

**HUMAN GREEDINESS IN FIVE CONTEMPORARY POEMS *STARING THROUGH THE WINDOW, WARNED, OUR MOTHER EARTH, NATURE LAWS, AND MOTHER EARTH***

**Undergraduate Thesis**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain the Strata One (S1) Degree  
in English Department*



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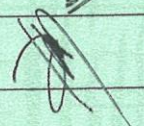
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## ABSTRACT

This research is an analysis of human greediness from excessive exploitation in five contemporary poems *Warned* (2015), *Staring through the window* (2021), *Mother Earth* (2019), *Our Mother Earth* (2008), *Nature's Law* (2015). The purpose of this analysis is to expose the issue of human greediness toward nature overexploitation that leads to nature destruction in those five contemporary poems. The issue is the extent to which these poems depict the overexploitation of human greediness that affects nature. This analysis looks at the human greediness that showed from the speaker's point of view. This analysis mainly uses the concept of ecocriticism which was proposed by Cheryll Glotfelty (1996) and also supported by three other experts in ecocriticism. There are two results from this study. The first one is the pollution created by humans while they are doing nature overexploitation that will lead to nature destruction. The second one is action that can minimize nature exploitation. Therefore, the analysis shows that human greediness in nature overexploitation is the main course of nature destruction. Humans have to take responsibility to solve the problem so the world can be built for the next generation.

*Keywords: nature, greediness, exploitation*

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini merupakan analisis terhadap lima puisi kontemporer *Warned* (2015), *Staring Through the Window* (2021), *Mother Earth* (2019), *Our Mother Earth* (2008), *Nature's Law* (2015) dari situs web *family friends poems*. Analisis ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap isu keserakahan manusia terhadap eksploitasi alam yang berlebihan yang berujung pada perusakan alam dalam kelima puisi kontemporer tersebut. Persoalannya adalah sejauh mana puisi-puisi tersebut menggambarkan eksploitasi berlebihan terhadap keserakahan manusia yang mempengaruhi alam. Analisis ini melihat keserakahan manusia yang ditunjukkan dari sudut pandang puisi. Analisis ini terutama menggunakan konsep *ecocriticism* yang dikemukakan oleh Cheryll Glotfelty (1996) dan juga didukung oleh tiga ahli *ecocriticism* lainnya. Ada dua hasil dari penelitian ini. yang pertama adalah pencemaran yang dilakukan oleh manusia saat melakukan eksploitasi alam secara berlebihan yang berujung pada kerusakan alam. Poin kedua adalah. Jadi, analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa keserakahan manusia dalam eksploitasi alam yang berlebihan adalah hal utama yang membuat terjadinya kerusakan alam. Manusia harus bertanggung jawab atas terjadinya masalah tersebut untuk dapat membangun masa depan untuk generasi berikutnya.

Kata kunci: *alam, keserakahan, eksploitasi*

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The Researcher

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Research

Nature is one of the important structures in the world. Nature mostly refers to things such as plants, but nature is broader in meaning and specifically refers to many things in the world. The study of nature is extensive, if not the only part of science. Although humans are part of nature, human activity is often considered a separate category from other natural phenomena. Nature is very beneficial to all living things in the world, including humans, animals, insects, and even themselves.

Ducarme and Couvet (2020) stated that within the various uses of the word today, nature regularly means geology and wildlife. Ducarme et al (2020) also explains that nature is “the natural, physical, material world or universe. Nature can refer to the phenomena of the physical world, and also to life in general.” Nature can refer to the general realm of living plants and organisms, and can sometimes refer to cycles associated with non-living things that exist and change spontaneously, such as the climate and geology of the Earth. This is generally interpreted as "normal habitat" or wildlife, rocks, woodlands, and generally not generously remedied by human intervention or persisting irrespective of human intervention. For example, in general, manufactured objects and human cooperation are not considered components of nature unless they fall under human instinct or nature's perfections. A more traditional view of ordinary things that can be found anyway today suggests a distinction between normal and fake, and the fake is perceived as being created by the human mind or the human mind. Normal can also be unnatural or supernatural depending on your specific settings. Humans take it and change it around to something useful to improvise the conditions where they can utilize it as they want. The use of nature is flexible which means it can be made into anything that humans

want because it is limitless and only limited to human creativity. Nature has been used for a long time to provide for the existence of humans. People use nature in many ways such as for eating, living, clothing, and so on. It seems to be very useful for everyone that lives in the world.

There are five poems that have been chosen by the writer and have their own implementation of each other. These poems have the same topic and problem but are implied differently. The first one is *Warned* (Stults, 2015). As the title says the author wanted to warn people about the natural destruction that happened because of human greediness in exploiting nature. The poem shows the effort of the author in suggesting people start making a change. The second one is *Staring through the window* (Guitierrez, 2021). Staring through the window mainly talks about the author's dream to see the world normal again without any pollution from human activities. The author, through the speaker, is trying to make the reader realize the world's downfall. The third one is *Mother Earth* (Valdez, 2019). Mother earth is a poem that mostly looks at the problem from the human perspective about the desire to save the earth. The fourth one *Our Mother Earth* (Isham, 2008) is a poem that directly talks about the need for human action to save the world. The speaker directly spots the reader to find a way to save the earth. The last one is *Nature's Law* (Pistol, 2015) which talks about the nature of how people should be in nature perception. These poems are used by the writer as the main sources to find the human greediness that leads to nature destruction from a poetry point of view.

The writer of this research focuses on the greed of humans that destroy and break the main purpose of nature itself. The writer studied how humans completely change the way nature becomes vulnerable to them. The writer could expose the reality of the human ability to decrease and destroy nature in several ways. The first one is by exposing the way humans only fulfill their needs without thinking about the consequences that they will have in the future. This implied the probability that could be changed for their generations. It is also indicating



the one who destroyed it is not only nature but themselves. The second one, humans don't realize anything that could happen to them and only think about the present but not the future. This thing also changes the way nature can be saved in the future if humans neglected all the responsibilities that should be made by them. Humans harvest the treasure of nature more than nature can take it. Nature provides all the commodities for humans to take as a part of life, but they took it without any consideration of how nature can always be there for anything.

According to *Merriam Webster Dictionary (2004)*, greed is a selfish and excessive desire for more of something (such as money) than is needed. This meaning represents the human way of desire for nature itself. Greed becomes the main subject of every action that humans do in the conclusion of nature. The writer uses several ways to connect it. The first one is by exposing the greediness of humans that brings destruction to nature. Humans mostly have their way to join the fundamental destruction of nature and that's what is made as the analytical way to help writers expose greediness. The second one is how humans neglected their future for their present. This is shown as humans doing anything that could save their future but in contrast, they are not doing it at all, even if it's for their generations. It shows the greediness that happens in their mind to only fulfill their present and not the future. The last one is the way humans took everything without thinking about the consequences. Humans took nature sources more than they should be without even helping them grow back. This problem also shows the greediness that appears in those poems.

Humans using nature beyond its limit is the one problem that occurs in the world now. Nature is not limitless because they have time to reproduce and to grow or fulfill again. It is the same case for humans that have to reproduce first before gaining populations. The case is there are no supplies for each human if this agenda keeps ongoing. Another point on how nature becomes more vulnerable and rarer in some cases is the way humans only use the source of nature without recycling or making it back. Humans are overusing materials from nature. One

of the examples of overusing natural materials is the overproduction of paper. There are some materials based on paper making. One of the source materials for paper is trees. Wood-based paper is only one time used or cannot be used again. Even though there are some ways to recycle paperback, not everyone will concede to do it by themselves. Most people will throw it away or even burn it into the ashes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (2006) paper waste accounts for up to 40% of total waste produced in the United States each year, which adds up to 71,6 million tons of paper waste per year in the United States alone. This term and consideration show how humans are careless about some little thing that can save the world and only look for what they will get from it.

The possibility of a nonstop agenda in modern situations to awaken human sense to realize the destruction of the world because human greediness is the reason why the writer brought this problem back to the surface. The analysis is not only to complain about human behavior on earth but also a reflection of the writer so people can see the problem more seriously. The writer will see this problem in the eye of the poem's directory and the poem's way of view. Many poets have made this kind of poem a long time ago but don't get any recognition from many people. One of the factors that lead to this kind of behavior is neglected responsibility when they know what happened to the world. The writer wants people to realize that this kind of behavior has to stop or at least decrease. Even Though this problem has been brought about by many people, the writer finds these problems are not finished yet as many people still believe that earth is gonna be fine when in reality it's already dying. Diyora Shadijanova on the website "The Face" stated that the probability of earth life could last only 7 years from now to become vulnerable to humans (Shadijanova, 2021). This statement strengthens the way the earth is now not the same as before and could not last if humans keep this kind of agenda. So the writer was interested in bringing up this problem again to show how people are not realizing the destruction of the earth from their greediness.



There was also a big case of nature exploitation in Australia last year. The case is a big bush fire that happened because of the neglected responsibility by humans itself. The case was so big that it lasted up to months. This case also affects nature, especially animals that live in the wild. Nearly 3 billion animals were killed or displaced by Australia's devastating bushfire season of 2019 and 2020, according to scientists who have revealed for the first time the scale of the impact on the country's native wildlife. The Guardian has learned that an estimated 143 million mammals, 180 million birds, 51 million frogs, and a staggering 2.5 billion reptiles were affected by the fires that burned across the continent. Not all the animals would have been killed by the flames or heat, but scientists say the prospects of survival for those that had withstood the initial impact was "probably not that great" due to the starvation, dehydration, and predation by feral animals – mostly cats – that followed. An interim report based on work by 10 scientists from five institutions, commissioned by the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), suggests the toll from the fires goes much further than an earlier estimate of more than 1 billion animals killed.

The writer also read some of this study before further writing the thesis. The first one is *Symbols of Nature Destruction in the Transformers Movie* by Suprobowati, D (2017). The second one is *Environmental Degradation in Three Poems: Earth Poem (2008), Daffodils No More (2005), and Acidic Snow (1990)* by Rahman, I (2017). The third one is a thesis with the title *The devastation of Earth: an Ecocriticism Study in Cormac McCarthy's The Road* by Leksono, F (2013). The fourth one is *Anna's Vision About Natural Destruction In Jostein Gaarder's The World According To Anna Novel (2015): An Ecocriticism Approach* by Hutama, V (2020). The fifth one is *Understanding how to Analyze Poetry and its Implication to Language Teaching* by Irmawati, N, D (2014). The sixth one is *Plants in contemporary poetry: ecocriticism and the botanical imagination* by Mason, E (2020). The seventh one is *Nature Embraced: An Ecocritical Approach to the Study of Selected Poems by Shelley*, P.B (2020).

Therefore, the writer in this study focuses on the ecocriticism issue that appears in the poems. The writer tries to find out the greediness of humans in using the source of nature by looking from an ecocriticism point of view. The writer of this study will help contribute to science and knowledge. The writer also includes the study of ecocriticism.

### 1.2. Focus of the Research

The research focuses on the greediness of humans in using the environment and nature that are shown in the poems. The research reveals the element of poems that contribute to revealing the implied meaning in the poems.

### 1.3. Research Questions

From the background of the study that was previously stated, the writer uses the following research questions:

1. What are the types of human greediness?
2. What are the results of human greediness?

### 1.4. Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research is to reveal the greediness of humans in nature's overexploitation that leads to the destruction of nature. This research also reveals the probability humans have of preventing nature destruction for a better future.



### 1.5. Conceptual Framework

The concept of ecocriticism by Cheryll Glotfelty is the main concept to explore human greediness that appears in five poems. Furthermore, the writer will find the explanation of each poem through the concept before drawing the conclusion about humans and the pollution that occurs between humans and the future of the world. These two subtopics will lead to the main title of this proposal which is Human Greediness on Nature in Five Modern Poems. It can be seen in the following diagram.

