

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Environment is a place where human beings, plants, and animals live. When human cannot keep the environment well, there will be environmental problems. Environmental problems begin much discussed since the convening of the UN Conference about Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, on June 15, 1972. In Indonesia, the history of environmental problems begins with the convening of the Seminar on Environment Management and Development by the University of Padjadjaran Bandung on 15-18 May 1972.

According to Bharucha, environment is everything that affects an organism during its lifetime. In turn, all organisms including people affect many components in their environment (2004: 2). It threatens human life because it can harm humans and other living creatures on earth. Human is influential in the environment. In nature, human performs all its activities to meet their interests. People are provided by environment which has a variety of goods and services for day by day. Our dependence on nature is so great that we cannot continue to live without protecting the earth's environmental resources (Bharucha, 2004: 3), thus for people it is important and vital to learn and respect nature. Previously people suspected of global environmental issues are more influenced by natural factors, such as climate, which includes temperature, rainfall, humidity, and air pressure. Later, people realized that human activity is affecting the climate and the environment significantly even it gives rise to natural destruction.

The issue of the natural destruction has been discussed in several sciences, namely environmental science, geography, biological sciences, and social sciences. Natural destruction is not only becomes the attention of scientists in the field, but also becomes the attention of

the authors in the literary world, one of them is Elizabeth Rudnick. She has written over thirty books, like *A Frozen Heart*, *Cinderella*, *Miles to Go*, *Thor*, *Captain America*, *Pirates of Caribbean*, and *Maleficent*. Some of those works have been made into the film, including *The Curse of Maleficent*. Elizabeth Rudnick as an author has an idea in describing how natural destruction occurs because of human activity through her work, *The Curse of Maleficent* novel. She is now a freelance editor and writer living on Cape Cod with her husband and two lovable mutts, Jack and Ginger.

Of all the works that have been created by her, *The Curse of Maleficent* novel is the most obvious novel which shows her concern about nature. It tells a story of a battle of two different worlds that exist side by side but one of them has a big ambition to master another, the Moors and the Human world. The Moors is a fairy land where there live many unique creatures that have magical powers and are very concerned with natural wealth so that the preservation of nature is kept awoken. The Moors is protected by Maleficent, the strongest creatures of the Moors. It saves natural resources which are very abundant, fertile, reach, and looks very beautiful. The richness of the Moors makes the Human world is getting jealous. They have a big ambition to take over the Moors.

In the Human World, there live greedy humans who always want treasures of the Moors because their land is less of natural resources. There is a kingdom ruled by a king named King Stefan. He and his soldiers always try to attack the Moors but they always failed because it is protected by Maleficent which has big black wings that can make her fly high into the sky and as her power to attack her enemy, the humans. One day, Stefan, the only human friend of Maleficent who also had a special relationship with her, cut her wings and handed it to the king Henry so that he can be the successor to the throne of the kingdom after the death of King Henry. Maleficent was

really angry when she knew that Stevan did it so he could be a king. She came to the castle to take revenge by cursing Stevan's little baby, Aurora. Before the sun set on her sixteenth birthday, she will prick her finger on a spindle of a spinning wheel and fall into a sleep like death. That was the curse.

Since the cursing event, world war like restarted. Stefan more hated Maleficent. He ruled all soldiers to make more irons, the only thing that can burn Maleficent's skin, to attack her and the same creatures. All spinning wheels were destroyed as an effort to prevent Aurora to prick her finger. The castle was no longer as beautiful as before, there was only sorrow over the curse, no more happiness. While in the Moors, Maleficent built a high wall around boundaries of the Moors as a barrier between the Human world and the Moors made by thorn, in order that humans couldn't enter the land. War was always the case. Humans endless attacked the Moors.

By contrast, far away in a wood where Aurora was exiled by three little fairies, the atmosphere was very pleasant. The faeries had chosen to live in the kingdom so Stefan trusted them to treat Aurora until her sixteen ages. Maleficent who should hate Aurora just loved her so much because she knew that Aurora was not the same with his father, she loved nature as she did. Maleficent kept Aurora from she was baby, but never once revealed her form up to Aurora until she was fifteen years old. Aurora had a loveliest place to grow up until she knew the truth of her dark secret of her past. She was so sick to know that Maleficent, her fairy godmother who always watched her from baby was the one who cursed her. But then she knew the whole story of the past told by Maleficent that her fairy godmother was not the villain but the hero. In the end of the story, Stevan died in his efforts to kill Maleficent. Then the Moors and the human world united.

In a literary work, the work of a novel which is produced by an author doesn't always necessarily correspond with the hope of all

readers of the work, as well as in this novel. Some readers found this novel has several advantages and disadvantages. Bailey said that this novel was filled with gorgeous illustrations that were breathtaking to look at as it is exceptionally beautiful and fairytale, full of soft curves and sharp angles, and it has some really enchanting backgrounds. Other reader argued that the novel was really adventurous and at the end of the chapters there are cliffhangers that really make the readers want to read more. I would really recommend this book to people who like cliffhangers and adventures and I would also recommend this book to people who might not like Disney stories a lot because this is not like a regular Disney story (Angelynn). Jessy thought that the novel has a good balance. As it is known that the novel is made into a film, the book was told from alternating perspectives. Sometimes she felt like she'd learned more through the movie, other times, she felt like she knew the characters better through the book.

Miss Clark said that the novel didn't give the deeper explanation of some characters like Aurora's mother. It is the same as Karyn Kar Mun's opinion. She dislikes the writing in the novel as there are some things which are not described completely, for example is there is hardly any description of the Moors in which the fairies lived. We're told that it is beautiful and has a lake full of jewels (because it's necessary to the plot), and the rest is simply left to the imagination. I do not if I am too old and set in my ways but this story is uncomfortable for me. It definitely conflicts with the traditional Sleeping Beauty Story. That is all I will say (Thomas Stama).

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in studying this novel. *The Curse of Maleficent* is written in third person and from three different viewpoints: Robin (a fairy), Knotgrass (also a fairy) and Aurora. These three characters view the story of Maleficent from an outside perspective and show how Maleficent's actions affect them. The story is beautifully told from these three characters that are well-

rounded characters. It is full of fantasy and the illustrations of the book delight the researcher when reading the novel. This is the story of Maleficent and how she came to be, why she did what she did and how her interactions with Aurora changed her destiny.

The second is the writer is interested with Maleficent's character of this novel. At first time the researcher read the title of the novel which is *The Curse of Maleficent*, she thought that Maleficent is the antagonist character in whole story as she cursed another character. However, after reading the novel until end, it is not like what the researcher thought at first. Maleficent is the kindest character. All she does is to protect the nature from the human. Between a hero and villain is depended on perspective.

The third reason is this novel has a moral message conveyed in this story. The researcher wants to explore how nature and human are connected each other in environment. In this novel, Maleficent is the symbol of nature while human is illustrated by King Stefan and his soldiers. The humans always try to attack Maleficent and the Moors but they always fail. In real life, nature is always getting damage because of human activities, so it leads natural destruction. This novel tells the reader that nature needs to be protected to keep it remains stable.

Based on the illustration above, the writer is interested to analyze this novel by using a sociological of literature entitled **Protest Against Natural Destruction Reflected in Elizabeth Rudnick's *The Curse of Maleficent* Novel (2014): A Sociological Approach.**

B. Problem Statement

Considering the background above, the main problem in this research is how Elizabeth Rudnick describes the protest against natural destruction through *The Curse of Maleficent* novel. Based on

the problem statement, the writer formulates the research questions are as follows:

1. What are the indicators of natural destruction in the novel?
2. What causes natural destruction in the novel?
3. What are the impacts of natural destruction in the novel?
4. How is natural destruction depicted in the novel?
5. Why did Elizabeth Rudnick address natural destruction in her novel?

C. Objectives of The Study

Dealing with problem statement above, the writer formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To describe the indicators of natural destruction in the novel *The Curse of Maleficent*.
2. To explain the causes of natural destruction in novel *The Curse of Maleficent*.
3. To explain the impacts of natural destruction in the novel *The Curse of Maleficent*.
4. To describe how natural destruction is depicted in the novel *The Curse of Maleficent*.
5. To reveal why the author addresses natural destruction *The Curse of Maleficent* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing natural destruction in Elizabeth Rudnick's *The Curse of Maleficent* novel (2014) on Sociological Approach.

E. Benefits of the Study

This research is conducted in order to have benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to give information, benefits, and contribution to the larger of knowledge particularly the literary study in Elizabeth Rudnick's *The Curse of Maleficent*.

2. Practical Benefit

The writer expects that this research will give significant benefits in the form of information, especially for students of English Department who manage themselves to increase their knowledge in analyzing *The Curse of Maleficent* novel by using sociological approach.

F. Paper of Organization

The research paper of "Protest against Natural Destruction in Elizabeth Rudnick's Novel *The Curse of Maleficent* (2014): A Sociological Approach" is divided in six chapters. The details of the paper organization are: **Chapter one** is Introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Benefits of the Study, and Paper of Organization. **Chapter two** is Literature Review. It consists of Underlying Theory (Notion of Sociology of Literature, Major Principle of Sociology of Literature, and Notion of Natural Destruction), Previous Study and Theoretical Application. **Chapter three** is Research Method. It consists of Type of the Study, Object of the Study, Type of the Data and the Data Source, Technique of Data Collection, and Technique of Data Analysis. **Chapter four** is Sociological Analysis of Elizabeth Rudnick's novel *The Curse of Maleficent*. **Chapter five** is Conclusion, Suggestion, and Pedagogical Implication.