



**THE BEGINNING OF THE END: AN ECOCRITICISM ANALYSIS
ON CLIVE STAPLES LEWIS' *THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:*
*THE LAST BATTLE***

THESIS

A Thesis Presented to the English Department Faculty of Letters,
Jember University, As One of the Requirements to Get the Award
Of Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Study

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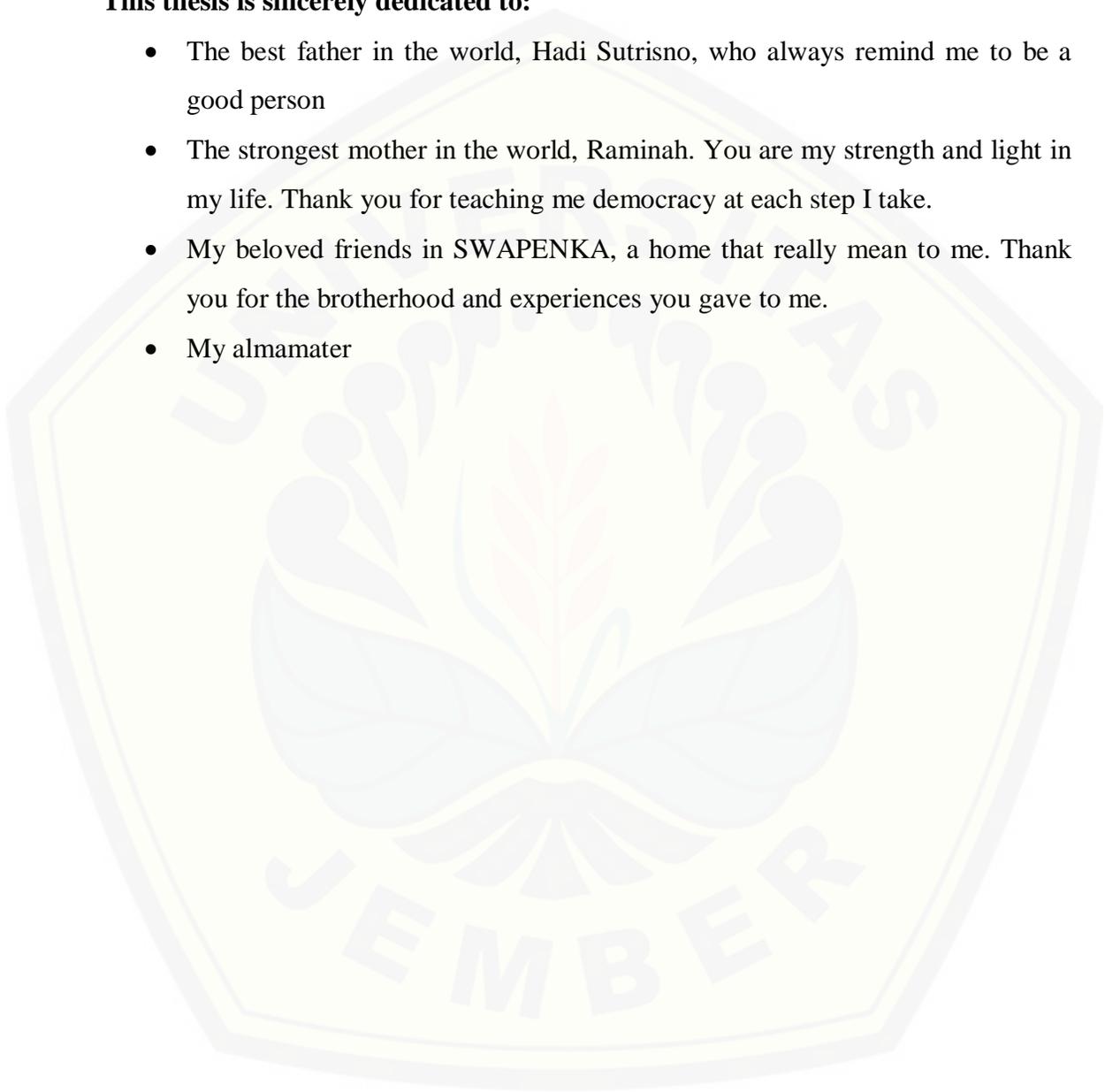
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JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

2015

DEDICATION PAGE

This thesis is sincerely dedicated to:

- The best father in the world, Hadi Sutrisno, who always remind me to be a good person
- The strongest mother in the world, Raminah. You are my strength and light in my life. Thank you for teaching me democracy at each step I take.
- My beloved friends in SWAPENKA, a home that really mean to me. Thank you for the brotherhood and experiences you gave to me.
- My almamater



MOTTO

“I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees for the trees have no tongues.”

~ The Lorax ~



DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “**The Beginning of the End: an Ecocriticism Analysis on Clive Staples Lewis’ *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle***” is an original piece of writing. I declare that analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publication. I certify that to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help receive in this preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, 2015

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SUMMARY

THE BEGINNING OF THE END: AN ECOCRITICISM ANALYSIS ON CLIVE STAPLES LEWIS' *THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LAST BATTLE*; Widodo Sungkono; 080110101027; 2015; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle was written by Clive Staples Lewis in 1956. It is the last novel in *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. In the last battle, Lewis brings *The Chronicles of Narnia* to an end. Narnia has experienced a long period of peace. But, suddenly this condition changes when an ape named Shift manipulates the Narnians using lion skin to present Aslan. Shift orders the Talking Beasts to work as slaves for the Calormenes, and to cut down Talking Trees for lumber. In the end of the story, the real Aslan comes to Narnia and calls Father Time to make a natural disaster in Narnia's world. So, there are some environmental issues which are represented clearly in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle*.

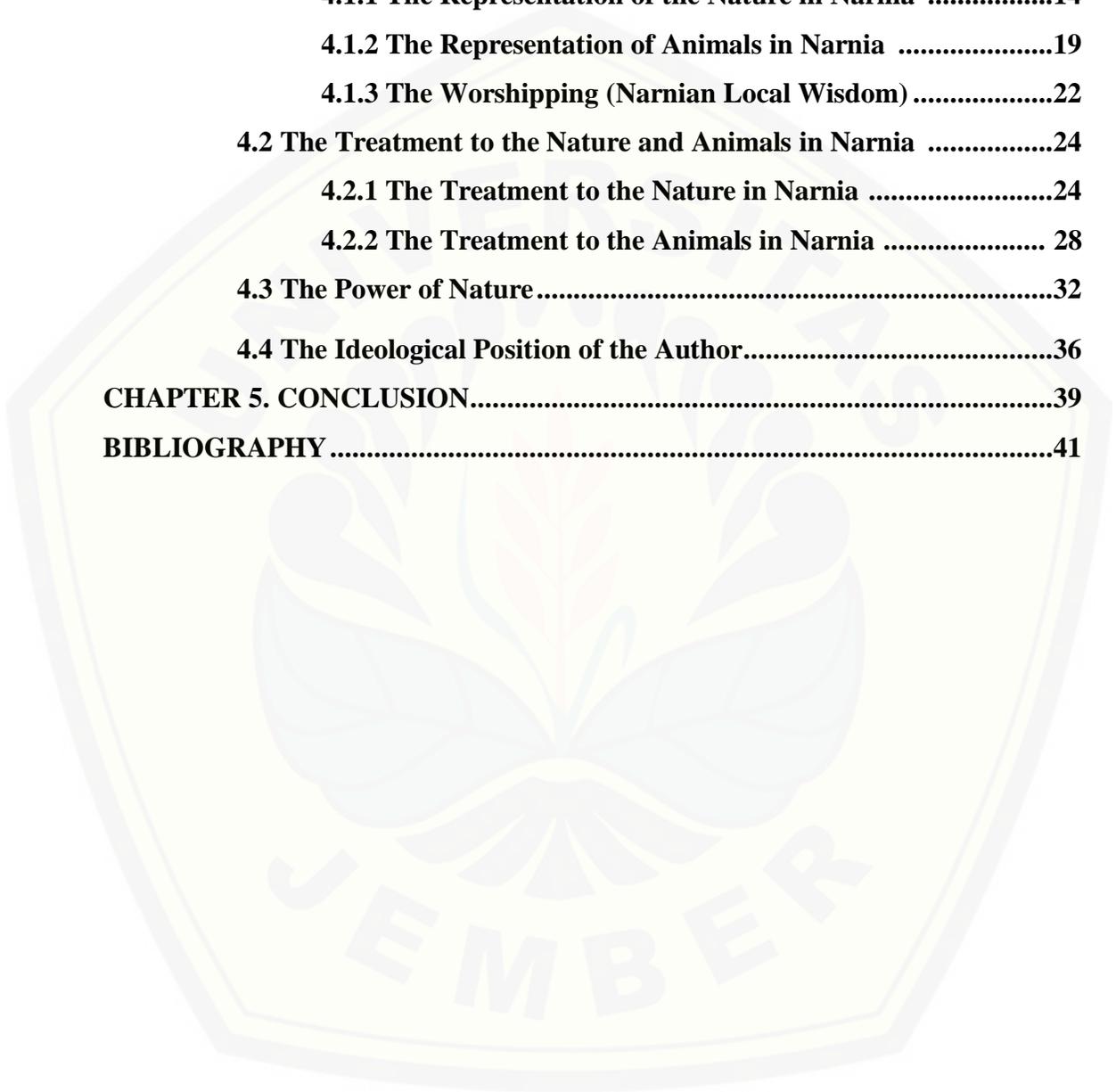
I use Ecocriticism theory by Greg Garrard to analyze the problems that occur from the story of the novel. There are three problems to discuss in this research. The first is about representation and treatment to the nature and the animals. The second is about natural disaster which makes Narnia's world destroyed. The last is about the ideological position of the author.

The result of this research shows environmental issues which appear in the novel such as, huge deforestation in Narnia's forest, exploitation toward animals, and the apocalypse. Clive Staples Lewis as the author has ideologies that give influences to his literary work. Lewis criticizes the environmental issues through the story in his novel with the representation of exploitation and natural disaster.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter, a representation of the entire thesis is provided in order to give a comprehensible description about the topic being discussed. The subject matter is about the environmental issues that occurred in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* novel. Therefore, it is necessary to provide an introduction containing of the background of the study, research topic, research problems, research questions, and the goals of the study. Each of which will be explained as follows.

1.1 Background of The Study

Fiction as a literary product offers a world which is full of fantasy. Basically, fiction is an imaginative work which has the responsibility and the awareness of creativity in creating a literary work. The truth of fiction is a truth that is in accordance with the artist's thought and what the artist believes about. In other words, it tells about an imaginative story. Using imagination, an author is free to create or say anything that is unreal or impossible in the real world.

Fantasy "is applied to a work which takes place in a nonexistent and unreal world, such as a fairyland, or concerns incredible and unreal characters" (Holman, 1985:181). It takes the reader to the dreamland, a land in the imagination where lots of fantastic creatures dwell. This explanation is suitable to apply in the serial novel *The Chronicles of Narnia* written by an English writer Clive Staples Lewis. As the author of the novel, Lewis wants to share his fantasy and imagination of the childhood, also his experience about sacrifice and true love in Christianity.

Clive Staples Lewis (1898 – 1963), commonly referred as C. S. Lewis, was one of the 20th century's most famous converts to Christianity. An atheist from

boyhood, he converted at age 33 and devoted much of the rest of his life to writing about faith. Lewis was a close friend of J. R. R. Tolkien, the author of *The Lord of the Ring*. Both authors were leading figures in the English Language and Literature Faculty at Oxford University and in the informal Oxford literary group known as “The Inklings”.

The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven fantasy novels for children written by Clive Staples Lewis between 1949 and 1954 but were written neither in the order they were originally published nor in the chronological order in which they are currently presented. This series presents the adventures of children who play central roles in the unfolding history of the fictional realm of Narnia, a place where animals talk, magic is common, and good battles evil. *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* is one of the series. It is the last novel in the series.

In this novel, environmental issues become a major content. I am interested in analyzing Clive Staples Lewis’ novel because the series have incredible and unique things to read. This novel tells more about deforestation, animals issue, and apocalypse. In *The Last Battle*, Lewis bring the story “The Chronicles of Narnia” to the end. The power of nature, apocalypse, makes beautiful Narnian world destroyed as a result of greediness and high rate of deforestation. That is why I consider Ecocriticism as a suitable theoretical perspective to analyze the novel, particularly to expose some critical environment issues.

1.2 Research Topic

As I know that nature has become a part of the literature. Obviously a lot of writers who uses diction related to forests, seas, oceans, trees, wind, river, and others in their works. The research topic in this thesis is about environmental issues that represented in the *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* by Clive Staples Lewis. In this research, I choose ecological criticism (ecocriticism) as the theoretical perspective.

1.3 Research Problems

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle is one of the Narnia series that is famous like the stories of *The Lord of the Ring*, *Avatar*, *The Road*, etc. They have a similarity where the environment problem occurs in their story. The content of their stories tells about the earth, pollution, wilderness, animals, or even apocalypse. I am interested in how the authors of those famous stories wrote about nature. This study will be related to any environment's problem in the novel.

1.4 Research Questions

I need research questions because this thesis used qualitative research as a type of research. There are three main questions will be showed in this thesis. In relation to the statement of research problem above, the research questions are:

1. How are the representations and the treatments to the nature and the animals in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle*?
2. How does the power of nature cause the devastation in Narnian world?
3. What is the ideological position of the author?

1.5 The Goals of The Study

The thesis is written with three main purposes. The first aim of this study is to find out the representations and the treatments to the nature and the animals in the novel *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle*. The second is to explore the cause and how devastation is represents in Narnian world. The last aim is to know the ideological position of Clive Staples Lewis as the author. This study is hoped to give a contribution to literature to make a lot of good stories with the plot of nature as reflected in the *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* novel.

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The second chapter provides the literature review which consist of the previous researches and the explanation about the theory that used for the thesis. Blaxter et al (2010:121) state that the main function of literature review are to discuss relevant research carried out on the same topic or similar topic, and to provide a conceptual and theoretical context in which suitable with the topic. Tyson (2006:2) also states that a theory has an important role as tool and requirement before it is tested and provided a research. It is clear that the previous researches and the theory are essential in the process of making a thesis.

2.1 The Previous Researches

The previous research gives contribution to fill the information needed that has a connection with this research. This thesis gets some contribution from three previous researches in form of thesis.

The first thesis is written by Weivya Meiriza (2012) in English Department Bina Nusantara University entitled *Environmental Issues and the Relationship Between Human Being and Nature in The Emerald Forest Movie By John Boorman*. The topic of the thesis is environmental issues and the relationship between human being and nature in *The Emerald Forest* by John Boorman. In this thesis, the writer analyzes the elements of fiction that consist of characters, settings, symbols and theme in the story linked to the ecocriticism theory. The analysis of this thesis is only limited to the main character, Tomme. There are three settings that become important part of this thesis, physical setting, chronological setting, and social setting. There are several symbols which are described in the movie such as the emerald stones, red

ants, frog and anaconda. The theme of this movie emphasizes that human should preserve the nature and the forest to avoid the decrease of animal and plant population. Meiriza using two theories in her thesis, element of fiction and ecocriticism.

The second thesis is written by Fahmi Leksono Faculty of Languages and Arts in State University of Surabaya entitled *Devastation of Earth: an Ecocriticism Study in Cormac McCarthy's The Road*. (2013). In this thesis, the writer concern on human's treat to the environment which caused devastation of earth. It is reflected in McCarthy's the road where the environment is devastated. The landscape save the ash on the wind, and when the snow falls, it is gray. The sky is also dark. In case to observe these problems, the writer used ecocriticism theory. Ecocriticism sees the devastation of earth as the result of humans' behaviour such as exploitation and colonialism of the environment. Thus, it is seen clearly that devastation of earth happened in the whole layers of environment; atmosphere, land and sea. The atmosphere is occupied by ash, dust and carbon, the land has eroded and barren and the sea have changed into gray. This devastation also gives a misery to the father and the son as the main characters. They have to undergo hard life; hard to breathe, hard to find food and mentally they are haunted by the devastated earth's threatens.

The last previous research is written by Heidi Nykanen, Department of Languages in Jyvaskyla University, entitled *Aslan in The Chronicles of Narnia as a Representative of the Judeo-Christian God*. (2003). The Chronicles of Narnia has a particular appeal to Christians, because of the biblical worldview and message behind the books, but it as well has been read widely in secular circles. He shows that Aslan is like Christ/God as understood in The Bible and Christian tradition, even though Lewis sometimes resembles other literary characters as well. His interest is in C.S. Lewis's personal view of God in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. He shows that Aslan resembles the Holy Trinity of Christianity and The Bible, God the Father and Christ mostly emphasised, and being the representative of the Holy Spirit only occasionally. There exists a clear harmony between *The Chronicles of Narnia* and Lewis's other

production. He has also pointed out that there are important resemblances to other literary sources, such as mythologies, which were familiar to C.S. Lewis.

Two major sources are used here, Erickson's Christian theology and Grudem's systematic theology an introduction to Biblical doctrine. Then, finally, it is seen how that is reflected in the fictive person of Aslan. Following, through a description of Aslan's various characteristics he wants to show that he is like Christ according to the Bible and the Christian tradition. Aslan is being the central character in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, as God/Christ is in The Bible and in Christianity it was only natural to choose him as the centre of his study.

2.2 Ecocriticism Theory

2.2.1 The Definition of Ecocriticism

Ecocriticism term is formed from the word ecology and criticism. Ecology can be defined as the scientific study of plants, animals, and humans' relationship against each other and to the environment. As cited in *Dictionary of Environment and Ecology*, the definition of ecology is:

“Ecology: The study of the relationships among organism as well as the relationship between them and their physical environment.” (2004:69)

Criticism can be interpreted as a form of expression and an assessment of the qualities of a good or bad thing. But, criticism can not makes judgement that it is bad, it is good, wrong, or right. The basic of critic is asking in order to reveal the fact. The fact on real world as well as on literary work itself.

Nature has become part of the literature. It proved by a lot of writers who uses the diction of forest, sea, trees, and others in their work. But with the development, literature has undergone many changes, so does nature. Both these elements are inseparable as always go hand in hand. Literature of the past is the past

and the natural face of literature now is the face of contemporary natural. Literary needs nature as inspiration, being a natural need of literature as a conservation tool.

Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm (1996), explores the idea of ecocriticism, through their work entitled *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Through this work, they intend to apply the concept of ecology in literature, where the approach is done by making the earth (nature) as a center of study. Ecocriticism itself can be simply defined as a study of the relationship between literature and the environment, taking an earth-centered approach to literary studies (Glotfelty, 1996; xix)

2.2.2 The Ecocriticism Theory by Greg Garrard

Professor Greg Garrard is a Director of the Writing and Environment Research Centre at Bath Spa University College. He concern on ecocriticism, developed a multitude of courses on poetry, environmental writing, and critical animals studies. Garrard explores related concepts about ecocriticism, as follows: pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, dwelling, animals, and earth. Basically the foundation is that literature has a relationship with the environment. Thus, ecocriticism becomes a bridge for both.

“Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship of the human and the non-human, human throughout cultural history and entailing a critical analysis of the term 'human' itself.” (Greg Garrard, 2004: 5).

This relationship can be explained by seeing the relation between nature and culture, their relationship on both sides, mutualism symbiosis. Here, culture is literature. Through literature, nature is used as the complement of the story in such away that the nature became a contemplation for writers to create a literary work. Whereas the nature can use literary work as its conservation tool.

From six aspects which Garrard explains about ecocriticism, I just use three aspects that compatible in my object, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* novel . There are wilderness, animals, and apocalypse.

a. Wilderness

Wilderness or wildland is a landscape which provides natural environment phenomena. Natural in this case, the landscape that has not been significantly modified by civilized human activity. The nature in here growing naturally. Further, the idea of wilderness signifies nature in a condition unpolluted by human culture (Garrard, 2004: 59)

Wilderness area can be found in jungle, ocean, water fall, desert and even in urban areas along rivers, gulches or otherwise undeveloped areas. Some nature writers believe wilderness areas are vital for the human spirit and creativity. They may also provide habitat for wild flora and fauna that may be difficult to recreate in zoos, arboretums or laboratories.

“It is a place of freedom in which we can recover our true selves we have lost to the corrupting influence of our artificial lives. Most of all, it is the ultimate landscape of authenticity (Cronon quoted in Garrard, 2004: 69-70).”

The word wilderness derives from the notion of “wildness”—in other words, that which is not controlled by humans. The mere presence or activity of people does not disqualify an area from being “wilderness”. Many ecosystems that are inhabited or influenced by activities of people may still be considered “wild”. This way of looking at wilderness includes areas within which natural processes operate without human interference. Like what Garrard says “in which any modification of the environment is a form of contamination.” (2004: 70).

b. Animals

In his book *Ecocriticism*, Greg Garrard explore many about environmental issues. One of them is about animals. Animals in nature influence to environmental balance. In addition to animals included in food of chains, now a days, animals oftentimes gets bad treatment from human. A lot of animals was killed by hunter which is cause the forest ecosystem unbalanced.

“... that cruelty to animals was analogous to slavery and claimed that the capacity to feel pain, not the power of reason, entitled a being to moral consideration.” (Garrard, 2004: 136)

There are Animals Right that we have to pay attention on it. One important thing on Animals Rights is the propriety of animal itself. How we treat animal properly is needed in interrelationship between human and animal.

c. Apocalypse

Ecocriticism also discusses apocalypse in environment. Apocalypse points to catastrophes that occur when environment harmony being disturbed. This unharmony makes the environment imbalance and culminates to environmental destruction. The destructed environment can be depicted as the end of the world. “Apocalyptic literature takes the form of a revelation of the end of history” (Thompson in Garrard, *Ecocriticism* 2004: 86).

Environmental damage (catastrophe) is not only caused by nature itself, but human too. There are two major forces that can cause catastrophe: the first is nature, and the second is human. The first major force is nature. Nature it self can cause big destructive catastrophes to environment, we can call this phenomena as natural disaster. The varieties of natural disaster such as hurricane, earthquake, storm, mountain eruption, flood, and tsunami. The second is human. The damage that causes by human is bigger than natural disaster. Because the damage can happen all of time and increases. This disaster commonly is caused by human activity such as air pollution, water pollution, mining, and illegal logging or deforestation.

These show that nature has its own natural power beyond human capability. People believe that nature has some kinds of magical power. So that almost each culture around the world has their own tales or mythological belief among nature's power.



CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHOD

The research methodology presents several theories that support the analysis in this thesis. This review is important not only to clarify the meaning of the term but also to give a clear description about the pattern and the other explanation related to those theories in order to make an accurate application in this analysis. Browsing dictionary is worthy to find the meaning of the terms. The explanations of several theories based on several books of literature and encyclopedia, and other sources from Internet.

3.1 The Type of Research

The type of this research is qualitative research and the data are in form of sentences or words. As stated by Djajasudarma (1993: 10) the research of qualitative methodology is a procedure which result the descriptive data that in a form written or oral language of society. In this research, the data used are narrative, non numerical data.

Library research is also conducted in this study. “The library research is a simple and effective strategy for finding information for your research paper and documenting the sources you find” (Cornell: 2014). It means that the data and other information are taken from books.

Books are very helpful as the data resources to expand the theoretical review and problems that will be analyzed. Besides, the internet research is also provided to support this study through browsing some related articles and journals. This research method is employed in this thesis to analyze the data from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* by Clive Staples Lewis.

3.2 Data Collection

Documentary study is applied to this study as a technique of data collection.

Blaxter states that:

“Documentary analysis proceeds by abstracting from each document those elements which we consider to be important or relevant, and by grouping together these findings, or setting them alongside others which we believe to be related. What you see or read in documents will be a product of your viewpoint, disciplines or focus.” (2006:208)

Documentary analysis is used to give classification about important or relevant information which are finding from some references to be a material that support the writer to the research.

The data collection in this thesis is divided into two kinds: primary data and secondary data. The primary data are collected from statements and narration from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* that have relation with the research questions.

The secondary data are used to support the analysis in order to obtain in-depth analysis. They are collected from references such as the previous research of similar object like environmental issues that the other thesis discussed and other resources from Google search engine or other internet sources.

3.3 Data Processing

There are several steps to write this thesis. First, I identify and develop the topic, find the context which has the background information, books as data are needed as like as Ecocriticism by Greg Garrard, the novel of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* by Clive Staples Lewis, the previous researches and the internet research is also provided to support this study through browsing some related articles and journals in order to complete and make the analysis more accurate.

Second, close reading is needed to comprehend the topic to discuss. Then the data are classified and verified based on the theory which is used. Finally, all of the

data and information are gathered and analyzed using Ecocriticism theory which is suitable with the topic of discussion.

After I got the whole data which are taken from the materials in the form of sentences and words, those will be written in the discussion as quotations to strengthen the explanation. It is also used as a proof of the study.

3.4 Data Analysis

Ecocriticism offers researcher a way how to analyze such literary work through three steps. First is seeing the representation of nonhuman aspect from the novel. This first step is looking how is the nature like rice field, village, wilderness, forest, sea, beach, hill, mountain, valley, river, animal (or treatment toward animal) which quoted in the novel. Through this step, I can analyze the landscape of Narnia world so I can answer the first question about the representation of the nature and the treatment toward animals in *The Chronicles of Narnia* novel.

Second is seeing the issues of environment that appear in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle*. This second step exposing how the issues are portrayed. For example, the nature is pictured as an inconvenient place again for humans because of the emergence the new value; technology, capitalism, extinction of local knowledge, and deforestation which is not oriented to the environment. In this step, I just quote the data that include in environmental issues such as deforestation, animals exploitation, and environmental damages. So, I can answer the second question about the devastation of Narnia caused by the power of nature.

Last step is taking part of the author's ideological position. In this case, I will analyze that the ideology from the author influences his literary work. The ideology of Clive Staples Lewis can be seen from the conversation in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* and the Lewis' biography.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

The novel *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle* tells about the destruction of Narnia world. It does not happen without any reason. Absolutely, there are some causes of the destruction. Most of the causes are the natural damage caused by the creatures living in Narnia.

This research focuses on environmental issues since most part of the story in the novel are about the broken environment. One of the environmental issues in this research is deforestation that makes the forest broken. The other is the bad treatment to the animals. Most environmental issues that is analysed in this research is about exploitation.

This research shows that the representation of the creatures in the imaginative world like Narnia is not far different from the creatures in the real world. It can be seen through the explanation in the chapter discussion about the representation of the nature and the animals.

This research proves that the representation of the power of the nature in the fictitious story is similar with the power of the nature in the real world although the story in the novel is more dramatic and imaginative. By showing the dramatic effect of the power of the nature, it is hoped that it can be an alert for the readers that damaging natural environment can cause a very big effect of the life of the livings.

The last point that this research reveals that what C. S. Lewis has in mind really influences his literary works and the purpose of his literary works, especially the one entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle*, is to criticize the nowadays destructive environment and to show the message of the holy Bible. It has been answered in the chapter discussion, saying that the story in his novel really

reflects his ideology about the Christianiy, conservatism, and his care to the nature. The critiques which he shows about the destruction of the nature can be seen through his story about the process of the end of the day in Narnia.

Lewis shows that damaging nature can give great destructing effects to the nature even the life. This moment is also the representation of the message of the holy Bible because the process of ending life in Narnia, called apocalypse in this research, is similar with what the holy Bible tells. It really shows that Lewis spreads the message of the Holy Bible through his literary work.

In conclusion, this research shows that environmental issues can not be ignored. The damages happened to the nature can cause big problems to the life as warns through showing the story of the novel about the destruction of the nature. The message to protect the nature and the creatures is showed by analysing the story and the ideology of C. S. Lewis. Hopefully, this research is useful to remind everyone who reads this thesis to love and take care the nature and the creatures.

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21.30)

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