

THE NATURE DEPICTED IN JOHN LANCHESTER'S *THE WALL* (2019): AN ECOCRITICISM ANALYSIS

Iqbatul Muhlisin, Mundi Rahayu

mundi@bsi.uin-malang.ac.id
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
Malang, Jawa Timur, Indonesia

Abstract

During the last few decades, the condition of nature has been indisputably very dangerous and very poor. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reported that global warming will be happening on the earth, destroying the ice sheet that causes flooding in Miami, Dacca, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and other regions. Through that background, the concern on nature is increasingly important and it is addressed also in the literary work. This study specifically discusses the representation of nature in John Lanchester's novel entitled "The Wall". The researchers focus on the question of what are environmental issues embedded in John Lanchester's *The Wall*? This study applies an ecocriticism approach to achieve the objective. The study shows that environmental issues have been a serious concern that is represented in the novel. The issues are global warming, hunger, drowning, and pollution.

Keywords: Anthropocene, Environmental issues, Ecocriticism, literature, *The Wall*

Abstrak

Selama beberapa dekade terakhir, kondisi alam telah menjadi sangat berbahaya dan sangat buruk. Panel Antarpemerintah tentang Perubahan Iklim (IPCC) melaporkan bahwa pemanasan global akan terjadi di bumi, menghancurkan lapisan es yang menyebabkan banjir di Miami, Dhaka, Shanghai, Hong Kong, dan wilayah lainnya. Dengan latar belakang tersebut, perhatian terhadap alam semakin penting dan juga diangkat dalam karya sastra. Penelitian ini secara khusus membahas representasi alam dalam novel karya John Lanchester yang berjudul "The Wall." Peneliti berfokus pada pertanyaan: isu-isu lingkungan apa saja yang terkandung dalam "The Wall" karya John Lanchester? Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan ekokritik untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa isu-isu lingkungan telah menjadi perhatian serius yang direpresentasikan dalam novel ini. Isu-isu tersebut meliputi pemanasan global, kelaparan, tenggelam, dan polusi.

Kata kunci: Antroposen, isu lingkungan, ecocriticism, sastra, *The Wall*

INTRODUCTION

Nature is one of a topic that most mass media mainstream has reported, including environmental degradation. New York Times, for example, in the coming decade, a hundred million people will be struggling against floods, heatwaves, water scarcity, hunger, and pollution due to climate change (Plumer et al., 2022). BBC News claimed that nature will be harmed due to climate change and that more than 40 percent of the world population is "very vulnerable" to the effects of climate change (McGrath, 2022). The Jakarta Post also highlighted that the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) emphasized the crucial need for countries to cut their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions immediately. Indonesia has fewer than ten years to cut emissions to attain zero emissions for controlling global warming and prevent climate disaster (Isfandiari & Prebenda, 2022). Environmental degradation brings significant impacts on human needs such as food, dwelling, and

health. The stability of food supply and the overall global demand for food are expected to more than treble over the next half-century, including the contribution of livestock to food security due to climate change (Godde et al., 2021).

In the last five years, there has been a lot of discussion on nature that many researchers conducted. They applied the ecocriticism approach to investigate the representation of nature in literary work, and other object of studies, such as the representation of nature in the novel (Bordoloi 2020; Mohammed 2018), Anthropocene and technology (Münster 2020; Vermeulen 2017), ecology and technology in ecocriticism perspective (Kaphle 2021), climate change on the nature; postcolonial ecocriticism (Iheka 2021), environmentalist vs. capitalist (Farida et al. 2019; Zhengwen 2018; Rahayu, 2020; Rahayu, 2023), ecology and a dystopian novel (Tahier 2017; Waheed 2021; Nida & Rahayu, 2023), and the study about the novel *The Wall*, from psychology perspective (Gray 2021). Furthermore, for its significance and with the specification mentioned above, quite differently, the researcher attempts to discuss the representation of nature in the novel from an ecocriticism perspective.

Considering the previous research above, the present study aims to answer the gap in the studies on nature in the novel, specifically exploring the representation of nature by using ecocriticism approach. As a popular text of the work, literature does show the good and bad things that happen in society, and its corrective role is used to look at the shortcomings of the world and try to make the world realize that it has made mistakes and try to make amends for them (Duhan, 2015). The novel discussed in this study is *The Wall* (2019) by John Lanchester, whose setting is in England, and the setting of time in the near future.

The novel narrates the story of "defenders" tasked by the government to guard Britain's maritime borders to keep their communities out of the country. Therefore, the discussion in this study will cover the question; what are environmental issues embedded in John Lanchester's *The Wall*? The question elaborates how environmental issues in nature are represented and discussed in the novel entitled *the wall*.

LITERATURE REVIEW

ECOCRITICISM

The term "ecocriticism" is an increasingly interesting topic in literary criticism. According to Garrard (2004), Ecocriticism is a theory that aims to study how humans, literature, and the environment interact with each other around the world. Ecocriticism is a branch of literary theory based on that "human beings, literature, and the environment interact" (Garrard 2004). Garrard's definition of ecocriticism does not confine it to literature alone; it may also be extended to other fields of study. Lawrence Buell (2009) also states that ecocriticism is a commitment to ecological practice in literary and environmental contexts. Meanwhile, Fitzsimmons et al. (2014) define ecocriticism as a branch of green studies that examine the relationship between human and non-human life, represented in a literary text and theorizes about the place of literary works in the struggle against the environmental problem. Besides that, "green theory" or "green studies" is an interchangeable term that is frequently used to describe ecocriticism (Coupe 2000).

Cherryl Glotfelty simply defines ecocriticism as the study and theory which has examined the relationship between literature and the physical environment. Furthermore, Glotfelty argues in *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*;

"What then is ecocriticism? Simply put, ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment, just as feminist criticism examines language and literature from a gender conscious perspective, and Marxist criticism brings an awareness of modes of production and economic class to reading of texts, ecocriticism takes centered approach to literary studies" (Glotfelty et al., 1996, P: xix)

Cherryl was also a co-founder of ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment; formally created in 1992), which became a venue for ecocritical and ecofeminist

researchers and environmental authors and artists. In addition, ASLE created its academic journal collection, ISLE (Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment), in 1993. However, ecocriticism is still in its early stages, with no commonly accepted assumptions and processes for analyzing literary texts. There is a change in the direction of thought in Western thought. The contrast lies in the examination of the media; While ecocriticism concentrates only on literary works, green theory expands its scope to include art, cinema, music, politics, and philosophy. Simultaneously, ecocriticism is more common in the United States, while the green theory is more common in the United Kingdom (Marland, 2013). Nonetheless, most researchers believe that the formation of the current paradigm is influenced by environmental degradation caused by human actions towards nature.

HISTORY OF ECOCRITICISM

The 1960s are regarded as the beginning of the research of environmental academics who used the philosophy of ecocriticism. This aligns with the literary work entitled *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, first published in 1962 (Garrard 2004:1). But in the 1970s, William H Rueckert again used the term "ecocriticism" in his essay entitled *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*. Concepts by Rueckert tend to treat text as an ecosystem, and the research also focuses on literary work on the unity between text and humans. In addition, Rueckert's ecocritical concept also only focuses on scientific aspects of ecology that are considered too limited or limiting (Mishra 2016). The association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) is a pioneer in conducting scientific discussions in the form of conferences and publishing a journal on literary analysis, education, creative writing, and activism about the environment. The early works that contain nature were dominated by romantic poetry, wilderness narratives, and nature writing. However, in recent years, this trend has turned out into cultural ecocriticism research on film and TV and popular writings that underlie elements of nature. The popularity of ecocriticism indicates greater human concern for environmental issues currently (Anshori 2020).

Currently, the study and practice of ecocriticism are more interdisciplinary in approach. In most cases, practitioners of ecocriticism now refer to cultural theory and criticism to explore how elements in nature lead to new understandings and the interpretation of the sense of our nation, our community, identity, and corpse (Zapf & Caupert, 2008). The most critical reflection on ecocriticism doesn't just show us the relationship between literature and the physical environment and the expansion of scientific conversation in this emerging field; they too underline the text and cultural practices that concern them (Sukmawan et al., 2016). The past decades have been witnessing the "save the earth" movement, following ecological imbalance, decreased diversity biological, and destructive impacts, namely pollution due to urbanization, industrialization, and technology (Khan 2019). In line with this statement, ecocriticism is increasingly popular among environmentalists and writers of literary works to criticize nature's problems.

The historical journey of ecocriticism can be divided into four sections (Marland, 2013). The first wave in ecocriticism can be defined by the word "environment" as the reality of nature in the world. Thus, the first wave of "real-nature" ecocriticism focused on the representation of nature with literature in the world outside the text, which aims to convey the message of the environment through literary works, especially in the United States. An environmentalist in the United States seeks to reconnect literary works (environmental issues) and criticism with environmental experience through the meaning of nature. (Buell 2009). The purpose of ecocriticism is to protect the biotic community, which is one of the purposes of Earth care (Philippon 2002). The second wave "Disputing Nature" of ecocriticism, raises a significant challenge in understanding the organic pattern of the environment and environmentalism (Buell 2009).

Furthermore, the second wave of ecocriticism continues to carry out the concept of the preceding wave, it also preserves the idea of nature's vast physical presence while increasing its application in the construction of the environmental imagination (Marland 2013). The third wave

"eco-cosmopolitic" of ecocriticism, is defined as a movement that "recognizes ethnic and national particularities while transcending them" and investigates "all elements of human experience from an environmental stance" (Adamson and Slovic, 2009). The fourth wave "post-nature" of ecocriticism theory involves creating a new approach to understanding environmental issues via language, agency, and narrativity. This kind of theory focuses on two issues: the nonhuman agency shown and represented in narrative texts and the power of narratives in constructing a connection between meanings and substances that correlate the reality of human life and nature (Marland 2013).

SCOPE OF ECOCRITICISM

Ecocriticism's primary objective is to examine the interrelationship between nature and literary works. Additionally, ecocriticism seeks to understand the evolution of the environmental movement and delve into theoretical difficulties. According to Garrard (2004), scopes of ecocriticism are categorized into several aspects; pollution, position, pastoral, dwelling, wilderness, apocalypse, animal, and earth. Nature and the environment are critical components of these six categories that must be carefully considered when using ecocriticism.

Pollution is an excessive amount of any dangerous material in its solid, gaseous, liquid, or energetic state (sound, radioactive, and heat). Nazir et al. (2019) state that a polluted environment is a global issue. Pollution arises when there is a risk of harm; harm is not limited to physical hurt but includes the insult to any of his senses or damage to his property; hence, scents and sounds that do not cause injury can be considered pollution. Living creatures can be harmed in various ways, including injury to their health or interaction with the biosphere of which they are a part (Appannagari, 2017). There are many types of pollution on earth. This pollution can be caused by certain gases, solid compounds, liquids, and other factors. The following are the types of pollution known today and often occur. In ecocriticism, pollution is considered a cause of environmental degradation (Garrard 2004).

The position is types of people in understanding the environmental crisis in a certain way. The position is divided into cornucopia, environmentalism, deep ecology, ecofeminism, and social ecology/eco-Marxism (Garrard, 2004). Cornucopia is an attitude where humans only attach importance to welfare without attaching importance to preserving nature. Meanwhile, environmentalism is an interdisciplinary subject that integrates numerous academic fields (especially sciences) to study the structure and function of our life-sustaining environment and comprehend the causes, impacts, and solutions to diverse environmental challenges (Prasad et al., 2015). Deep ecology is an attitude that loves nature, centered on nature rather than on humans. This type is also a radical form of a person in environmentalism because it has a dominant role. Ecofeminism combines ecology and feminism and aims to establish connections between environmental exploitation and female exploitation. Ecofeminists think that a society controlled by men thrives on sexism, racism, economic exploitation, and environmental degradation (Anjum, 2020). Eco-Marxism is an attitude based on exploiting nature for the benefit of capitalists. Eco-Marxism itself is a movement that makes nature become damaged or degraded due to too much exploitation for personal interests, such as hunting rare animals for sale and purchase (Garrard 2004).

Pastorals on literary works were used to express the beauty of the place. But now, Terry Gifford, in his book Entitled Pastoral, states that pastoral is the life of a shepherd in a country who loves his work and his place of residence (Gifford 1999). The pastoral based on Garrard (2004) is divided into four kinds; romantic pastoral, classical pastoral, American pastoral, and pastoral ecology. After that, the romantic pastoral explores the relationship between the imagination's country and metropolis. He also discovers compassion inside the human mind and nature. As a result of the Industrial Revolution's influence on social and environmental history, classical pastoral evokes sentiments of loss and alienation. The American pastoral seeks to resolve the conflict between rural myth and modern reality. Moreover, Pastoral ecology shows the relationship between biodiversity, stability, and the growth of ecosystems to criticize ecosystems in modern agriculture.

Furthermore, the importance of wilderness is highly valued in human-earth connections. It emphasizes the need to protect nature against pollution, especially for various ecosystems and species (Garrard, 2004). Wilderness is the final area where all humanism exists for many Americans, and it has accidentally corrupted the world. It is a speck amid the filthy sea of industrial capital (Cronon, 1996). After that, the term dwelling refers to long-term human dwelling in the context of history, heritage, mortality, habits, labor, and life. Ecocritics explore the topic of housing by focusing on political issues rather than the moral and spiritual ones (Garrard, 2004). Meanwhile, humans will experience the possibility in the future, which is often referred to as the "Apocalypse." In this century, humans have experienced many forms of the apocalypse, namely pandemics, such as Sars in 2002-2003, H1N1 in 2009, and Covid-19 which is still unresolved (Isaacs, 2020).

In animal landscape, the study of the relationship between humans and animals in the humanities has led philosophers to talk about animal rights and how people think about animals in different cultures, like how people think about animals (Garrard 2004). Environmental degradation causes many natural resources to experience reductions, such as water, air, and soil which causes many animals to lose their natural habitat (Maurya et al., 2020). Lastly, the earth (from minor land entities to the most major biosphere material) is regarded as the primary research topic from an ecocritical standpoint. Economics, politics, literature, and popular culture all have a role in earth building (Garrard, 2004). As a result, the earth offers numerous concerns in social ecology, cultural studies, and even literary criticism. It assists academics in focusing their studies on the legacy of modernism's social, environmental, and natural legacies as a distinct component of aesthetic practices.

METHOD

This study belongs to literary criticism, aiming at understanding and valuing the literary work and the issues contained in it. According to Gillespie (2010), literary criticism is the discipline of interpreting, analysing, and evaluating literary works such as a poem, stories, novels, plays, essays, and soon within the literary theory. Meanwhile, literary theory is a concept way of thinking to interpret, analyse and evaluate the literary work with some theories (like Feminism, Marxism, Psychoanalysis, Ecocriticism, etc.) (Castle 2013). Through the literary criticism lenses, this study attempts to analyse a literary work entitled *The Wall* by exploring the representation of nature in the novel using the perspective of ecocriticism. The approach applies the critical analysis of the relationship between humans and nature. The researcher emphasizes how nature is represented in the novel. The problems that occur in the nature cannot be separated by human activities which have adverted impact to the nature.

The main data source or primary data for this study is a novel entitled *The Wall* written by John Lanchester. The primary data source includes the words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and dialogue. This novel consists of eight parts. The data are collected from the novel by the following steps; doing detailed reading and deep understanding of every essential element of the novel entitled *The Wall*, marking the data needed, especially in data that show how the nature represented in his novel. The data are classified according to the ecocritical issues embedded. Furthermore, the data analysis are as follows; to elaborate the data representing nature and discussing them with the lens of ecocriticism according to Garrard.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The novel, *The Wall*, is the dystopia that John Lanchester has created. It narrates an environmental fable that manages to be both disquieting and quite good fun at the same time. The narrative in the novel represents our present concern and anxieties such as global warming, rising sea levels, anti-refugee populism, post-Brexit scarcity and intergenerational conflict. The following analysis is done by applying an ecocritical approach. Through the lenses of ecocriticism by Greg

Garrard, the environmental issues presented in John Lanchester's *The Wall* can be classified into four topics of discussion: global warming, hunger, drown, and pollution.

The Wall discusses about climate change that has been serious environmental issues having impact for human life and the nature itself. This phenomenon disrupts the balance of nature and human life in the long run. Therefore, human being must change the mindset to be more ecocentrism. This action is very important because climate change has caused environmental issues, as illustrated in *The Wall*, including; global warming, hunger, drowning, and pollution.

1. Global Warming

Global warming is one of the environmental issues that has taken center stage lately. Since 1980, the earth has experienced a fifty-fold increase in the number of dangerous heat waves (Wallace-Wells 2019). Meanwhile, the five hottest summers in Europe since 1500 all occurred after 2002 in some places (Kim, 2012). Global warming that occurs in various regions of the world is also highlighted in *The Wall*.

The change was not event but a process, a process that in some places, some unlucky places, has not stopped. In many of the hotter places of the world, in particular, the change is continuing, still reshaping landscape, still impacting people's live. (The Wall, p.82)

The phrase "*In many hotter places of the world*" indicates that many places are experiencing significant global warming, and one of the places that will experience an increase in temperature in New York City. New York City will be much hotter than Bahrain on this day, triggering hyperthermia even in humans while sleeping (Romm, 2016). Besides New York, the cities such as Karachi and Kolkata experience deadly heat waves every year (Matthews et al., 2017). In the novel, the author states that global warming still impacts people's lives, and it continues and changes the earth's structure. One of the impacts that will be felt in the next few decades is, for example, the Hajj which will be very heavy physically for many Muslims (Pal and Eltahir, 2016). Not only hajj and mecca, the sugarcane plantation area of El Salvador, but one-fifth of the population will also suffer from chronic kidney disease, allegedly due to dehydration (Ramirez-Rubio et al. 2013). Hot spots in different parts of the world and impacting human life are caused by a significant rise in temperature, which causes global warming to become one of the environmental issues. The novel also describes the rise in temperature as follows.

'Nothing special today,' he said. 'No sightings of others reported from the air or sea. No news of any relevance from the wider world. It's two degrees now, high of five later, which will feel about zero with the wind chill. Good news: we have a new Defender with us, so we're back up to strength. Kavanagh, stand up.' (The Wall, p.15)

In the quotation above, the author highlights the temperature change that has risen to "two degrees" and will rise to "five degrees" later. The increased temperature is one indication that there has been global warming on earth. In simple terms, global warming occurs when the temperature on earth increases due to sunlight directly into the earth, which is received by atmosphere particles, soil particles, and ocean particles, which are returned about 30 percent to space (Shahzad, 2015). Therefore, for instance, a human must maintain his body moisture so that the air can serve as a coolant to draw heat from the skin so that humans can maintain their lives. If humans cannot maintain their body temperature, the most immediate effect is that they will die roasted by exposure to the sun (Wallace-Wells 2019). Theoretically, with a temperature rise of five degrees, many parts of the world cannot be inhabited by humans (Kim

2012). Furthermore, if the temperature rises by six degrees, people will not work outdoors in summer (Dunne et al., 2013).

Global warming did not suddenly occur but several centuries earlier through a very long process. Scientists believe that temperature changes on earth cannot occur alone, but rather there is a human role. Humans cause the rise in temperature on the earth to be very pronounced. Some of the human activities that cause global warming are using perfume excessively, not saving fuel, using electricity excessively, etc. For example, the increasingly untractable use of fuels such as coal has occurred since 2000 and has continued to multiply (Evan and Pearce 2020). The author also provides strong evidence that the global warming that occurs in the world is not just an incident, as quoted below;

As you all know, the change was not single solitary event we speak of it in that manner because here we experienced in particular shift, od sea level and weather, over a period of years it is true, but it felt then and when we look back on it today still feel like an incident that happened, a defined moment in time with before and an after. There was our parent's world and how there is our world (Lanchester, P.82)

From the quotation above, some humans in this world are still unaware of the dangers of global warming carried out to human activities on earth. This activity is often referred to as the "Anthropocene." Anthropocene is human activity begins to have a global influence on earth's ecosystems (Lewis et al., 2015). Of the many human activities that cause the earth's ecosystem to be disrupted, including the burning of excessive carbon emissions. Carbon emissions are a contributor to climate change along with greenhouse gas emissions. Excessive gas emissions can lead to global warming or the greenhouse effect. This resulted in a significant increase in temperature on earth.

In 2019, according to the International Energy Agency, carbon emissions grew by about a 1.3 percent increase in emissions from oil and natural gas (IEA, 2019). On the other hand, to reduce the increasing amount of carbon emissions globally, the country with the largest emitter countries agreed to make agreements to reduce carbon emissions. One of the countries that produce the most carbon emission gases globally is China. In line with that, data were taken in 2018, China's carbon emissions grew by about 4 percent and are the largest globally (Boren and Lammi 2018). The increase in carbon emissions as above causes the weather conditions to be filthier.

The problem of the weather getting filthier is supported by the excerpts in the novel as follows;

I had long since given up checking the time when I was on guard, but it was some way in between 'lunch' (the midnight version of the main meal, that is) and the second cup of tea. Dawn was about an hour or more away. The weather was filthier than ever. It was hard to see. Specifically, it was hard to see straight in front of you, in the direction from which the wind and waves were coming, straight at the Wall. When you looked sideways towards the guard posts next to you, all you could see was flooding, streaming, torrential rain sheeting through the Wall lights. (Lanchester.p.114)

The phrase "The weather was filthier than ever" the authors highlight how the emergency of weather itself. The word "Filthier" indicates that the weather is undergoing erratic changes. In Indonesia, the weather changes erratically are caused by El Nina (Pranita, 2021). El Nina is a phenomenon of rising sea surface temperatures in the east and central the tropics of the Pacific Ocean and appears about once every 2-7 years (Utami et al., 2011). In addition, the thing that causes erratic weather changes is the depletion of the ozone layer caused by nuclear use. The weapon also causes the nuclear autumn, which impacts agricultural productivity, ozone depletion, and the spread of radioactive materials in the atmosphere (Robock & Toon, 2010).

Thus, the repercussions of nuclear waste also raise the likelihood of thyroid cancer in humans (Právělie, 2014). Furthermore, the author state “ *it was hard to see*” indicates that global warming and uncertain weather and the resulting consequences are still difficult to predict.

2. Hunger

Hunger is one of environmental issues that has become the popular topic in the modern century. At least hunger is caused by several factors such as climate change, loss of land, etc. According to research, about 75 billion tons of arable land are lost every year (Noel 2015). The difficulty of finding a place that produces food is also highlighted in the novel as follows;

There were times when I could imagine finding settleable land, finding food, finding somewhere we could live peaceably for the rest of our lives, be happy, even live kind of idyll and, other times when I came close to thinking the best thing would be just to get over the side of the lifeboat and swim away from it until my strength gave out and the end came (Lanchester P. 168)

The authors use the word "imagine" in the quote, which means that humans have difficulty finding places and looking for food. The worse condition is if humans are difficult to find a place to grow crops, humans will starve. The United Nations (UN) estimates that humans need twice as much food on earth by 2050. It has been proven that rice becomes 40 percent of human food worldwide, while corn and soybeans are two-thirds (Zhao et al. 2017). One of the reasons plants cannot plant some places is global warming. According to Tigchelaar et al. (2018), the supply of food will decrease at least one-fifth of the productivity caused by global warming. The issue of hunger will be a very interesting topic discussed in the modern era.

In the novel, the author also highlights the future of human life who are anxious about the impact caused by climate change, one of which is hunger. This is illustrated in the quote below.

Why don't people want to Breed? It's an idea that caught on after the change: That we shouldn't want to bring children into the world. We broke the world and have no right to keep populating it. We can't feed and look after all the humans there already are, here and now; the humans who are here and now, most of them, are starving and drowning, dying and desperate; so how dare we make humans to come into this world? There are lots of different answers to that. Nobody can predict the future; that's one answer. God tells us to; that's an answer talking about the one that makes the most sense to me is just because. Because; the best/worst answer to most human questions. Why are here? (The Wall, p.32).

Human anxiety about events caused by natural changes is called "Psychoterratic." According to Albrecht (2011), Psychoterratic is the condition of humans creating distress and disease due to climate change. The statement “We can't feed and look after all the humans there already are, here and now” indicates that humans are anxious about life in the future due to climate change. In psychoterratic, the condition belongs to "ecoparalysis." Ecoparalysis is the inability of a human to do something to respond to climate change (Albrecht, 2011). The statement “most of them are starving” proves that humans can't do anything because of starvation due crops failure.

One of the crop failures that had a major impact occurred in America multiple times since 1980. The most recent droughts in US happened in 1988, 2012 and the floods of 1993 (Schillerberg & Tian, 2020). The impact of crop failure makes humans experience a shortage of food sources that cause disease or even death, “Lack of food kills you in three weeks, lack of water in three days” (The Wall, p.167).

Some areas of the world have experienced this incident. For example, In 1943, millions of people in Bengal, India, starved to death, and most historians put the number of victims at 3-4

million (Reditya, 2021). Meanwhile, a family of three died of heat and dehydration while trekking in a remote part of California (Powell, 2021). Of all the above explanations about hunger, humans should consider what the next generation may worst face problems.

3. Drowning

BBC News has reported that in 2018 the island in the Sundarbans, India, sunk (Gupta & Roy, 2018). The United of Concerned Scientists found nearly 311,000 homes in the United States will be at risk of chronic flooding by 2045 (Wallace-Wells 2019). This indicates that the residence on the edge of the river or beach will sink. Correspondingly, nearly two-thirds of the world's major cities are on beaches that contain ports, naval bases, farms, fish farms, and others that will be flooded more easily. The novel also highlighted the drowning itself as the follows.

Most of the old riverscapes have gone since the change- it's another thing we see only in pictures. Here, though, accidents of topography mean it still looks more or less the same as it does in old photos. There are sloping riverbanks, tree overhanging the water, a gentle curve of slow-moving water, and greenery. (The Wall, p.64).

The headline news was that the riverbanks around here had been high and had descended to the river almost like cliffs, but cliffs which went up in stages, say five meters straight, then a small flat section, then another five meters. (The Wall, p.66)

The author uses the word "gone" to indicate the river has been sunk. The loss of rivers and islands is caused by climate change. It can also lead to humans' lose their homes or even their lives due to drowning. Sea level rise is at least 1.2 meters and could reach 2.4 meters by the century due to greenhouse gas emissions (Strauss & Klup, 2017). By 2100, if we don't stop greenhouse gas emissions, more than 5 percent of the world's population will be flooded every year (Wallace-Wells 2019).

In the second quote, the author also commented that the rising river would result in the riverbanks will be eroded as well. This can also be seen from "the riverbanks around here and had been high." The word "high" here indicates that the river bank is getting eroded, which makes the ground more tilted and will cause landslides. Landslides can be caused by several parameters, such as the value of soil movement, rainfall, the slope of slopes, and soil type (Arnianti 2021).

The Wall also highlighted how difficult it is to find a place to live after a flood disaster occurs. This is illustrated in the novel as follows:

There was nowhere to land. The island-beachless, like every coastline in the world after the change, rose vertically out of the sea. (The Wall, p.138).

The phrase "nowhere to land" is one of the impacts of how cruel the flood that resulted in many places drowning because the river overflowed due to the overflow of water or the flood of shipments from upstream to the sea. According to Wallace-Wells (2019), between 1995 and 2015, floods hit 2.3 billion people and killed at least 157,000 worldwide. One of the places affected by the flood in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Two South Asian cities, Sylhet (Bangladesh) and Bharatpur (Nepal), are under flood risk, with 22.3 percent in Sylhet and 12.7 percent in Bharatpur (Pervin et al., 2020). Meanwhile, in Southeast Asia, Jakarta is one of the fastest-growing cities today, with a population of ten million; due to flooding and land subsidence, Jakarta could be completely submerged by 2050 (Lin & Hidayat, 2018). Besides Jakarta, Rohingya people also fled to Bangladesh to save themselves due to flooding (Schwartz 2018). These events indicate that everything will sink in time, including dry land also sinking

caused by rising waters and floods that make people mourn their fate because they have lost their place.

4. Pollution

Pollution is one of the major issues in environmental degradation (Nathanshon, 2022). Plastic pollution, weapon testing, oil leaks, and nuclear waste are examples of new types of pollution caused by modern living. These wastes damage the air, water, and soil. Water pollution due to oil mining is also one of the environmental issues in this century. The novel highlighted oil refinery installations that could cause water pollution as follows;

As we came closer, it became apparent that it was an oil or gas installation. From a distance, there was no away of telling if it was inhabited or not (The Wall, p.169)

Oil installations on the high seas can also cause water extraction, and this is because the ship carrying the oil may leak. According to Beyer et al. (2016), Oil covered more than 112.000 km² of the ocean's surface, causing a catastrophe for the marine life environment, degrading bacteria in ocean water, destroying coral life, and killing millions of fish. The oil leak causes the earth's temperature to rise. The methane ingredient in the oil may cause the explosion, releasing this gas into the atmosphere and causing the greenhouse effect (Grayson, 2011). In addition, making the temperature hotter, spilled oil will cause pollution and smell in the sea. This is as quoted below;

That was true, it did smell different. The sea smelt different. It must be that the sea flora were different, the kelp and seaweed species were more pungent, vegetal and cabbage, but not unpleasantly so. (The Wall, p.113)

"The sea smelt different" has indicated that the sea is completely polluted. In addition to spilled oil, one of the factors that cause the sea to be polluted is garbage. The most influential waste is plastic waste. According to Jambeck et al. (2015), each year, the total amount of plastic in the ocean ranges between 4.8 and 12.7 million tons. Plastic production is being pushed to meet human requirements. Therefore, the amount could be increasing year after year. Plastic garbage in the ocean hastens climate change.

Each year, the human need for plastic contributes to the amount of plastic garbage. Fortunately, microbes find it difficult to digest plastic garbage completely. As a result, great care must be taken to manage waste to avoid the negative effects of plastic accumulation in the ground or ocean. Humans' ability to "survive" in a plastic-waste-filled environment is jeopardized.

In addition to water pollution, one of the highlights in the novel is light pollution, as follows.

Once or twice, during night when we weren't on shift, Hifa and I even went for a walk inland to get away from the light pollution of the wall so that we could see stars. (Lanchester's P112)

Light pollution is an internationally known concern. Not only cities but whole countries are closed at night, primarily because of artificial lighting (Lechner & Arns, 2013). Excessive or inappropriate use of outdoor artificial light can affect human health, wildlife behavior, and our ability to observe stars and other celestial bodies. In the quote above, the character wants to get out of the "wall" which has a lot of light pollution, to be able to see the stars in outer space.

From the data shown above, removing pollution is nearly difficult due to increasing non-eco-friendly human activities. To mitigate the effect, humans should gradually lessen their negative environmental activities. One such example is the global "No Plastic Waste" campaign. Seventy-four countries have enacted legislation prohibiting the use of plastic bags. It

demonstrates that society has begun to recognize the need for environmental sustainability as a result of the Anthropocene epoch.

CONCLUSION

Based on the problem of the study, the researcher concludes that John Lanchester's "The wall" describes environmental issues through an ecocriticism approach. In the novel, there are several environmental issues such as global warming, hunger, drowning, and pollution. In the scope of global warming, the earth is hot due to several factors, one of which is the excessive use of gas emissions, causing the depletion of the ozone layer. While in the scope of hunger, humans will experience hunger problems due to crop failure. In the drowning area, humans will die from flooding caused by rising sea levels, and the last is pollution caused by so much plastic waste in the ocean. In addition, the spill of ships carrying petroleum is also one of the causes of pollution. Those are the environmental issues embedded in the novel "The Wall" by John Lanchester.

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