

DWELLING PORTRAYED IN “CAPTAIN FANTASTIC” MOVIE DIRECTED BY MATT ROSS: ECOCRITICISM

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ABSTRACT

Ecocriticism explores the ways in which we imagine and portray the relationship between humans and the physical environment. Through this thesis, the researcher wanted to portray Dwelling of Educational construction in Matt Ross’s Movie *Captain Fantastic*. The researcher problems in order to examine in Dwelling as follow: 1) what types in the dwelling of educational construction that portrayed on *Captain Fantastic* movie? 2) what kind of moral values in dwelling of educational construction that can be taken from *Captain Fantastic* Movie? In this study the researcher using Qualitative research with content analysis as the research design. The process of collecting the data could be mentioned: First, Selecting the movie to be analyzed. Second, The researcher watched the movie. Third, Identifying the data. The last, Classifying data on the conversation. There are some procedures analyzing the data: Watching and more attention, interpreted the data and making conclusion. There were two models in dwelling. There are Georgic, and Modern Georgic. From the movie also could given some moral value that helpful for parents and children.

Key words: Ecocriticism, Dwelling, interdisciplinary, culture

INTRODUCTION

Dwelling is a place where humans can relate directly to the environment. It’s the place where human beings can thrive and find out where they live. Dwelling implies the presence of place, and as the architect Norberg-Schulz has shown, place consists in orientation and identification. Both ordered space and built form make it possible for us to know where we are and to gain a sense of belonging to a place (Maltzhan, 1994:116). It explained that humans can live and thrive based on where they live. Environmental factors and human’s dwelling can affect human life in the future. Just as if humans live in urban areas, most people will depend on technology and live very easily by relying on all existing technology.

The development of human thought also makes human can improve their dwellings. Dwelling incorporate environments and places but extends beyond them, signifying our inescapable immersion in the present world as well as the possibility of reaching beyond to new places, experiences and ideas (seamon, 1985:8). The development of the world can depend on human as dominant beings on earth. When people get new ideas and experiences, they will develop things that initially did not exist into being.

Human lived side by side with other living beings such as animals, plants and other small ecosystems. Social relationships between humans and humans are merely a small part of ecology. It’s also the relationship between people with nature. Man and nature lived rely on each other. Basically the dominant creature on Earth is human, and also man is a kind of ecosystem that can keep or damage the other surrounding ecosystem. Humans, I argue, are brought into existence as organism-persons within a world that is inhabited by beings of manifold kinds, both humans and non-human. Therefore relations of humans, who we are accustomed to calling ‘social’, are but a sub-set of ecological relations (Ingold, 2000:5). The

relationship that happens was not only between human-human, but also human-animal, or even human-nature. It is useful for the harmonization of life on Earth. Garrard (2004:15) argued that these constructions of humanity's relationship with the natural world, however, takes for granted the problematic distinction between our species and other animals. From there, it can be explained that the problems that arise out of earth mostly occur to humans with animals or other natural ecosystems.

The existence of life in nature should be rewarded, not only the conflict between man and nature, the side of his struggles, sides against mutual dependency, and also competition. Man and the nature must be following the ecological principles are universal and symbiotic selves. Human and nature is dependent upon one another. If humans dominate on Earth, then human obligations to safe guard the sustainability of their environmental. Basically if a human more love nature and getting away from modern life, it would be much better. ecocriticism itself is a diverse biosphere (Barry, 2002:269). The further away from each other and human habitation they can get, the better – although that's a tall order in most parts of the UK. Even just being in the garden alone will do (Garrard, 2004:2). That statement explained when man was furthering away from the modern world and closer to the nature, then human life will be better. Not only humans but also nature that will be more protected.

In a work of art there are several types of work one of them is a film. Film communicates not only through action, gesture, and dialogue, but also content from the film can be influence people. There are some movies that extracted the ecocriticism into their film, for example *Avatar* and *Narnia* some of movie that can describe how human and nature can affect each other. In *Avatar* the viewer can see that human can make damage to other non-human species environmental. Whereas, in *Narnia* viewers can see that human can unite and defend the nature. Some of human that used their authority to destroy it.

One of them is *Captain Fantastic* (2016) by *Matt Ross* has a story about the environment that influences human. Learn about how to survive from dangers, read a book that is not the time to learn for elementary school children, physical training like a soldier. Tell the story of human life in the wilderness and how they can be developed with the influence of the surrounding environment.

The movie titled "*Captain Fantastic*" is a family movie that loaded with educational values. Unmitigated, the movie received 7 awards and 5 nominations, including being winners at the Cannes Film Festival, Deauville Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival, Palm Springs International Film Festival, and other film festivals. There are many values and doctrines of socialism expressed in this film. It was good for people who want to think critically and who want to learn about philosophical struggles in the Western world. This movie also loaded with educational values. Education in the true sense. Although the six children of Ben were educated with home schooling, they could defeat the results of formal education. The first child, Bodevan, was accepted in all leading universities including at Harvard University. Zaja, a child who is only 8 years old even can read very smoothly the Bill of Right (American constitution). Not only reading but also spelling out clearly with real life examples.

This *Captain Fantastic* is a film that took from the experience of the director himself. *Matt Ross* said that "A few years back, it occurred to me that my daughter was only going to be in my house for another eight years; she had already spent over half her childhood in our home. We all struggle with this, we all live in a world of computers and Smartphone — our Smartphone are our mobile office — and they're expected to respond when that thing buzzes, pulling them

out of whatever they should be doing”. It showed that his children were affected by the effects of dwelling, where his children were affected by the technology developed in his environment.

The film starts with the family living on their own in a forest, outside of the system. The kids are home-schooled as Ben believes the American school system is geared towards conformity and materialism. There are echoes of Ross’s own upbringing in this situation. His parents separated when he was young and his mother was interested in alternative living situations: “It’s the early 1980s not the 1960s and so the people that lived in these communities were not hippies, they tended to be artists. So of course some of the things in the films are autobiographical, but the film is not about communal living or mental illness.

From *Captain Fantastic* movie, viewers can compare the education obtained by children based on the environment and parents. “It’s about time a good movie was made for human truth values” commented by *Tevin Chidester*. “Beautiful and thought-provoking” commented by *Gorillashop*.

Based on the explanation above, arise some problems that are discussed in this study. Like how the influence based on dwelling that can be taken from the *Captain Fantastic* movie and what messages that can be drawn from the movie.

A. Problem of The Study

1. What types in the dwelling of educational construction that portrayed on *Captain Fantastic* movie?
2. What kind of moral values in dwelling of educational construction that can be taken from the *Captain Fantastic* Movie?

B. Objective of The Study

The objective of this study is:

1. To know what types in the dwelling of educational construction that portrayed on *Captain Fantastic* movie by *Matt Ross*.
2. To find out the moral values in dwelling of educational construction that can be taken from the *Captain Fantastic* Movie.

C. Significance of The Study

Theoretically, this study is helpful to give more knowledge about dwelling in literary work by used movie as the object of the study.

Practically, Some benefits that can be obtained from this research is: 1.) For reader: this study is going to give benefits to all the people out there who want to know the relationship between human and other ecosystem when it’s side by side to each other. And also benefits to students that want to learn about literary work by using film. 2.) For future research: this study will be one of the references that will be used for the next researcher of STKIP PGRI Jombang.

Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment (Glotfley, 1996: xix). Ecocriticism itself is a green literature that is racing on nature, basically human beings in writing always express their thoughts or ideas that are poured in literary works and always contact with the nature. Actually this literary critique has been around since 1970 in a WLA (The Western Literature Association) conference and was originally known as the study of nature writing. With the development of science, green literature has developed into ecocriticism until this day. Ecological knowledge is not just to see harmony and stability environment but also to know attitude and human behavior. Therefore According to Garrad (2004:14) , an ecritical analysis is interdisciplinary that penetrates the

discipline Other sciences, literature, culture, philosophy, sociology, psychology, environmental history, political and economic, and religious studies.

Ecocriticism explores the ways in which we imagine and portray the relationship between humans and the environment in all areas of cultural production, from Wordsworth and Thoreau to Disney and BBC nature documentaries. It is inspired by, but also critical of, modern environmental movements. Greg Garrard's accessible volume traces the development of the movement and explores the concepts that have most occupied ecocritics, including: Pollution, Wilderness, Apocalypse, Dwelling, Animals and The Earth Featuring a glossary of terms and suggestions for further reading, this is an invaluable introduction to one of the most exciting recent developments in literary and cultural studies (Garrard, 2004:ii). It studied the relationship between literature and the science of ecology by applying ecological concepts to literature. It may explain that connectedness can also be between nature and urban life.

Ecocriticism act as a link between literature and the nature. It can be said that ecocriticism stands between literature and an island. A literary work developed through nature and the environment. Ecological concerns have some terms about identification between characters and places or life and death, human and environment. One of major's topics in literary is Dwelling.

Dwelling is one of types that portrayed in Ecocriticism. Dwelling itself is not a transient state; rather, it implies the long-term imbrications of humans in landscape of memory, ancestry and death, of ritual, life and work (Garrard, 2004:108). This explains that dwelling is not only a place inhabited but a place where people live, work, create a memory or culture and ultimately death.

Dwelling sheltered where human beings can grow and live for their future. Human development it cannot be separated from the influence of the surrounding environment. Ingold (1996a: 117) states that for the other, apprehending the world is not a matter of construction but of engagement, not of building but of dwelling, not of making a view of the world but of taking up a view in it. The world was the widest part of the dwelling. Depending on how people think about the definition of dwelling for them.

In Greg Garrad's theory there are several parts that exist in dwelling.

a. Georgic

Lynn (2004:110) argues that Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish on the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth', constitutes a scriptural license for whatever exploitation we think fit within the framework of moral laws set out elsewhere. In that statement it's explained that the georgic type still use the wide fields as farming. Whether on the ocean and land, people are allowed farming and agriculture freely. In georgic it uses the notion of the Roman era.

b. Modern Georgic

The author concludes that the relationship between humans and dwelling, culture and nature is a unity. Action and essays continually ask us, not to stand apart from the earth and one another, but to become part of a biotic and human community (Garrard, 2004:114). Based on the explanation above explained that as a humans we are required to safeguard the earth and each other as well as a part of the human community where mutual respect for each other.

Bioregionalism, therefore a politics of 'rehabitation' that encourages people to explore more deeply the natural and cultural landscape in which they already live (Garrad, 2004:118). It's an understanding that humans can understand deeply about the nature and culture that has existed in their lives, whether from the past or the present. Bioregionalism has several functions in its application: First, it can act as a political nexus, bringing together indigenous, vernacular and regional movements struggling against homogenising global culture, with anarchistic and social democratic political movements and transregional environmental organisations working at a local level. Second, bioregionalism can counteract the cultural and economic concentricity of urban cultures, emphasising the ecological dependence of cities on countryside and wilderness and undermining the false oppositions inherent in pastoral and wilderness myths. Third, it is demandingly pragmatic.

c. The 'Ecological Indian'

The minimal ecological impact claimed for Indians is not supposed to be based only on low population densities or pre-Columbian material cultures lacking mental weapons, guns and horses, but upon animistic belief systems that constrained their actions (Garrad, 2004:121). In the image of an Indian, nature is an important part that must be preserved. So Indian people are very guarding the environment and argue that nature and all its contents is an ecosystem that has the same personalities as other humans. Only a few percent of people live around nature and still hold tightly to the culture that has developed since ancestors earlier.

d. The Trouble with Animism

Actually this type was rarely used in literary criticism. Because of the existing spiritual and beliefs can be said to out of human common sense. The relationship between animistic beliefs and environmentally sustainable dwelling is rarely questioned in historical, literary or ecocritical contexts, despite very mixed historical and anthropological evidence (Garrad, 2004:132). The notion of this theory is not well understood by modern understanding. One of the example is: Shepard Krech III's detailed account shows that Indians did indeed view and treat buffaloes as 'other-than-human persons', surrounding their hunts with elaborate rituals suggesting great respect for them, but also that, in the case of Piegan and Cree, their beliefs included the fear that buffaloes who escaped the hunt could warn the others. The example explains that Indian culture believes that buffalo is a sacred animal, and they believe that if the buffalo hunts off then the buffalo will warn the other flock. So it can affect of people's live.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study the researcher used Qualitative research with content analysis as the research design. The researcher used content analysis, because of content analysis is a technique to draw conclusions by identifying various specific characteristics of a message objectively, systematically, and generalist.

In this research, the researcher used content analysis because the researcher would like to analyze and interpreted the main character based on the dwelling in the movie *Captain Fantastic*. Content or document analysis is a research method applied to write or visual materials for the purpose of identifying or analyzing specified characteristics of the material (Ary, 1976:457).

This research used Ecocriticism theory by *Greg Garrard*. *Garrard* explored concepts that related about ecocriticism, as follows: pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, dwelling, animals, and earth. This relationship can be explained by seeing the relation between nature and culture, their relationship on both sides, mutualism symbiosis. Through literature, nature is used as the complement of the story in such a way that the nature becomes contemplation for writers to create a literary work. Whereas, the nature can use literary work as it's a conservation tool.

In this research, the source of this study is script from the "*Captain Fantastic*" movie directed by *Matt Ross*. The data is dialogue of *Captain Fantastic* Movie that related to dwelling of educational construction that portrayed, and also kind of moral value in dwelling of educational construction.

In this research, the researcher used human instrument as an instrument or the researcher itself. And also, the researcher used table for data classification based on dwelling from the movie that related. The data classification can be viewed in the appendix.

In completing the data, there are some steps of collecting data. Those are:

- a. Selecting the movie to be analyzed
- b. Watching and Understanding.
- c. Identifying the data
- d. Classifying the data

The data were collected in the following:

1. Watching and put more attention to the character of the movie *Captain Fantastic* by *Matt Ross*.
2. Interpreting the data that have been found on dwelling of educational construction that portrayed in the movie.
3. Making conclusion about the findings that has been interpreted by the researcher, based on the dwelling of educational construction that portrayed on the movie, and also some kind of moral values.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher would describe more the findings related to the portrayed of dwelling on *Captain Fantastic* movie by analyzing the datum above within the researcher's perceptions and some supporting references as follows.

1. Dwelling of Educational Construction that Portrayed on *Captain Fantastic*

This chapter of Ecocriticism will consider models of dwelling in the literature of farming known as 'georgic', before turning to the 'primitive' models supposed by some critics to be exemplary of an authentic dwelling on earth (Garrad, 2004:108). There are some of the models in Dwelling such as: Georgic, Modern Georgic, Ecological Indian and The Trouble in Animism.

In this study, the researcher found that there were two models in dwelling. The first is Modern Georgic. And also Modern Georgic which became dominant in the finding. In the Georgic explain that, Lynn (2004:110) argues that Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish on the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth. Whereas at modern georgic explain that action and essays continually ask us, not to stand apart from the earth and one another, but to become part of a biotic and human community (Garrad, 2004:114). In the modern georgic had Bioregionalism therefore a politics of 'rehabitation' that encourages people to explore more deeply the natural and cultural

landscape in which they already live (Garrad, 2004:118). Bioregionalism has several functions in its application: First, it can act as a political nexus, bringing together indigenous, vernacular and regional movements struggling against homogenising global culture, with anarchistic and social democratic political movements and trans regional environmental organisations working at a local level. Second, bioregionalism can counteract the cultural and economic concentricity of urban cultures. Third, it is demandingly pragmatic.

Referring to the data that found on *Captain Fantastic* movie, the researcher got the information of dwelling that portrayed on the movie. Such perception was proven by in data classification, that found two models in the dwelling, there are Dwelling of Georgic and Dwelling of Modern Georgic.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the analysis, the researcher conclude that Ben as main character in *Captain Fantastic* that used *Greg Garrad's* theory of dwelling applied to this study. In this reasearch, the researcher found out some difficulty and deficiency. Ecocriticism is type of the newest theory and still rarely to be used today. So, the researcher got difficulty to found some previous study that appropriate with ecocriticism that had object which have similar research.

1. Dwelling of Educational construction that potrayed in *Captain Fantastic* movie.

The researcher found two types in dwelling. The first is Georgic, based on one of the data that have been found about georgic was describing about humans as dominant creatures on earth. And the second, Modern Georgic which became dominat in the finding of the research. From those finding, it's explained that humans live side by side with other creatures, which the character from the movie should life and relearning about the culture, history and education of that territory in order to adapt to that place and community.

2. Kind of moral values in dwelling of educational construction that can be taken from the *Captain Fantastic* movie.

The researcher found three kinds of moral value based on dwelling of educational contruction. Because of people had different physique, it was okay to think about other person's physique but not to make fun of them, because of some words can hurt the others feeling. The second moral value, living was choice or a person's right to make decisions about future and how people should behave. The next moral value, reflects how we actually behave when we do something that we know is bad or wrong.

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