

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The quality of the environment can increase and decrease. The tendency to be decreased is larger than to be increased. World Health Organization (WHO) defines degradation as the reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives and needs. The sources of degradation varies, include land misuse, soil loss, desertification, wildland fires, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, mangrove destruction, land, water and air pollution, climate change, sea level rise and ozone depletion (WHO Report, 2008: 12). According to Converse of Future Energies, the causes of environmental degradation are the land disturbance, pollution, overpopulation, landfills, deforestation, and natural causes. These point out that human activities are the biggest cause of environmental degradation.

An environment has an important role as the habitat of all organism including human. Meriam Webster Dictionary defines environment as covers complex of physical, chemical, and biotic factors such as climate, soil, and living thing that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival. Meanwhile, Oxford Dictionary defines environment as the natural world, a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as the affected human.

Recently, the environment becomes one of the main priority in development. The new paradigm has concentrate nature as the center of life. Before it, the center of life is human, other words from *anthropocentric* into *nature-centric*. The change of paradigm occurs since the awareness of people raise because they are impacted by the degradation.

In development, there are some requirements must be completed before building construction. Beside it, technologies created for environmental advantages. Air conditioner, vehicle, and other electricity now have an "eco-friendly" label. The companies design a product to be

more sustainable and be recycled. Recently, all of the society campaign “go green” toward environmental issues as effort reducing the environmental degradation.

Almost the part of society takes part in campaign environmental issues, including the writers of literature. One of writer who concerns in environmental issues is Jostein Gaarder. Gaarder is an author from Norway. He was born on August 8, 1952, in Oslo. His parents are educated, people. Gaarder’s father was a school headmaster. His mother was a teacher and an author of children’s books. His passion in writing a book raises from his family’s background.

Gaarder also learns Scandinavian language and theology at The University of Oslo. He worked as a teacher of philosophy in high school for several years before he chose to become an author. He married Siri Dannevig then moved to Bergen, Norway and had two sons.

Gaarder writes many famous novels and short stories. His works have been translated into several languages and become the best seller for several years. His works such as *Sophie's World*, *Orange Girls*, *The Solitaire Mystery*, *The World According to Anna* and others spread out among the world. Most of his works are created into the novels which contain fantasy stories. The novels are influenced by his background and education which contain philosophy. The novels are delivered in narrative style. He is well known as an author who chooses children perspective and metafiction in producing the works.

One of his novels which concerns in the environment is *The World According to Anna*. This novel is published in 2013 in the Norwegian Language. Two years later his novel is translated into several languages. The novel is written when the global warming issue was booming.

Gaarder as the brilliant author brings our imagination to 2082 later when the world in the dangerous condition. The messages of the novel remain us to environmental degradation that caused by the human greed

Anna as the main character brings our imagination to 2082 later. She received a message from her grandmother. She dream that lives in another world. Her grandmother accompanies her to visit the museum which contains all of the species represented in photos and videos only, not real. Her grandmother strived to save the extinct species as compensation for the future generations. With her boyfriend, Jonas, she establishes a foundation to save biodiversity. Everyone can choose one or more donation to save animals and the environment. Beside create an organization, Anna and Jonas also did an activity which became their habits to save the environment.

The World According to Anna has been warmly regarded by the reader. Most people appreciate the clear narration and the messages delivered in the story. The messages can be practicable. Anna and Jonas as the main character give ideas to do by the reader in responding to environmental degradation. Meanwhile, several people suppose the narration of the novel lack of art of literature and less interesting.

Definitely, literature and social life have a close relationship. They merge in the sociology of literature study. *The World According to Anna* is not as popular as *Sophie's World*, the best seller from Gaarder's works. But it is the important work that concerns in the environmental crisis and recommended to read for everyone. This book is one of a successful novel. The novel inspires the society to raise their consciousness in saving nature. This book is translated into several languages and spread out the world. Gaarder's book is rich of messages and methods to increase the quality of the environment. Based on the phenomena, the researcher will conduct a study entitled: **CRITICISM TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN JOSTEIN GAARDER'S *THE WORLD ACCORDING TO ANNA* (2015): A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

B. Limitation of the Study

The study of literature has many branches. The researcher will focus on the context of the novel which is environmental degradation issues. Also, the main character ideas to cope with environmental degradation written in the novel by using the sociology of literature perspective.

C. The problem of the Study

This study focus to analyze the content in *The World According to Anna* novel. The questions formulate to criticize toward environmental degradation as follows:

1. What are the indicators the degrading quality of the environment?
2. What are proposed by the major character to cope with environmental degradation?
3. Why did the author address the issue of environmental degradation in the novel?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem of study, the objective of the study are (1) to find out the indicators the environmental degradation, (2) to find out what proposed by the main character to cope with environmental degradation and (3) to find out the reasons of the author's concern on environmental issues reflected in *The World According to Anna* novel.

E. Benefit of the Study

This study has two benefits, theoretical and practical benefit.

1. Theoretical Benefit

The results of the study will give (1) explanation about the indicators degrading the quality of the environment, (2) cause and impact of environmental degradation and (3) how Gaarder's ideas solve the degrading quality of the environment in *The World According to Anna* novel. The messages which contained in the novel are clear and applicable. They give the reader environment information to raise consciousness to save nature.

2. Practical Benefit

The narration in the books can be used as the citation in study genre of the text. So, the students can take the message as an effort to spread the environmental movement to save nature. This novel is also recommended as a literature book for students.