems have been overcome due to natural disasters, but the impact of disasters always leaves wounds, especially for victims in evacuations. The prolonged

effects of *the volcanic winter* caused by the eruption of supervulcano *volcanoes* cannot be conquered by humans, no matter how great technological advances are. Due to a natural disaster, a food crisis hits the city in the novel *Rain* as quoted below.

"Flour, wheat, sugar, are getting harder and harder to obtain. Let alone eggs. Getting just a few grains is very difficult.: Mother Tomorrow sighed. His face looked sad. Lail nodded. The food crisis is getting more serious in their city. This cake shop is everything to Mother Tomorrow. This gloomy face reminded him of when he first met him in the refugee tent. (Rain, 2016:202)

The data happened when Lail and Maryam went to Tomorrow's mother's bakery. The shop was uncharacteristically crowded with breads, this time there was less bread. This happened because of the food crisis, Tomorrow's mother lacked the ingredients to make it. The shop looks gloomy.

The data includes environmental damage, aspects of housing/residence, with indicators of land as a place to live that gives social meaning because the cake shop occupied by Mrs. Tomorrow is where she lives. Social activities occur in the place such as the buying and selling process between sellers and buyers.

### **Animal**

Man as a creature created by God, has high empathy, including animals. The disaster that occurred due to the eruption of the ancient mountain, caused many animals to die. Animals are the appendages of God's creatures that should be protected but are affected by disasters that cause environmental damage. The story quote, shows the main character's concern because the pool that was once clean and filled with water, is now dry. However, the presence of pigeons although not much entertainment for visitors. This inner entertainment, proves the attachment between humans and nature that can bring out a sense of happiness and peace.

"At least the pigeons are still there, providing entertainment for visitors to the pond." (Rain, 2016:276)

The context of the data occurs when Tomorrow and Lail meet they visit a place of memories of the past by riding a bicycle. They piggybacked, as for the places they visited, one of them was a fountain pool. The pond no longer has water, only pigeons are still there.

The data is included in the reflection of the environment with animal aspects included in the indicators of animal and human relations because the birds are entertainment for visitors. Animals are often used as entertainment such as in zoos, dolphin attractions, and seeing beautiful animals such as butterflies.

### **Earth**

The earth includes the contents contained in it, related to animals and plants. To preserve the earth, every human being should jointly carry out their roles and responsibilities in preserving the earth. In fact, the novel *Hujan* with the year 2042-2050 masters technological progress with its splendor that has an impact on climate change. The eruption of ancient mountains affects all aspects of people's lives as quoted below

"With the world's climate change, people can't grow rice, trying to grow potatoes which fails more." (Rain, 2016:146)

The context of the event, when Lail and Maryam received a second assignment from a volunteer organization. They were sent to sector 2, a much worse sector than their first assignment. As soon as they are in that sector, they look around. Maryam saw

a large dam, the dam was no longer used because people no longer planted rice due to world climate change. Keep rice, plant potatoes only, people have known they will suffer a lot of losses due to crop failure.

If you look out the text, volcanic ash and hot clouds from ancient volcanic eruptions cause plants to die. In addition, the high sulfur trioxide in the air is one of the causes of acid rain. The substances diffuse into the atmosphere and react with water to form soluble sulfuric and nitric acids so that they fall with rainwater. It is this acidic rainwater that increases soil acidity levels and surface water that prove harmful to life on earth, including plants.

The novel *Rain* describes the logical consequences of a supervulcano eruption. The technological capabilities in the story do help the community in restoring the state of the environment, but with human prowess, sophisticated equipment is only able to make the first rescue.

## Conclusion

Based on the results of data analysis that has been carried out, it can be seen that the novel *Rain* by Tere Liye tells the representation of environmental damage caused by technological advances. The damage caused humans, plants and animals to become victims. Based on science and technology, humans ignore threats in the future. Scientists firmly believe that advanced technology is able to cope with any adverse conditions. The novel *Hujan* is an image of technological prowess with extraordinary sophistication. Behind the splendor, scientists and the public are proud even though they know that there are environmental conflicts at stake. Forms of environmental damage that occur, including (1) pollution: humans try to protect the earth and its contents with technological sophistication by releasing anti-sulfur dioxide gas that can form clouds to pour artificial rain, but otherwise clouds are not formed because they damage the natural order of the earth to restore conditions, this causes climate change where temperatures increase and the air is very hot, This is what then causes pollution in the air. (2) Wilderness: Plants and trees are covered by volcanic ash due to volcanic eruptions. The concept of forests that should not be contaminated by civilization and is a strong construction must eventually be dry due to human activities. (3) Disaster: the eruption of mountains, sometimes against human will but importantly, nature has the isting to restore the situation as before even though it takes a long time but technological sophistication, everything is fast so that the use of sophisticated tools actually triggers the emergence of new problems. (4) Housing/residence: a dwelling is land occupied for a long period of time. In that place humans carry out social activities, perform rituals, and farm. Land is like a mother, if the mother is sick, it will have an impact on the stability of the house and its contents. (5) Animals: animals have the right to life, even though they do not have the intellect as humans, animals have the instinct to feel fear, threatened, and insecure, thus, the extinction of animals due to human selfishness is evidence that sometimes humans can be compared with animals because they do not put their minds in action. (6) Earth: The way to care for the earth is to exercise global control, either through action or using technology. However, the reality is just the opposite, technological progress without control and shared awareness causes damage and disaster to the earth and its contents. The representation of environmental damage that occurs in the novel *Rain* by Tere Liye is indeed an image depicted by the author in 2042 to 2050 with technological advances with the creation of spacecraft to save humans from extinction. This representation, if judging from phenomena in real life, is not much different. Living in modern times requires humans to act fast-paced,

technology is designed to help humans. Of course this is good because it is part of progress. On the other hand, greed causes mischief, gives rise to new catastrophes, threatens extinction and who knows, decades from now, humans may save their lives on other planets for a while with technological sophistication.

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