



**WICKEDNESS BEHIND ENVIRONMENTALISM IN POEMS
CHARACTERISTIC OF LIFE, TROPHIC CASCADE, THE PEDIATRICIAN
CONSIDER HIS LOBBY, HOW GREAT THE GARDENS WHEN THEY
THRIVE, AND NATURAL HISTORY (2017) BY CAMILLE T. DUNGY**

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Abstrak

This study is the analysis of five poems entitled *Characteristic of life, Trophic Cascade, The Pediatrician Consider His Lobby, How Great The Gardens When They Thrive, and Natural History*. The topic of this study is wickedness behind environmentalism. The problem of this study is how far do the five poems reveal the issue of wickedness behind environmentalism. The purpose of this study is aimed to seek how far does Camille T. Dungy's poem collection TC, TPCHL, HGTWTT, and NH, exposed the topic of wickedness behind environmentalism. This study is conducted to exploring the role of poetical element such as irony, tone, repetition, and speaker in the poem collection contribute in revealing the issue. This analysis is text-based interpretation based on the concept of ecocriticism by Garrard, Sahu, Glotfelty, and Estok. The result of this study is people do the selecting resources and controlling the project

Key words: politic, environment, *ecocriticism*, exploitation, population

A. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, ecological destruction becomes serious problem in the world such as climate changing, depletion of ozone and extinction of animal. In fact the entire problem is created by people. They exploit natural resources for economic purpose such as illegal logging and illegal hunting. Some of smart people do the action to prevent the environmental problem by building conservation area and create green culture that called environmentalism. However, their action is out of control that risk natural environment in long term effect. They use political ways to control nature.

People do the wickedness in environmentalism. According to *SPEARA* (2016) Wickedness is behaving in a way that is morally wrong. Morally wrong refers to the act of people that use political ways to do everything in order to get what they need without consider anything. Meanwhile they unconsciously create

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suffering in another side. Morally wrong in this case means the action of human that causes risk to some part of nature. They use environmentalism as a mask to hide their action. It seems that they build the reservation. In fact they risk some part of nature.

People do not take sustainability in the center of the concern. They are not considering future potential of resources. Moreover, they use natural environment to fulfill their needs, they use conservation area for their advantages. They change the basic characteristic of plants and animal, in order to get economic profit. Thus, people change the traditional way in exploit nature with scientific way to reduce the critics that comes from culture.

People built reservation area with the system to control the population based on their advantages, it makes them free from any cultural rejection in exploiting nature, because they pretend to protect nature from upcoming destruction. They use nature as a business but they cover their wickedness with systematic and structural ways.

The action of selecting resources and controlling their project is the two main points which become the focus for revealing the issue of wickedness behind environmentalism. They select resources and control the project based on their advantages. They build park to plant certain species with protection, such as medical plants and high cost animal. They localized the animal and plants to convert natural environment into private property. They manipulate food chains, they control the population animal. They change characteristic of plants by adding chemical to plants. They change adaptation process of animal. They select high cost animal to rescue but threaten others animals. They harvest the medical plants and high cost animals for economic purpose.

Wickedness behind environmentalism is a topic concern in literature where authors also take part in the declaration. Some of literary work such as novel, poetry and drama reflect the issue of nature. This study is conducted to analyze the issue of wickedness behind environmentalism in five poems *Characteristic of life, Trophic Cascade, The Peditrician Consider His Lobby, How Great The Gardens When They Thrive, and Natural History* (2017) by Camille T. Dungy.

This analysis is aimed to reveal the wickedness activities done by human toward nature in environmentalism. The analysis of these poems uses Eco-criticism approach. In *The Ecocriticism Reader* (1996), Glotfelty and Fromm introduce three phase of ecocriticism. The first phase is the image of the nature, which deals with how literature displays the nature and being treated by people. Second phase is creates an effort to explain literary work by examining and identifying the works that consist of ecological awareness. Literary work constructs the awareness of human being to treat nature wisely. The third phase makes people taking care to deep ecology, which explores the implications of radical critique to anthropocentrism in literary study. These three phases help to analyze the issue of wickedness behind environmentalism.

According to Garrard (2004), Ecocriticism explores the ways in which literature imagines and portrays the relationship between human being and the environment in all areas of cultural production. In a line with it, Sahu(2014)

defines Ecocriticism, as an “attempt to explore the expressions of environment in literary texts and theoretical discourse. It is also a study of language through which literature is expressed”. It shows that eco-criticism is the study of literature and natural environment which analyzed the environment point of view that is affected by human being. Literary work is aimed to create awareness toward nature condition. In this case, they are taking control toward the nature that leads it into destruction.

This analysis also investigates the concept of anthropocentrism and ecocentrism. Buell in his *The Future of Environmental Criticism* (2005) describes that anthropocentrism is human presupposition that their needs is in higher priority as human being claimed that they are more superior to those of nonhumans. While ecocentrism is the view that ecosphere interests have more importance than any individual species interests. In this analysis people control the nature, they position themselves in superior position to fulfill their advantages without considering suffering of the nature. in poem TC, After the reintroduction of gray wolves / to Yellowstone and, as anticipated, their culling / of deer, trees grew beyond the deer stunt / of the mid-century, it reveals that people control the habitat of animal by increase carnivore animal to protect trees from herbivore. They unconsciously create suffering to deer, because their place to live are shrink.

Ecocriticism approach in this study refers to the issue of wickedness behind environmentalism. According to Estok (2009):

Ecocriticism is the “field of enquiry that analyses and promotes works of art which raise moral questions about human interactions with nature, while also motivating audiences to live within a limit that will be binding over generations, explicitly environmental texts from any scholarly approach or, conversely, the scrutiny of ecological implications and human nature relationships in any literary text [or other artistic text], even texts that seem, at first glance, oblivious of the nonhuman world” (p.16)

The quotation above shows that ecocriticism outlines and voices against the destructive effect on human limitless in treating the nature. They use the nature as a business field politically. Ecocriticism is also the study of literature that represents culture and society, and is a theoretical approach to the interrelations of nature and culture. Buell (1995) states that Ecocriticism has a triple duty, the scientific study of nature, the scholarly analysis of cultural representations, and the political struggle for more sustainable ways of inhabiting the natural world. It means that people by glance help and rescue the environment, if fact they fulfill their advantages by changing nature into business deal.

This analysis is supported by text based interpretation. According to Guerin (2005), text-based interpretation focuses on the work itself. It shows that the meaning and ideas contains by the works is found in the text by examining the interrelationship of the elements. It is supported by poetic elements, such as irony, tone, and speaker as the elements uncover the unfriendly activities done by human being toward nature. Thus, the role of irony, tone, and speaker become the main focus to reveal thus issue.

This analysis is supported by using irony. According to Kirszner (2000: 598), irony occurs when an incongruity exists between two levels of meanings or experiences. Irony is a literary device which reveals contradictory meanings. There are three types of irony. The first is dramatic irony, which is an irony which occurs when the speakers believe in one thing, but the reader realizes something else. The second is verbal irony, which is created when a word says one thing but means the opposite. The last is situational irony, which occurs when the situation itself contradict reader's expectation. It makes the reader expects a certain situation, while the actual ending is in contrast.

Furthermore, this analysis is supported by the role of tone. According to Timpane (2011), tone refers to the writer attitudes towards the subject. The attitudes expressed could be serious, angry, humorous, ironic, satirical, or sarcastic regarding to the subject of the poem.

The other element that gives contribution to this analysis is repetition, it could be a word, a phrase, or a full sentence, or a poetical line repeated to emphasize its significance in the entire text. Repetition is a literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer and more memorable.

The last element that gives contribution is speaker. The speaker refers to the voice in the poem. In a poem, the speaker is not the same person with the poet or author. The speaker within the poem may be a person, an animal, a thing, or an abstraction. In this analysis the speaker is an observer who criticizes human culture for their treatments toward nature which causes the destruction of nature.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The design of this research is qualitative content analysis, which analyze the literary text. The data collected from quotation in the poems. The data analyze by poetical element within the works itself; irony, repetition, tone, and speaker. Irony has a role to uncover the unexpected truth related with human politic towards environment. Tone deals with the attitudes expressed in the poems. Repetition is using to make an idea clearer and more memorable. The speaker reflects the voice of the poem and it is the imaginary voice assumed by the writer of the poem. Furthermore, the analysis is based on the concept of Ecocriticism by Garrard, Sahu, Glotfelty and Estok. It gives contribution in process of analysis by giving help in revealing the meaning.

C. DISCUSSION

The five poems, *Characteristic of life* (henceforth COF), *Trophic Cascade* (TC), *The Pediatrician Consider His Lobby* (TPCHL), *How Great The Gardens When They Thrive* (HGTWTT), and *Natural History* (NH) (2017) reveal the issue of wickedness behind environmentalism. This issue is reflected in these five poems, through irony and tone. The poems exposed the human being's political strategy in controlling the nature. They implicitly exploit and lead the nature into destruction. This action can be seen through selecting resources and controlling the project.

2.1. Selecting Resources

This topic focuses on discussion about selecting resources, through irony the speaker in the poems tells that the people build park to reserve certain species with certain protection. They select animal that can give benefit to them, indirectly they threaten others animal. They change genetic of plants by adding chemical to the plants. They manipulate the production phase, change size and appearance of the plant.

People build park to reserve certain species with certain protection. A few species of animals and plant are placed in a specific location based on their advantages. It is reflected in the following quotation:

*After the reintroduction of gray wolves
to Yellowstone and, as anticipated, their culling
of deer, trees grew beyond the deer stunt
of the mid century.*

(TC: Line 1-4)

Through irony in the text, the meaning can be revealed that people select a kind of specific animal to be reserved. They have systematic plan to fulfill their economic purpose. Instead of protecting natural resources, they protect their needs politically. Gray wolves, a priceless and forbid hunting animal, placed in a place where animals and plants are reserved with politic and law protection. By reserved the gray wolves they are free from cultural rejection. On the other hand, the deer, the useless and cheap animal, live in the landscape of fear, they are forced to adapt in the ecosystem and difficult to feeding. In their mind, they change the ecosystem without causing any problem, but the speaker in these lines articulated the wickedness of people which sacrifice some species of animal to protect other species. Thus, people sacrificed the nature politically to fulfill their needs and to get the money.

People only care about the existence of some kind of plant species, without considering the other species, indirectly they threaten others species, it can be seen in the following quotation:

*Ask me if I speak for the snail and I will tell you
I speak for the snail.
 speak of underneath it ness
and the welcome of mosses,
 of life that springs up,
little lives that pull back and wait for a moment.*

(COL : Line 1-6)

The sarcastic tone in this poem reflects the impact of the people action toward the animal. The word //Snail// refers to the invertebrate animal that being marginalized as the effect of protection toward mosses. The word //Mosses// refers to species of moss agate, the plant that reserved in Yellowstone river. This plant embedded in the stone that increase the price of the stone. This jewelry stone is priceless because of the appearance of the stone becomes beautiful. Irony in the line //and the welcome of mosses, / of life that springs up, / little lives that pull back and wait for a moment.// exposed the protecting to the beautiful, priceless plant causing the extinction to the other species of animal. The tone here is sarcastic which talking to the people about their action toward the upcoming

extinction of animal. The speaker in these lines is an observer which explores the cruelty of people in selecting a kind of resources while the other species are ignored. In conclusion, they lead some kind of species into extinction.

People manipulate the genetic of plant with chemical to maximize the plant potential. It can be seen in the following quotation:

*You are the crop that grows
wild tall. That, robust or brambled, twists
up, around, and over the lean poles
grounding you.
New growth that shoots and swings
in an eager-budding, lanky
way, you sway up
bright and juice full.*

(TPCHL: Line 1-8)

The quotation reflect the changing the genetic of the plant. Through irony in the text, it can be reveals that they plant a species of plant but change the genetic of the plant. The word *wild tall* refers to the wild and strong plants that live in wild habitat are changing into the garden plant. The line *//New growth that shoots and swings / in an eager-budding//* reflects people change the appearance and size of the plant to increase the plant potential. The word *shoots and swings* means the size of the plant becomes slightly and shapely. The word *juice full* refers to the taste of the plant. The plant used as a decoration and consumption. As a result, the plant is not follow the natural process, it make the plant lost authenticity. The tone here is angry which explored the suffering of plant to adapt to the creation ecosystem. The speaker is an observer who critic the wickedness of people that change the genetic of the plant. The plant will not survive for the long-term effect because it is not follow the natural process.

They also change the production phase in large scale. It can be show in following quotation:

*Yellow as zucchini flowers and, in their
season,
as legion, school buses brake and collect,
brake and collect, at standard intervals
along the country's subdividing roads.*

*Late summer, the wind trending toward cool.
Early fall, the children heading back to
school.*

(HGWTT: stanza 5-6)

This quotation above reflects that they manipulate the season in a garden to harvest the plant continuously. In stanza five, the lines *//Yellow as zucchini flowers and, in their season, / as legion, school buses brake and collect, / brake and collect,//* reflect that they exploit zucchini flower massively. The repetition *brake and collect* reflect that they collect repeatedly many items regularly. They do this routine in every single day in a year without depending on the season. Irony in the lines *// Late summer, the wind trending toward cool. / Early fall, the*

children heading back to school.// reflects this area does not follow the earth seasons. People are able to control the temperature of the area to increase the production of the plants. They are able to harvest the plant continuously in order to fulfill their needs. It means that people exploit the plant because they have a power to control the plant.

Clearly, the poetic elements that give big contribution in this analysis are irony, tone, repetition. It exposes the wickedness of people toward the natural environment. These actions are done by build a park to reserve certain species with certain protection. Furthermore, they change the genetic of plants by adding chemical. Then, they manipulate the production phase and change the appearance of the plant. They do this action for economic purpose. The selected animals and plants are the extensive and valuable species.

2.2. Controlling the Project

This topic focuses on the strategy of people in controlling the project. They localized the animal and plants into private property. They control the population by manipulating food chains. They increase some of animal species while other species are decrease.

People convert animal and plants into private property by construct power hierarchy. It makes human get a power to control the other creature from one command. It can be seen in the following quotation:

*You with the candle
burning and only one chair at your table must understand
such wordless desire.*

*To say it is mindless is
missing the point.*

(COL: Line 21-25)

The tone here is anger. It reflects the voice that comes from powerless position about the human control. The line // *You with the / candle burning and only one chair at your table*// indicate that a command from behind a chair could do many things especially in treating the nature. Irony also play important roles in these lines, it can be reflect that nature is being controlled by people badly. They do not need a discussion in making a decision. The Speaker is an observer which gives voice to people about the politic that create suffering toward the other part of nature. Through this strategy the project will stand for a long time and difficult to destroy. Therefore, they treat the nature without the risk of rejection from society and cultural critics.

Furthermore, they manipulate food chains to control the population. Since the natural environment becomes their private property, they are able to control population to stabilize their economic system. It can be seen in the following quotation:

*Muskrats came to the dams, and tadpoles.
Came, too, the night song of the fathers
of tadpoles. With water striders, the dark
gray American dipper bobbed in fresh pools
of the river, and fish stayed, and the bear, who
fished, also culled deer fawns and to their kill scraps*

*came vulture and coyote, long gone in the region
until now, and their scat scattered seed, and more
trees, brush, and berries grew up along the river
that had run straight and so flooded but thus dammed,
compelled to meander, is less prone to overrun.*

(TC: Line 15-26)

The quotation above reflects the process of the ecosystem. Through irony it can be reflected that this ecosystem is not follow the natural process. This environment is created by people that are far away from the harmony. They control the population by manipulate the food chain that called trophic cascade. Trophic cascade means powerful indirect interactions that can control entire ecosystems only by increasing the top predator. This political system is the strong system that controls the project to stand for a long time. The tone here is sarcastic which exposed the hidden agenda of the people in controlling the nature. It indicates that is not every species live in harmony. The deer bears, and some other animals are forced to live in order to escape from the predator. In conclusion, people construct the system to control the project that breaks the harmony of the nature.

Briefly, the poetic elements that give big contribution in this analysis are irony, tone and speaker. It exposes the people politic to control the project for a long time. They change the wild of nature into their property that makes them free to manipulate the population. They increase some species by decrease another species. They create this system to keeps their economic stability. On the other hand, they create the suffering and extinction to some species of animal.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

These five poems *Characteristic of life*, *Trophic Cascade*, *The Peditrician Consider His Lobby*, *How Great The Gardens When They Thrive*, and *Natural History* (2017) by Camile T. Dungy reflects the issues of wickedness behind environmentalism. It is exposed through the poetical element such as irony, repetition, tone, and speaker. Furthermore, the analysis is based on the concept of Ecocriticism by Garrard, Sahu, Glotfelty and Estok. Wickedness behind environmentalism in this analysis refers to political strategy used by people toward nature without considering future potential resources. It can be seen through selecting resources and controlling the project.

In term of selecting resources, exposes the issue wickedness of people toward the natural environment. It revealed by the poetic elements that give big contribution in this analysis are irony, tone, repetition. These actions are done by build a park to reserve certain species with certain protection. Furthermore, they change the genetic of plants by adding chemical. Then, they manipulate the production phase and change the appearance of the plant. They do this action for economic purpose. The selected animals and plants are the extensive and valuable species.

In term of controlling the project, exposes the people politic to control the project for a long time. It revealed by the poetic elements that give big contribution in this analysis are irony, tone and speaker. They change the wild of nature into their property that makes them free to manipulate the population. They

increase some species by decrease another species. They create this system to keeps their economic stability. On the other hand, they create the suffering and extinction to some species of animal.

Therefore, the wickedness behind environmentalism is the political strategy used by people toward the nature. People create the systematic system for their own advantages politically. In fact, people are the smartest creature which has intelligence and knowledge in exploring the nature. However, some people use their intelligence to get the profit from the nature. Hence, this is the powers of literary work which able to expose the reality which is difficult to identify and discussed in reality.

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