# Ecological Issues in the Movie Entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*

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**Abstract**

This study aims to describe ecological issues based on the Eco critical study of Greg Garrard in *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian movie* by Andre Adamson. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. The data in this study are dialogue, pictures, and texts in the movie that cover ecological issues. The data sources in this study were The *Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie by Andrew Adamson. The data is collected through the process of watching, enlisting, and screenshotting. The data is analyzed by identifying, classifying and interpreting. The results of this study illustrate that in *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie there are ecological problems that occur due to human activities. Ecological problems found in the movie are the relationship between human and nature, the animals becoming wild and extinct, destruction of nature. First, the relationship between human and nature shows that the characters in the movie were associated with nature. Secondly, animals become wild and extinct because humans ignore the rights of animals. Such as destroying habitats and exploitation toward animals. Thirdly, the destruction of housing/shelter because of the human construction of houses for their own interests without thinking about other living things which is why they take the land of Narnia.

**Keywords*: animals, eco criticism, ecological, narnia, prince Caspian***

## INTRODUCTION

There have been many environmental problems due to irresponsible and selfish human behavior. These actions bring impacts on nature, including transferring land, forest burning, air, soil, and water pollution without thinking about the age of the earth. As a consequence, factory wastes flow into rivers, forests are exploited to build factories, and lands are converted to luxury housing that is not environmentally friendly. Many living things depend on nature, such as rivers as economic traffic, springs as a source of clean water, forests as a home for animals. So, it is attracting the attention of the world. As a result, it is necessary for human beings to have an ecological assessment through literary works to raise awareness of the environment. As Endraswara (2016) said that some literary works prove that literature does need nature as its

inspiration, and nature needs literature as a tool of its conservation. There are many environmental problems that are the main issues in the literature, one of them is found in a movie. *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* is one of the movies that reveals about the environmental issues. This movie is an American high fantasy movie in 2008 taken from a novel written by C.S Lewis and directed by Andrew Adamson. *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie tells about the nature of Narnia that has changed to be wild for centuries. In this movie, the nature of Narnia was depicted so friendly and full of miracles, but all had changed because of the transition of power to the greedy and evil king. So, the natural wonders of Narnia become dim, animals and forests go wild and the nature of Narnia has changed significantly. Then, the old kings and the queens, the four Pevensie who once ruled, came back to Narnia. When they suddenly enter, they see that the condition of Narnia has changed greatly like it was no longer in the past. Since the forest has been damaged and replaced with buildings, animals are getting wilder. This happened because these animals have lost their homes and so on. Therefore, they re-explored the realm of Narnia and tried to help Prince Caspian to take back his throne that had been seized by his uncle, King Miraz with the aim of restoring the glory of Narnia. Based on the issues, it is necessary to conduct studies that focus on ecological issues in literary works using ecocritical perspectives by Greg Garrard.

Ecocriticism is an understanding that arises in the community as a result of criticism of nature and the environment. According to Greg Garrard, ecocriticism is exploring parts of ways about how humans imagine and describe the relationship between humans and the environment in all aspects. Greg Garrard explores the development of the movement and the concepts related to ecocriticism namely Pollution, Positions, Pastoral, Wilderness, Apocalypse, Dwelling, Animals, and Futures: The Earth. However, the researcher only focuses on position, dwelling, and animals because this movie only highlights the three concepts of Garrard's ecocriticism. The researcher prefers to analyze the movie by ecocriticism theory because of some reasons. First, this movie contains some environmental issues that need to be overcome by critical viewers. Therefore, ecocriticism is the right theory to analyze *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie. Second, ecological issues in the movie reflect problems we face in our life. Ecocriticism is an important theory as an effort to save the environment through the lens of literature.

The researcher chose *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie because there are some ecological issues that are more dominant compared to other movies. They are not only practical but they also raise some actions that utilize the power that tend to damage our nature (ecology damage), such as Miraz as a king trying to destroy the realm of Narnia by destroying animals and building bridges by cutting down trees wildly for his own interests. Based on the background, then the question arises how ecological issues are depicted in The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian movie. Based on the research question, the objective of the research is to analyze the ecological issues depicted in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* directed by Andrew Adamson. There are two significance of this research, those are theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this research will give an understanding of the ecocriticism study, especially about Greg Garrard's Ecocriticism. Practically, this research can be the reference for future research that also discusses the same study.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research discusses the ecological issues based on the ecocritical study of Greg Garrard in *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie by Andre Adamson. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method by ecocriticism theory. This theory looks at how ecological issues occur due to the behavior of human beings which causes the realm of Narnia to become damaged. This research used two sources of data, those are primary sources of data and secondary sources of data. The primary data in this research was collected from *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie by Andrew Adamson, whether it was the characters, action, dialogues, or pictures. The secondary data came from books, journals, and writing that are relevant to this study to support the findings.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This research discusses how ecological issues are presented in one of the movie series entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* by Andrew Adamson. There are several forms of ecology issues based on Greg Garrard's ecocriticism concepts contained in this movie. Ecological issues can be seen in the table below:

| No. | **Ecology Issues in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*** | **Representation** |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Destruction of Environment | - Looted home to old Narnians |
| 2. | Wild And Extinct Animals | - Not consider animal rights |
| 3. | Relationship between human and nature | - Associated between women and nature that contradicting with men and culture<br>- The role of the human in solving environmental problems |

Table 1. Forms of ecological issues

**Destruction of Environment**

Greg Garrard said that dwelling is not temporary, on the contrary, it implies a long-term buildup of human landscape memory, ancestral and death, rituals, life, and work. Land or nature is a place to live and provide a life for humans and all other living things. So if what happens is the other way around, which is due to human greed that damages and destroys nature, it will have bad effects on other living things.

Like the removal of habitats from other living things and replaced with buildings for the benefit of humans themselves. Based on the analysis conducted in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* found that housing/dwellings that will be saved by the four main characters in the story are the nature of Narnia with drastic ecological conditions, due to this nature been attacked and destroyed by the Telmarines, whereas in hundreds of years before, this place is very supportive and has an important role for organism that live in it because lives between the forests and rivers. With this ecological condition that has been damaged, the Narnians are suffering, not free and not prosperous. This is due to human behavior (the nation of Telmare) which basically has been bound to a culture that wants to control nature which is then used for their own interests. One of them by simultaneously seizing habitat or their dwelling. Thing these can be seen in the pictures:



**Picture 1** **Picture 2**

(Duration 00: 46: 27 to 00: 46: 48)

The pictures above show the cutting activity that is happening. The trees have been cut into wooden blocks and ready to be the main ingredient in making bridges. They are a Telmarine nation. They treat the environment just for their individual advantages. The bad action will have an impact on organisms in the forest. If the trees are cut down wildly without regard to the environment what will happen is an imbalance of the ecosystem that threatens the lives of the animals that live in the forest. However, it represents human being's greediness toward nature. Raising needs to be fulfilled. They overuse the natural resources without thinking that the resources can be depleted.

The activity above is an action that doesn't protect nature. They don't realize that plants (trees) are very important for them and the other creatures. Trees contribute to their environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. So, the forest increases the quality of the air because the trees have their natural process which is called photosynthesis and in that process they need carbon dioxide. Therefore, the trees will absorb the carbon dioxide from the environment around them. The result of the process of photosynthesis is oxygen. It is what all the creatures need. So, by protecting the forest, the oxygen will always be sufficient for all the Narnians and even the Telmarine nation. However, this caused the Narnians to run away from their homes which did not provide the sweet air like the centuries ago. As a result of habitat destruction caused, the Narnians have lost their homes.

This matter can be seen in the picture below:





**Picture 3**
(Duration 00: 50: 27)

The picture above shows that there is habitat destruction. The point is that natural habitat no longer functions to support the life of the Narnia's. Thus causing the Narnians who previously inhabited the place were forced to move in this case they ran into the forest. And there are even some and maybe many of the Narnians destroyed so as to reduce their population. That happened because the Telmare people had captured their homes, land, freedom, and life. They make many houses and buildings for their own interests. Some of the survivors survive and hide from the Telmarine people.

## Wild and Extinct Animals

Humans also have a relationship with animals in humanities[4]. Where humans must consider animal rights. However, this study analyzes human behavior that ignores the rights of animals. Even though animals themselves have basic rights that are the same degree as basic human rights, they are called animal rights. One of the rights is that they need freedom, can live and their habitat is not disturbed. Factors that cause the animals in the Narnian realm in this case in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* becomes wild and even extinct is the destruction of habitat and exploitation of animals. The data about that can be seen in the picture below:



**Picture 4** (Duration 00: 52: 27)

The picture above shows that some of the Soldiers of Telmarine hunt down Caspian, a dwarf, and a badger while shooting them. Then, the badger is hit by the soldier's shot. However, they have no moral responsibility to the animals that also want to live peacefully even though such treatment will make animals become extinct with their own hands. In Narnia, the animal's population including the beaver is out of balance and threatened with extinction even many have disappeared since the Telmarine nation came to power. Then, they spread the news that there were none left of Narnians. So, the new generation of the people of Telmarine like Caspian believes that.

**Relationship between Human and Nature**

Basically, women and nature have been connected naturally and both have a very close relationship compared to men. This is shown by two female characters in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian.* In this study, the female figures to be investigated are Susan Pevensie and Lucy Pevensie. Both are queens in the Narnian Realm. They are described as someone who understands nature. In its context, this time is the nature of Narnia. The first figures to be discussed are Lucy's sister and the second eldest of four Pevensie siblings. Susan, who is dubbed the gentle queen by the Narnian. Softness is not only for fellow human beings but also animals and nature in Narnia. She is also a brave figure where she is good at using arrows, even so, she never abuses her ability to hurt animals in Narnia, even if the animals are wild.




**Picture 5** (Duration 00: 52: 50)

The picture above shows that Susan is reluctant to hurt the bear. This scene showed the 'empathy' between women and nature (animal). Her unwillingness to shoot the animal depicted her feeling or emotion to protect the bear. This relation is trying to be raised in this movie as natural as possible so that the audience also considers it as something natural to happen because Susan is a queen in Narnia. Empathy is the capacity to understand or feel what another person or creature is experiencing from within their frame of deference, that is, the capacity to place oneself in another's position; experiencing emotions that match another creature's emotion (the bear's emotion). In this scene, the bear tried to attack Lucy while Susan knows that animals in the Narnian realm are basically not like that, but they go wild because they are not taken care of anymore by Termare people. So, based on observation of the researcher, Susan was concerned about what the bear was thinking or feeling. The bear wants to survive. This is very contradictory to what Mr. Trumpkin and Edmund did. In this scene, Edmund shouted to Susan *"Shoot, Susan! Shoot!"* (Picture. 5), which is done by him is normal if this matter is seen by using reason. In this case, Edmund wants to protect himself from a dangerous situation by the bear's attack. Therefore, Edmund is presented as a person who uses his mind as a human being in a higher position than animals.

A sense of understanding of nature is also presented by Lucy. Lucy is dubbed as a brave queen of the Narnians. She is very often described as someone who is very close to nature and animals, what stands out the most is her proximity to Aslan. Lucy, as a woman who is emotional as well as animals, uses her feelings rather than rational. One of these similarities is that nature and women have been associated according to ecofeminism's concept of Greg Garrard. The picture above shows that Lucy is a figure who has an emotional sense toward nature, in this context is

an animal. In this part, Lucy looks very sad and feels lost her two best friends when she first discovered the realm of Narnia, they are Mr. Tamnus and the beaver. The sadness of losing her two best friends could be interpreted that Lucy had a deep connection with nature. Based on the description above, the author makes only Lucy feel that. So, the researcher finds out that it is not "the heart" that causes this condition, but the brain. Related to what Garrard said that distinguishes men from women based on several quality reasons, namely men have a brain size larger than women. So, the differences in brain structure in which men have a greater volume of growth in the parts that cause behavior less sensitive to feelings and emotions. So, based on the finding above show that there is problematic that be presented in this movie about the relationship between human and nature which are the actions that reflected by Lucy and Susan can be associated with nature, but this is contradicting with the other figure of male.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of research in The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian movie through an ecocritical perspective by Greg Garrard, it can be concluded that this movie as a media criticize human behavior that always destroys nature. The phenomenon of environmental issues such as the closeness between women and nature makes both of them in a position of subordination, animals become wild and extinct, destruction of dwellings. This illustrates that humans are not responsible for the earth. Humans who feel superior to other living beings and are more selfish make them no longer think about the safety of the earth. Where in truth humans have a big responsibility to protect various living creatures and nature and this earth. Humans only attach importance to their own for their goals and mere satisfaction.

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