



THE HAZARD TOWARD NATURE IN WILLIAM STANLEY MERWIN'S POEM COLLECTION (2010); THE CHAIN IN HER LEG, IDENTITY, SHORE BIRD, UNKNOWN BIRD, THE OTHER TREE

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Abstract

This study is aimed to expose the issue about the hazard toward nature which is done by human through poetic elements and figurative language; speaker, imagery and symbol in revealing the hazard toward nature. This analysis related to concept of eco-criticism by Kent Rayden, Barry and Ikkiara. The result of this analysis shows that the hazard toward nature is done in two ways; animal abuse and deforestation.

Key words: Hazard; Nature; Human

A. INTRODUCTION

William Stanley Merwin poem collection (2010): *Identity, Shore Bird, Unknown Bird, The Chain in Her Leg, and The Other Tree* reflect the issue the hazard toward nature. Hazard toward nature in this analysis occur because human taking and process the nature continuously for fulfilling their needs without thinking about the bad effect to the ecosystem balance. This destruction caused by human activities which are exploiting and processing nature, but also damage the natural ecosystem where living organism and non-living component live. The hazard toward nature done by human in two ways: Animal Abuse and Deforestation.

Human and the hazard toward nature were done by destructing and converting the function of nature. Human exploiting the nature to get advantages for themselves. The advantages for economic and social purposes. Human did exploiting toward nature through hunting by killing animal and utilizes their body through cutting, reiving and skinning. In addition, human exploiting the nature by clearing away the trees through forest cutting, pruning and burning without

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considering the decrease of their population. It will damage the ecosystem balances. They are biotic and abiotic. First, biotic such as flora and fauna will be growing rare and even become extinct. Second, abiotic such as water, ground and wind. It can kill all kinds of organism or living things in the river and even the water cannot be consumed. In addition, abiotic damage also happen when forest become minning field, plantation, housing and industrial. It makes wild animal killed and lost their habitat. The human action's which reflects the hazard toward nature done in two ways; animal abuse and deforestation.

In terms of animal abuse, human process animal without consider the balances of ecosystem. Human take the part of animal body to be something can be sold. It can be as the decoration object, human take the elephant tusks to be selling for hand works such as cigar holder, prayer beads and also for house ornaments such as wall display. In addition, not only elephant tusk which processed by human but also bird feather. Human turn it become decoration such as bag accessories, clothes accessories or table accessories. Animal abuse is done by human because the increase of economic factor, so that the parts of animal's body which exploited become a product that determined of human social status. In addition, not only for accessories human also exploit the animal's body for daily needs. Human take camel hair and make it as a brush. Make sheepskin to be parchment or paper, but they do it overly.

Deforestation, human process nature becomes a place for office building, airport, circus stadium and even area for testing chemical weapon. However, when human did deforestation for advancing human life, but it have negative effect to the fauna and flora. They will lose their habitat. In addition, for animal which lost their habitat they will become a threat. It happen because the animal don't have place for rebirth and looking for food. Human never consider how the scale to construct that kinds of building. Deforestation is done by forest cutting, pruning and burning. The scale doing the land clearing until now, it's already more than 4 ha. This action automatically decreases the area for live, breeding and looking for food.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The analysis of the poem collection entitled *Identity, Shore Bird, Unknown Bird, The Chain in Her Leg, and The Other Tree* focuses on text and context-based interpretation. It means this poem collection are analyzed by exploring the poetical element with the works itself; speaker, imagery and symbol. Speaker deals with voice of poem. Imagery deals with situation and condition in the poem. Symbol deals with the word which has deeper meaning that representative the author meaning. Furthermore, the analysis is based on the concept of ecocriticism by Barry and Ikiara.

C. DISCUSSION

This chapter analyzes the five poems: *The Chain in Her Leg* (TCIHL), *Identity* (ID), *Shore Bird* (SB), *Unknown Bird* (UB) and *The Other Tree* (TOT) reflect the issue of the hazard toward nature. The analysis uses poetic element and figurative language; speaker, imagery and symbol. In this analysis, the hazard toward nature refers to the form of act toward nature destruction done by human. The hazard toward nature are animal abuse and deforestation.

2.1. Animal Abuse

One of the hazard toward nature done by human is animal abuse. In Wikipedia (2001), it is stated that animal abuse is the infliction by omission (animal neglect) or by commission by humans of suffering or harm upon any non-human. More narrowly, it can be the causing of harm or suffering for specific achievement, such as killing animals for food, for their fur or even their tusks; opinions differ about the extent of cruelty associated with a given method of slaughter. Cruelty to animals sometimes encompasses inflicting harm or suffering as an end in itself, defined as zoosadism. With approximately 65 billion animals killed annually for food, farm animals are the most numerous animals subjected to cruelty. Divergent approaches to laws concerning animal cruelty occur in different jurisdictions throughout the world. For example, some laws govern methods of killing animals for food, clothing, or other products, and other laws concern the keeping of animals for entertainment, education, research, or pets. There are a number of conceptual approaches to the issue of cruelty to animals or animal abuse.

For example, the animal welfare position holds that there is nothing inherently wrong with using animals for human purposes, such as food, clothing, entertainment, fun and research, but that it should be done in a way that minimizes unnecessary pain and suffering, sometimes referred to as "human" treatment. The definition and the example about animal abuse, it can be said one form of the hazard toward nature because human exploits the animal in categorized; mutilation of animal body, give suffering such as depressed and fear.

The animal abuse can be found in two poems; *The Chain In Her Leg* and *Identity*, in the TCTHL as follow:

Topsy remembers

when we forget her mother

gunned down in the forest

and forget who killed her

*and to whom they sold
the tusks the feet the good parts
and how they died and where
and what became of their children
and what happened to the forest (TCTHL : Line 2-10)*

Based on the stanza above, through the imagery it can be revealed human does the animal abuse. Human hunts and kills the animal such as an elephant to take their tusk, because of the elephant's tusks have a high value for financial and social purpose. This idea can be proved in line // *and to whom they sold the tusks the feet the good parts*// . In this line, the price of elephant's tusk has a price represented by word //*sold*// which means human can take advantages for the tusk such as in financial. This action can be said the animal abuse because human exploiting the animal but also causing harm or suffering to the animal for specific achievement. Another quotation in stanza that show animal abuse in the line //*when we forget her mother gunned down in the forest and forget who killed*// . In this line shows that human takes the elephant's tusk by killing the elephant and neglect the corpse. This action definitely categorized as animal abuse because human does violence toward the animal and causes the death of animal and it also gives an impact to the balancing of the ecosystem.

. Another quotation reveals the animal abuse can be seen in the stanza below:

*Topsy remembers
when we forget how
the wires were fastened on her
for the experiment
the first time
and how she smoldered and
shuddered there
with them all watching
but did not die*

(TCTHL: Line 11-19)

Based on the stanza above, through imagery it show human uses animal as a source for experiment. However, even there is a rule to hold doing a kind of experiment, this action can be said animal abuse because human using the elephant as an object of experiment that give depressed and anguish to animal. These issue can be found in following line //Topsy remembers when we forget how the wires were fastened on her for the experiment the first time//. It can be understood that when human do the experiment for science purpose, they give pain and suffers to the animal, even they kill the animal. The depressed and anguished that are felt by animal proved by word //shuddered// in line //how she smoldered and shuddered there//. It means that human does the experiment. Implicitly, the purposes of the experiment use the animal body, part of the body or they just kill them for getting knowledge in science purposes. This action emphasizes that for personal or group advantages, they take the other life such as animal.

In the same poem, it also can be revealed about animal abuse did by human. It can prove in the stanza below:

*We will not see home again
when we forget the circus
the tickets to see her die*

(TCHL; line 27-29)

Based on the stanza above, through the speaker it can be revealed animal abused also can be found in the circus. Although the human does not act as physical violence to the animal body, but when human catches the animal from the wild, restricted their freedom for life and then create them for something to entertain for human. Human catches the animal from the wild can be proved in line //We will not see home again// which means animal never bring back to their home or where the animal belong to. In this action, the human takes their freedom and dispossess the animal instincts such a desire for hunting to get a food, for breeding, to protect their territory. The speaker // we // in the line is the animal that is caught by human, for example the elephant in the poem. They cached the animal for entertainment human can be proved by word //circus// which means the human take the animals life, forced them to act as human wants and their enjoyment. In this case, the human action depicts losing the humanity just to entertain their life. The animal abuse in this stanza also revealed in //the tickets to see her die//. This line means to fulfill human desire such as entertain pleasure giving suffer to the animal and even leading to the death of animal because human treats in the circus. This idea reveals that human act to train and show it in front of society is the form of animal abuse.

Animal abuse also can be found in second poem entitled *Identity*. It can reveal in the stanza below:

*held fast in the fur or the feathers
hanging or lying on a table
(ID : line 12-13)*

Based on the stanza above, through symbol it shows human abused animal by human through harnessing part animal's body such as bird's fur or feather to be a handicraft or artwork for home interior which is represented by word // *hanging* // in the line // *hanging or lying on a table*// . This action can be said animal abuse because human take the fur or feathers of rare animal or animal being protected such as bird paradise, cassowary, parrot and peacock because their fur or feather have highest price. The act that human do, it is just for getting economic purposes and social status. In addition, this action also calls animal abuse because destruction of protected animal.

2.2. Deforestation

Beside the animal abuse, another form of hazard toward nature is Deforestation. In Wikipedia (2001), it is stated that deforestation is happened when the forests are destroyed by cutting trees (illegal logging) and not replanting them. Sometimes deforestation happens when people change lands into farms, ranches and cities. The most common cause for deforestation is obtaining wood and fuel. This destroys the life of the ecosystem, leading them to their death. Deforestation also releases sequestered carbon. As the population grows, people need to remove more trees, example they use the land to make farms. They also use the wood from the trees as lumber to make buildings and other things, or they burn the trees as firewood. Sometimes, forests are lost because people want to make cities bigger; this means building roads and buildings on the land where the forests are. Sometimes deforestation may be caused due to increase of population. Deforestation can be said as hazard toward nature in categorized; building an infrastructure by giving an impact to the psyche damage such as decreasing flora and fauna population, considering between human economic and social purpose with environmental purpose with environmental safety and quality.

Deforestation can be found in three poems entitled *Shore Bird*, *Unknown Bird* and *The Other Tree*. Deforestation can be revealed in the following quotation:

*They flew among the place with towers
And passed the tower lights where some vanished
With their long legs for wading in shadows
(SB ; line 15-17)*

Based on the stanza above, through the symbol it can be revealed that human changes the home of animal. It symbolized by word *//Place//* which means the original home of the birds are forest, bushes or even another resources such as river and flora that support their life turn into a place but unfamiliar for the animal, that symbolized by word *//tower//*. It has the meaning that the area already developed. Afterward, if human builds infrastructure, it means that the area is already advanced to human life rather than animal. On the other hand, human do not calculated and considered to be living among them. The disadvantages for animal can be reveals in line *//And passed the tower lights where some vanished With their long legs for wading in shadows//* which means the form of the tower give bad effect to the fauna such as lost their place and taking their freedom. Another stanza that supporting the idea above can be shown in the stanza below:

*While I am think of them growing rare
After the distances they have followed
All the way to the end for the first time
Tracing a memory they did not have
Until they set out to remember it (SB ; line 1-5)*

This stanza reveals deforestation gives an impact to the nature. The impact itself can be proven in line *while I am think they are growing rare*. The impact of deforestation is the animal become rare because the animal lost their habitat for food and it gives a big impact to the increasing their population. Through this statement, it means human do an activity such as build infrastructure, but it gives an impact to the physical damage such as decreasing of fauna population. This case is also one form of effects that human exploits the nature but disobeys the law to the harness natural resources. The deforestation caused the animal to be a victim of human activity. It can be proved in line *//Tracing a memory they did not have Until they set out to remember it//*. This line means the speaker shows the animal point of view related to the any action that humans act. Through the line, it reveals that human must take care of nature and conserving it, but in the reality, human is the most cruelty destructor in ecosystem. This statement is represented by word *//memory//* that means animal remembered that human damage the balances of ecosystem and life of animal in nature.

Another poem that reveals the effect of deforestation entitled *Unknown Bird*. It can be shown in the line below:

*Trying once more the same few
notes that began the song
of an oriole last heard
years ago in another
existence there (Unknown Bird; 31-35)*

Based on the stanza above, through the symbol it can be revealed that the effect of deforestation is decreasing of animal population. It can be proven in line // *of an oriole last heard years ago in another existence there*// . Through the symbol //oriole// it refers to a kind of bird species which live in certain area that still there are forest as a place to supply food and a place for nesting. On the other hand, when human did deforestation, it will give an effect to the animal such as lost the main factor to live such as for food and breeding.

Losing place for food and breeding causes the animal becomes rare or even extinct that is proved by word //*existence there*// which means there are a population of oriole in one area but when human comes to their habitat by disturbing the ecosystem, it makes the animal population decreases. Another stanza that supports the idea above is in quotation below:

*It is not native here
that may be the one
thing we are sure of
it came from somewhere
else perhaps alone (Unknown Bird; 21-2)*

Based on the stanza above, through the imagery it reveals the animals who lost their habitat try to find other places to start and continue the live, but all forest have been cut down to make human settlement. It can be proved in line // *it is not native here*// and // *it came from somewhere*// which means the animals try to find a new home but there is no other places to live and breed. The animal who seeks a new home also in rare circumstance because a tiny population is proven by the word // *alone*// which means they are few or extinct.

The other issue that causes by the deforestation is environment destruction. The issue can be found in the last poem entitled *The Other Tree*. It can be seen in the stanza below:

*Like folded seeds falling from no bough we can see
but out of the veined air and the light's falling
sometime I have felt there was, not shadow
But a dry branch above my shoulder growing*

(TOT: line 5-8)

Based on the stanza above, the symbol reveals the hazard toward nature caused is by human. It can be seen through the line // *sometime I have felt there was, not shadow But a dry branch above my shoulder growing* //. This line means the trees is damage because the material for growing was lost such as the decrease of water and any other substances. This idea can be proven by word //*branch*// which represented all forest sustained damage caused by human activity. This idea can be supported through the stanza below:

*All day growing, and not shadow, and with no wind diverted
I have no thought of the bird resting there. I think of them cycling.
All day in the rocking light, till they shaken down like to curl blind like kernels,
and cluster, like the fruit of sleeping
(TOT : Line 9-15)*

Based on the above stanza, through imagery, it can reveal the forest destruction through illegal logging or forest cutting continuously. It can be proved in line // *All day growing, and not shadow, and with no wind diverted, I have no thought of the bird resting there. I think of them cycling.*// This line means without the existence of the forest, the bird will have no place for nesting, breeding, and also feeding. It can be proved by a phrase // *fruit of sleeping* // which means plant will stop producing food.

The last quotation supported deforestation and its effect can reveal in this stanza below:

*The fruit where it hangs, not the branch but I, must
shudder
And not hear a whole season of spent birds and dry husks
falling.*

Based on the last stanza above, through the imagery the stanza means the destruction of nature caused by human that damage all life cycle. This idea can be seen through line // *And not hear a whole season of spent birds and dry husks falling*// . This line means human exploit the nature for their needs. It represented by word // *birds*// as representative of life's form and // *husks*// as representative of sources to support of living things.

D. CONCLUSION

This poem collection by William Stanley Merwin (2010) entitled *The Chain in Her Leg* (TCIHL), *Identity* (ID), *Shore Bird* (SB), *Unknown Bird* (UB) and *The Other Tree* (TOT) reflect the issue of the hazard toward nature. It is exposed through text based interpretation by focusing poetic element and figurative language; speaker, imagery and symbol. Moreover, these poems are analyzed by using the concept of Eco-criticism by Kent Raydenin, Ikiara and Barry. The hazard toward nature in this analysis refers to the form of act toward nature destruction done by human. The hazard toward nature are animal abuse and deforestation.

In this analysis, animal abuse is the infliction by omission animal neglect or by commission by humans of suffering or harm upon any non-human. More narrowly, it can be the causing of harm or suffering for specific achievement, such as killing animals for food, for their fur or even their tusks; opinions differ about the extent of cruelty associated with a given method of slaughter. Specifically, the

act of animal abuse by human can be found by exploiting the animal. The exploiting happened to all kinds of living things in nature. The animal abuse such as exploiting, it is not only done to living or dead animal but also to dying animal. Its means human totality to do everything to reach their purpose.

Other point that emphasizes the act of animal abuse is killing. The human killing that animal in nature has purposes. The first purposes of killing as experiment object. In a way to increase their intelligence, the take the animal body for their science. It means that, the human did a killing the animal for their personal advantage. It can be seen by human that take the parts of animal body, and bring it for study. Other purpose of killing is to sell the part of animal body for economic advantage. For example, the human kill the elephant and take their tusk. They take the tusk and selling it, so that they will get closer to catch the wealthy. In addition, by selling the part of animal body such as elephant tusk, they will get the high level in social.

In term of deforestation, it is happened when the forests are destroyed by cutting trees (illegal logging) and not replanting them. It's done by human to help advancing human life. The purpose of deforestation is to allocate an area for human to build infrastructure, such as tower or other buildings. The act of deforestation gives some effects to animal and plants. The animal lost their place for food and breeding which lead them to rare and even extinct. In addition, the plants also get the effect such as stop producing oxygen and food producer for other creatures, even for human.

Therefore, the hazard toward nature is an action done by human for taking any advantage from the nature. The human did the hazard toward nature by animal abuse and deforestation. They did this action only for getting any advantages such as social, economic, science purpose. However, human did the hazard toward nature for fulfilling their needs without realizing the impact to nature.

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