

**HUMAN INTERFERENCES TO REWILD THE NATURE
DEPICTED IN CHARLOTTE MCCONAGHY'S *ONCE THERE
WERE WOLVES***

THESIS

By:
Firda Aulia Rachmasari
NIM 19320119



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG
2023**

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THESIS

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By:

Firda Aulia Rachmasari

NIM 19320119

Advisor:

Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A

NIP 198410282015031007



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG

2023

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled **“Human Interferences to Rewild the Nature Depicted in Charlotte McConaghy’s *Once There Were Wolves*”** is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the one who is responsible for that.

Malang, 26 May 2023

The researcher



Firda Aulia Rachmasari

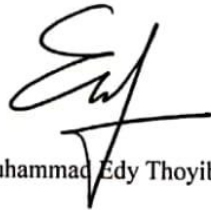
NIM 19320119

APPROVAL SHEET

This to certify that Firda Aulia Rachmasari's thesis entitled **Human Interferences to Rewild the Nature Depicted in Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*** has been approved for thesis examination at Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, as one of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S).

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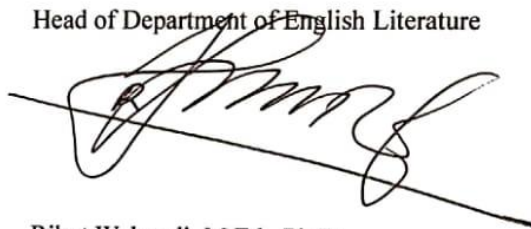
Approved by
Advisor



Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A.

NIP 198410282015031007

Head of Department of English Literature



Ribut Wahyudi, M.Ed., Ph.D.

NIP 198112052011011007

Acknowledged by
Dean,



Dr. M. Faisol, M.Ag.

NIP 197411012003121003

LEGITIMATION SHEET

This is to certify that Firda Aulia Rachmasari's thesis entitled **Human Interferences to Rewild the Nature Depicted in Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*** has been approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S) in Department of English Literature.

Malang, 16 June 2023

Board of Examiners

1. Dr. Syamsudin, M.Hum.
NIP 196911222006041001
2. Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A.
NIP 198410282015031007
3. Hafidhun Annas, M.Hum.
NIP 198807292019031009

Signatures



Approved by

Dean of Faculty of Humanities



Dr. M. Parsol, M.Ag.
NIP. 197411012003121003

MOTTO

“Allah makes the impossible possible.”

Qur'an 26:63

DEDICATIONS

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

This thesis is dedicated to my parents, Ali Maksum and Daris Salamah, who always support me throughout the process. The ones who always ensure me that this thesis will be completed. Thank you for your endless love, support, and encouragement. I love you both, forever and ever.

I also dedicate this thesis to my best brother, best friend, and best partner in crime since 2003, Rifqi Ahmad Zidan Fahrezy. Thank you for always helping me since I was little until now. Thank you for choosing Malang to continue your study, so that I am not feeling lonely here.

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Finally, I realize that this thesis is far from the word perfect. It still needs improvement. Moreover, any critics, comments, or suggestions from the readers would be really appreciated.

Malang, June 2023



Firda Aulia Rachmasari

NIM 19320119

ABSTRACT

Rachmasari, Firda Aulia. (2023). Human Interferences to Rewild the Nature Depicted in Charlotte McConaghy's "*Once There Were Wolves*". Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A.

Keywords: Ecocriticism, human interferences, rewilding

Nature is getting damaged day by day. Humans' activities are the main cause of natural damage. Deforestation, industrialization, humans' overpopulation, burning fuels, and many more have triggered climate change. It will become worse if human do not take any steps to save the nature. This study aims to investigate the human interferences toward nature and its impacts in Scottish Highlands that are depicted in *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy that was published in 2021. In the object used, rewilding becomes one of the best ways to help restoring nature to its natural state. There are several ways to do rewilding based in the novel, such as releasing fourteen gray wolves as the apex predator to nature, keeping forests and its vegetation, and planting trees. Predator such as wolf is the top of the food chain in wilderness. They hunt the overpopulated herbivores that caused the problem in the land. People also can start to keep and grow vegetations around them to help the water table back. This research also shows what are the effects of doing rewilding to the nature. The result of this study shows that rewilding project in the novel has successfully helped the environment in Scottish Highlands growing better as the ecosystem slowly back to its nature, the herbivores population decrease, and people in the land feel that they live in a beautiful place with healthy and good ecosystem. Moreover, this research uses Ecocriticism approach and literary criticism method.

ABSTRAK

Rachmasari, Firda Aulia. (2023). Human Interferences to Rewild the Nature Depicted in Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*. Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A.

Kata kunci: Ekokritik, upaya campur tangan manusia, pengembalian alam

Alam semakin rusak dari waktu ke waktu. Aktivitas manusia menjadi sumber utama dari kerusakan alam. Penggundulan hutan, industrialisasi, populasi manusia yang semakin berlebihan, pembakaran bahan bakar, dan sebagainya memicu adanya perubahan iklim yang drastis. Jika dibiarkan, hal ini akan semakin memburuk. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menginvestigasi beberapa upaya campur tangan manusia untuk mengembalikan lingkungan sebagaimana mestinya di dataran tinggi Skotlandia sesuai dengan novel *Once There Were Wolves* yang ditulis oleh Charlotte McConaghy dan dipublikasikan pada 2021 lalu. Pada objek yang digunakan oleh peneliti, mengembalikan alam dengan pelepasan predator menjadi salah satu cara terbaik. Di dalam novel, ada beberapa cara untuk melakukan pengembalian alam, seperti melepaskan empat belas ekor serigala yang merupakan puncak rantai makanan di alam liar, menjaga hutan dan tumbuhan lain, serta menanam pohon. Hewan predator seperti serigala merupakan puncak rantai makanan di alam liar yang bertugas memburu rusa. Populasi rusa yang berlebihan membuat ekosistem rusak. Selain itu, orang-orang juga dapat memulai untuk menanam pohon dan tumbuhan lain untuk membantu air tanah kembali. Hasil dari studi ini menunjukkan bahwa pengembalian alam yang digambarkan di novel berhasil dan membantu ekosistem di Skotlandia kembali seperti semula. Hal ini ditunjukkan dengan ekosistem yang perlahan kembali ke bentuk awalnya, populasi herbivora yang menurun, serta warga lokal yang merasa lega bahwa mereka sekarang hidup di tempat yang indah dengan ekosistem yang membaik. Lebih lanjut, penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan Ekokritik dan metode kritik sastra.

مستخلص البحث

رشماساري ، فيردا أوليا. (2023). التدخلات البشرية تجاه الطبيعة الموضحة في Charlotte *McConaghy's Once There Were Wolves*. الأطروحة الجامعية. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي ، كلية العلوم الإنسانية ، جامعة الدولة الإسلامية مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج. المستشار محمد إيدي ثويب ، ماجستير.

الكلمات الرئيسية: النفاق ، الطبيعة ، إعادة اللف

الطبيعة تتضرر يوماً بعد يوم. أنشطة البشر هي السبب الرئيسي للضرر الطبيعي. أدت إزالة الغابات ، والتصنيع ، والاحتفاظ السكاني للبشر ، وحرق الوقود ، وغيرها الكثير إلى تغيير المناخ. سيصبح الأمر أسوأ إذا لم يتخذ الإنسان أي خطوات لإنقاذ الطبيعة. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التحقيق في التدخلات البشرية تجاه الطبيعة وتأثيراتها في المرتفعات الاسكتلندية التي تم تصويرها في *Once There Were Wolves* بقلم Charlotte McConaghy الذي نشر في عام 2021. في الكائن المستخدم ، تصبح إعادة البناء واحدة من أفضل الطرق للمساعدة في استعادة الطبيعة إلى حالتها الطبيعية. هناك عدة طرق للقيام بإعادة البناء بناء على الرواية ، مثل إطلاق أربعة عشر ذئبا رماديا كمفترس رئيسي للطبيعة ، والحفاظ على الغابات ونباتاتها ، وزراعة الأشجار. المفترس مثل الذئب هو الجزء العلوي من السلسلة الغذائية في البرية. إنهم يصطادون الحيوانات العاشبة المكتظة بالسكان التي تسببت في المشكلة في الأرض. يمكن للناس أيضا البدء في الحفاظ على النباتات من حولهم وتنميتها لمساعدة منسوب المياه الجوفية على العودة. يوضح هذا البحث أيضا ما هي آثار القيام بإعادة البناء على الطبيعة. تظهر نتيجة هذه الدراسة أن مشروع إعادة البناء في الرواية قد ساعد بنجاح البيئة في المرتفعات الاسكتلندية على النمو بشكل أفضل مع عودة النظام البيئي ببطء إلى طبيعته ، وانخفاض عدد الحيوانات العاشبة ، ويشعر الناس في الأرض أنهم يعيشون في مكان جميل مع نظام بيئي صحي وجيد. كما يستخدم هذا البحث منهج النقد البيئي ومنهج النقد الأدبي.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, there are several points related to the research scheme. The first point is the background of the study, followed by the explanation of problems of the study, scope of limitation, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Earth has provided human needs. All things such as security, basic material, and health, have massively supported human life. Earth has supported human's welfare. A good ecosystem will make a good impact for humans (Apriati, 2013, p1.). It is needed to support human's life. Basic materials that support humans for their physical needs usually are taken from trees. Humans also need animals to support their life. Thus, humans' lives depend on nature. Chairani, Mas'ulah, & Setyorini (2019, p.75) stated that people nowadays do not have a good relationship with nature including animals. Humans do exploit and treat animals improperly. As humans' bad behaviors are depicted in *Once There Were Wolves*, it shows that Ecocriticism opposes the excessive exploitation in nature. Nature has given humans many benefits. However, human's activity caused many bad impacts toward nature (Hove, Rathaha, & Mugiya 2020, p. 330).

Nature has provided natural resources that support human beings' lives. Humans become the ones who consume the things that have been given by nature. However, most of them consume all the natural resources irresponsibly. In fact, humans must keep nature as it should. Humans are also the ones who should take

responsibility for nature. Therefore, humans and nature are playing an active role in human history and both have a relationship. As a result of the relationship, the interaction and relationship of humans and nature influences humans' behavior (Fazalani, 2019, p. 3).

Nature exists in its own realm. The existence of nature is not dependent on human's presence (Garrard, 2004, p.5). Garrard stated that Ecocriticism can be supported to find, define, and accomplish the ecological problems. By using Ecocriticism theory, it shows the way human beings in real life effect. There are also special ways to visualize a story with nature. Ecological studies and literature have crucial explanations through the story. This theory focuses on the environment themes and nature have written in literary works (Buell, 2005, p.5).

Ecocriticism approach elaborates things such as species extinction, global warming, air pollution, deforestation, climate change, and other ecological crises around the world (Mukhtar, 2017, p. 315). The crisis itself actually is the aspect of human organization which emerges humankind's connection with nature. Humans' life should be independent and they do not reckon it as an inevitable inference in human society (Garrard, 2004, p.57).

According to Bressler (2011, p.231) in his book entitled *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice 5th Edition*, Ecocriticism directly relates people as human beings to the environment. This approach emphasizes that humans should take actions to keep nature safe. Through the book, Bressler stated that ecocritics implore people to participate in raising awareness to the environment.

As humans become the ‘main character’ in the world, they have the biggest role to make a revolution in the earth. It shows that humans have a relationship with the environment. There is a period when humans’ actions have a massive influence on nature. Bauer & Ellis (2018, p. 210) stated that the things that have been done by humans might have some catastrophically affects to the plants, animals, and humans. This period is well known as Anthropocene. Thus, human activities have substantially changed the functioning of the earth and its nature.

Ecological crisis actually is a practical problem of values and beliefs that science and technology without intervening and leading position toward nature. Through Ecocriticism, this approach shows the major explanation that living in a history that is connected to the ‘actual’ world or nature. Thus, ecological criticism emphasizes the connection of culture and nature particularly the cultural object of literature and language (Glotfelty & Fromm, 1996, p.9). Ecological criticism also tries to attempt to create humankind to take the responsibility of all living creatures in the world. Jimmy (2015, p.371) stated that every part of the ecological part that is victimized by the other creatures must be restored as soon as possible. It is important to receive the quality of human and human individuals who ought to be loved at the same view.

In this research, the object is a novel entitled *Once There Were Wolves* published in 2021 by Charlotte McConaghy, an Australian novelist who lives in Sydney. She has written some books; *The Last Migration* (2021), *Migrations* (2020), *Isadora* (2017), *Thorne* (2016), *Limerence: Book Three of The Cure* (2016), *Furry: Book One of The Cure* (2014), *Melancholy: Book Two of The Cure* (2015),

and Avery (2015). McConaghy is also fueled by her love of nature and has become a *New York Times Bestseller* with her novel, *Once There Were Wolves*. She brings a mystery of a biologist who reintroduced wolves to the Scottish Highlands. She has goals to re-wild the landscape and bring the forest back into its nature and life. Furthermore, *Once There Were Wolves* discusses the environmental issues that can be seen from the Ecocriticism perspective.

Once There Were Wolves by Charlotte McConaghy tells and examines the locals in a small town in Scotland that are against the wolf initiated by the main character, Inti Flynn. People disagree with this project because they are scared if the wolves will eat their livestock and attack people. The story focuses on the main character and people around her. This novel is an exquisite ode to the natural world and all the wild creatures in it.

This novel shows problems that are related to Ecocriticism. The researcher focuses on human behavior which wants to destroy nature's creatures. Based on the novel, humans reject the presence of wolves. They think their environment will be safe and peaceful without wolves. However, wolves' presence actually will help the ecosystem become well organized. However, people still reject the project initiated by Flynn's team. Thus, this novel shows the relationship between human and nature through an ecocritical perspective.

The purpose of why the researcher wants to analyze McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves* is because the novel shows an action called rewilding to save the damaged nature. The nature itself has begun to damage because of humans'

activities. Moreover, there are several things that people can do to keep the nature in its natural state by doing rewilding, depicted in the novel. This research applies an Ecocriticism approach to find out the image of nature in a literary work. The previous studies that are taken due to the similarity of the theory and the object of this study.

An article published in The New York Times entitled *Human and Animal Predators Together in the Scottish Highlands* (2021) which talks about McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves* (2021) shows the main character of the story, Inti Flynn who has a big hope to restore an ancient balance to the ecosystem of Highlands. She has a wolf project with her team of wolf biologists from Alaska. She hopes it can make the ecosystem become stable again. The author of the review, Harriet Lane, explains that this novel has a similar premise to Sarah Hall's *The Wolf Border* (2015) although both have different sets. Lane stated that this novel is an earnest and heartfelt novel. Every chapter of this novel shows the seriousness of Inti Flynn to make the ecosystem in Scotland better.

Many studies about Ecocriticism have been published. All of them have different perspectives. There are studies that are focused on the relationship between nature and humans that are taken from literary works. These studies also use an Ecocriticism approach to analyze the works. The studies are from (Sardari 2020; Pertiwi 2022; Justine 2021; Budi & Mustafa 2018). These studies show that nature and humans are connected to each other. They cannot be separated. Humans' need nature to fulfill their lives. People should be aware about the great influence

of nature on humans. Furthermore, the studies emphasize that nature has substantial influences toward humans' life.

Moreover, Ecocriticism also shows the relationship between humans and animals. As the researcher requires to analyze the relationship between these two, there are several studies that strengthen the references about Ecocriticism. The studies are from (Chairani, Mas'ulah, & Setyorini 2019; Islam 2018; Bhushan 2021; Nsah 2018). These articles focus on how humans and animals that are actually can make and build a good bond. Humans and animals live on the same planet and they have the same rights to live. However, humans start to destroy the ecosystem that makes animals dwindle. Thus, these studies were conducted to show and make people try to respect nature because nature and humans are considered to be equal and not in a domineering or hierarchical relationship.

Ecological issues also can be seen from the perspective of culture. There are studies that use Ecocriticism in the term of culture as (Arianto & Simanjutak 2020; See, Hashim, & Raihanah 2022). Ecocriticism suggests the integration of humans, animals, and nature. Ecocriticism also involves the interaction of literary texts and the physical environment. Moreover, the habits that are shown in literary criticism are allowing some cultural phenomena, climate and environmental changes in literature.

The last study is on McConaghy's another work, *The Last Migrations* on a study entitled *Women Navigating the Climate Catastrophe: Challenging Anthropocentrism in Selected Fiction* (Murray, 2021). This study uses eco-

feminism approach on some fictions including McConaghy's work, *The Last Migrations*. According to this study, the author focuses on ecological issues. By using eco-feminism approach, it shows the environmental conservation and rehabilitation through the women's actions to save the nature on the novel. This study also criticizes the connection of humans and nature. It explores how the female characters deal with the climate catastrophe.

Furthermore, from those previous studies cited above, this study arranges to portray the environmental problems created by humans that affect nature and animals in the novel *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy. By using Ecocriticism theory, the researcher wants to identify human behaviors that interfere with nature and the effect on nature based on the object used.

B. Problems of the Study

This research attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are the human interferences to rewild nature in Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*?
2. How do the interferences of humans have impacts on the natural environment portrayed in Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*?

C. Significance of the Study

By writing this research, the researcher hopes to develop knowledge through theory and practice. This study attempts to enrich readers' perspectives about the ecological issues that become a big problem nowadays from the Ecocriticism approach. Moreover, this study strives to share knowledge about applying the Ecocriticism approach in a literary work. The significance results of this research will provide information about humans' efforts to rewild the nature. Furthermore, this study is supposed to help people who want to focus and do research using an Ecocriticism approach.

D. Scope and Limitations

The scope of this research shows the framework in the research that is important as the topic mentioned in the study that focused on the environmental changes or damages. It also becomes the main problem of the research. This research uses an Ecocriticism approach as the focus of this study. This study aims to analyze the environmental issues depicted in a literary work entitled *Once There Were Wolves*. Furthermore, the limitations of this study are focused on how humans' effort to rewild the nature and its impacts based on the novel.

E. Definition of Key Terms

Avoiding any misunderstandings in the research is needed. To make the readers understand better, the researcher needs to provide a term definition of this study. Some terms are defined below:

1. Ecocriticism

Ecocriticism is a study about the relationship between humans and nature. This study examines the great connection between literary works and the physical environment (Glotfelty & Fromm, 1996, p.8). Glotfelty & Fromm also stated that Ecocriticism examines and focuses on planets and its environment.

2. Rewilding

Rewilding is a strategy to make a protection and reintroduction the ecosystem. It aims to recover the trophic networks by releasing some species to the wild nature (Bu`hne, Pettorelli, & Hoffmann, 2022, p.94). Garrard (2012, p.53) defines that rewilding is a form of redemptive effort to make sure that the world is going to be better.

3. Natural Resource

Natural resource is the materials or substances such as minerals, forests, water, and fertile land that occur in nature. It supports human being's life. Natural resources have a big impact toward humans' life. Thus, human and nature share the great symbiosis (Fazalani, 2019, p.5).

4. Nature

Nature is the environment where all living things on the earth live. Ducarme & Couvet (2020, p.4) emphasizes that nature is the whole universe which the material phenomena placed

5. Human Interference

Human interference in this research focuses on how people try to find any ways to help the nature back into its own state. The damaged nature has called for urgent action in response to protect the nature (Christ, et al, 2021, p. 1).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, literature review elaborates an overview of an issue. The theory associated with this research is the Ecocriticism approach. Several points that presented in this chapter are the theory of Ecocriticism and its history, human, nature, and animal relationship, Anthropocene, and rewilding the nature.

A. Ecocriticism

Glotfelty postulated that Ecocriticism is a theory that can be applied to discuss the relationship between humans and nature (Garrard, 2004, p. 3). This theory motivates people to take actions to protect nature. Furthermore, ecology shows the scheme system of relationship that plants, animals, and people have with their environment (Balasubramanian, 2019, p.1). Through a book by Glotfelty & Fromm (1996) entitled *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*, Ecocriticism emphasizes on the conservation between environmental and ecological balance. It shows the interrelationship of human societies with their respective surroundings.

Ecocriticism examines the possible connection in a text with some notions such as place, people, self-society, and the physical natural system. It includes the geographical and geological aspects of the earth (Khan, 2019, p.90). In Ecocriticism, human get suggest of new norms and their responsibilities to change humans' exploitation toward nature. Ecocriticism accepts the opinions and processes to criticize literary text (Garrard, 2004, p.5). Thus, Ecocriticism is used

as the theory to analyze how humans and nature relationship is depicted on the object. Moreover, the researcher also wants to show the interference of humans to nature and its impacts based on the novel entitled *Once There Were* by Charlotte McConaghy.

1. Definitions of Ecocriticism

Glotfelty & Fromm (1996, p.9), pointed that Ecocriticism is a study that focuses on the connection between literature and the physical environment. Ecocriticism takes an earth-centered approach in any literary studies. Meanwhile, Fitzsimmons (2014) also emphasizes that Ecocriticism is a branch of green studies that discusses about the relationship between human and non-human life. Those are portrayed in literary texts which show the struggle of humans to protect and against the environmental problems.

Based on Bressler (2011, p.231), Ecocriticism directly relates people as human beings to the environment. Bressler emphasizes that this approach focuses on the fact that humans should take actions to keep nature safe. Ecocritics try to implore all people to participate in raising awareness to the environment. Moreover, ecological problems must be fixed as soon as possible. This is important to get the quality of human and nature ought to be loved at the same view.

Buell (2005, p. 11) also emphasizes that Ecocriticism is a dedication to ecological praxis in any literary and environmental relationship. It requires the endorsement of other scientific hypotheses. All in all, it focuses on the

relationship between literature and nature. Ecocriticism seeks the ideas and responses toward environmental catastrophe throughout the texts. It also strives to explore environmental concepts and representations from literary texts.

2. History of Ecocriticism

Recently, many critics become aware about the relationship between literature and nature. It is depicted as there are some works that show and study the relationship between nature and society by the literary writers. As there are many studies focus on the issue, some authors have paved a path of a critical approach called Ecocriticism. Ecocriticism not only emphasizes on the connection of humanity and nature, but also about the devastation caused by the natural changes (Fenn, 2015, p.114).

The first term of Ecocriticism was used in the 1978s by William H. Rueckert. According to his essay entitled *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism (1978)*, the concept focuses on the unity between the text and humans. However, Ecocriticism develops and becomes a growing science of literature study. One of the most influential people in the development of this theory is Cheryll Glotfelty. She stated that Ecocriticism is a critique that tries to find out the relationship between a literary work and the physical environment. She claims that Ecocriticism focuses on planets and the environment.

According to Marland (2015, p.122), Ecocriticism is divided into four stages. The first wave was about the representation of nature with literary

works which is needed to deliver the message of the environmental problems through literary works. The second stage focuses on the construction of nature's physical presence while enhancing its application to establish environmental imagination. The third wave occurs as the movement that identify the ethnic and national particularities. This also transcends them and examines all elements of human experience from an environmental view. The last stage establishes the development of a new way for conceiving environmental challenges through some aspects such as language, agency, and narrative.

B. Human, Nature, and Animal Relationship

Earth provides things to support humans' life. Humans invent and facilitate themselves by using the nature's creature. They create things without any consideration of the consequences that might happen because of their greediness. Earth now is suffering from the environmental crisis (Ratanaruamkarn & Yimwilai, 2017, p.2). It affects human and its society, as well as the ecosystem. Therefore, it is needed to educate people about environmental problems that can affect nature's relationship with human itself.

Human and nature cannot be separated because they are connected to each other (Sardari, 2020, p. 137). Humans also build a good bond with animals. They live on the same planet and have the same rights to live (Chairani, Mas'ulah, & Setyorini, 2019, p.77-76). Moreover, Huggan & Tiffin (2010, p.14) in their book entitled *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment* stated that

protecting animals and environment has specific goals, such as, humans desire to protect wilderness, or to promote the rights of abused animals or people.

No one would deny the fact and reality that human always completely dependent on nature. Since 40.000 years ago, humans' connection with nature can be shown in both hunter and gatherer societies. Human need nature which provides them foods from wild plants and animals. As Kellert (1997) postulated in his book, humans naturally have fundamental physical, emotional, and intellectual to nature (Moghadan, Singh, & Yahya, 2015, p.90).

Animals become the ambassador for all species, it shows that the emotional affection between humans and other animals may trigger the conservation and preservation for the rest of nature. Ecocriticism itself believes that animals could feel the same as humans do because animals have the rights to life. Glotfely & Fromm (1996, p.18) stated that Ecocriticism is a research of culture and cultural products that shows the connection between human to the natural world. Thus, Ecocriticism focuses on controlling the relationship between humans and animals because Ecocriticism against humans for being selfish and not caring for nature, especially animals.

Animals are evolutionary connected to humans closely than any other parts of nature. At the other hand, they often represented and separated from humans by fundamental boundaries. Ecocriticism shares an interest of humans' relationship to other species such as animals. It shows humans' consciously make violence against the animals. Ecocritics also tends to focus on their idea on the

systemic and unwitting damages to any species, including animals (Buell, Heise, & Thornber, 2011, p.430).

Recently, “Save the Earth” movement has decreased a lot following the ecological disproportion, decreasing biodiversity, and the destructive effects that are caused by urbanization, industrialization, and technological advances at the cost of nature (Khan, 2019, p.90). Green movement then becomes an event that promotes the preservation of plants and animals and also protests the technology that destroys the environment. Thus, it shows that humans actually have a good bond with nature and animals.

C. Human Interference

Following the environmental damaged occurred in recent decades, human need to take actions to save the nature. People’s actions can make significance contribution to help the nature and minimize the potential of climate change. By making generous and simultaneous actions, that will transform and create better place or condition for human (Christ, et al, 2021, p. 1).

There are several interferences that human can do to help nature restore to its natural state. Starting from the smallest things such as reducing ecological footprint by doing recycling, reusing, and reducing trash, conserving nature by doing small action like planting trees and wild-flowers around house and keeping the vegetation. People also can try to connect more to the nature by joining any programs or volunteering projects related (Muñoz, Valle, White, and Jaffe, 2019, p. 1-5).

These days, more people are getting involved to help the environment. People become aware and start to dedicate themselves defending wildlife by making and doing conserving or even rewilding projects. There are many environmental non-profit organizations that help realize more sustainable future such as Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) that was founded to promote zoology and advancing wildlife protection, Greenpeace which focuses and dedicates to create a green and peaceful world, Lonely Whale Foundation that becomes an organization which supports ocean conservation (*Green Dreamer*, 2020), and many more.

There are many great actions that have been done by people who try to save nature. Some flagships have made great movements. Great Green Wall for example has transformed the lives of millions in the Sahel region by making a belt of green. They have goals to restore more than 100 million hectares, and sequester 250 tons of carbon (*UNEP*, 2022). The other alliance is Re:wild that was found by Leonardo DiCaprio has successfully made 47 conservation areas, more than 16.000 species benefitting, and conserved more than 180 million acres.

Human really need to take best action to keep nature safe. Human's small interferences would really help tackling environmental issues around. By doing and supporting any organizations or volunteer programs, it will help the nature in a green direction.

D. Rewilding the Nature

Rewilding means to protect the environment and try to return it back into its natural state. This term emphasizes that rewilding attempts to restore the ecosystem. As Brown, McMorran, & Price (2012) postulated, rewilding is a kind of strategy to make conservation, self-sustaining ecosystem that involving the protection and reintroduction. Some versions of rewilding nature shows that it aims to the recovery of the trophic networks by releasing some species such as predators (Bu'ahne, Pettorelli, & Hoffmann, 2022, p.94).

Recently, there are studies from European that dominate the recent rewilding literature emphasizes that rewilding is a possible option management option for abandoned agricultural land. Thus, many studies are summarized that rewilding has many focuses to maintenance the nature. One of the major focuses is the conservation activity (Corlett, 2016, p.127). Corlett's theorem on his journal also shows that nowadays, there are many novels about ecosystem. A novel that focuses on the environment in many ways might be rewilded in a hope that the novel will control the readers by the information inside the book.

Rewilding has clear relevance and might provide some great programs to restore the woodland and reintroduce the species (Brown, McMorran, & Price, 2012, p.288). There are some simple ways to rewilding the nature such as finding places to grow trees and plants, planting the trees in the garden, and preserve them. The other way that has been used by the scientists is releasing wild animals to

nature. By releasing those animals, they expecting that it will return all kinds of plants and vegetations and effect the water tables also grow the forest.

There are also terms that usually connected to rewilding called conserving and protecting. Rewilding tries to regenerate the wildness in an ecological landscape. While conserving means to preserve the natural sources from exploitation and destruction. Conservation in simple terms can be described as a process to protect the ecosystem by maintaining its natural resources (Mark, 2021, p.4). Protecting by Hulme (2010, p. 679) described as the prevention of any damages in the nature and requires some prohibitions of certain human activities. This is needed to minimize the bad impact that will affect the nature. Moreover, Hulme emphasizes that protecting is a way to keep the environment safe from damage. Thus, as rewilding also closely linked to conserving especially in the term of ecological conservation, it tries to recreate or even create a new ecosystem. Later, human know how to protect the 'new' environment and make it safer (Mark, 2021, p.4).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, literary criticism methodology is used to acquire and analyze the data of human interferences to rewild the nature and its effects to nature. This chapter consists of four-point: research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis.

A. Research Design

Literary criticism or also known as literary study is the discipline of defining, analyzing, and evaluating the work of literature. Literature most usually establishes as works of writing. This is because they deal with some thoughts of timeless and common interest of exceptional artistry (Fard, 2016, p.330). The literary works that can be interpreted with this theory are poems, stories, novels, plays, essays, and many more. The literary theory that can be used to analyze and evaluate literary works. One of the literary theories that can be used is Ecocriticism. Under the design of literary criticism, this study concentrates on analyzing the literary work entitled *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy using an Ecocriticism approach.

The novel that is used in this research contains the environmental issues in the view of Ecocriticism approach. This research shows human behaviors damage nature. Ecocriticism applies the critical analysis of the connection between human and nature. The problems occur on this work due to humans' harmful activity that destroys nature itself.

B. Data Source

The data source of this study is a novel entitled *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy. The novel was published by Flatiron Books in August 3 2021, and consists of thirty-one chapters.

C. Data Collection

The data are collected by following steps below:

1. Doing detailed reading and deep understanding of every essential element on the novel Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*.
2. Highlighting the required data, especially the data about environmental issues in Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*.
3. Marking the data issues that show human behaviors toward nature in Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*.

D. Data Analysis

The steps of data analysis as follow:

1. Elaborating the data from the background of study and give supporting evidences.
2. Describing humans' effort to rewild the nature and giving the supporting evidences of the novel.
3. Drawing conclusions about humans' actions to rewild the nature that are depicted in Charlotte McConaghy *Once There Were Wolves*.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher provides the results and analysis of the problems. The following discussion analyzes the human interferences to rewild the nature and its impacts to the natural environment.

A. Human Interferences to Rewild the Nature Depicted in Charlotte McConaghy's *Once There Were Wolves*

Human have big responsibilities to take care the nature. Human actions have massive influences toward nature (Bauer & Ellis, 2018, p. 211). Things that have been done by human might affect the nature badly. Thus, human should be the one who take actions to keep the nature safe. Human must protect and try to return the nature back into its natural state. Rewilding becomes a possible option to preserve the nature (Corlett, 2016, p.128).

Based on the novel, McConaghy shows that the scientist team that lead by Flynn realized that they should be the one who take a step to save the nature. the Scottish Highland's landscape is now struggling due to the environmental imbalance caused by the deer's overabundant population. The deer eat the vegetation and that make the native plants in the land died. The scientists know that one of the best ways to help Scotland back into its former natural state is doing rewilding.

Rewilding itself has practically used in some countries in Europe. There, it focuses on herbivores than carnivores. They believe that the herbivores could maintain the biodiverse open habitats in Europe. Moreover,

rewilding also has the idea of top-down ecological control through trophic cascades that large carnivores control the large herbivores and mesopredators in wildness, while large herbivores is having turn to control the vegetation. This concept of rewilding was practiced in Yellowstone National Park in USA (Corlett, 2016, p.128). Flynn and her team also know that the rewilding project in Yellowstone has successfully become one of the best rewilding projects acknowledged by biological scientists. Thus, they also believe that this project will be successful as in Yellowstone National Park.

There are several things that can be done with rewilding depicted in the novel, such as releasing a predator to the wild nature, finding places to grow trees, and protecting the forests and it vegetations.

1. Releasing a Predator

One of the best ways to do rewilding in Scottish Highlands based on the novel is by releasing predators. Rewilding emphasizes the recovery of trophic networks by releasing species or species translocation. It includes predators (Bu' hne, Pettorelli, and Hoffmann, 2022, pg. 94). Predators hunt the herbivores. Thus, Flynn's team agreed that they should release predator to help Scotland back.

Releasing a predator can be one of good ways to rewild the nature. Scientists believe that predator will help the nature to return all kinds of plants and vegetations. It will also help and effect the water supply. If the water supply runs well, it will grow the forest.

In *Once There Were Wolves*, the released predators are wolves. There are fourteen wolves that released by Inti Flynn and her scientist team. The scientist tries their best to protect the nature while also protecting the wolves, as in the quotation below:

The others drink sparkling wine in the kitchenette to celebrate our having released all fourteen gray wolves into their three acclimation pens. But they aren't free yet, our wolves, the experiment has barely begun (p. 4).

From that quotation, the researcher wants to show that the scientists have already released the fourteen-gray wolves to their acclimation pens. Actually, those wolves are not really free to enjoy their new habitat. Flynn and her team are still observing them because their experiment is still new and it just barely begun. As this project is still new to Flynn and the team, this experiment needs an extra surveillance.

As releasing wolves is a new method in Scottish Highlands to rewild the nature, the scientists are confident enough and believe that this project will be successful. They did researches about rewilding in other countries. However, in the other country, they released other predator species such as Lynx (Helmer, Saavedra, Sylven, and Schepers, 2015, pg. 36). To help this project to be successful, Flynn's team tries to persuade the locals that this project will have good impacts toward the nature in Scottish Highlands.

The scientists also monitoring the wolves well. Not only just release them into wilderness, they make sure that the wolves are safe and comfortable with their new environment. They bring big cages and let the wolves out as

they want while learning their movements. They observe whether the wolves are comfortable and can begin to adapt in Scottish Highlands.

The scientists also try their best to convince the local people that they released the wolves to help the nature back into its natural states. Evan and Anne explain that there are wolves that going to be released wildly from their pens in the end of winter. It means that they will start the new journey by releasing the gray wolves freely as in:

that there are now three pens holding a total of fourteen wolves within the Cairngorms National Park and that come the end of winter the wolves will be released from these pens to live freely in the Scottish Highlands. They are here specifically for a rewilding effort in a broader attempt to slow climate change, and on an experimental basis (p.16).

From the quotation above, the scientists meet the local people of Scottish Highlands to explain that the wolves will be ‘a tool’ to help the damaged nature. They are ready to release them in the Cairngorms National Park. Although this project is still new, they really believe that rewilding the Scottish Highlands will help to slow the climate change.

Wolves help to restore the vegetation by controlling the massive deer population in Scottish Highlands. As wolves are the apex predators, they regulate the herbivore populations. Thus, the ecosystem will slowly become more resilient and reduce the climate change impacts.

In the novel, it is stated that the Scottish Highlands are starting to damage because the food chains are ruined. Deer become the top food chain because there was no predator. Predator such as wolves are deer’s prey. The

deer are too overpopulated and it causes overgrazing that destroy the nature. They eat tree and plant shoots, so it has no change to grow.

Raynor, Grainger, and Parker (2010, pg. 1) stated that overabundant deer populations affect the ecosystem by suppressing the forest regeneration. Deer eat trees and herbaceous plant species. If it continues, it is not impossible if one day, some plant species will be extinct.

The scientists also believe that wolves will cull the overpopulated deer. The wolves will eat the deer and slowly, they hope that it will encourage the nature to return back. If the population of the deer becomes controllable, the trees and plant shoots that have been eaten before will grow. It encourages pollinating insects and smaller mammals and rodents to return. When the ecosystem is healthy, nature will provide more benefits that will be useful for human's life. It is also depicted in the quotation below:

The only way to do this is to control the herbivore population, and the simplest, most effective way to do that is to reintroduce a keystone predator species that was here long before we were. The vital predation element of the ecosystem has been missing in this land for hundreds of years, since wolves were hunted to extinction. Killing the wolves was a massive blunder on our part. Ecosystems need apex predators because they elicit dynamic ecological changes that ripple down the food chain, and these are known as 'trophic cascades' (p.16).

That quotation is actually said by Evan, one of the Flynn's scientist members. Evan said that rewilding is really needed as the ecosystem is now in crisis. Reintroducing the keystone predator is the best way. The better habitat will be created. With the return of the ecosystem, it will be better habitats for wildlife. Not only the animals that will be back to the land, but

the plants will grow. It means, the carbon monoxide will reduce and create a comfortable environment to live.

Wolves help to restore the vegetation, especially in the wilderness. Plants or vegetations will help sequester the carbon dioxide and produce more oxygen to life. Thus, wolves also help and contribute to carbon sequestration and it helps to minimize the climate change.

However, not only releasing wolves. Flynn and her team also try to keep controlling the wolves. They monitor everything because they want to make sure what physical impact having on the habitat regeneration. They always make sure that this project runs smoothly.

To create a better 'new' environment, they maintain and keep the wolves safe. They monitor everything even the small thing because they do not want to miss every single thing about the wolves. By gathering, analyzing, and gathering the information, they hope that they will know what are the impacts of the ecological role of the wolves. They make sure that the wolves give impacts toward the nature and make a new habitat regeneration. The quotation below shows the scientists effort to gather the information about the wolves:

They're monitoring the species diversity and abundance and they'll continue to do so over the next few years to see what physical impact the wolves are having on the habitat regeneration. (p. 15)

By monitoring the wolves, they gather all the important data about the wolves, such as their hunting patterns, social behavior, and their interactions with other species in the ecosystem. Thus, all of the information can be used

to understand the impact of the wolves on the ecosystem and show if this rewilding project is a better way to protect the damaged nature.

The other prove that the scientists keep controlling the wolves is by giving the wolves a GPS collar for each of them, so they can control their movement. The GPS makes them able to locate them. They can download the data. From that data, the scientists can look on every location every week and they will create a map or their movements and begin to see the packs' territories emerges.

In a landscape this big you need height to find wolves. They wear GPS collars but first we have to be able to locate them and get close enough to download the data stored in these collars, and we do that by tuning in to their individual radio frequencies, most easily done by ai. (p. 43)

Each wolves have a GPS collar on their neck. The scientists use this method to monitor the wolves with higher precision. It collects all the data that show the wolves' location. They can see what happen to the wolves by downloading the data from the GPS. It shows the detailed information about their movements, territory, and even habitat preferences. Another prove of using GPS as a method to control the wolves is in the quotation below:

Close enough now, I connect to the GPS collars the wolves wear and download their most recent data. Each collar takes about three minutes, so by the time I've done the first couple of wolves the rest have scattered too far for me to catch. But getting two from a pack is a good start. We can look at every location they've been to in the last week and start to log patterns. With enough data Zoe can create a map of their movements, and we can begin to see the packs' territories emerge. (p.44)

The GPS system is using the most recent technology that only need around three-minute to download all the data. From the data, the scientists are able to know their movements. The GPS also can show the last week's movement. Thus, Zoe and the IT team would create maps of their movement. By making the maps, they will know the wolves' territory and find out whether the wolves have adapted well or not.

Besides using GPS, the scientists also use the radio tracking. Inti and her team attach radio collars to the wolves to track their movements and behavior. It has the same function as GPS. The collars receive the radio signals that used to detect and locate using specialized receiver. By using regularly this radio, the scientists can gather the data on their range, habitat, and even their pack dynamics. It is shown in the quotation below:

I radio Evan and tell him to get a transport crate out here as quickly as he can, and to bring Amelia so she can monitor Six's vitals while we move her (p.55).

Therefore, the use of radio is really important too. They can gather all the information directly without having to wait to download the data. The scientists can directly make a report using the radio frequency to the team about the condition of the wolves. It allows the scientists to gather important data of the wolves' behaviors, movements, even the interactions to the other wolves or species. It becomes one of the best efforts to monitor the wolves in the wilderness.

For addition, the scientists also did research before they start to release the wolves in Scottish Highlands. They do not want this project runs without any good preparation. Once again, Evan explains that rewilding project has a

long story and it is not only in Scottish Highlands. The scientists in America also tried the rewilding project. They even reintroduced the same species as Flynn's team, wolves. The result of the rewilding project in America was excellent. Thus, Flynn's team believes that this project will give positive impact as well to Scottish Highlands.

The most popular and successful rewilding project is in Yellowstone National Park, United States. The wolves' restoration has big impacts to the local environment. Wolves have successfully reestablished and limited the prey or herbivore population. The result shows that there are less herbivore and it emerge the ecosystem components (Smith and Peterson, 2021, pg. 7)

The reintroduction of predators in State becomes Flynn and her team's big motivation. They believe that this project will be a big success as well as in the Yellowstone National Park. It also has small negative impacts. The wolves have brought massive success and help the environment slowly back into its natural state. It is depicted in the novel as in the quotation below:

The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in America has been a staggering success. It's brought the park back to life, and there have been few negative impacts on the local people and agriculture (p.17)

The success of American scientists to rewild the nature by releasing wolves has proven that predator can help the ecosystem back naturally because wolves help to control the herbivores overpopulation. It also shows that the negative impacts cause by releasing those wolves are only a few. The Yellowstone National Park in America is also back life.

Not only did researches before releasing wolves, Flynn team also build fences around to keep everything safe. They make sure that everything runs smoothly and under control. The fenced area provides a safe and secure habitat for the wolves. It is needed because wolves also need to establish their territories and hunt for prey without interferences from humans or others.

Fences allow scientists to control all the wolves' movements. It controls the distribution of reintroduced predator in any specific areas. Fences also provide a safety protection for the wolves and its surrounding ecosystem. It serves a boundary that keep the wolves from any potential threats from any other animals or even conflict with the human, as in the quotation below:

The deer carcass is heavy. It drops from my hands with a meaty thud. The wolves of the southernmost Glenshee Pack don't rush to it, they remain at the far end of their enclosure, huddled against the fence (p. 25).

The fences create a clear boundary between the reintroduced ecosystem and the surrounding areas, so it will not endanger others. It minimizes the potential of any negative interactions between human and wolves. Therefore, everybody is secure. Another prove that shows the good function of fences is in the quotation below:

Because yesterday, yearling male Number Twelve, who was circling dangerously close to her pen and worrying us all, moved within its chain-link fence (p.106).

The scientists never know when will the wolves attack them. It is better to make a boundary between them by making fences. The scientists can also keep controlling them safe. Fences also become a temporary measure in the early stages of rewilding project. It provides a territorial space that helps

wolves adapt well with their new environment, establish their own territories, and develop self-sustaining populations that might increase their population.

Moreover, wolves actually can be friend with people. In *Once There Were Wolves*, it is also shown that in the north Norway, the scientists also did the same thing to conserve the wolves in their national park. Niel, a Norway scientist, said that the wolves in their park have mutual connection with the visitors who visit the park. Human and wolves have their own territories, however, both have connection and build deep instinct. It is proved in the citation below:

The wolves we kept were born in our park and acclimated to our presence, our touch. Most wolves I have known in parks remain hidden from visitors but these three would rush over to the fence, and they were just as fascinated with the people as the people were with them. When the visitors left, the wolves would follow them as far as they could and watch for their return. There was no fear, but a mutual curiosity (p.108).

Based on data above, animals are just evolutionary connected to humans. In Ecocriticism, human have interesting relationship with animals. Flynn dad also used to say that all creatures know love. Even the wolves in the Norway park pay attention to the visitors. As long as they do not feel danger, wolves will 'look friendly' and show their curiosities to human. Animals and human have such a mutual curiosity.

In sum, releasing a predator for this case is really good way to do the rewilding project. Wolves not only help control the herbivore population but also change the vegetation dynamics. It has big impact to the entire ecosystem and enhance the biodiversity, improve the air and water quality, and restore the nature into its natural state.

2. Keeping the Forest and Its Vegetations

Keeping the forest is one of potential ways to rewild the nature. It becomes a good prospect to expand woodland cover and restore the biodiversity (Broughton et al., 2022, p. 1). Forests play a key role in mitigating climate change. It is needed to store and sequester carbon. Managing forest can store carbon and reduce the impacts of climate change (Giffen, Ryan, Belair, Pouch, and Brown, 2022, p. 1).

Keeping the trees that have grown before is a must. As the trees produce oxygen which needed by all human being, keeping the trees is must thing to do. In *Once There Were Wolves*, McConaghy emphasizes that nature and human are ones. Human need nature, and nature also needs human. The characters in the novel, especially Flynn's father also shows that they should take care of the nature, including the forest. Flynn's dad lives in a forest and he also tries to keep the remaining trees there.

Human not only hunt what they need, but they should give back everything to the ecosystem. Taking care of nature is a must for human. They should pay respect to all the creatures in nature and better to life sufficiently as they can, as it is proved in the quotation below:

*"Do you understand why I'm doing this?" Dad asked us.
We both nodded. "Subsistence living," Aggie said.
"Which means? Inti?"
"We hunt only what we need and we give back to the ecosystem, we grow food, too, we live as self-sufficiently as we can," I said.
"That's right. So, we pay our respects to this creature and thank it for sustaining us." (p.1)*

It shows that nature has given many great things for human to live. To pay a big respect toward the nature, human should have subsistence living. Every part that are given by nature should be processed and consumed by practicing sustainable live. Simply, human can focus and choose foods that are produced by nature such as vegetables and used healthy cooking method to minimize the food waste as Flynn's dad did all the time of his life.

Humans and nature are just naturally connected to each other. In fact, humans need nature to fulfill their lives. Humans need oxygen produced by plants, while plants need carbon dioxide from human for their lives. Garrard (2004, p.5) stated that nature exists in its own realm. This concept motivates people to take an action to protect the nature.

Flynn's dad also said to his children that forests belong to nature. However, human also belong to the nature. They live in the nature and it is their 'true' home. Flynn and her sister have been taught since they were young that all the trees in the forest are their family. It is shown in the quotation below:

Aggie and I spent a couple of months each year visiting our father in his forest. Our true home, the place we belonged. A landscape that made sense of me. As a child I believed the trees of this forest our family (p.11).

Forests have played a significant role for human by providing many benefits and natural resources to support human's life. Flynn's family has shown that everything that nature has given to them, they should repay back by not doing bad things that might destroy them. Forest is 'home'. A place that produces oxygen that help people to live that should be taken care.

The other quotation that emphasizes forests belong to nature and all forests are human's home that should be taken care by everyone is depicted in the quotation below:

But he said once that forests are all of our homes, no matter where in the world, and that's what I was hoping for, that this knowledge lived somewhere too deep to misplace (p.50).

Flynn dad has kept the remaining tree since he was twenty-five. Many trees have lost because people keep cutting the trees down. Douglas tree is the most known tree in their hometown in Australia. He said that ninety-nine percent of old-growth Douglas firs have been cut down. Thus, now he really keeps the last one as in the quotation below:

Alexander Flynn, at twenty-five, got out his green tape and he marked the tree a second time, this time to "keep." And so ended his career. "I left work that day and I never went back," Dad said. "Too late. Far too late." He gazed out at the stumps. "It's a threatened species now. Ninety-nine percent of old-growth Douglas firs have been cut down. Which makes this one of the last of its kind." (p.11)

As Ritter and Dauksta (2013) postulated in their research, forests have been considered as a valuable source that produce things for building materials, nutrition, even medicine, and energy (Häggström, 2019, p.224). Thus, forests provide abundant natural wealth and resources to support humans' life. Therefore, human should be the one who have to fulfil the responsibility to take care the forests.

In Scottish Highlands, there is also a protected forest named Caledonian Forest. It is a home to some species including the pine marten, capercaillie, and Scottish wildcat. Flynn understands that keeping this forest in very important to protect the natural habitat to support those species. She meets Mrs. Doyle, one of long-time volunteer in Scotland, and asks her about

rewilding Scotland. She said that she and her team started to plant the native plants such as Caledonian pines. It is shown on the quotation below:

“In any case, we started getting back on track and began to plant the natives and reintroduce the poor lost animals. There were the beavers, to start. I hear now down south the landowners are paying to have the critters on their land, they love them so much. And soon enough we’ll head up far north to the flow country.” (p.133).

Planting native trees is also important to rewild the nature. As the native trees come from Scotland, it will naturally and easily adapt to the local environment. It will help to restore the water supply. It also preserves the balance of local ecology in Scotland.

Trees have filters that absorb pollution and it helps to improve the air and water quality in Scottish Highlands. It will affect the water tables and keep more water that will help to grow the forest. If the forests grow, there will be more pollution filters and the air quality will be better.

Protecting the trees also help to stabilize the soil and water supply. It also provides a local and comfortable habitat for many other species. Throughout the novel, people should protect and restore the Caledonian Forest and promote the growth of the native trees. It is needed to restore the natural balance of the ecosystem.

3. Finding Places to Grow Plants

Not only protecting the plants and forests, human also need to grow plants. Plants provide food and shelter for all human being. Plants also needed because it stabilizes soil and absorb carbon dioxide. Based on the novel, the deforestation has occurred in Scottish Highlands and it has had a profound

impact to the ecosystem. Thus, they have to restore the natural habitats, including grow the native plants species. It is really essential to restore the nature to its natural state.

Rewilding ecosystem are expected to be more resilient dye to the increasing the heat of the earth that make extreme climate (Wang, Pedersen, Svenning, 2023, p.2). Rewilding landscapes such as planting trees would help to reduce the carbon persistence. As the carbon decreases, the heat will slowly decrease too.

The scientists in the novel also focus on growing some plants. They not only planting the native plants, but also some simple things that can be done at home. Evan, a botanist and Flynn's scientist friend, shows Flynn to the hillside. They did a small survey to grow plants. Evan has been liaising with the botanist consultants independently running the survey. They need the survey to inform and report it to the government. It is stated in the quotation below:

The first thing Evan did when I arrived in Scotland a few weeks ago was bring me to this hillside. It's the chosen spot for the vegetation survey that will eventually inform our report to the government. (p.15).

The quotation above shows that Inti and Evan want to do the best to rewild the Scottish Highlands. Not only by releasing wolves, they also try to find places to grow plants. The more plants they grow, the more benefits they will get. Moreover, by surveying places, it will help them to know where is the best place to grow vegetations.

In novel, it is also shown that they need to grow plants. In the hill, Evan and Flynn only saw few trees and only short grass. It can be imagined how is the condition in Scottish Highlands' hill. Planting plants also needed to support the impact of the wolves, because they also have to regenerate their habitat as in the quotation below:

There are very few trees and only short grass beneath the ling and heather. A favorite grazing ground of the red deer that cover the Scottish Highlands. (p.15)

There is also a flagship of rewilding effort named 'Trees for Life' that also tries their best to plant more trees in Scotland. They also do the rewilding project. They have planted million trees. They will have another volunteering of tree planting. However, not all of them can grow healthily because deer eat them. Thus, this team really supports Flynn's team to rewild the nature by releasing the wolves. Because it helps to control the herbivores. If the herbivores are under control, the trees will grow and help the ecosystem back. The evidence is provided in the quotation below:

Next the conversation turns to the Dundreggan estate, west of here near Loch Ness, a flagship rewilding effort by the charity Trees for Life. Mrs. Doyle, as it turns out, is a longtime volunteer and is headed there tomorrow for the next phase of tree planting (p. 133).

It turns out that not only Flynn and her team who have desire to keep the nature safe. The charity organization also did their best to rewild the nature and they have planted more trees than Flynn's team. However, because the deer population is still overflowing, the trees they have planted did not grow. The deer eat them all.

In addition, restoring and planting trees would generate self-regulating process of ecosystem development. It will provide more valuable ecosystem for society. Simply, the preservation of planting trees or vegetations will give big impacts (Broughton et.al, 2021, p.2)

Planting trees and other vegetations might be a little bit hard to do by ordinary people. However, there are also way to support the rewilding project by planting wild-flowers in the yard. It is the easiest way to do rewilding project. Mrs. Doyle said that if people start to open their heart to rewild the nature and its landscape, it means that they also open their heart to rewild themselves. The easiest way to help the nature is stated in the quotation below:

“Well now, you don’t have to rewild on such large scales. You can start small, in your own backyard. I’ve been growing wildflowers for years and oh—all sorts of wee creatures have been coming to visit me.” (p.134).

Furthermore, everyone can take small step to rewild the nature. because what nature already give to human must be treated well. By taking the smallest thing such as planting flower in the yard, human can help nature back to its natural state.

B. The Impacts of Human Interferences that Affect the Natural Environment Portrayed in Charlotte McConaghy’s Once There Were Wolves

The rewilding processes have great impacts toward nature. There are several ways to do rewilding depicted in the novel. Fist, by doing the project of releasing wolves as the apex predators, then keeping the forests and its

vegetation, and finding places to grow plants. The most taken actions based on the novel is releasing predators. Apex predators like wolves play a crucial role to maintain ecological balance. They regulate prey populations too.

Wolves also become the top animal in the food chain. Their existence is important. If they are absent, the population of the prey species such as deer might increase. It will make the ecosystem becomes unbalanced. Thus, their presence is needed to maintain the healthy ecosystem.

Based on the novel, it can conclude that the impacts of doing rewilding affect to nature and animal. In the data below, the researcher shows what are the impacts that successfully affected nature and animal in Scottish Highlands:

1. The Impacts Toward the Animal

By releasing wolves, the rewilding project in Scottish Highlands has come back into its natural state. The impacts happen slowly. However, in the novel, it is portrayed that the rewilding process by releasing wolves is success. The wolves have their own territories. They feel comfortable after some time. Inti and her scientist team have succeeded to help the wolves create a safe and comfortable place to live in as it is depicted in the following citation:

The wolves have all begun to howl. They call by night and day, running circuits of their newly established territories, calling to each other to define the boundaries of their pack's land, calling to other wolves a warning to stay away. They truly are making homes here, creating maps they will pass on for generations (p.106).

From the quotation mentioned above, it is clear that now the wolves have already felt comfortable in Scottish Highlands. They make homes, create their own territories, and even ready to breed for the next generation. The rewilding efforts made by the scientist have proved that providing an appropriate habitat will make wolves feel closely possible to their wild counterparts.

The scientists provide a good environment and even build fences to make sure that the wolves will be safe. The access to food sources is also easy as there are many herbivores like deer. It builds and engage their natural behaviors as predators in hunting and territorial marking.

As the main and top animal in food chain, wolves also can mitigate the harmful effects of overabundant deer on forests (Raynor, Grainger, and Parker, 2021, pg. 5). Wolves' presence really helps the agricultural fields become safer, because wolves hunt the deer. This behavior reduces the herbivore pressure on preferred food sources, that will affect the ecosystem. Thus, wolves play a very important role to make sure that the ecosystem is balance.

Another prove that releasing wolves is successful is the wolves start to grow bigger. They also start to get their sexual maturity and ready to find their mates. They become stronger. It means that Scottish Highlands is the perfect place for them to grow and live. The evidence is quoted in the quotation below:

The Tanar Pack, to the east, has staked out the largest territory and its three yearlings have grown to full size and sexual maturity, meaning they may also leave to find mates of their own. But for the moment the pack of five wolves is intent on hunting together, and have proven themselves the most harmonious pack in this respect, with no challenges to dominance. They give me hope, the Tanar Pack, because they are hunting and growing strong, meaning the conditions of the Scottish Highlands have been good to them (p.106)

Based on the quotation above, it is clear that the wolves have adapted well in Scottish Highlands. With their growth, it indicates that they are comfortable with the Scottish environment. Tanar Pack has become the best wolves' territory to grow and hunt the overpopulated deer.

Inti and her team also believe that their rewilding project will be successful because the rewilding project in Yellowstone National Park in America has been a staggering success. Rewilding in Scottish has the same pattern or scheme as in Yellowstone National Project. Both are releasing wolves as the apex predators that might help to return the damage nature.

Yellowstone National Park becomes the great example of the crucial roles played by the wolves in ecosystem. The scientists believe that this is the greatest rewilding efforts in modern century (Boyce, 2018, p. 1022). Gray wolves were reintroduced there in 1995 and has great result in a trophic cascade that affect the ecosystem.

The only reason we're even attempting this project here is because we have such a strong precedent. The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in America has been a staggering success. It's brought the park back to life, and there have been few negative impacts on the local people and agriculture.

The scientists are confident that they will be successful as they have a strong precedence before in Yellowstone National Park in America. The rewilding has become one the best rewilding example for them as they also reintroduce the same predator species. It has proved that their attempt to rewild Scottish Highlands also near to success as the wolves are starting to grow and breed in a new environment.

2. The Impact Toward Nature

As the time goes by, the rewilding process is still running as it should. Scottish Highlands has become a beautiful place to go. As the season has change, the hills also changed its color. The deer and wolves coexist in Scottish beautiful hills. Wolves still hunt them as before, and the population of the deer can be controlled. The locals also accustomed with the presence of wolves, as in the quotation below:

It is spring now, and the hills have changed color. The deer are on the move. Things are growing again. The wolves have come home. And by some miracle, or perhaps it's simply the natural way, the people of this land are becoming accustomed to them (p.185)

The quotation above shows that the nature has change. Even though not a very big change, it indicates that rewilding can be an alternative to bring back the nature into its own state. As the wolves can adapt with the environment in Scotland and they also grow bigger, they help to reduce the deer that are overpopulated.

The nature has changed beautifully and become best place to live in. Rewilding has made Scottish Highlands slowly restore to its natural ecosystem. As in the quotation above, trees and other vegetations start to

grow again as the deer's population becomes controlled. It means that the project has become the best way that contribute the resilience and sustainability ecosystem in Scottish Highlands.

3. The Impact Toward Human

In the novel, it is stated that the deer are considered overabundant. The fourteen-wolf have tried to help the nature back. As the result, Inti and her daughter can see the new growth. She is happy that her daughter can run freely through the heather enjoying the beautiful Scottish Highlands' landscape. She realizes that she still has more forests to save. She knows that the rewilding project do not stop here and she will try her best to continue the project by doing meaningful things like save the forests as in the quotation below:

I pull her from the sling so she can run freely through the heather. She laughs, as in love with the wilderness as I have ever been. She was born here, is bound deeply. Even if we leave—there are other forests to save, other wolves to return home, the trembling giant has been calling—a part of her will always belong here (p.185).

The impact of rewilding can be felt by everybody around the Scottish Highlands. Due to the scientists' hard work to release wolves, protecting forests, and planting trees, now they can live and breathe in the cool land's air. Although the ecosystem slowly starts to come back to its natural state, Inti still determine to continue her dedication to the nature. She will keep the forests because she knows that human belong to nature.

In sum, rewilding can be started from a very simple thing. If releasing predators is hard, people can try by doing small movements such as keeping the forests and planting trees or growing flowers in the yard.

Everybody can take small step to make the nature safe. Thus, the surroundings environment will be the best place to live in.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion of the research based on the analysis and discussion that already explained in the previous chapter.

A. Conclusion

After analyzing the depiction of human interferences to rewild the nature in *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy, the researcher concludes that there are several ways to do rewilding. First, releasing fourteen grey wolves in to wilderness. By releasing wolves, they will help the nature back to its natural state. Wolves hunt the overpopulated deer that destroy the plants' shoot that make plants dead. Second, keeping the forests and its vegetations. Keeping the forests will help to stabilize the oxygen and minimize the carbon dioxide. The last way is finding places to grow plants. By the novel, it is also depicted that everybody can start to do small step to grow wildflowers or the other vegetation in the yard that is needed to keep maintaining the oxygen in the world.

The three human interferences that are depicted in the novel also have some impacts toward nature. The wolves start to grow bigger and breed, thus the deer population is slowly decreasing and make the ecosystem better. Scottish Highlands has become a beautiful place to go. The nature slowly back into its own state. Even though the rewilding project was a success, keeping forests is everybody's responsibility because human belong to nature.

B. Suggestion

This study focuses on the environmental issues in a novel entitled *Once There Were Wolves* by using Ecocriticism theory. The researcher focuses on how the rewilding process that have been done by Inti and her team affect the environment in Scottish Highlands. However, there are not many studies that focus on rewilding process and its impacts to the nature. Thus, the researcher hopes that there will be more studies conducted that focus on rewilding the nature because it is an interesting topic to be discussed about.

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CURRICULUM VITAE



Firda Aulia Rachmasari was born in Blitar on April 12, 2000. She graduated from SMA Negeri 1 Trenggalek in 2018. During high school, she was active in some organizations such as Journalism, Scouts, and Youth Red Cross. She has shown her interest in journalism since she was twelve. She took gap-year for a year before continuing her study at UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang in 2019. She finished her bachelor degree in 2023. During her study at university, not only focused on the academic field, Firda also broaden her non-academic journey. She joined UKM Simfoni FM from December 2019 until January 2023. UKM Simfoni FM has made her become more confident in public speaking, especially broadcasting. She has a fun journey in this organization. She started her position at UKM Simfoni FM as the Staff of Human Resource Development in 2020, then the Head of Human Resource Development in 2021, and Director in 2022. She also joined an internship program at TIMES Indonesia in 2022 as she took journalism concentrate. Firda also participated in some public speaking and writing competitions and won several competitions during her college. She has ever won a writing competition held by Jawa Pos Radar Malang in 2021 and it became her favorite competition because Jawa Pos is one of the most prestigious media in Indonesia. As she has a big interest in journalism and public speaking, she pictures herself to be a broadcaster or journalist in the future.