

**HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONSHIP IN GEORGE  
SAUNDERS *FOX 8***

**THESIS**

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**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM**

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**HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONSHIP IN GEORGE SAUNDERS  
*FOX 8***

**THESIS**

Presented to

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I state that the '*Human-Animal Relationship in George Saunders's Fox 8*' thesis results from a research I carried out at the Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person except for quotation and bibliography. As a result, if there is any objections or claims, I am the only person responsible for that.

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The researcher

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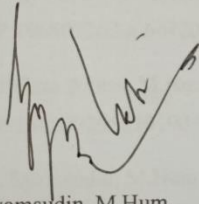
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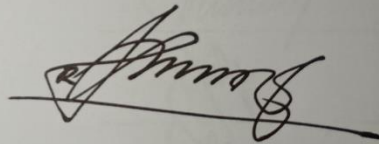
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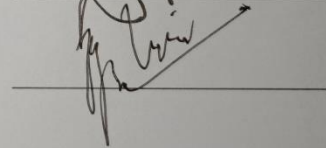
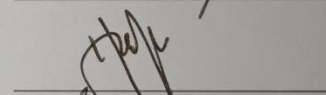
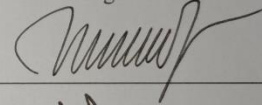
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## **MOTTO**

“A place is not only a geographical area; it’s also a state of mind. And trees are not just trees; they are the ribs of childhood.”

(Mahmoud Darwish)

## **DEDICATION**

First, I dedicate this thesis to myself who is always strong enough through thick and thin life, not giving up to reach this far is truly a miracle for me. Second, this thesis is dedicated to my parents and siblings who always supported and gave me endless love.

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Completing this thesis was challenging, requiring me to overcome laziness and persevere through difficult times. Despite the hardships, the satisfaction of finishing this research and the valuable experience gained made it all worthwhile. I could not have accomplished this paper without the support and contributions of many people around me. The author also realizes that it would not be possible to complete the thesis well without the support, assistance, guidance and advice from various parties during the preparation of this thesis. Thus, on this occasion the author would like to express his sincere thanks to:

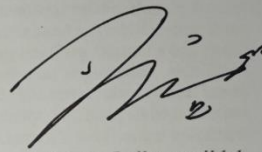
1. The rector of Islamic State University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Prof. Dr. M. Zainuddin, M. A., Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. M. Faishol, M. Ag., with the permission of this thesis, also to the Head of the Department of English Literature, Mr. Ribut Wahyudi, M. Ed., Ph. D., as well as my academic supervisor, Drs. H. Djoko Susanto M,Ed, Ph.D., my thesis supervisor who was very kind and patient in helping, providing advice, direction and guidance to me, Dr. Syamsudin, M.Hum., and all the lecturers in the English Literature department for the knowledge they provided during college.



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I am fully aware that this thesis is far from perfect. Nevertheless, I hope it proves useful to readers and offers a new perspective in the field of literature. Lastly, the author welcomes any suggestions and criticism.

Malang, October 02<sup>nd</sup> 2024

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## ABSTRACT

Sajidah, Rahma Lailatus. (2024). **The Relationship Between Humans and Animals in the Novel *Fox 8* by George Saunders**. Minor Thesis (*Skripsi*). Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

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**Keywords** : Fox 8, Humans, Animals, Relationship, Ecocriticism

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This study aims to determine the impact of the human-animal relationship in George Saunders' novel *Fox 8* and to analyse the relationships between humans and animals depicted in the novel. Using literary criticism as the research method, the study applies Greg Garrard's ecocritical theory. In an era of increasing human population and environmental exploitation, significant ecological damage often occurs, threatening plant and animal life. The novel raises critical issues such as ecological destruction, displacement, slavery, and animal cruelty. This analysis demonstrates that the human-animal relationship in *Fox 8* is portrayed through Garrard's three central ecocritical concepts: wilderness, dwelling, and animal. From those concepts, it is also revealed that human action brings harmful impacts to animals such as the extinction of animals and habitat destruction. This is specifically shown in *Fox 8* which becomes aware of humans' detrimental effects on it and the surrounding environment. In conclusion, this study applies ecocritical theory to examine the impacts and portrayals of human-animal relationships in the novel. This study also encourages future researchers to explore ecocritical theory further, using topics of ongoing relevance for deeper comparative analysis.

## ABSTRAK

Sajidah, Rahma Lailatus. (2024). **Hubungan antara Manusia dengan Hewan dalam Novel Karya George Saunders berjudul “Fox 8”**. (Skripsi). Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Pembimbing : Dr. Syamsudin, M.Hum.

**Kata Kunci** : Fox 8, Manusia, Hewan, Hubungan, Ekokritik

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dampak dari hubungan manusia-hewan dalam novel Fox 8 karya George Saunders dan menganalisis hubungan antara manusia dan hewan yang digambarkan dalam novel tersebut. Dengan menggunakan kritik sastra sebagai metode penelitian, penelitian ini menerapkan teori ekokritik Greg Garrard. Di era peningkatan populasi manusia dan eksploitasi lingkungan, kerusakan ekologi yang signifikan sering terjadi, mengancam kehidupan tumbuhan dan hewan. Novel ini mengangkat isu-isu kritis seperti kerusakan ekologi, penggusuran, perbudakan, dan kekejaman terhadap hewan. Analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa hubungan manusia dan hewan dalam Fox 8 digambarkan melalui tiga konsep ekokritik utama Garrard, yaitu: alam liar, tempat tinggal, dan hewan. Dari konsep-konsep tersebut, terungkap pula bahwa tindakan manusia membawa dampak yang merugikan bagi hewan seperti kepunahan hewan dan perusakan habitat. Hal ini secara khusus ditunjukkan dalam karakter utama, Fox 8, yang menyadari dampak buruk manusia terhadapnya dan lingkungan sekitarnya. Kesimpulannya, penelitian ini menerapkan teori ekokritik untuk mengkaji dampak dan penggambaran hubungan manusia dan hewan dalam novel. Penelitian ini juga mendorong para peneliti di masa depan untuk mengeksplorasi teori ekokritik lebih jauh, menggunakan topik-topik yang relevan untuk analisis komparatif yang lebih mendalam.

## مستخلص البحث

ساجدة، رحمة ليلانوس. (2024). العلاقة بين البشر والحيوانات في رواية ثعلب 8 لجورج سوندرز. أطروحة فرعية (سكريبسي). قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة إسلام نيجيري مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج.

M.Hum. المشرف: د. شمس الدين،

الكلمات المفتاحية: الثعلب 8، البشر، الحيوان، العلاقة بين البشر والحيوانات

وتحليل العلاقات بين الإنسان *Fox 8* تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد أثر العلاقة بين الإنسان والحيوان في رواية جورج سوندرز والحيوان التي صورتها الرواية. باستخدام النقد الأدبي كمنهج للبحث، تطبق الدراسة نظرية غريغ غارارد في النقد البيئي. في عصر يتزايد فيه عدد السكان واستغلال البشر للبيئة، غالبًا ما تحدث أضرار بيئية كبيرة تهدد الحياة النباتية والحيوانية. تثير الرواية قضايا حرجة مثل التدمير البيئي والتدهور والعبودية والقسوة على الحيوانات. ويوضح هذا التحليل أن العلاقة بين الإنسان يتم تصويرها من خلال ثلاثة مفاهيم إيكولوجية مركزية لجارارد: البرية، والمسكن، والحيوان. ومن *Fox 8* والحيوان في رواية خلال هذه المفاهيم، يتبين أن الفعل البشري يجلب آثارًا ضارة بالحيوانات مثل انقراض الحيوانات وتدمير الموائل. ويظهر التي أصبحت تترك الآثار الضارة التي يحدثها الإنسان عليها وعلى البيئة المحيطة بها. في *Fox 8* ذلك على وجه التحديد في الختام، تطبق هذه الدراسة نظرية النقد البيئي لفحص آثار وتصوير العلاقات بين الإنسان والحيوان في الرواية. كما تشجع هذه الدراسة الباحثين في المستقبل على استكشاف نظرية النقد البيئي بشكل أكبر، باستخدام موضوعات ذات صلة مستمرة لتحليل مقارنة أعمق.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of The Study**

Human activities can potentially harm ecosystems (Bertens, 2007, p. 207). Some human actions that can damage the environment include illegal logging, ocean explosions, and even the mistreatment and hunting of animals. Human greed towards nature is reflected in the cruel treatment of animals, which can harm their populations, although maintaining a balance in animal populations on Earth is crucial for ensuring ecosystem sustainability. This research is significant in understanding the impact of human-animal relations, which can lead to the extinction of animal populations and have negative effects on the sustainability of the environmental ecosystem itself.

This topic is interesting to discuss, where the relationship between humans and animals becomes a serious concern for the integrity of natural ecosystems in this era. The attention to ecosystems in literature is known as ecocriticism. As quoted from Greg Garrard's ecocriticism book, citing the work of Glotfelty, ecocriticism is described as a study of the interaction between literature and nature. Ecocriticism is a branch of study that focuses on the maintenance of natural ecosystems so that humans can understand literary criticisms of the environment. (Glotfelty, 1996, p. xix)

In addition, literature also serves as a medium to convey important social, political, or environmental messages. Therefore, the close relationship between ecocriticism and environmentally-oriented developments in



philosophy and political theory becomes evident (Garrard, 2004, p. 118). Many current literary topics discuss environmental issues, including the problem of ecosystem destruction. Numerous literary works also address environmental issues, some of which discuss the cruelty of humans, particularly their treatment of animals, which can also harm natural ecosystems. According to London's article (2011: 1), Green Facts reports that the population and distribution of animal and plant species have decreased over the past 50 years. The website states that human activities have caused between 50 to 1,000 times more extinctions of plant and animal species in the last 100 years than natural processes.

In Batubara's article on the Mongabay website, it is mentioned that according to Crutzen, humans have altered the atmospheric composition through the use of fossil fuels and deforestation. This has led to a 40 per cent increase in carbon dioxide concentration over the last two centuries. Meanwhile, the concentration of more potent greenhouse gases like methane has more than doubled. With this situation, the impacts caused by human activities are not confined to local or regional levels as they were thousands of years ago; instead, they affect the global ecosystem, posing a threat to the survival of all species, including humans themselves. Therefore, many people are becoming more concerned about the ecosystem, particularly through literary works where depictions of environmental damage caused by humans can be gradually addressed through ecocriticism. (Crutzen, 2016, p. 211-215)

The portrayal of ecocriticism is also evident in literary texts with nature-themed content. One of these literary works is *Fox 8*, written by George Saunders. *Fox 8* is one of Saunders' officially published children's books, released on April 9, 2013. The story of *Fox 8* revolves around the environment—depicting how humanity systematically destroys the natural world it always claims to cherish. As noted by Preston in his review of this children's novel, it unfolds as a narrative about cultural differences and tribalism, greed and the destruction of the American landscape. Above all, it is a story brimming with a kind of moral lesson expected from certain types of children's stories. Similar to other children's stories or fables, it emphasizes respecting others and the importance of basic decency. This research could offer a fresh perspective on previous studies addressing similar subjects, with a focus on educating about human-animal relations and utilizing ecocriticism as its approach. (Preston, 2018, p. 1)

Many previous studies exploring the concept of Ecocriticism as their main framework have emerged in published journal articles and academic theses. One example is from Najma and Syafitri entitled *Representation of Human Violence Against Nature in Ted Hughes' Selected Poems*. This article evaluates human interaction with nature through the ecocritical lens proposed by Cheryll Glotfelty, applying the principles of animals and pollution outlined by Greg Garrard in analyzing the poems. This research findings illustrate that human behaviour towards nature reflects violent actions without considering the consequences for human life. The poems reflect the reality of life and the

natural conditions in 20th-century England, where many disasters and environmental damages occurred due to harmful human behaviour towards nature (Najma and Syafitri, 2022, p. 99).

A journal article written by Azizah and Sa'adah with title *An Ecocritical Analysis of Young Adult Dystopian Novel in Veronica Rossi's Under The Never Sky*. Their study aims to explore how nature is portrayed and how the main characters, Aria and Peregrine, interact with it. The findings reveal pastoral elements through the town-country distinction, where the town is depicted as Reverie and the country as Death Shop. Additionally, Wilderness is represented through the societal wilderness in Reverie and Death Shop and the physical wilderness of Death Shop's land. Furthermore, the theme of Apocalypse is depicted through foreboding doom and human eradication, where natural disasters influence the setting, and technology dominates human life (Azizah and Sa'adah, 2017, p. 33)

Thirdly, Akhiyat also presented in his research that ecocriticism can be one way to examine the relationship between humans and nature. In his journal article titled *Nature Exploitation in Moana: An Ecocritical Perspective*. Part of a film study analyzing the reconciliation process with nature using an ecocritical perspective to examine the exploitation of nature and the reconciliation process of natural balance in Moana. The study reveals that the exploitation of nature is depicted when Maui steals the stone from Te Fiti, which contains superpowers that can create life, causing a scarcity of natural resources on each island. The research findings show that Moana not only cares about nature but also values

it as an entity with life power. She leads the reconciliation process to restore balance with nature (Akhiyat, 2021, p. 62)

Fourth, in 2014, Calarco also conducted research examining the relationship between humans and nature, especially focusing on the relationship between humans and animals. In his research titled *Boundary Issues: Human-Animal Relationships in Karen Joy Fowler's We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* is discussed the anthropological difference and defended it. The research also explores the literature on the topic from different perspectives. Kafka's "Report" is analyzed and its influence on the novel is discussed. The abilities and differences between Fern and Rosemary are examined. challenges the dominant human-centric approach to animals (Calarco, 2014, p. 617).

Fifth, there are also previous studies that have been conducted the same theme. Budi and Mustofa in 2018 aimed Ecocriticism theory to analyze the ecological crisis phenomenon in their research titled *Ecological Crisis in Into The Forest by Jean Hegland*. This research focused on human exploitation of nature that leads to horrible conditions for both. It also highlights the importance of maintaining, appreciating, and preserving nature (Budi, N. K., & Mustofa, A., 2018, p. 15).

Sixth, Alfiah & Gultom also conducted the same research about ecological issues. This research aims to describes ecological issues in *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie. As a result, ecological problems include human-nature relationships, animals becoming wild and extinct,

destruction of nature. It shows how ecological problems caused by human activities in the movie (Alfiah, N., & Gultom, E. S., 2020, p. 54).

Seventh, in 2019 Chairani et. al. conducted the same research theme titled *Relationship Between Human and Animal in Kate DiCamillo's The Magician's Elephant*. This study analyzed how the people in the novel treat the animal. The researcher also found the disharmony of the relationship between humans and animals in the novel. This novel is very anthropocentric, where the people in it do not build good relations with animals, including exploiting and treating animals improperly. Based on the analysis, the researcher concludes that *The Magician's Elephant* has animal rights issues, where humans ought to establish good relations with nature, especially animals (Chairani, S. H., Mas'ulah., & Setyorini, A., 2019, p. 75).

Eighth, Oluseye Abiodun et al. conducted the same research about ecocriticism. The article provides an ecocritical study of Remi Raji's *Sea of My Mind* (2013). The authors argue that the collection represents the animist trend in ecocriticism. They investigate how Raji's poetry addresses modern environmental concerns by evaluating the relevance of natural components that blend with sea imagery. Furthermore, they show how the predominance of natural components in the work emphasizes the limitations of human intervention. According to the writers, the collection underlines the necessity to preserve a delicate balance between people and non-human beings from a Nigerian perspective, as well as the significance of proactive efforts to avert large-scale environmental disasters (Oluseye Abiodun et al., 2020, p. 10).

Ninth, Pandya & Mathew also conducted the same theme and object in their research titled *Humans, Animals and Habitats: Liminality and Environmental Concerns in George Saunders' Fox 8*. This qualitative research article evaluates the environmental issues raised in George Saunders' Fox 8 in light of the coercive liminality exhibited by humans' invading dominance over the inhabitants. Human encroachment changes natural ecosystems into man-made settings, making them solely accessible for their reasons. Human invasions result in domination and exploitation, which causes the displacement of populations and resources from their natural environments. The crux of the work is the introduction of notions such as coercive liminality from textual interpretation and the argument for subsequent counter-liminality. The findings add to the liminal viewpoint on studies of environmental transitions and changes caused by human intervention (Mathew R. & Pandya D., 2020, p. 5)

Last one is research entitled *An Analysis to Environmental Issues Using Ecocriticism in James Cameron's film Avatar*. This work is written by Rohmah Romadhon as his undergraduate thesis. Romlah's work shows the different relationship between nature and its diverse characters: human and non-human. Analysis by Rohmah uses a qualitative descriptive system. The researcher uses the Ecocriticism Theory as the method for interpreting data to address the study questions (Romadhon, R., 2011, p. 60).

Based on the research presented above, all previous studies used ecocriticism as the main topic which the author will also use in this research. As a researcher, I choose to use these studies to add information and references

regarding where and how this research goes. However, from previous research, the novel *Fox 8* by George Saunders is still rarely used as an object of research. Therefore, this research aims to focus on finding out what is the form of human-animal relation that is portrayed in the novel. After seeing how the human-animal relation is explained, the author intends to find out what the impacts of human-animal relation towards nature are represented in the novel and hopefully, this research increases the reader's understanding and knowledge regarding the issue of environment and human-animal relation which has always been developing in society lately.

#### **B. Problem of the Study**

1. What is the impact of human-animal relationship in George Saunders's novel *Fox 8*?
2. How are human-animal relationships depicted in George Saunders's novel *Fox 8*?

#### **C. Significance of the Study**

The aim of this research is divided into two objectives. Firstly, theoretically, this research aims to help find discussions about how human-animal relation is experienced which can affect nature and environmental lives. The researcher hopes that readers can understand how this human-animal relationship is experienced by the character *Fox 8*. Apart from that, practically this research has a valuable aim so that readers can understand and discover how humans and nature are needed towards each other.

## **D. Scope and Limitations**

This research focuses on examining a novel entitled *Fox 8* written by George Saunders, discussing how human relations with nature and environmental issues are depicted particularly by applying ecocriticism related to human-animal by Greg Garrard (2004). This research focuses more on the human-animal relation towards nature and the impact of the human-animal relation behavior that is expressed in the novel *Fox 8*.

## **E. Definitions of Key Terms**

To prevent confusion and ambiguity, here are some crucial terms provided.

### **1. Ecocriticism**

Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment.

### **2. Animal**

A combination of human control over animals' habitat and the advancement of technology, their existence is becoming increasingly rare. Animals are abandoned to brutality and suffer unfair treatment by humans with the hand of tyranny, and there are artificial and useless barriers between humans and animals (Garrard, 2004, p. 137).

### **3. Dwelling**

Caring for the animal's residence is an aspect that is no less important. A prosperous residence will provide happiness for animals. A place of residence is not just a stopping point but rather reflects a



human's long-term attachment to a landscape of memory, heritage and life cycles, including ritual, life and work (Garrard, 2004, p. 108).

#### **4. Wilderness**

Wilderness is one of the main habitats for the animal life. Wilderness is a large habitat for various types of animals. Apart from animals, many other creatures also inhabit the wilderness. Therefore, we need to preserve wilderness. If farmers identified home as opposed to wilderness and tended to see the results of their labour as the result of a struggle against nature rather than as nature's gift, the transition from a paleolithic hunter-gathered lifestyle to a neolithic farmer lifestyle was a crucial point for many advocates wilderness preservation, which marks a retreat from a more natural ecological state (Garrard, 2004, p. 60).

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents a review of relevant literature used as the basis of the theory and analysis of ecocriticism.

#### A. Ecocriticism Theory

The term ecocriticism is derived from the conjunction of ecology and criticism. Ecology may be characterised as the empirical examination of the interrelations among flora, fauna, and humans to their environment. European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and Environment said that ecocriticism represents the most recent of the revisionist movements that have emerged within the humanities in recent decades. Additionally, Scott Slovic articulates that it is the analysis of overtly environmental texts through any academic methodology or the exploration of ecological ramifications and the human-nature nexus within any literary work, including those texts that may initially appear indifferent to the nonhuman realm (Romero, D., 2010, p. 67)

The natural world has also been integrated into literary discourse. This is evidenced by numerous authors who incorporate terminology related to forests, oceans, and flora within their narratives. The concept of nature is intrinsically linked to Ecocriticism, as many literary pieces utilize the term nature to encapsulate their fundamental themes. Ecocriticism is consistently associated with the natural environment; as Glotfelty articulates, "Ecocriticism can be succinctly described as an examination of the interplay

between literature and the ecosystem, adopting an earth-centric perspective within literary analysis" (Glotfelty, 1996) cited in Garrard (2004, p. 3). The ecosystem constitutes a significant aspect of nature, thereby establishing a perpetual connection to Ecocriticism. "The connection was laden with obligations towards the wildlife, towards himself, and his kin" (Claude Evans, 2005, p. 11).

Human beings bear obligations towards other entities, including fauna, flora, and other forms of life. Upholding these responsibilities serves as an effective means of preserving our planet. Neglecting our environmental duties incurs repercussions that will inevitably affect future generations as a result of our choices. As articulated by Claude Evans (2005, p. 11), "When we destroy nature, we diminish ourselves and impoverish our children." Cultivating respect, fostering awareness, and engaging in conservation efforts represent essential strategies for safeguarding our planet. The imperative to maintain our Earth is underscored by the multitude of life forms that inhabit it. Success in environmental stewardship is achievable when we engage in responsible practices. Evans (2005, p. 15-16) emphasizes this notion: "...And this respect and awareness is a crucial part of what it means to live a truly successful life, successful in human terms which are not dissociated from the world."

In the recent study, the researcher aims to employ the theoretical framework established by Greg Garrard, who serves as the Director of the Writing and Environment Research Centre at Bath Spa University College.

His scholarly focus encompasses Ecocriticism, and he has pioneered numerous courses pertaining to poetry, environmental literature, and critical animal studies. Garrard delves into interconnected themes pertinent to Ecocriticism, including pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, habitation, animals, and the earth. In relation to these themes, he posits that Ecocriticism constitutes an examination of the interplay between the human and the non-human entities, traversing cultural history and necessitating a critical appraisal of the concept of 'human' itself.” (Garrard, 2004, p. 5).

Ecocriticism pertains to the representation of nature as perceived by the reader. This encompasses various elements such as fauna, environmental degradation, untouched landscapes, and the planet itself. Ecocriticism is a distinctive literary framework as articulated by Garrard: “Ecocriticism stands out among contemporary literary and cultural theories due to its intrinsic connection to the discipline of ecology. Although ecocritics may lack qualifications to engage in ecological debates, they are compelled to transcend disciplinary limits and cultivate their own ‘ecological literacy’ to the greatest extent feasible.” (Garrard, 2004, p. 5).

Ecocriticism explores the intricate connections between nature, humanity, non-human entities, and cultural constructs. This intricate relationship is elucidated by examining the interplay between nature and culture, which is characterized by a mutually beneficial symbiosis. In this context, culture is equated with literature. Nature serves as a narrative backdrop, allowing authors to engage in reflective contemplation while

crafting literary works. Conversely, nature may utilize literary creations as instruments for its preservation, although it is imperative for writers to discern the appropriate moments for such utilization. Among the six dimensions articulated by Garrard concerning Ecocriticism, the researcher intends to focus on three aspects that align with the selected object, *Fox 8* by George Saunders. The aspects chosen for this research are animals, dwellings, and wilderness.

### **1. Animals**

The interdisciplinary research of human-animal relations within the humanities encompasses both the philosophical discourse on animal rights and the cultural critique of animal representations (Garrard, 2004, p. 136). Garrard's Ecocriticism addresses environmental issues, highlighting the detrimental impacts of human actions on animal welfare and the ethical parallels between animal cruelty and slavery, advocating for moral consideration based on the capacity to experience pain (Garrard, 2004, p. 136).

There exist certain rights pertaining to animals that warrant our consideration. A crucial aspect of animal rights pertains to the inherent dignity of the animal in question. It is imperative that we treat animals with the appropriate regard within the context of the interactions between humans and animals. A harmonious relationship between both parties is essential in fostering ecological equilibrium. The absence of animals from our world or ecosystem would render our environment precarious. Humans

need to possess a profound understanding of animals to ensure their well-being and enjoyment in our company.

As a living creature, animals always had a natural sense to observe. Regarding to the fact of them being able to observe human, it leads to the loss of essential points made in the research. From the past until now, they have become our objects in a field of knowledge where we could expand it to an ever-extending one. The richness of information we have about animals is the index of our power. On the other side, it set both apart as the more we knew about them, the more they became further (Berger quoted Garrard, 2004, p.139).

Similarity and differences in the relationship between humans and animals can generally be analysed in terms of the distinction between two opposite poles, metaphor and metonymy. The unique characteristics animals showed through how they get close to a man in a short distance and still perceive him as strange, but also not changing to a man, even though at times they kept being the objects of human thoughts, especially when human represents a close relationship with animals through metonymy and analogical relationship with metaphor.

God has endowed humans with the responsibility of treating animals with kindness and care. The most effective form of care involves providing them with sustenance, ensuring their well-being, fostering positive relationships, and safeguarding them. Owning a pet or tending to animals can bring greater fulfillment than merely engaging with artificial devices,

which may lead to negative outcomes over time. To distinguish themselves from androids, humans must form connections with animals, which are inherently separated from androids by their authentic nature. In this context, Deckard seeks to eliminate rogue androids to earn enough to acquire a live animal, a symbol of his desire to differentiate himself from androids (Shapiro, cited by Garrard, 2004, p. 144).

Caring for animals can cultivate human virtues by helping us recognize the value of life. Our planet is abundant in resources essential for human survival, and we must avoid actions that could lead to its degradation. Wildlife documentaries, when neglecting the habitats of animals, may contribute to the extinction of species. A major concern of wildlife documentaries is the potential for species extinction. Many wildlife biologists assert that we are in the initial stages of a mass extinction event, comparable to the one that wiped out the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous Period 65 million years ago (Garrard, 2004, p. 155).

The extinction of one species often leads to the decline of others. As Garrard (2004, p. 156) notes, the death of an individual signifies the loss of its entire species. Humanity has a responsibility to care for animals, as doing so fosters a reciprocal relationship, benefiting both species. When humans care for animals, positive outcomes follow. As we observe animals, they return our gaze, and in that interaction, we become aware of both the similarities and differences between us (Garrard, 2004, p. 139).

Although there are numerous differences between wild and domesticated animals, we should not treat them as entirely separate; instead, both require our protection. It is essential to recognise that all wild or domesticated animals play a significant role on Earth. Ecocritics often acknowledge this distinction but tend to elevate the value of wild animals, while viewing domesticated species such as cattle, sheep, and cats as contributors to the harmful impacts of human culture (Garrard, 2004, p. 149).

## **2. Dwelling**

Dwelling is not a temporary condition but rather signifies the deep, long-term integration of humans within a landscape shaped by memory, ancestry, death, ritual, life, and labor (Garrard, 2004, p. 108). Providing proper dwelling is crucial for the well-being of animals, as a comfortable habitat ensures their happiness. Thus, dwelling is not merely a contemporary space for human and non-human life, but rather a shared home for both. It is essential to maintain the beauty of our dwellings, and in caring for animals, we must also ensure that their habitats are preserved and nurtured.

Animals and their habitats are intrinsically connected, each depending on the other, much like a pair of shoes. If our dwellings are damaged, animals may vanish from the planet due to the loss of their habitats. The shoes symbolize the intersection between the human and non-human worlds, drawing from the earth from which they are made and to



which they return, while also representing the world in which they hold meaning and function. A temporal landscape shaped by long-term habitation and ancestry converges with the physical environment, including its soil and climate, positioning the rural dweller in stark contrast to the rootless, mobile urbanite (Garrard, 2004, p. 111).

Our planet has the potential to become a better place, which is why humans must take action. The extinction of animals and the degradation of habitats should result from natural processes, not human interference. As Berry (quoted by Garrard, 2004, p. 114) suggests, animals should meet their fate naturally, facing death as it comes, not by our hands. Therefore, we must not only care for animals but also protect and preserve their habitats. Both require our care and responsibility.

### **3. Wilderness**

Wilderness constitutes a significant habitat for various forms of fauna. It serves as a substantial domicile for animals. In addition to animals, numerous other organisms inhabit the wilderness. Thus, we must prioritize the conservation of these wild areas. If agricultural societies delineate 'home' in contrast to 'wilderness' and tend to perceive the outcomes of their efforts as a result of a conflict with nature rather than as its advantages, the shift from Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers to Neolithic agriculturalists is regarded by many wilderness proponents as a pivotal moment, signifying a 'fall' from an original ecological harmony (Garrard, 2004, p. 60). Therefore, as human beings, we must safeguard various regions on this planet,

particularly the wilderness. The degradation of wilderness not only jeopardizes its integrity but also threatens the survival of numerous animal species.

## **B. Children Literature**

Before the 19th century, the number of books aimed specifically at children was very limited. However, after this period, changes in views towards children and their development, coupled with advances in printing technology, have resulted in the emergence of children's literature as a major industry. However, no simple and clear definition of children's literature can be applied with the same consistency across various times and contexts. Just as the concepts of 'child', 'childhood', and 'literature' have changed over time, so has the definition of 'children's literature'.

Defining 'childhood' or 'literature' is not easy. Some authors, such as Lukens (1995), argue that children's literature only differs from adult literature in terms of level. However, Lesnik-Oberstein (1996) argues that children's literature is different in type, so the term 'literature' in the context of children's literature cannot be equated with its use in other contexts. For example, Bottigheimer (1998, p. 190) stated that children's literature is "an important system in itself."

Some add complexity by arguing that to be considered 'children's literature', a piece of writing must be of 'good quality'. For example, Hillman (1999, p. 3) excludes writing that is "old-fashioned," "too predictable," or "too

illogical” from the category. However, how to determine whether a work meets these vague criteria remains an unanswered question.

Many authors define 'children's literature' as not simply works meant for enjoyment, but also narrative fiction. Children's literature, according to Hollindale (1997, p. 30), is "a set of texts with certain characteristics involving imaginative interest, which are activated as children's literature through the experience of reading: when read to them by a child," where "a child is individuals who believe that their childhood is not over" (emphasis added).

According to Galda and Cullinan (2002, p. 7), literature "entertains and informs," as well as "enables young people to explore and understand their world," enhancing and widening their lives and horizons. Children learn about people and places all throughout the world, as well as those surrounding them, via literature. They can travel across time, make new acquaintances, and explore new planets. They can also explore emotions, develop ideals, and envision a life beyond their current experience." This method includes both fiction and nonfiction as children's literature, as well as works that are intended to instruct and entertain.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this chapter, the researcher presents the methods of this research. Those are research design, data and data source, data collection and data analysis.

#### **A. Research Design**

This research was carried out within the framework of literary criticism, as it seeks to analyze, interpret, and assess a literary text (Peek & Coyle, 1984). The emphasis of this inquiry is on the novel *Fox 8* by George Saunders, which serves as the primary subject of study. It concentrates on the representation of human interactions with issues about animals and living organisms within the narrative. Consequently, as a scholarly endeavour, this research necessitates a theoretical foundation to serve as its principal guide. The theoretical framework employed in this study is ecocriticism, which aims to examine the interplay between literature and the natural world.

#### **B. Data Source**

The primary data source for this research is a literary work by George Saunders titled *Fox 8* which is categorized as children's literature. This novel was initially published in 2013 by Random House Publishing Group. The text comprises a total of 65 pages in its electronic format, which the researcher accessed via Google Books. All terminologies, expressions, sentences, and paragraphs within the novel that address environmental

concerns and the interplay between humans and animals are regarded as data for analytical processing. Additionally, the researcher incorporates supplementary references to enhance the information derived from the principal source, including books, academic journals, articles, and other pertinent materials related to the research theme.

### **C. Data Collection**

The main data is taken from the novel *Fox 8* by George Saunders. The data will be collected in several steps: 1) Applying a deep and careful reading to further understand the novel, 2) Highlighting and underlining the required data, particularly on human-animal relationship., 3) Note-taking the important points in the novel, and the last one is 4) Categorizing the data according to human-animal relationship aspects and how to overcome with it.

### **D. Data Analysis**

After collecting data, the data was analyzed according to several points, such as: 1) Analyzing the collected data by applying ecocriticism. 2) Elaborating and categorizing the data related to the human-animal relationship aspect. Also, give supporting evidence from the novel and references in doing the analysis. 3) Providing the conclusion to formulate and wrap the research problem.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter explains the findings and discussion of the research problem. The first one is the discussion of the first problem, which is the concept of human-animal relations depicted in the novel. The second is how human and animal relations are represented in *Fox 8* by George Saunders. The objectives are shown by explaining and describing what the researcher found in the data.

#### **A. The Impact of Human-Animal Relationship in George Saunders's *Fox 8***

The researcher discusses how George Saunders' literary work *Fox 8* portrays human-animal relationships impact using an Ecocriticism perspective in this section. Ecocriticism is applied when the environment has a big impact on the plot and affects how the characters interact with their surroundings. This comprises natural elements such as rocks, trees, and animals, as well as human perspectives and environmental changes (Garrard, 2004, p. 125). As a result, the novel's setting and depiction of the interconnectivity of humans and animals serve as key data for this study.

Some of the impacts that are found in the novel are from the past until now is animals are often used as objects of research and the extinction rate of animals is mostly due to human activities. Animals have become our objects in a field of knowledge where we could expand it to an ever-extending one. The richness of information we have about animals is the index of our power. On the other side, it

set both apart as the more we knew about them, the more they became further (Berger quoted Garrard, 2004, p.139).

Moreover, the extinction of one species often leads to the decline of others. As Garrard (2004, p. 156) notes, the death of an individual signifies the loss of its entire species. Wildlife documentaries, when neglecting the habitats of animals, may contribute to the extinction of species. A major concern of wildlife documentaries is the potential for species extinction. Many wildlife biologists assert that we are in the initial stages of a mass extinction event, comparable to the one that wiped out the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous Period 65 million years ago (Garrard, 2004, p. 155).

At this point, the researcher applies several of Garrard's ecocriticism ideas, such as animal, dwelling, and wilderness to find out the impact of the human-animal relationship in the novel. The interactions that Fox 8 has, especially with humans, provide important information that may be used to address the first research topic in this study.

### **1. Wilderness**

Wilderness includes the value of the relationship between humans and the wild. It focuses on showing the importance of conserving nature from pollution, especially habitats and species (Garrard, 2004). Wilderness in literary criticism deals with wild landscape characteristics and cultural and natural diversity. In other words, it deals with the new world's construction of nature. Therefore, the main data

in this research is the setting in which this novel is taken and the surrounding environment which recognizes the connection between humans and the wild.

The portrayal of wilderness presented where Fox 8 lived in forests near the city centre where humans live. Forest represented wilderness as the main habitat of Fox 8 and the other foxes to live and reproduce as presented in the following datum.

*Then one day I came upon a Forest, the like which I had never seen before, so deep and green and dark and grate-smelling it mae those holes in my nose go super wide with sheer delite. O, the lite threw the Trees! The moving shadows when the wind wud blow! The millyun grate smells, such as water not far away! The wind in the hi part of the Trees, and sometimes a branch will crak! (Saunders, 2018, p. 31)*

The statement above showed that the forest, where Fox 8 lives represents wilderness. It is a place where habitats and species live untouched by human activities. National Geographic website also stated wilderness is an area of land largely undisturbed by modern human development. It usually lacks roads, buildings, and other artificial structures. They provide a natural environment for plant and animal species and allow scientists to study healthy ecosystems (Costa et al., 2023). For example, in the sentence above, Fox 8 said that he found a forest where he could easily find water and food supplies. Moreover, he can feel that he is returning to his habitat.

The other evidence shows the depiction of the environment classified into the wilderness concept by Garrard which is shown in the novel. As shown, the character is a fox; Fox 8, Grate Leeder and the other foxes, eventually had to leave the forest where they lived. The forest that used to be an easy place to get food and drink, trees for them to run around and lean on, is now gone.



*Because soon here came Truks, smoking wile tooting! They dug up our Primary Forest! They tore out our Leaning Tree! They rekked our shady drinking spot, and made total lee flat the highest plase of which we know, from where we can see all of curashun if it is not raning! (Saunders, 2018, p. 11)*

As shown in the quotation, the forest has many advantages for animals, such as providing them with food, water resources, and most importantly, their primary home but it is now the other way around. The main characters, Fox 8 and the other foxes face the reality that their home is now ruined. The wild forest that used to contain abundant water, food, and home is now in decay.

In the concept of wilderness, humans affect the damage of the wild jungle or forest. In the story, it is described that human activities ruined the forest. As Garrard writes in his book, there are only claims to human control and control of nature—namely the reduction of forest functions (Harrison quoted by Garrard, 2004, p. 63). It implied that humans control the wilderness and no longer have benefits for animals. On the other hand, the human relation with nature caused this worse condition.

## **2. Dwelling**

‘Dwelling’ is not a transient state; rather, it implies the long-term imbrication of humans in a landscape of memory, ancestry and death, of ritual, life and work. Human culture should be the fundamental reason for the sustainability of the environment (Garrard, 2004).

The dwelling that is illustrated in the novel is the location where the story took place and this place is affected by environmental changes. As previously mentioned, the story occurred in a place where humans and animals can interact

with each other freely. However, the author of the novel *Fox 8* wants to explain that good relations between humans and animals can also face a crisis if the human-animal relationship does not run harmoniously. This is also represented in the following datum:

*As far as we cud see, it is just flat, no trees. Upon trotting to our River, we found it rekked due to so much suden dirt floting in. also rekked were are Fish who, not even swoping a single flipper, just glansed up blank at us, like: Wow, we do not even get what just happened. (Saunders, 2018, p. 12)*

It was stated explicitly that the forest where they lived was gone. Not a single fish jumped in the puddles which they often use as a water supply. Many foxes have lost everything they should have in the forest. It was stated explicitly that the forest where they lived was gone. Not a single fish jumped in the puddles that they often use as a water supply. Many foxes have lost everything they should have in the forest. This condition causes the foxes to inevitably leave the forest where they live and migrate to other forests that provide a lot of water and food for them. Another datum showed the example of dwelling illustration in the following:

*At this time, Grate Leeder grew kwite sad. It was like he grew too sad to leed. And wud sit for hours staring into spase. It woslike Grate Leeder blamed himself that we had lost are Forest in which we had always lived since time in memorial. But we did not feel it was his fawlt. It hapened so fast, who cud have been grate enough to stop it? (I for sure did not know how to stop it). (Saunders, 2018, p. 13)*

According to Garrard in *Ecocriticism* (2004), dwelling means living in harmony with nature, where people's lives are closely connected with their environment. The loss of the forest is more than just losing a home; it disrupts the community's way of living that has been in place "since time in memorial."

The sudden destruction of the forest shows how fragile this harmonious living can be when faced with uncontrollable changes. The Grate Leeder's inability to stop the disaster and the community's understanding of this reflects the overwhelming nature of environmental issues that are often beyond one person's control. Garrard's theory emphasizes that true dwelling requires a collective effort to care for and sustain our natural surroundings. The story suggests that while individuals may feel powerless, it is the shared responsibility of everyone to protect the environment.

Saunders' *Fox 8* highlights the need for people to take care of the environment to prevent such losses. The story underscores the importance of proactive environmental stewardship through Garrard's dwelling theory. The displacement and grief experienced by the characters serve as a warning, reminding us that living harmoniously with nature involves recognizing our dependence on it but also actively working to preserve it for future generations.

### **3. Animals**

Involving animals in criticizing the existing phenomena for the sake of reminding humans to take care of nature through the animal concept of Garrard (2004) is possible. Presented in the form of a fable that children will easily like, *Fox 8* also illustrates the existence of the animals in the story. One of which is through the main character, named Fox 8. It is described as a fox that enjoys studying human behaviour and daily life. Being the innate inhabitants of the forest habitat, the foxes projected in Saunders' fiction represent the whole group of fauna, flora and other natural resources.

However, due to several things that damaged their habitat, Fox 8 and his friends had to lose their place to live and the water and food sources they had. Thus, many foxes starve to death. That's why in several parts of the story, Fox 8 looks very desperate and angry. He even stole several human belongings and intended to take revenge, something he had never thought about before. This is also depicted in the following datum:

*If you want to feel as bad as we Foxes are feeling at this time: (1) bare lee eat for weeks, (2) note that many frends, including you, are getting skinyer every day, and (3) watch sevrsl of your beluvved frends get so skiny they die. (Saunders, 2018, p. 13)*

The foxes' suffering and starvation highlight the theme of animals in Greg Garrard's ecocriticism. Garrard, in *Ecocriticism* (2004), explores how animals are often victims of human actions and environmental changes. The foxes' plight, as they become increasingly skinny and watch their friends die, illustrates the devastating impact of habitat loss and environmental neglect. This suffering serves as a powerful reminder of the interdependence between humans and animals and the consequences of disrupting natural ecosystems.

Through the lens of Garrard's animal concept, Saunders' story emphasizes the ethical responsibility humans have towards animals and the environment. The foxes' distress and the reader's empathy for their situation stress the need for more humane and sustainable practices that protect wildlife and their habitats. By depicting the foxes' hardships, Saunders calls attention to the broader ecological crisis, urging readers to consider the effects of their actions on all living beings and to work towards a more balanced and respectful coexistence with nature. Ironically,

animals have become the victims of human violence, another example is stated in the following datum:

*Glansing bak wile trotting, I saw the huje and small Yuman doing such things to Fox 7 as: further hits with their hats, and kiks and stomps, wile making adishunal noises I had never herd a Yuman make, as if this is fun, as if this is funy, as if they are proud of what they are akomplishing! Reeching a dirt klod big as me, I lay behind it, panting wile shaking. Which is when I saw the last straw of there croolty, which was: the small Yuman pikked up Fox 7, now ded, and flung him threw the air! (Saunders, 2018, p. 26-27)*

The violent treatment of Fox 7 by humans highlights the harsh reality of human-animal relationships through the lens of Greg Garrard's ecocriticism. Garrard, in *Ecocriticism* (2004), explores how animals are often seen as lesser beings and suffer due to human actions. The brutal attack on Fox 7—where humans beat, kick, and ultimately kill him for amusement—exemplifies this troubling dynamic. The humans' violence, treating such action as fun, shows a deep disconnect and lack of empathy towards animals. This datum underscores how animals can become innocent victims in a world where humans exploit and harm them without remorse.

This portrayal of violence serves as a powerful critique of how some humans view and treat animals, calling for a rethinking of these relationships. The horrifying fate of Fox 7 emphasizes the need for greater ethical consideration in our interactions with animals. By presenting such stark examples of human violence, the story advocates for a more humane and empathetic approach to coexistence, where animals are seen not as objects for entertainment but as sentient beings deserving of care and kindness. Furthermore, the other datum that shows the animal concept in Greg Garrard's ecocriticism is presented in the following datum:

*It hapened so fast, who cud have been grate enough to stop it? (I for sure did not know how to stop it. Once I snuk into the bak of a Truk and stole there hamer with my mouth. I know it is not gud to steel but I was so mad! But me steeling that hamer did not even slow them down. They must have had other hamers?) (Saunders, 2018, p. 13)*

The fox's desperate attempt to halt the destruction of their habitat by stealing a hammer from humans underscores the powerlessness animals often feel against human activities. Greg Garrard in *Ecocriticism* (2004), discusses how animals are frequently the innocent victims of human actions. The fox's action—driven by frustration and anger—shows a wild animal's instinctive response when threatened. This act of theft, despite its futility, highlights the extreme measures animals might take to protect their homes, yet also illustrates their inability to significantly impact human endeavours.

Animals can be victims of people's habits. The foxes in Saunders' story suffer due to human disregard for their environment, demonstrating how deeply human activities can affect wildlife. When animals feel threatened, their wild nature may lead them to take drastic actions, as seen with the fox's attempt to steal the hammer. This narrative reflects the broader issue of human encroachment on natural habitats and the resulting harm to animal populations. Garrard's concept emphasizes the need to recognize these impacts and change our behaviours to mitigate harm to animals and their ecosystems.

Contrarily, Huggan and Tiffin argue that it is now time for humans to treat animals better, fostering a more respectful and caring relationship. By adopting more compassionate practices towards animals, humans can create a more balanced and sustainable coexistence with nature (Huggan and Tiffin, 2015, p. 189).

Through the foxes' suffering and helplessness, Saunders' story calls for a shift in how humans interact with animals, advocating for an approach that values and protects animal life. This aligns with Garrard's ecocritical perspective, highlighting the importance of ethical responsibility and empathy in improving human-animal relationships for the benefit of all living beings.

## **B. Human-Animal Relationship Depicted in George Saunders's Fox 8**

At this point, the researcher discusses Fox 8's relationship with humans which can be classified as a human-animal relationship in the novel. According to Greg Garrard in his book *Ecocriticism*, Ecocriticism is a science that studies the relationship between humans and non-humans. Thus, non-humans here are defined as animals. Furthermore, the relationship between Fox 8 and Humans shows that most relationships between animals and humans are not harmonious. Thus, Researcher found several relationships between Fox 8 and humans in the novel.

### **1. Human action Controls Fox 8 Emotions and Behaviour**

The main character, Fox 8, in George Saunders' *Fox 8*, presents the human-animal relationship primarily through his apparent interconnectedness with humans. Fox 8 is characterized as an animal that enjoys learning about human behaviour and activities since they live in a city near a forest where animals roam freely. As a result, Fox 8 repeatedly mentions in this story that he is trying to learn how to write and spell human language.

*First may I say, sorry for any werds I spel rong. Because I am a fox! So don't rite or spel perfect. But here is how I lerned to rite and spel as gud as I do!*  
(Saunders, 2018, p.1)

Fox 8 enjoys learning about human behaviour and communication. A tough emotion to describe, yet exhilarating when he creeps in to learn from people. He was only pleased because he believed that people and animals could cohabit together.

*What that lady in that house was saying, was: Storys, to her pups, with "luv." When done, she wud dowse the lite, causing dark. Then, due to feeling "luv," wud bend down, putting snout and lips to the heds of her pups, which was called: "gudnite kiss." Which I got a kik out of that! Because that is also how we show our luv for our pups, as Foxes! It made me feel gud, like Yumans cud feel luv and show luv. In other werds, hope full for the future of Erth! (Saunders, 2018, p. 7)*

He means a peaceful world. Fox 8's response to seeing human gestures of love reflects Ecocriticism is a concept developed by Greg Garrard that investigates the link between literature and nature. Ecocriticism frequently highlights all living forms' interdependence and the reciprocal effect of human and non-human organisms (Garrard, 2004). Fox 8's observations on human behavior, particularly the nurturing actions of storytelling and delivering a goodnight kiss, are consistent with his own fox experiences. This knowledge instills a sense of connection and optimism, implying that constructive human acts may have a harmonious effect on the natural world. Garrard believes that recognizing and depicting these relationships in literature might build a greater awareness for the environment and encourage more sustainable and empathic human actions.

The story shows how human acts, when seen as caring and nurturing, may have a major impact on the emotions and behaviours of nonhuman animals, namely Fox 8. His newfound optimism for Earth's future originates from the realization that people are capable of love and empathy, attributes he had not previously connected



with them. This supports Garrard's notion that literature can be an effective tool for raising ecological awareness and inspiring ethical solutions to environmental challenges (Garrard, 2004).

*When I had spoken my Yuman, Grate Leeder turned his hed side wise the way us Foxes do when feeling quizmical or a noise is hi, and said: Fox 8, how did you akomplish this?*

*I woslike: By studying their speech patterns every nite without fale.*

*He woslike: Perhaps you wud be gud enough to use your new skil to help the Groop?*

*I was kwite flatered by this show of respek from Grate Leeder, famus among us for wizeonsel, plus always leeding us grate.*

*I woslike: Hapy to help.*

*Grate Leeder woslike: Folow me, Fox 8. (Saunders, 2018, p. 11)*

Another piece of evidence demonstrates that human behavior has altered Fox 8's interactions with its environment. Because of his capacity to grasp human language, Grate Leeder urged him to assist his flock, to which Fox 8 gladly replied. However, Fox 8 discovered something unexpected from people in the following data:

*Those werds caused many suden questions in all our branes. Such as: What is a FoxViewCommons? Wud it chase us? Wud it eat us?*

*Terns out, it cud not eat us. It cud not chase us. But what it cud do, was even werse.*

*Because soon here came Truks, smoking wile tooting! They dug up our Primary Forest! They tore out our Leaning Tree! They rekked our shady drinking spot, and made total lee flat.. (Saunders, 2018, p. 12)*

The story had Fox 8 still wondering what was going on in front of him after Grate Leeder revealed to him what humans had done to their habitat. Fox 8 realized what humans had done in front of him was the worst; this indicates that the interaction between humans and non-humans has had an emotional impact on Fox

8. He even mentioned how horrible it is for humans to take everything from their environment.

*As far as we cud see, it is just flat, no trees. Upon trotting to our River, we found it rekked due to so much suden dirt floting in. Also rekked were are Fish who, not even swoping a single flipper, just glansed up blank at us, like: Wow, we do not even get what just hapened.*

*Wile trying to explane it was Truks that hapened, we lerned one reason they cud not swope a flipper is, they are ded! Plus not only are our Fish ded, but all the things we luv to eat, such as Bugs, such as fat slow Mise, are total lee gone! We serched all day, snouts low. But not one snak. (Saunders, 2018, p. 13)*

The other datum that shows the inharmonious human-animal relationship telled by Fox 8 in this novel is presented in the following sentence:

*Soon sevral of our Extreme Lee Old Foxes become sik, and ded, because: no fud. These ded frends were: Fox 24, Fox 10, and Fox 111. (Saunders, 2018, p. 13)*

Fox 8 ultimately tells how humans treat nature and what is in it. He realised that the humans he had always considered and hoped would behave well towards the earth and animals, were doing the opposite. Humans and animals have a good relationship, or at least Fox 8 once thought so before he knew the truth.

Saunders again shows the reader how cruel humans are in destroying everything but themselves for the sake of their own greed and selfish growth. Selfishness and greed are often described as innate human characteristics (Jones, 2014). Fox 8 asked readers if they wanted to feel the impact of having to barely eat for weeks, getting thinner every day and watching their friends die from being thin. Animal habitats are being destroyed to make way for the construction of a proposed mall that would bring happiness and enjoyment to the human community.

*Then, thanks to my habit of day-dreeming, I saw myself, in my brane, leeding my other Foxes to this paradise, one by one, threw FoxViewCommons. I wud*

*show them the Gap. I wud show them the Fake Rox. If one was skared I wud say: Don't be skared. And make a joke. If one was slow I wud give a push from behind with an enkeraging snout. If one was looking around all freeked out, I wud calm lee go: Fokus, fokus. If one was old, such as are Grate Leeder, I wud carry him or her on my bak. (Saunders, 2018, p. 33)*

In the following datum, Fox 8 experienced mental confusion. He also experienced the most difficult moment in his life and was very uneasy about his condition (p.36) after dealing with people who had altered the ecosystem that was previously his home. This fiction prioritizes the perspective of people impacted and victims by creating the tale from their point of view. Saunders frequently links his ideological viewpoint with the disempowered and downtrodden segments of society, illustrating their concerns and fears of being ostracized and protected. Like Henry David Thoreau, who saw himself as being between society and nature in a restricted frontier existence (Thoreau, 2011), the residents of this habitat are neither part of the dominant society nor the ecosystem that is vulnerable to harm.

The shifting ecology represented in this story transitions from its natural condition to an artificial setting, yet not fully. This also has an impact on the mental and behavioral aspects of the foxes, as a result of human actions that cause change in nature and the species that inhabit it.

*So asked myself: What mite somewhat retreev the old and hope full me? And replyed: Some ansers. Which is why I am riting this leter to you Yumans. (Saunders, 2018, p. 36)*

Fox 8's emotional and behavioural responses were influenced by all he experienced. In these datum, Fox 8 penned a note to humanity. I hope he receives a response. This also demonstrates how vulnerable animals are to negative human conduct. The unplanned change of the fox colony reflects the fragility of the current

environment in which they dwell. The difference between the language of foxes and humans is extensively used to describe the difference in meaning signified by the same word, often leading to hints about human invasion and domination (Matthew, R., and Pandya, D., (2020).

## **2. Humans Bring Harm to The Environment and Foxes**

Fox 8 is the main character in the novel. He's a unique fox who likes to learn human behaviour and language by listening to them tell stories by the window. When he got to know humans, that's when Fox 8 discovered the fact that some humans don't behave well towards the environment and animals.

*Because soon here came Truks, smoking wile tooting! They dug up our Primary Forest! They tore out our Leaning Tree! They rekked our shady drinking spot, and made total lee flat.. (Saunders, 2018, p. 11)*

The first appears in the following datum. After studying humans, Fox 8 finally learned that humans have harmed the environment. This is proven by Fox 8 which saw humans destroying their habitat and replacing it with a project that was profitable for humans.

*FoxViewCommons seemed to be a plase Yumans came to put there Kars. They wud go into wite boxes and wate there untul there kars were redy to go home? (Saunders, 2018, p. 14)*

The human-made mall project FoxViewCommons has two distinct meanings and viewpoints for the dominant party and the weaker victims. It signified growth for people and annihilation for foxes. Later on, it might have to do with “starvation, death, and relocation” for the impacted group due to the invasion made by the powerful and dominating humans.

*Glansing bak wile trotting, I saw the huje and small Yuman doing such things to Fox 7 as: further hits with their hats, and kiks and stomps, wile making adishunal noises I had never herd a Yuman make, as if this is fun, as if this is funy, as if they are proud of what they are accomplishing! Reeching a dirt klod big as me, I lay behind it, panting wile shaking. Which is when I saw the last straw of there croolty, which was: the small Yuman pikked up Fox 7, now ded, and flung him threw the air! (Saunders, 2018, p. 26-27)*

Through FoxViewCommons, the foxes try to re-establish good connections with humans (p. 27). They look for food because there is no food left in the forest due to human cruelty action towards their habitat. Hence, humans never heeded this and even attacked them brutally. This causes the foxes to migrate because the forest that is used to be their home is no longer safe, and so does Fox 8.

*For many weeks I tried to find my Old Foxes. My new frends even helped. But no way. We serched and serched but never fownd my frends, or even a trase of FoxViewCommons. It is as if my beluvved Old Groop had fallen off the fase of Erth, (Gudby deer frends. I will not forgit you.) (Saunders, 2018, p. 34-35)*

However, as previous researcher have stated, human actions influence foxes' emotions and behaviour; this was also true when Fox 8 discovered a new, significantly better habitat. In the datum above, Fox 8 was still trying to find its old group around FoxViewCommons but never saw them again. This clearly shows that habitat extinction is caused by humans' negative activities against the environment and non-humans. This is also stated in Garrard's book Theory of Ecocriticism, when one species dies, another will follow. The death of an individual is also the death of its kind (Garrard, 2004, p. 156). Through all his dealings with humans, Fox 8 finally wrote a letter that he addressed to humans.

*I wud like to know what is rong with you people. How cud the same type of Animal who made that luv lee Mawl make Fox 7 look the way he looked that time I saw him? Wud a Yuman do something like that to another Yuman? I dowt it. Whenever I saw a Yuman, he or she was laffing wile smiling wile approaching the Mawl. Sometimes one Kar mite hit another Kar and a Yuman mite be slite lee mad, but always, by the end, they are at least nise, and give*

*each other the gift of a scrap of paper. Never onse did I see a Yuman hit another Yuman with a rok hat, stomp and kik that Yuman then fling that Yuman, laffing when he or she came down in a puff of a dirt with a sickening sound.*

*Maybe Yumans do that.*

*But I have not seen it. (Saunders, 2018, p. 36-37)*

When he thought about how he wrote this letter, he found his memory of his dead friend, Fox 7. He wondered if humans would also do the same to other humans. However, what Fox 8 knows so far is how humans often act kindly towards each other. Saunders warns in the fiction about the long-term consequences and impacts of exerting coerciveness on the environment and its resources as Fox 8's final words in the following datum:

*Reeding my Story bak just now, I woslike: O no, my Story is a bumer. There is the deth of a gud pal, and no plase of up lift, or lerning lesen. The nise Fox's first Groop stays lost, his frend stays ded.*

*Bla.*

*If you Yumans wud take one bit advise from a meer Fox? By now I know that you Yumans like your storys to end happy?*

*If you you want your storys to end happy, try being niser. (Saunders, 2018, p. 38)*

This passage aims to inform those in power about the need to reconsider their harsh actions of invading, displacing, and exploiting vulnerable organisms, environments, and natural resources. Batool and Hussain (2016) explain how human activities rapidly cause environmental damage, harming wildlife and negatively impacting the human population (p. 509-510). This degradation disrupts ecosystems, leading to the loss of habitats for countless species and threatening biodiversity. The effects are not limited to wildlife; humans also suffer from these actions through increased natural disasters, health problems, and diminished resources.

The researcher argues that the degradation of the environment ultimately comes back to affect human societies, underscoring the interconnectedness of all life on Earth. By highlighting these consequences, Batool and Hussain (2016) call for reevaluating human behaviors and policies to prevent further harm to both nature and humanity. This appeal is particularly directed at those who hold the power to make significant changes, urging them to adopt more sustainable and compassionate practices to protect the earth's future.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the research findings and discussions that have been carried out in the previous chapter, the researcher finally arrived at the final chapter of this research. This chapter contains a conclusion and suggestion. This conclusion outlines the findings of an analysis of the portrayal of interaction between humans and animals in George Saunders' *Fox 8* using Greg Garrad's Ecocritical Theory. This chapter also continues with suggestions for future researchers interested in the *Fox 8* novel as an object of research.

#### A. Conclusion

After evaluating the *Fox 8* book in the previous chapter, the researcher concludes that it has various discoveries related to the research aims. First, the impact of the relationship between humans and animals is represented in some of Garrard's concepts, namely wilderness, dwelling and animals which tells and shows that animals are often used as objects for humans to gain knowledge. Therefore, this has a huge impact on the sustainability of animals and often leads to extinction. Not only are animals affected, but also the wilderness and the dwelling of many non-human species.

The second is how the relationship between humans and animals in *Fox 8* is depicted. Wilderness and dwelling illustrated in the novel are the locations where in the novel *Fox 8* depends on the forest for its life which is affected by environmental changes. It displays the environment around *Fox 8* where humans and the environment are interconnected. The third is Animal, this presents the



concept of the relationship between animals and humans with their problems. In the novel, it is explained that the relationship between animals and humans is often not harmonious which in the end humans often bring bad things which lead to cruelty towards animals.

Fox 8's relationship with humans in the *Fox 8* novel illustrates that the relationship between humans and animals often does not go well. In this novel, the relationship between Fox 8 and humans is shown, where human behaviour influences Fox 8 in several ways in his life. Humans control and influence Fox 8's emotions and behaviour. Initially, Fox 8 was happy to study human behaviour, even thinking that humans were good creatures. However, as time goes by Fox 8 finds that humans often harm the environment and animals.

### **B. Suggestion**

Researcher believe that this research is far from perfect. Based on the conclusions of the study results above, researchers provide numerous recommendations to other researchers or readers of this research who are interested in environmental research-related subjects so that they might conduct better research in the future. If the next researcher wishes to go more into environmental literature utilizing Ecocriticism theory, the researcher proposes looking for literary works that include environmental concerns or themes in their work. Future researchers must have a comprehensive understanding of both theory and text first. Researchers also believe that this research could be useful to readers, particularly English Literature students who want to investigate the same issue. Furthermore, it

is anticipated that this research could inspire others to evaluate these literary works using ecocriticism.

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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**



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