



**Ecological Analysis of the Environment in the Movie of
"Interstellar" directed by Christopher Nolan through Eco
Criticisms Theory.**

Presented as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Undergraduate
Program

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I honestly declare that this thesis is my own writing, and it is true that I do not take any scholarly ideas or work from others. Those all cited works are quoted in accordance with the ethical code of academic writing.

Tangerang, 7th September, 2022



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UBD

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is titled “Ecological Analysis of the Environment in the movie of “Interstellar” directed by Christopher Nolan through Ecocriticism Theory”. This thesis aimed for identifying in between human & nature through aspect of ecocriticism found within the dialogue. Ecological means environment way. The writer interested in this thesis because the underlying content of the movie are a merit to analyze and by analyzing using theory of ecocriticism, the writer could come up with the reason why the connection between human & environment are strong in this thesis.

This research is descriptive qualitative research in form of words. The object of this research is a movie released in 2014 titled “Interstellar” directed by Christopher Nolan. The movie will be analyze using Henry David Thoreau’s aspect of ecocriticism.

It is found by using 6 out 9 aspects of ecocriticism, we can actually tell that there is so much that is going in between human & environment. Those 6 aspects of ecocriticism include aspect of nature, environmentalist, wilderness, conservative, science and interdisciplinary. Addition to those aspect, from 157 full pages of screenplay or script, 17 of the pages containing 38 dialogues are chosen by the writer that it would contain an important information relating to the connection between human and environment.

The 4 aspects of ecocriticism, which is aspect of nature, environmentalist, wilderness and conservative are related to the negative problems on the movie, which is the “blight storm” happening on the planet earth in which it led to the destruction of the planet Earth. The aspect of Interdisciplinary and science talks about the black hole’s mysteriousness and human’s curiosity about nature’s biggest secret. those 2 aspects affect the story in some way negative & positive that leads to humanity’s survival. The writer hopes that this thesis can be a useful information by other students to study ecocriticism

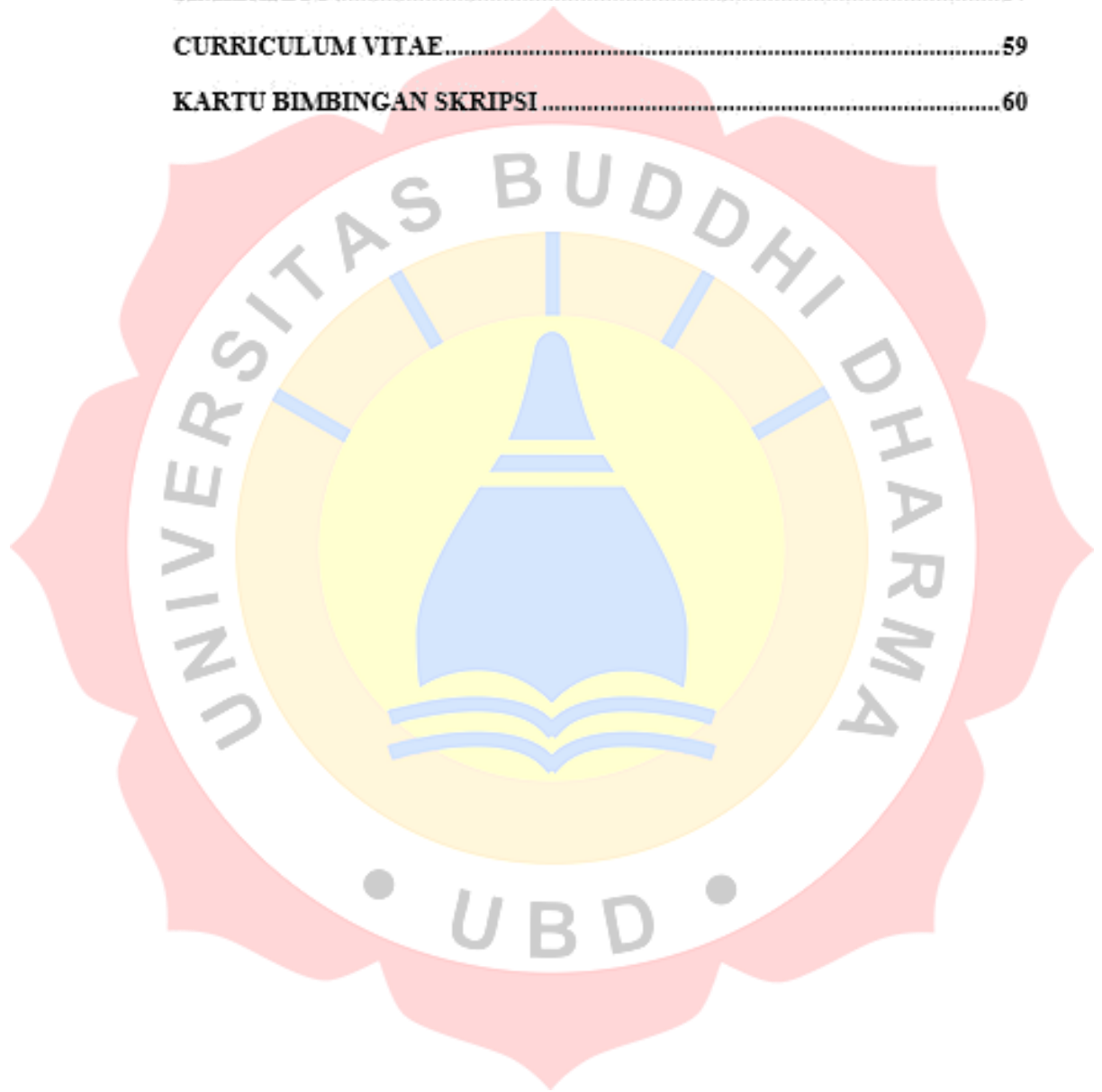
Keyword: *Eco-criticism, Movie, Interstellar, Ecological Analysis, Environment*

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Literature, by all means is a collection of artistic written in text form that usually contains a collection of real-life stories or fictional stories and divided into several genres and many kinds of interpretation. From the meaning itself, literature generally, comprised of many different vessels of things that author can convey. Whether from the stories written in many chapters, which is novels to a staged act designed to retell the past through dramas and live-action plays. From two sometimes three hours of moving, high CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) pictures telling a story, which is a Movie to a more traditional way of conveying stories through a collection of arts and poetry. Literature is something akin to an author's journal. Like a diary waiting to be opened by reader. It is a testament to the author's work and how the author trying to bring that imagination to the real world and applied to other persons who has seen, read, watch and listen to the story to connect with the audience who loves a certain story.

Pickering, James H & Hoepfer, Jeffrey D (1981.01:307) said that every literature is born uniquely by human activity. They are an imitations and human's desire to specifically understand, express, and share unique experience. Literature is an experience, a journey of a writer's life. They are a human expression on a blank of canvas/chapter of any literature, either from novel to movies, it contains writer's story of imagination.

Literature works comes in many different types of mediums depends on the complexity and its length. Mediums include novels, movie/films, poetry, drama, short stories, and prose. From these mediums, Movie/films are the most recent to be added into

the literature sphere. Hornby (2006:950) stated that a Movie is a part of mediums that contains a moving story of fiction or biography that stimulates experiences to the watcher. A movie contains an act/play by actors/actress who play a certain character to the story and as technology progresses, a story can be expanded fictionally with an absolute realism to the watchers with an image mimicking close to the real places in the world. With that in mind, fictional places are possible to recreate according to the fictional story. As other literature works, genres are divided as the same with other mediums. From fantasy genre involving fictional magical creature and other worldly things involving magic to a science fiction genre encompasses an advanced of technologies and a futuristic theme. The writer will choose a movie “Interstellar” originally released in 2014 and directed by Christopher Nolan. The story sets on a dystopian future where humanity is at a brink of extinction because of crop blights and dust storm and it is also telling a story of group of astronaut’s journeys through the wormhole in search for a new home for humanity to survive and thrive.

Based on the story above, it will be perfect to use Eco-criticism theory to dissect the environment role in the story and finding out about how it’s setting of places affect the story progression in the movie. Eco-criticism is a study of literature of the environment, where it analyzes the relation between humans and nature of the world in the literature. the main concern of the movie is how the nature and the environment is portrayed in the movie and how is it portrayed accurately to the real situation in the real world.

The writer is interested in studying this type of movie because it is interesting to see the other side of the picture of this movie from the environmental perspective as the environment depiction in this movie is important part for the story in it. The theory

that the writer choose will be very connected to the analysis that the writer will make and Eco-criticism as it is, still a very underrated theory to choose and the writer is interested.

1.2 Statement of the problem

This movie contains an element of nature and environment that connects to the whole story. Interstellar is about several group of people trying to find a suitable second planet for humanity to survive because the earth itself in the movie is engulfed in dust storm that threaten humanity's survival. Based on the short premise above, this thesis will make an in-depth explanation about the setting of the movie and make the connection in between human and nature on why the planet earth in the movie is starting to become uninhabitable for humans for future generations and how they are going to saved humanity.

1.3 Research Question

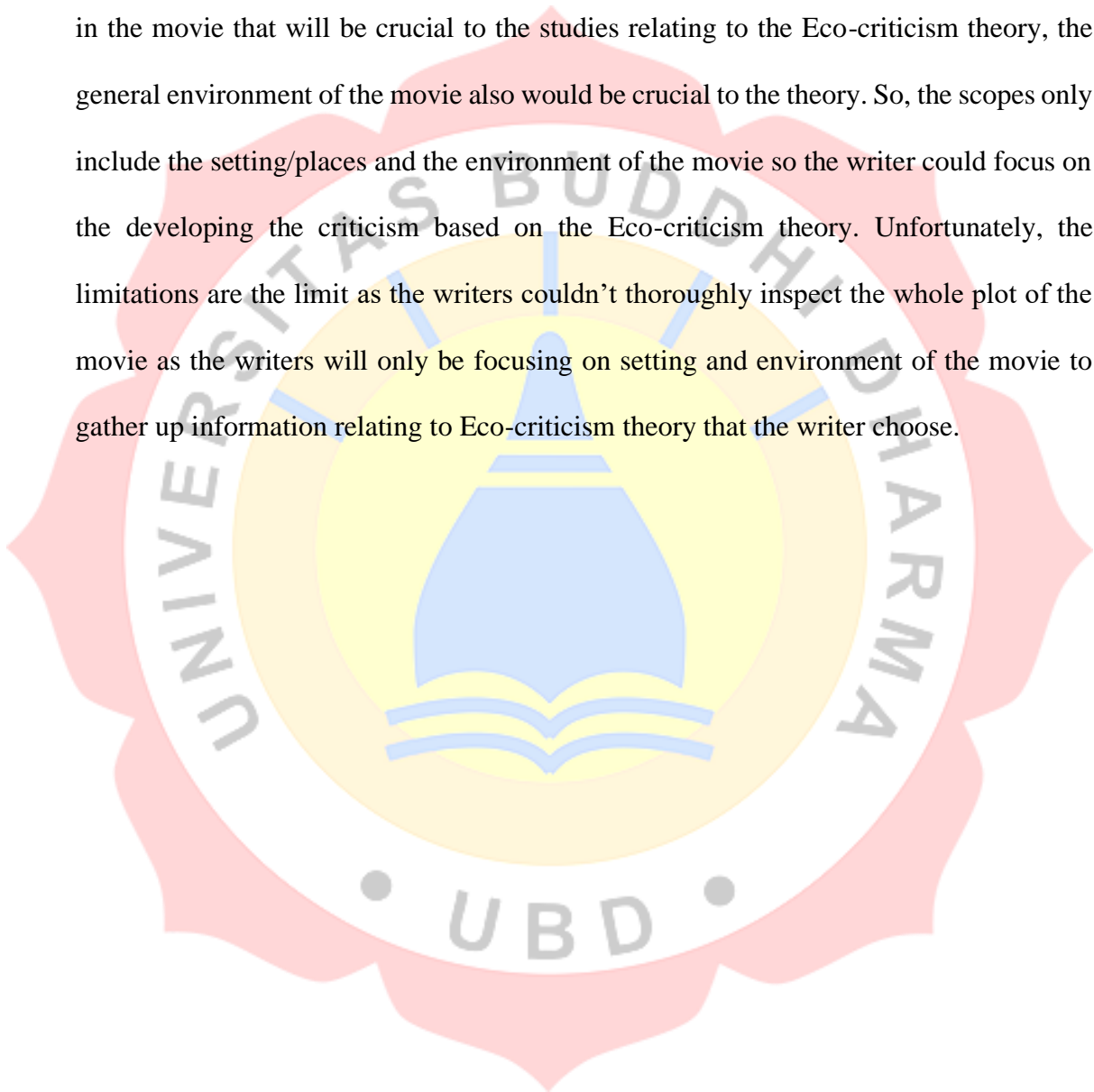
Based on the information about the statement problem above, the research question will be formulated as How does the environment and nature wholly affecting human habitation in planet Earth in the movie using Henry David Thoreau's Aspect of Eco-criticism of human and environment interaction?

1.4 Goal & Function

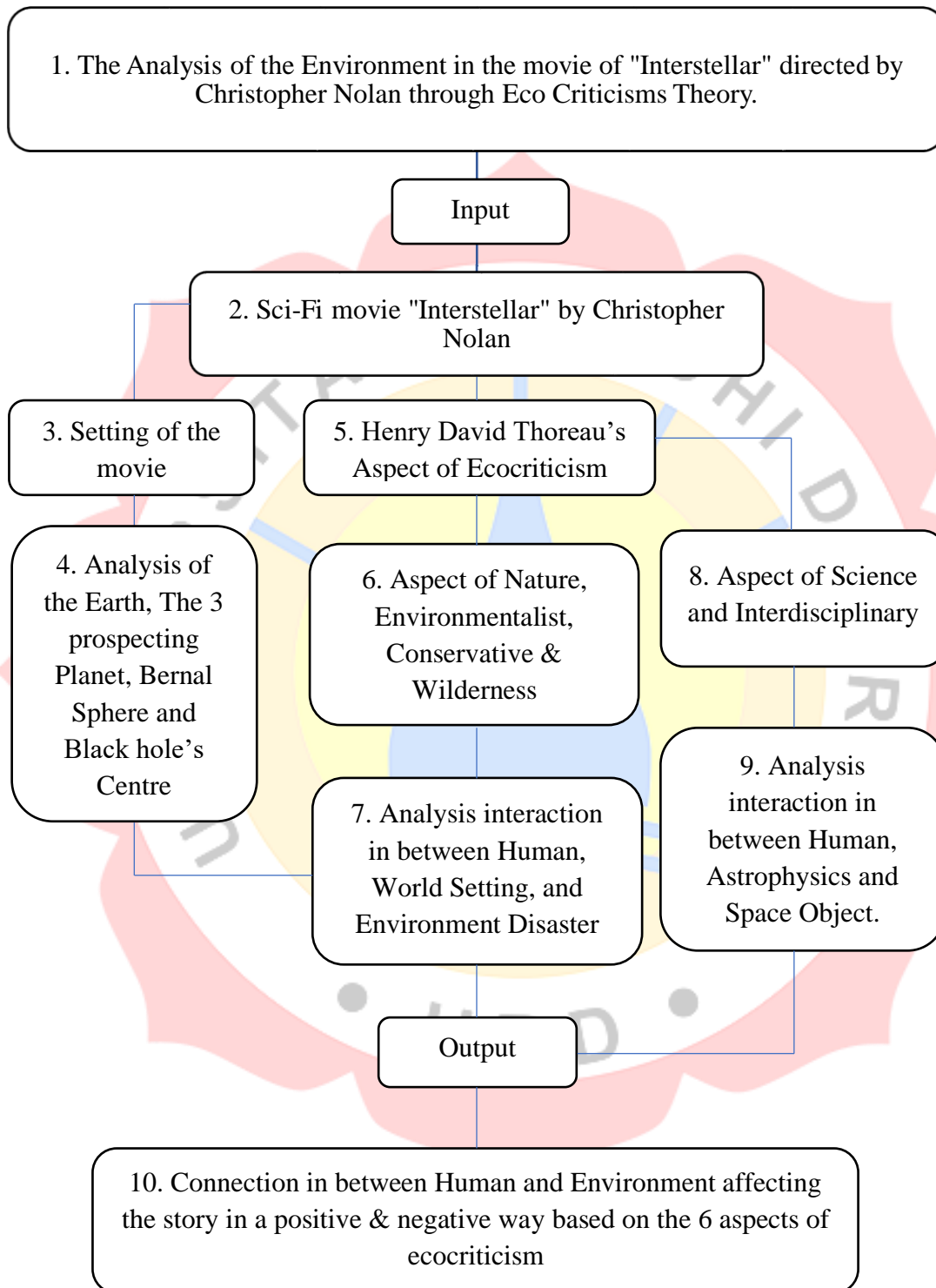
The goal of this study on the thesis are to make readers understand the concept of the story by telling a new side of story based on the ecological perspective that make the readers understand the side of the story. The function of this study is to make a detailed analysis about everything related to the environment depiction of the movie and make a conclusion about the movie itself related to the criticism the writer will be using in this thesis.

1.5 Scopes & Limitations

In this particular research, there's going to be a lot of information that the writers can be covered in this movie alone. With so many of topics that could be reach using any available theory of literature. The scopes of this studies include the setting of the places in the movie that will be crucial to the studies relating to the Eco-criticism theory, the general environment of the movie also would be crucial to the theory. So, the scopes only include the setting/places and the environment of the movie so the writer could focus on the developing the criticism based on the Eco-criticism theory. Unfortunately, the limitations are the limit as the writers couldn't thoroughly inspect the whole plot of the movie as the writers will only be focusing on setting and environment of the movie to gather up information relating to Eco-criticism theory that the writer choose.



1.6 Conceptual Frameworks



Based on the conceptual frameworks above, it can be explained as follows:

1. The Title of the thesis
2. The object of the study
3. The part of the thesis to explain the setting of the movie
4. The part of the thesis explaining the various places from the movie “Interstellar”
5. The theory that the writer will use to analyze the movie “Interstellar”
6. This part explains the 4 aspects of ecocriticism relating to the connection between human and environment in a nature way. The aspect includes Aspect of Nature, Environmentalist, Conservative & Wilderness relating to the environment.
7. This part explains on how human, the world setting and environment disaster are connected through those 4 aspects of ecocriticism related to the nature.
8. In this part explain the 2 other aspect of ecocriticism relating to the connection in between human and environment in a scientific way. This aspect includes aspect of science and interdisciplinary.
9. This part talks about the connection of human, astrophysics and space object. In this movie, the astrophysics part includes the effect about time dilation and space object includes black hole’s mysteriousness.
10. This part of the thesis explained on how 6 aspect of ecocriticism correlates to the human connection of environment and its effect on a positive and negative way that affect’s humanity’s survival.

CHAPTER 2

PREVIOUS STUDIES & THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Previous Studies

Previous studies are a way for the writers to gain insights of a certain research topics and theory to help writers to write a thesis according to the selected topics. The writer will choose a related studies about the theory of Eco-criticism or generally a similar movie with a same settings and same situation around the environment. The first thesis that the writer took as an inspiration for the thesis is “Relationship Between Human and Environment Using Eco-criticism in the *Legacy of Heorot* Novel by Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, and Steven Barnes.” by Theodorick Ardauid Manullang, Singgih Daru Kuncara, and Fatimah M (2021) from department of English literature, faculty of Cultural Sciences, Mulawarman University. The study aims for searching the relationship between human interaction with the environment in the novel that affect the ecology of Avalon.

The second thesis that the writer took as an inspiration is “The Impact of War on Environment Portrayed in *Fury* Movie” By Ade Ariansyah Putra (2016) from department of languages and literature, faculty of cultural studies, Brawijaya University. The aim for the study is to find out the methods of war that threaten the whole environment and the environmental damage caused by the war as depicted in the movie. The theory that was used in the thesis is Eco-criticism theory focusing on the pollution to analyze the environmental damage caused by war.

The third thesis that the writer took inspiration and knowledge for this thesis is “An Analysis of Environment Issues using Eco-criticism in James Cameron’s film *Avatar*” by Rohmah Romadhon (2011) from English Letter Department, Faculty of Letters and

Humanities, State Islamic University of Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. The main study of this particular example is analyzing the various relationship of nature with the various human and non-human characters in the movie.

2.2 Literature

Literature as an oral or written work that contains an elemental features like originality, artistry, beauty in content and expression. Literature in a broader sense contains that sense of originality of each written art with different kinds of genres being develop over the course of the years. With that, there's that sense of beauty comes within each of written art with readers come and do talk about their personal experience being told closely similarly story with the readers might connect or related to.

Literature represents a language of people's culture and tradition on which itself contains an element of human life as a whole. It connects human being with associate works of anything in conjunction with how literature works conveys meaning to its reader with feelings of words inside them. As literature works progresses throughout history of time, it became a time capsule waiting to be interpreted by readers. As such, literature has so much values inside them because as its ages throughout the time, it tells an important story of its time when it began its journey.

That's why literature is so important to some people because it contains an intrinsic value to the descendant of that author and to the readers who is interested the stories in literature. Whether is novel to movies, its essence never goes away from generation to generation to come. With the existence of literature studies, it will be kept as a human legacy to come.

2.3 Eco-Criticism

Eco-criticism is a criticism studies part of a larger studies of criticism focusing on the relationship between human and nature. It deals about environmental issues and cultural issues in the literature. It is also a study of literature and environment from an interdisciplinary point of view in which nature and sciences come together to gather information and analyses the environment in literature and related that situation happening in the real world. Eco-criticism can also be interpreted as a criticism to the environmental depiction in the literature world. This form of criticism rarely gets the attention it needs because environment impact wasn't really highlighted in the 90s until a higher form of social emphasis on environmental destruction, climate change, social degradation, and in an increasing and more advanced technologies that will come in a coming decade or even century, eco-criticism theory has been more important than ever in the last decade to dissect the various environmental problems in the literature and applied it to the real world situation.

William Rueckert possibly invented the term for "ecocriticism", started in 1978 with his essay called *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*. Back then, it was used as a direct application of studying literature through ecological perspective. Although it is very useful, back in the early days, there were no generalized movement on studying the side of literature works through ecological perspective so the essay and other important works are merely categorized under a different subject, which is subject that are more famous such as American studies, regionalism, human ecology, etc.

According to Simon Estok (2001:220), he argued that ecocriticism is more than just a criticism about environment and nature. It's about theory that committed by analyzing the artistic, social, historical, ideological, theoretical, or otherwise a natural

environment as an important feature rather than simply as an object of thematic study. Eco-criticism is about the value of analyzing not just the elements of nature and environment inside a literature but to analyze the connection in between nature, environment, and literature.

Ecocriticism as whole literary studies is a new sphere of mind by many it's user. Therefore, it is important for ecocritics to make it clear of explaining what ecocriticism is. In fact, one way we can interpret literature is by listening and telling stories to masses. This man love stories that are based on the richness of mother nature in so many things that fascinate him and such inspire that such of idea into a new perspective to look at the physical setting. That man is Henry David Thoreau (1817), an American transcendentalist who stayed in the cabin, pondering about how people, society feels so out of touch with the natural world. He thought that human world should imitate the natural world as it should have been from the start.

This is why his book, "Walden" released in 1854 is the most celebrated works of ecocriticism and remains the foundation or a landmark text for ecocriticism. This work has become a fuss for today's ecocritics because it really paints the picture on how we really are disconnected from the nature's way of life and it should be the start where we could actually restore the connection between us, humans and nature, nonhumans.

2.3.1 Aspect of Ecocriticism

Aspects of Eco-criticism is a collection of important body of ecocriticism devised by Henry David Thoreau. It is taken from the book "Walden", the aspect of ecocriticism is embodied in the book to dissected the part of ecocriticism., From the book, we can

conclude that the book contains these aspects that makes ecocriticism as it is today, they are:

a. Eco-criticism is Interdisciplinary

Eco-criticism as whole has a huge variance of knowledge from different scholarly areas that could help analysis of a certain objects. To illustrate this aspect, take the example of the flower “Rose”. It can be a symbol of Love, it could be part of a larger species of Rosa, in some culture, it is also royal flower. All of this could be studied in various perspective of philosophy, botany and history and many more different interpretations.

b. Eco-criticism is Nature

Eco-criticism is obviously about nature, but what is qualify as “*nature*”. Eco-critics are looking on how to antagonize the human’s view on natural world so they come up with two different looks on what is a “*nature*”.

- Nature is a place where humans are not counted as part of “*nature*”
- Nature is everything, everywhere. Human too

c. Eco-criticism is Environmentalist

Eco-criticism strives to make every people care about every living creature that live in this planet. Political movement of Environmentalist is about doing that. To make people care about their environment by voicing their problem to the general mass.

d. Ecocriticism is Anthropocentric

The view of Anthroponotic always eludes us. People always see themselves everywhere. For example, you will hear someone “That tree kind reminds me of my friend’s hair” or “that cat reminds me of someone I love”. Those

comparisons set him in the world of literature, botany and love, which is Eco-critically very bad. It's abusive and refutable.

e. Ecocriticism is Ecologic

From the Greek word *Oikos* means Home & *Ology* means the study of. Ecology is a study of ourselves, Home. This jumble of words and their interaction are less importance to the study. The interaction part however is essential and an integral part of eco-criticism. In short, a study of how living stuff interacts with each other and their environments. The perfect illustrations of how cats and dogs are sometimes nice to each other. The results are obviously fascinating. And adorable if added into the equation. That relationship described above is a prime example of what is ecocriticism about.

f. Eco-criticism is New Materialism

Many important people said humans are special. They cannot be reduced to their physical properties because they are special, a gift. Materialist said that people are made up by their biological parts, which mean that even *human thoughts & creativity*, often sets apart human from animals, are just part of human physiology.

g. Ecocriticism is science

As mention above, the first aspect of ecocriticism is interdisciplinary. It gets the fundamental stuffs from various knowledge in which to study interaction between living creatures. That also what is science all about. Ever since, it becomes a rigorous, empirical business that when people observe something unknown to them, something that they never see before, they fantasize and

make a hypothesis about what they observed. After that, testing their hypothesis.

h. Ecocriticism is Wilderness

In addition to the aspect before it, ecocriticism tends to bring everything related to these natural aspects of world and technology of science. Away from cities, cars and rowdy neighborhood, wilderness brings people back to its natural habitat.

i. Ecocriticism is Conservative

This aspect of ecocriticism meant that it is a very important tool of speech for actually saving this planet. Preserving this beautiful planet, we call home and for the future generations to come. Conservationists, then spend a lot of time introducing new ways of reducing people's negative impact on the environment while also promoting the natural order of things.

2.3.2 Eco-poetics

Eco-poetics, part of the broader eco-criticism field of literary and theories is poetry with a strong ecological message. Those messages, although not exactly are "eco-poetics" are "eco-poetics" in some sense and transpired some influences on the poetry sub-genres to come. Eco-poetry used language to infer and deepen our sense of nature in our lives and with the sense of belonging that we are part of the nature. John Elder (1996) explains in the book *Imagining the Earth* (1985) that the principles of ecology change that person's vision of nature and the form expression of that vision itself is changing also.

2.4 Movie

Movies or films are a type of visual communication that uses many types of moving pictures and sound to infer the stories. As Hornby (2006:950) said, movie contains a series

of moving picture with a full sound experience that tells the story from start to finish. They are produced by taking pictures of the real-life places with a camera or by creating an environment or setting by using advanced animation techniques or special effects. As an example, the movie “Interstellar” revolves around the already destructive future earth, spaceship *Endurance*, Miller’s planet, etc.

Movies, also include tv shows are type of entertainment that every people in the world use to watch on their free time and spend their time together. Movies are made by big production of actors/actresses, producer, director, and many various films crew working together with screenwriters to create a movie. Stories are made by the screenwriters as a form of scripts.

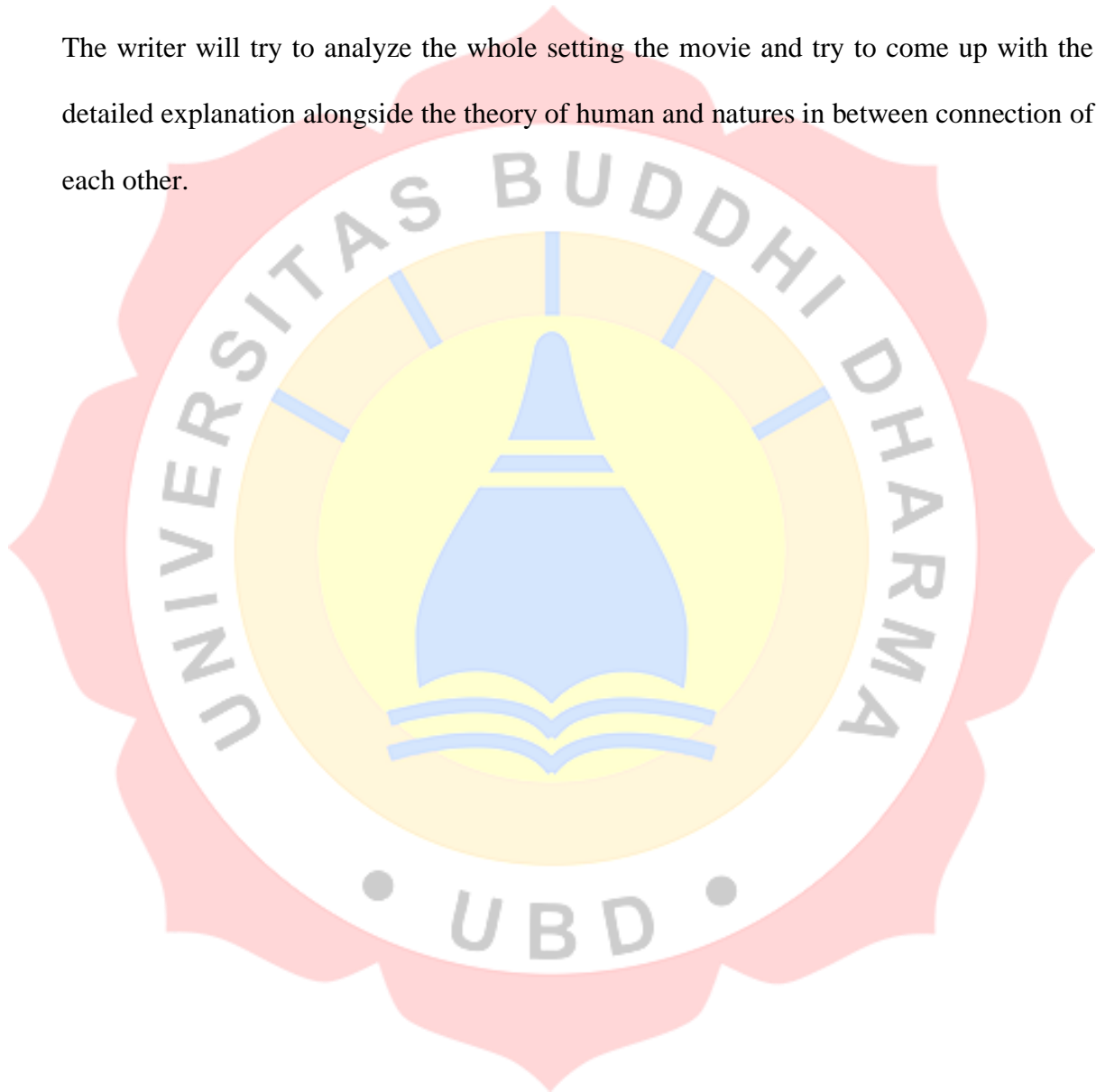
2.5 Setting

Setting is an important part of literary element as setting used as time and places which the story takes place. As Truby (2007, p.145) said, setting is the time and geographic location inside the narrative story whether it is fiction stories or non-fiction stories focusing on real-life stories. Out of many literary elements, places, time and culture that make up the setting is a major part of all of literature elements because without setting, literature world would be just a barren world without any emotions attached to it.

Setting can also interpret as environment that could affect us physically or mentally such as the time as day and night from years to seconds, the amount of physical brightness of the sun or moon that could affect the mood, the nature such as plants and animals that could interact us physically or mentally, the social environment of the surrounding neighborhood, the sound or noise of environment, the smells, and the weather.

Those are interconnected to the environment and are a major part of the setting that makes literature world feels more alive. (Robert & Jacobs, 1987:29)

Setting is an important part of this study because the movie, *Interstellar* is heavily focused on the setting with the story sets also in Space and on the planet Earth. The writer will try to analyze the whole setting the movie and try to come up with the detailed explanation alongside the theory of human and natures in between connection of each other.



CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Subject Matter

The subject of this thesis is an American sci-fi film titled, “Interstellar” released in 2014 co-written, directed, and produced by Christopher Nolan. The actors and actresses took part of the movie include the likes of Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Matt Damon, Michael Caine, etc. The story sets in future Earth in 2067 where crop blights and dust storms dampen humanity’s survival. The setting of time and place are crucial for the writers to dissect the environment and nature affecting humanity’s survival in the movie and the reason writers loves analyze this movie because the writer’s affection towards science-fiction movie and how it captures the future is always a fascinating to think according to the writer.

3.2 Material

The material for this thesis is obviously the movie “Interstellar”. A full 169 minutes duration of the movie will be analyze constantly looking for the parts that the writer might be interested in connecting the dots between human and nature. In addition to the movie, the writers will also collect any various information relating to the movie and the theory, ecocriticism from various journals, articles, private blogs, and previous studies using ecocriticism to help with the data source for this thesis.

3.3 Approach

This thesis will be using the descriptive qualitative method as the primary data for the analyzing. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (1993), the qualitative is referred to research studies that investigate the quality of relationship, situation, activities, or material.

Descriptive qualitative method uses word and sentences to explain and understand the descriptive data from the pictures and conversation of words. The writer will apply the descriptive qualitative method on analyzing the movie and answer the research question previously on chapter 1.

3.4 Procedure

There will be several steps and procedure to produces to analyze the movie as the whole. The function for this procedure is to help the writers find the information steps by steps and collects data for this study. First, the writer will watch “Interstellar” Steps by steps and point out any useful information in the movie. Since this thesis will use the setting of the movie, the writers might choose some of the most important segment or part of the movie since the whole movie is basically has setting continuously. Aside from picking the most important setting of the movie, the writer will also backtrack some of the segment looking for the connection in between human and nature, which is related to the ecocriticism supported by scenes from the movie. Also, this thesis will also include transcript of the movie to support the writer looking for the important conversation relating to the ecocriticism.