
Jurnal Disastri:
Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia
Vol 6, No. 1, April 2024
<http://ejournal.unhas.ac.id/index.php/disastri>
EISSN:2722-3329, PISSN:2716-411X

The Role of the Environment in Human Life in the Novels Tambora 1815 and Medulla Sinculasis by Paox Iben Mudhaffar

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to describe (1) the form of environmental role in human life, (2) the form of human attitude to the environment, (3) the form of local wisdom in its relation with environment in novel Medulla Sinculasis and Tambora 1815 by Paox Iben Mudhaffar. This research was qualitative descriptive. The source of data was the novels Medulla Sinculasis and Tambora 1815 by Paox Iben Mudhaffar. The collection of the data used document content analysis (read-note-analysis). Analysis of the data in this study is a qualitative descriptive analysis technique is done by categorizing, describing, and conclusion. In this research, the researchers chose the novels Medulla Sinculasis and Tambora 1815 as data sources considering that these novels were the most appropriate to study among Paox Iben's other works. The Tambora 1815 novel used is the first printed novel, March 2015 published by Bukudaku Addressra Publishing, Mataram with a book thickness of 301 pages, ISBN: 978-979-18863-1-4 and the Medulla Sinculasis novel used is the first printed novel, January 2011 published by IruS (Rumah Arus Institute) Mataram, Lombok with a book thickness of 324 pages, ISBN: 979-1698-045-94-7. The results of this research are as follows. First, the role of environment represented in the novels Medulla Sinculasis and Tambora 1815 consists of: (a) the environment as the source of food, (b) the environment as the source of medicines, (c) the environment as the source of building material, (d) the environment as living place, (e) the environment as the provider of payment tool (barter), (f) the environment as a means of livelihood, (g) the environment as the source of water, (h) the environment as the provider of things for means of transportation, and (i) the environment as tourist object.

Keywords: Environtmen, Human, Novel

Article history

Received:
21-3-2024

Revised:
24-03-2024

Accepted:
31-03-2024

Published:
01-04-2024

Introduction

The natural environment is a source of life for humans, and the environment needs humans for its sustainability. This reciprocity is often forgotten by humans, due to ignorance or greed in treating nature without considering the balance of nature. In line with this statement, Akhadi (2009: 56) revealed that the increasing needs of modern

humans for materials have encouraged human activities in the industrial sector. Now humans continue to build anything based only on economic and technological interests, without ever paying attention to environmental problems that will arise later.

The advancement of science, technology, and the demand to keep moving forward in the economic field has made humans forget the values that must be maintained to achieve a harmonious relationship with nature. Humans with their scientific and technological advances are increasingly showing their dominance over nature, which has become uncontrollable and irresponsible. Nasr (1984: 38) says that modern man has come to view nature no longer as a wife, just as men receive favors and at the same time assume responsibilities. Nature, for modern man is like a prostitute, utilized but without any sense of obligation and responsibility towards her.

One way to voice the values that must be maintained in human relations with the environment as an effort to save or preserve nature is literature. Pranoto (2013: vii) says that one of the efforts to save the earth through the process of awareness can be launched through cultural movements, especially by utilizing the power of literature, both in prose and poetry. The advantages of literature are that it has the potential to awaken the conscience of the people of the world, without having to be patronizing or bombastic propaganda.

Fiction is an imaginative work, telling various life problems that are processed with the author's creativity. In line with that, fiction, according to Nurgiyantoro (2013: 3), is "The result of dialog, contemplation, and the author's reaction to the environment and life. Although it is a work of imagination, a fantasy, it is not true if fiction is considered as a work of mere daydreaming, but rather intense appreciation and contemplation, contemplation of the nature of life and life, contemplation carried out with full awareness and responsibility".

A work of fiction is a story that contains elements of entertainment for readers and aesthetic purposes. Reading a work of fiction means enjoying the story, entertaining oneself to gain inner satisfaction, and at the same time gaining life experience. However, no matter how full of life experiences and problems it offers, a work of fiction must still be an interesting story, still be a coherent building structure, and still have an aesthetic purpose (Wellek & Werren, 1989: 212).

Although fiction offers problems of life and living, fiction is still a work of an author's imagination whose truth is not entirely the same as the realworld. Nurgiyantoro (2013: 6) argues that "the truth in the world of fiction is the truth in accordance with the author's beliefs, the truth that has been believed to be valid according to his views on life's problems. The truth in fiction is not necessarily in line with the truth that applies in the real world, for example in terms of law, morals, religion, (and even sometimes) logic, and so on. Something that is not considered true in the real world can happen and be considered true in the fictional world."

One of the reasons ecocriticism continues to develop as a discipline is the environmental crisis faced by the world that occurs continuously (Alexander and Kasthuri, 2016: 176). Ecocriticism as one of the scalpels in literary studies can dismantle anthropocentric practices or the separation of nature from humans, and aims to make humans aware of the importance of harmonious relationships between humans and nature (non-humans) who live in a unified ecological system. "*The study of texts from an ecocritical perspective might reveal, for example, anthropocentrism or alienation from the natural world*" (Bland and Strotmann, 2014: 22). The same thing is also expressed by

Jimmy (2015: 371), that ecocriticism seeks to make people care about all creatures living in an ecological unity (there is no separation between humans and non-humans). In practice, any environmental damage on all sides caused by human actions must be as soon as possible by prioritizing the equal rights of all creatures, both humans and non-humans must receive attention and care in the same way.

The uniqueness of ecocriticism compared to other contemporary literary theories and cultural studies is its very close relationship with environmental science. Ecocriticism may not qualify in debates about ecological issues, but ecocriticism should still transcend disciplinary boundaries and develop 'ecological literacy' as far as possible (Garrard, 2004: 5). Jimmy (2015: 372) argues that Ecocriticism considers the relationship between literature and the real world. To increase knowledge and understanding of the environment, ecocriticism encourages the study of literature to be studied more broadly and deeply. Because ecocritics believe that literature is a living, breathing thing.

Method

This research is a qualitative research that studies the novels *Tambora 1815* and *Medulla Sinculasis* by Paox Iben Mudhaffar. The method used in this research is descriptive analysis method, describing the facts followed by analysis. Through the descriptive analysis research method, this research will describe the facts contained in the novels *Tambora 1815* and *Medulla Sinculasis* by Paox Iben Mudhaffar. The data source in this study is a primary data source. Primary data sources, namely the main source that directly provides data to data collectors (Sugiyono, 2014: 308). Data sources were selected using purposive sampling technique, which is a technique of taking data sources with certain considerations (Sugiyono, 2014: 301).

In this study, the novels *Medulla Sinculasis* and *Tambora 1815* were chosen by the researcher as data sources with the consideration that these novels are the most appropriate to be studied among Paox Iben's other works. The novel *Tambora 1815* used is the first printed novel, March 2015 published by Bukudaku Alamatra Publishing, Mataram with a book thickness of 301 pages, ISBN: 978-979-18863-1-4 and the novel *Medulla Sinculasis* used is the first printing, January 2011 published by IruS (Institut Rumah Arus) Mataram, Lombok with a book thickness of 324 pages, ISBN: 979-1698-045-94-7.

The data collection technique in this research uses document content analysis techniques (read-record-analysis) of the novel *Medulla Sinculasis*. The operational way of collecting data in this study is by reducing data. The action of reducing data by focusing on data that is in accordance with predetermined criteria or parameters (Siswantoro, 2010: 74). In this case, the criteria used to reduce the data are based on ecocritical theory.

The data analysis technique used in this research is descriptive qualitative data analysis technique. Qualitative descriptive technique is used because the data in this research are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences. The explanation is done descriptively, namely everything that shows the existence of human relations with the environment.

Discussion

The representation of human relations with the environment in this study generally gives an overview of humans and the environment that need each other for the survival of each other in one ecological system. Based on the results of the analysis of

research data that has been collected, identified, and classified, it shows that the role of the environment in meeting human needs in the novels *Tambora 1815* and *Medulla Sinculasis* is found in several forms, including the need for foodstuffs, medicinal materials, building materials / housing, shelter, means of payment (barter), livelihood / economic sources, tourist attractions, water sources, social media, and materials for transportation. A summary of the data from the findings of the role of the environment is presented in the following table.

Table 1. The Role of the Environment in Human Life in the Novels *Tambora 1815* dan *Medulla Sinculasis*

No	Forms of Environmental Roles	Data	Novels	Page	Data Code
1	As a Source of Food Ingredients	Sore itu suasana di sebuah desa di kawasan Hutan Aran-aran yang berada di sisi Gunung Tambora terlihat cukup permai. Orang-orang baru saja pulang dari berladang, berburu, mengumpulkan kayu bakar, madu, dan hasil hutan lainnya untuk persiapan selama musim penghujan yang akan segera tiba	“Tambora 1815”	6	A1
		Gadis itu tidak pernah manja dan bermalas-malasan. Ia selalu ingin tahu dan ikut Kamba ke huma untuk berladang atau ke hutan mencari kayu bakar atau umbi-umbian.	“Tambora 1815”	10	A2
		Kampung Wara merupakan perkampungan terbesar di lereng utara Gunung Tambora. Letaknya berada di sebuah bukit dengan lembah yang subur dan dialiri sebuah sungai kecil. Penduduknya juga sudah memiliki ladang untuk menanam padi dan umbi-umbian. Sementara kampung lainnya hanya berisi 5-10 rumah yang jaraknya saling berjauhan. Ada juga beberapa keluarga yang tinggal di rumah pohon yang hidupnya menjadi pemburu binatang, rotan, dan pencari madu hutan.	“Tambora 1815”	25-26	A3
		Orang-orang di pegunungan itu menyebut dirinya <i>Duo Donggo</i> , orang dari dataran tinggi. Mereka adalah penduduk asli Bima. Umumnya mereka hidup dari berladang, memetik hasil hutan dan beternak, lalu menukarnya dengan barang-barang kebutuhan di pesisir.	“Tambora 1815”	200	A4

No	Forms of Environmental Roles	Data	Novels	Page	Data Code
		Manusia hidup dari berburu dan meramu. Lalu tinggal untuk menetap. Mengembangkan pertanian. Dan abu vulkanik gunung berapi yang mengandung zat-zat hara penyubur tanah merupakan faktor utama manusia tinggal di kaki gunung. Suplai makanan melimpah ruah. Karena itulah suku-suku bangsa di masa lalu membangun peradabannya di sekitar kaki gunung.	"Medulla Sinculasis"	94	A5
		Suatu ketika ia pergi ke perkampungan di tepi pantai itu untuk menukar hasil hutan dengan garam dan barang-barang kebutuhan lainnya. Sudah lama mereka tidak makan dengan garam. Mungkin karena itu juga isterinya mengigau.	"Tambora 1815"	8	A6
2	As Medicinal Ingredients	Para tetangga mereka juga senang dengan Sni', gadis kecil yang periang itu. Malah ia dianggap memiliki 'Tangan Dewa', sebuah kelebihan untuk menyembuhkan orang. Apabila ada tetangga yang sakit, Wa Sni' akan mencari anggrek atau lumut-lumutan dan membuatkan ramuan.	"Tambora 1815"	10	A7
		Dengan sigap Wa Seni ikut mengobati orang-orang yang terluka baik para awak maupun musuh dengan semacam minyak ramuan dari Sumbawa yang kami simpan di kapal.	"Tambora 1815"	148	A8
3	As a Source of Building/Housing Materials	Seharian ini memang ia tak kemana-mana. Ia sibuk membuat anyaman ilalang untuk memperbaiki atap rumahnya demi menghadapi musim penghujan.	"Tambora 1815"	6	A9
		Semua bangunannya terbuat dari kayu-kayu pilihan. Tidak sulit mendapatkannya, mengingat daerah itu, sejauh mata memandang dikelilingi oleh hutan lebat hingga ke kaki Gunung Tambora.	"Tambora 1815"	32	A10
		Gunung bukan hanya sumber kemakmuran. Dari gununglah sungai-sungai mengalir. Segala tanaman pohon-pohon tumbuh merimbun. Manusia memetik hasilnya, menebang	"Tambora 1815"	200	A11

No	Forms of Environmental Roles	Data	Novels	Page	Data Code
		pohon untuk dibuat rumah dan jembatan-jembatan.			
4	As a Place to Live	Kampung Wara merupakan perkampungan terbesar di lereng utara Gunung Tambora. Letaknya berada di sebuah bukit dengan lembah yang subur dan dialiri sebuah sungai kecil. Penduduknya juga sudah memiliki ladang untuk menanam padi dan umbi-umbian. Sementara kampung lainnya hanya berisi 5-10 rumah yang jaraknya saling berjauhan. Ada juga beberapa keluarga yang tinggal di rumah pohon yang hidupnya menjadi pemburu binatang, rotan, dan pencari madu hutan.	"Tambora 1815"	25-26	A12
		"Justru itu masalahnya. Siapa yang bisa menjaga keluarga kami dengan baik selain lautan? Mereka bisa kami tinggal selama beberapa tahun untuk berlayar. Di lautan mereka bisa hidup tenang, dan kami bisa saling berkirim kabar," kata mereka.	"Tambora 1815"	163	A13
5	As a means of payment (barter)	La Banga sangat percaya dengan cerita dari mulut ke mulut itu. Sebab ia sendiri sering menyaksikan bagaimana orang-orang dari pedalaman Gunung Tambora menggunakan emas sebesar kepalan tangan atau batu mulia berwarna merah menyala yang disebut mirah delima, atau zamrud hijau dan batu-batu kristal seperti sarang tawon sebagai alat tukar ketika membeli barang dari pedagang dari pesisir pantai.	"Tambora 1815"	34	A14
		Para penduduk Bima umumnya tinggal di pegunungan dan di pesisir. Orang-orang di pegunungan itu menyebut dirinnya Duo Donggo, orang dari dataran tinggi. Merekalah penduduk asli Bima. Umumnya mereka hidup dari berladang, memetik hasil hutan dan beternak, lalu menukarnya dengan barang-barang kebutuhan di pesisir.	"Tambora 1815"	200	A15

No	Forms of Environmental Roles	Data	Novels	Page	Data Code
6	As a livelihood/economic source	Tak hanya rempah-rempah, para saudagar Tionghoa di Sulawesi, pada umumnya membeli dagangan berupa hasil laut dan hutan seperti teripang, sisik penyu, kulit kerang, Sarang Burung, Kayu Sepang dan Kayu Cendana untuk dikirim ke Jawa bahkan sampai ke Tiongkok.	"Tambora 1815"	37	A16
		Portugis bahkan telah membuat peta pelayaran khusus dan menjadikan Sanggara sebagai pelabuhan transit utama. Di kerajaan ini orang-orang juga membeli kuda-kuda, hasil bumi, laut serta batu-batu mulia untuk ditukarkan dengan rempah-rempah di Sulawesi maupun Kepulauan Maluku.	"Tambora 1815"	43	A17
		"Tak sampai 1 triliyun?" Nuruda terbelalak, kaget sendiri. sebab menurut investigasi sebuah lembaga lingkungan hidup yang telah dibukukan, sebuah perusahaan tambang emas asing yang beroperasi di daerah itu memiliki keuntungan bersih lebih 12 triliyun rupiah atau hampir 5x lipat PAD provinsi NTB. "Betul-betul perampukan kekayaan alam yang sistemik!" Teriak Nuruda sembari tertawa geli.	"Medulla Sinculasis"	38	A18
		Sedangkan mereka yang di pesisir adalah penduduk campuran dan menyebut dirinya <i>Duo Mbojo</i> . Mereka hidup bertani, sebagai nelayan, dan pedagang. Umumnya mereka beragama Islam, terutama sejak Bima menjadi kesultanan. Mereka banyak membeli hasil hutan dan ladang dari penduduk pedalaman, untuk diperdagangkan ke negeri-negeri lain. Kedua masyarakat itu hidup harmonis.	"Tambora 1815"	200-201	A19
		Pertaniannya juga sangat maju. Sebab salah satu alasan perusahaan Philip Morris, perusahaan rokok raksasa dunia itu, membeli saham besar-besaran PT HM SAMPOERNA konon karena suplay tembakau jenis Virginia terbesar di dunia ada di pulau Lombok. Dahulu Zimbabwe di Afrika yang memasok sekitar 17% kebutuhan	"Medulla Sinculasis"	39	A20

No	Forms of Environmental Roles	Data	Novels	Page	Data Code
		temabaku dunia. Tetapi dengan memasok 80% kebutuhan tembakau nasional yang memasok sekitar 30% kebutuhan tembakau virginia dunia, berarti Pulau Lombok telah menjadi pemasok terbesar kebutuhan tembakau Virginia di dunia.			
		Apa lagi bisik-bisik di kantornya sudah mulai beredar, bahwa wilayah utara Lombok menyimpan cadangan gas yang cukup besar, terutama di lingkar gunung Rinjani. Masuk akal juga, sebab gunung Rinjani merupakan gunung berapi aktif tertinggi di Indonesia. Sementara laut utara Lombok diduga menyimpan cadangan minyak yang cukup besar	"Medulla Sinculasis"	41	A21
		"Dengar-dengar kabar juga, orang-orang sedang ramai menambang emas di daerah Sekotong. Saya memang berencana kesana. Selain tidak jauh dari Ampenan, saya bisa mempraktikan kebiasaan saya."	"Medulla Sinculasis"	56	A22
		Suasana di pantai Ampenan terutama pada hari sabtu atau minggu sore, juga pada hari-hari libur pada umumnya, cukup ramai dipenuhi orang-orang yang akan bersantai. Hari libur memang menjadi berkah tersendiri bagi para pedagang kakilima yang membangun lapak-lapak sederhana di sepanjang pantai. Para orangtua mengajak anak-anak mereka sekedar jalan-jalan atau mandi di laut	"Medulla Sinculasis"	57	A23
7	Water Source Providers	Di kampung berikutnya, ia menyarankan membuat sumur baru di dekat sebuah pohon rindang, sebab disitulah biasanya terdapat mata air bawah tanah. Kampung-kampung kembali bersuka cita, sebab mereka tidak harus berjalan jauh yang penuh resiko untuk mendapatkan se-tune air.	"Tambora 1815"	216-217	A24
8	Become Social Media	Sedang laut, adalah lambang keluasan. Muara bagi semua persoalan. Kapal-kapal berlayar, saling berlabuh dan mengunjungi. Orang-orang bertemu, bertukar sapa, dan pengetahuan.	"Tambora 1815"	200	A25

No	Forms of Environmental Roles	Data	Novels	Page	Data Code
		Mereka juga saling bertukar keperluan.			
9	Source Material for Transportation Equipment	Kapal itu ia perbaiki dan digunakan untuk mencari kayu-kayu hingga ke Pulau Sumbawa sebagai bahan pembuat lunas kapal	"Tambora 1815"	38	A26
10	As a Tourist Attraction	Dari pemberitaan media dan brosur-brosur pariwisata yang ia dapat, Pulau Lombok terkenal sebagai syurga pariwisata yang indah. Di brosur berbahasa Inggris itu tertulis; Anda bisa melihat Bali di Lombok, tapi tidak sebaliknya.	"Medulla Sinculasis"	37	A27
		Suasana di pantai Ampenan terutama pada hari sabtu atau minggu sore, juga pada hari-hari libur pada umumnya, cukup ramai dipenuhi orang-orang yang akan bersantai. Hari libur memang menjadi berkah tersendiri bagi para pedagang kakilima yang membangun lapak-lapak sederhana di sepanjang pantai. Para orangtua mengajak anak-anak mereka sekedar jalan-jalan atau mandi di laut.	"Medulla Sinculasis"	57	A28
		Liburan Natal dan Tahun Baru, biasanya daerah pariwisata seperti Lombok ramai dikunjungi wisatawan dari dalam dan luar negeri. Terutama dari Eropa. Sebab mereka tak begitu menyukai suasana riuh seperti orang-orang Amerika atau pegawai rendahan Australia yang kurang beradab itu. Mereka lebih memilih tempat yang relatif sepi dengan panorama alam yang terkesan masih liar dan menantang. Sementara wisatawan lokal yang umumnya eksekutif di kota-kota besar seperti Jakarta, memilih menyelesaikan laporan perusahaan sekalian merayakan liburan akhir tahun di tempat murah dan terjangkau. Lombok menjadi pilihan sebab aksesnya yang tidak begitu sulit. Terdapat penerbangan langsung dari Jakarta tiga kali sehari menuju Lombok.	"Medulla Sinculasis"	243	A29

a. Environment as a Source of Food

The need for food for humans or people who live in a forest environment is not a serious problem in their daily lives. The novels *Tambora 1815* and *Medulla Sinculasis* represent the population's need for food ingredients can be obtained in their environment, namely in the forest by hunting, looking for honey, or farming. This can be seen in data A1, A2, A3, A4, and A5.

b. Source of Medicinal Ingredients

The next form of the role of the environment in human life found is that the environment plays a role in meeting the needs of medicines to cure human diseases. The role of the environment in this case is found in data A7 and A8.

c. Source of Building Materials/Housing

Some people live and build houses in the forest environment around Mount Tambora. In the environment around the forest of Mount Tambora also stood several royal palaces. The role of the environment is very important in meeting human needs in building homes and royal palaces, such as thatch plants that are made into roofs to protect from heat and rain. In addition, there are also selected woods around the forest to build royal palaces. This is described by the author, as seen in data A9, A10 and A11.

d. As a Place to Live

The next role of the environment is the environment as a place for humans to live. Apart from providing materials to build houses and palaces, the environment with its naturalness is also a comfortable and safe place for humans to live in. In "*Tambora 1815*", Mudhaffar represents the forest environment with its naturalness as a place for some residents to live, as shown in data A12.

e. As a Means of Payment (Barter)

Humans as creatures who have many needs and desires, not all human needs can be met with the results of wealth around their environment. Like people who live in the forest also need goods from the coast, and vice versa people who live near the coast need the products of forest wealth. What is obtained from the wealth of the forest near the mountains can be exchanged for goods on the coast.

In this case, it can be seen that the next role of the environment is that the results of environmental natural resources can be used as a means of payment (barter) to meet some of the human needs found in other environments. As found in data A14 and A15, people living in the interior of the forest and people on the coast exchange environmental products with each other.

f. Source of Livelihood/Economy

The next role of the environment in human life found in the novels *Tambora 1815* and *Medulla Sinculasis* is that the environment becomes a source of livelihood or income in human daily life and becomes the source of the economy of a region or country, as found in data A16, A17, A18, A19, A20, A21, A22, A23. The natural wealth of the environment is a blessing for a region in building civilization and advancing the economy.

g. Water Source

Water is a basic need of human life, the problem of water shortage can lead to other social problems such as theft, robbery, and other security disturbances. The problem of water shortage can be solved by digging wells in an environment where there are many shady trees.

One of the roles of the environment found in Paox Iben Mudhaffar's novel is the environment as a source of water for human life, as shown in data A24. The following is presented and explained the data found regarding this matter

h. As Social Media

Humans as individual and social beings need a way to interact with each other, exchange information and needs. Long before the development of technological advances as it is today, the sea became a medium of socialization, a meeting place for humans from various directions as shown in data A25.

i. Source Material for Transportation Equipment

In the novel by Paox Iben Mudhaffar, it is depicted that humans need means of transportation to facilitate mobilization from one place to another. For the procurement of transportation equipment, the environment plays an important role in providing materials for its manufacture. The role of the environment is depicted in the form of utilizing forest wood to make ships, as found in data A26.

j. As a Tourist Attraction

Tourist attractions are one of the needs of some humans to take a vacation from their daily activities and others need tourist attractions to make a living (source of livelihood). The role of the environment as a tourist spot represented by the author in this study is the natural beauty in Lombok which is visited by many foreign and local tourists. This is represented by the author as shown in data A27, A28, and A29.

Conclusion

The environment has a very important role in human life. In the novels by Paox Iben Mudhaffar, namely the novels *Medulla Sinculasis* and *Tambora 1815*, several forms of the important role of the environment in human life were found, including 1) as a source of food; 2) Source of medicine; 3) source of building materials/housing; 4) a place to live; 5) as a means of payment (barter); 6) source of livelihood/economy; 7) as a source of water; 8) as social media; 9) source of transportation materials; and 10) as a tourist spot. Among several environmental roles represented in the novels *Medulla Sinculasis* and *Tambora 1815*, the role of the environment as a source of food and as a source of livelihood appears more than other forms of environmental roles. This shows that the environment has an important role in human life as an individual and social being.

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