







Representation of the ecological crisis impact in *Sumur*, a short story by Eka Kurniawan

Representasi dampak krisis ekologi dalam *Sumur*, sebuah cerpen karya Eka Kurniawan

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ABSTRACT

The ecological crisis has been widely represented in literary works due to various problems it causes. However, studies that focus on describing its impacts have been limited. This paper aims to address this gap by exploring the impacts of the ecological crisis as depicted in Eka Kurniawan's short story "Sumur". Using the theory of ecocriticism, we conducted a document analysis to examine the words, clauses, sentences and paragraphs of the short story. The data were then analyzed through interactive analysis and validated using theoretical triangulation. The findings show that the ecological crisis has affected both the environment and communities. The effects on the environment include drought, loss of water sources, agricultural damage, loss of animal foods and habitats, climate change, and severe damage to biodiversity. In addition, the ecological crisis disrupts socio-cultural relations of the community, which lead to death and anxiety, migration and urbanization of population, as well as the loss of community culture.

KATA KUNCI

ekokritik,
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Eka
Kurniawan,
cerita pendek
Sumur,

ABSTRAK

Krisis ekologi telah banyak disinggung dalam karya sastra karena berbagai dampak dan masalah yang ditimbulkannya. Namun, studi yang mengkaji dampak krisis ekologi secara mendalam masih terbatas. Tulisan ini berfokus pada dampak krisis ekologi yang tergambar dalam cerpen Eka Kurniawan, "Sumur". Dengan menggunakan teori ekokritisisme dan teknik analisis dokumen, kami meneliti kata, kalimat, dan paragraf yang terdapat dalam cerpen "Sumur". Data ini kemudian dianalisis menggunakan teknik analisis interaktif dan divalidasi dengan triangulasi teoretis. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa krisis ekologi berdampak pada lingkungan dan masyarakat. Dampaknya pada lingkungan meliputi kekeringan, keringnya mata air, kerusakan pertanian, hilangnya makanan dan habitat hewan, perubahan iklim, dan kerusakan pada keanekaragaman hayati. Selain itu, krisis ekologi juga mengganggu hubungan social-budaya masyarakat, di mana krisis telah menyebabkan kematian dan kecemasan, migrasi dan urbanisasi penduduk, serta hilangnya budaya masyarakat.

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Introduction

Environmental issues are increasingly worrying due to land conversion or deforestation in several countries, such as Indonesia, Brazil, India, and other developing countries (Mcbeth, 2020; Jong, 2021; Carrero et al., 2022; The Times of India, 2022). They are also largely caused by massive land clearing and exploitation for monoculture oil palm, agriculture, and mining (Russell, 2020; Escobar, 2020; Igni, 2022). Consequently, the conversion of land for oil palm plantations and mining causes deforestation and tree cutting on a large scale. This has led to an alarming ecological crisis that affects all aspects of human life.

The issue of the ecological crisis and its grim impact also surrounds the imagination of literary artists or authors (Hooti & Ashrafian, 2014). Contemporary Indonesian literature shows an alignment with nature and the environment, which is marked by rising issues regarding the environmental crisis. The environmental matters depicted in most short stories in Indonesia include forest issues, settlements, pollution, and animal problems (Widyaningtyas & Liliani, 2020). While this confirms that literary works in Indonesia have started to discuss the phenomenon in question, those concerns have not yet entered the mainstream, particularly in the stories published in the Jawa Pos newspaper (Dewi, 2015). Therefore, it emphasizes the urgent need to recognize and address the environmental crisis.

In this context, literature with an environmental theme and the consequences of human behavior should be studied further to better understand the impacts of human actions and the effects of the environmental crisis. The study of environmental literature is known as literary ecocriticism. It is the study of nature, ecology, and the environment (Khan, 2019) and is closely related to cultural and historical contexts (Clark, 2011). Thus, literary ecocriticism is not only limited to texts but is also related to the representation of reality. In addition, it intersects with society's cultural and historical contexts, covering the entire background of human interactions with the environment.

Furthermore, ecocriticism studies the relationship between humans and nature and the environment where they live (Garrard, 2023). It can be understood as an effort to define the relationship between human behavior and its impact on the environment and the natural surroundings in the present and the future. For example, the impact of human activities on the environment is the extensive and massive misuse of natural resources, which cause severe problems such as irregular seasonal cycle changes and ecological disasters (Mishra, 2016). Thus, the relationship between human behavior and the environment is in the form of cause and effect, which may have instant or long-term consequences.

Stories about the relationship between humans and nature have long been depicted in Indonesian literary works. For instance, the popular Indonesian folktale "Timun Mas" (Golden Cucumber) explicitly shows ecocriticism because its narration includes Indonesian culture and people and contains values and beliefs about the relationship between humans and nature (Retnowati et al., 2018). Another folktale "Mak Ungkai" also illustrates the connection between humans and nature, depicting nature as both a subject and an object in human life (Arianto & Simanjuntak, 2020). As a subject, nature

is known as Mother Earth, a form of caring and holistic. Meanwhile, as an object, it is described as a target of environmental exploitation and violence.

Another example is found in “*Api Awan Asap*” (Fire Cloud Smoke) by Korrie Layun Rampan, which reflects nature as an object suffering from human behavior. The novel portrays the Dayak community’s interactions with their environment and the resulting environmental damage (Putri et al., 2019). Such cultural, linguistic, and literary facts should be oriented toward ecology as a form of critique reflecting human life (Zapf, 2006), which can reveal how human power relations often outweigh the influence of nature. Therefore, ecocritical studies in Indonesia are necessary to criticize human actions toward the environment. Such studies should consider that community behaviors significantly impact the environment and contribute to the ecological crisis.

With this background, we analyzed Eka Kurniawan’s short story “*Sumur*”, published by Gramedia in 2021, which portrays the impact of the ecological crisis. The story attributes the crisis to deforestation (Setyawan, 2003) and focuses on the characters Toyib and Siti who live in a village suffering from drought. Various problems caused by deforestation eventually lead to turmoil, with the conflict between characters stemming from the ecological crisis (Widyasari et al., 2023).

However, previous studies have not addressed the impact of the ecological crisis on both the environment and social aspects. The present study aims to fill in the gap by describing the various impacts of the ecological crisis as portrayed in “*Sumur*”. The goal is to reveal the consequences depicted in the story, which can offer some insights into literary ecocriticism and enhance understanding of environmental issues as illustrated in literary works, particularly short stories.

Endraswara (2016) identifies three main focuses of ecocritical research, namely 1) studying how the environment influences the production of literary works, known as literary ecology; 2) examining the environmental themes within literary works, referred to as ecological literature; and 3) describing the reception of environment-based literature, known as the reception of ecological literature (p. 38). Therefore, the study of literary ecocriticism is closely tied to understanding the interplay between literature, the environment, and their impacts. Garrard (2023) elaborates on the concept of ecocriticism, covering topics such as pollution, wilderness, disaster (apocalypse), housing and shelter (dwelling), animals, and the earth (p. 5). Thus, ecocriticism originates from exploring the relationship between humans and the environment as well as the consequences of human actions that affect the environment.

We employed Garrard’s (2023) concept of ecocriticism to analyze the consequences and impacts of environmental crises or disasters as depicted in literary works. This approach addresses the ecological crisis resulting from deforestation, which highlights its effects on both the environment and human life. Thus, Garrard’s (2023) framework, which explores the interplay between humans, nature, and the consequences of their interactions, is suitable, as the impact of human activities on nature and the environment is the primary focus of the present study. This framework also provides a crucial foundation for examining ecocriticism in Eka Kurniawan’s “*Sumur*”.

Method

The present paper employed a qualitative descriptive analysis of the short story “Sumur” by Eka Kurniawan using an ecocriticism approach. The story illustrated the ecological crisis which resulted from deforestation. The research data included words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and discourse found in the short story. Data collection involved document analysis of the short story, by applying the Garrard’s (2023) concept of ecocriticism.

The data related to the impact of the ecological crisis were analyzed through the process of selecting and identifying quotations from the narratives and dialogues in the short story “Sumur”. Each data point was assigned a unique marker in the form of numbered brackets (1), (2), (3), and so forth. The analysis employed Miles and Huberman’s (Miles et al., 2014) interactive analysis method. This method includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

The data were collected by analyzing the impacts of the ecological crisis on the environment and social relations that are depicted in “Sumur”, by using Garrard’s (2023) theory of ecocriticism. Data reduction involved systemically recording the information obtained from the analysis. This process included selecting, focusing, and simplifying the data to determine which parts to retain. The results were then reduced into core findings with concise formulations.

The collected data were categorized into sections based on the type of problems created by the ecological crisis, which made the problems easier to understand and analyze. This process involved grouping the results of data reduction that were related to the ecological crisis and its effects on the environment and social relations as depicted in the short story. The conclusion was drawn from the findings and focused on the representation of the impacts of ecological crisis in Eka Kurniawan’s “Sumur”.

Results and Discussion

The impact of the ecological crisis on the environment

It has been widely known that the ecological crisis resulting from deforestation for oil palm plantations, mining, and illegal logging has a negative impact on the environment. It is inevitable due to the loss of vegetation and trees in association with the loss of water sources. In the short story “Sumur” by Eka Kurniawan, the environmental crisis was firstly started by illegal logging, which then caused the absence of water sources. There was an excerpt of the story describing the problem as follows.

- (1) *Para cukong datang dan membujuk para penduduk kampung menjual kayu-kayu yang tersisa, dan itu berarti uang yang mudah didapat. Pohon-pohon menghilang, dan itu membuat air semakin sulit. Karena air semakin sulit, pohon-pohon semakin enggan bertunas.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

Rich people (cukong) persuaded the villagers to sell the remaining wood, which meant easy money. The trees disappeared, making the water even more restricted. Due to the lack of water, the trees are increasingly reluctant to sprout (Kurniawan, 2021).

The changes in forest function drove the ecological crisis. Deforestation due to massive forest logging caused the loss of forest cover area, increasing river flow, and unstable water discharge. Moreover, it could further cause erosion and sedimentation (Narendra, 2008). Correspondingly, frequent illegal logging worsened deforestation and aggravated the ecological crisis. It could even be categorized as a transnational crime since it often involves more than one country, ranging from preparation, planning, and monitoring, to the damage caused (Ariefianto, 2021). Thus, deforestation altered water flow patterns and led to a decline in water sources, which marked the beginning of the crisis.

Eka Kurniawan illustrated the beginning of the environmental problems, and a series of events that followed the existence of corporations, *cukong* (people who dominate society), as well as rich people who corporated with the local government. These groups of people were able to exploit the forest because it was remote, unregulated, and distant from legal authority. Data (2) revealed the existence of a series of problems in environmental crises.

- (2) *Di masa lalu, anak-anak berenang di parit itu dengan arus yang tak pernah berhenti. Para lelaki dewasa mencari ikan di ceruk-ceruk kecil, utamanya belut dan lele. Para ibu memunguti remis, sejenis kerrang kecil yang ketika dimakan, membuat anak-anak tumbuh sehat.... Itu dulu. Di tahun-tahun belakangan mereka lebih sering menjadi hamparan lumpur. Hujan jarang datang dan kemarau memanjang hingga sebelas bulan dalam satu tahun. Tentu hanya sedikit air yang mengalir ke parit, dan lebih sedikit yang diperoleh petak-petak sawah. Air yang sedikit itu harus dibagi-bagi, dan di percabangkan parit, mereka memasang pintu air.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

In the past, children swam in ditches with the water constantly flowing. Older men caught fish in small niches, mainly eels and catfish. Women would pick up mussels, a small shellfish that made children grow up healthy... but it was then. In recent years, there have been more and more mudflats. Rains are rare, and the dry season extends for up to eleven months in a year. Of course, less water flows into the ditches and much less goes to the paddy fields. The scarce water still has to be divided, so people installed a floodgate at the branch of the ditch (Kurniawan, 2021).

“Sumur” illustrated the drought that occurred in Indonesia. It raised issues that were worthy of attention and could influence the lives of many people. Data (2) depicted a change in fertility and prosperity of a community in terms of the declining water and food sources as well as water depletion due to drought. It also showed that recurring deforestation caused erosion and damaged soil structure. This resulted in barrenness and disturbance of clean water (Howes & Wyrwoll, 2012). The impact of deforestation became an anomaly as it led to environmental problems, including drought and damage to soil structure which triggered other concerns related to water scarcity that affected humans, animals, and plants.

The drought was described by the depletion of water sources, which were likely to disappear. This situation eventually led to the death of the surrounding plants. Likewise, the loss of water sources caused the absence of water flow in rivers.

- (3) *Saat itu parit tak lagi berisi air, dan mata air itu menyusut menjadi sepetak kubangan lumpur yang dikelilingi hamparan tanah kering. Pohon-pohon nipahnya lenyap perlahan, yang tersisa mulai membusuh dan tumbuh kerdil.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

At that time, the ditch was no longer filled with water, and the spring shrunk into a patch of mud puddle surrounded by a stretch of dry earth. The trees were slowly disappearing, and those that remained began to rot and stunt (Kurniawan, 2021).

- (4) *Tak lama setelah itu, sumur tersebut kembali kering. Para lelaki yang tersisa di kampung mencoba menggali lebih dalam. Satu meter, dua, lima, mereka tetap tak menemukan air. Untuk sementara mereka mengambil air lebih jauh ke sungai yang telah menelan ayah Toyib dan kini kembali menyerupai parit, berbagi sumber air dengan binatang dan entah apa lagi.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

Shortly after, the well was dry again. The remaining men in the village tried to dig deeper. They still could not find water within one, two, or even five meters. For a while, they decided to take the water further in the river that once sunk Toyib's father, which now became a ditch, sharing it with the animals and others (Kurniawan, 2021).

Data (3) and (4) represented a series of events that followed the crisis. Because the trees were cut down, water sources could no longer be found during the dry season and the primary sources of water were even slowly disappearing from the forest. The river that was initially flowing with plenty of water had dried up. The drought caused the loss of plant vegetation, apparently leading to arid hills. Consequently, people were left with no choice but to make more efforts to meet water needs, one of which was to dig a well.

The same condition also occurred in Meghalaya and India. Limestone mining affected the environment by decreasing water quality and availability, leading to soil degradation, air pollution, and forest degradation (Lamare & Singh, 2016). These impacts confirmed that the ecological crisis had penetrated and triggered many environmental concerns and spread across regions of the world, which emphasizes that human was indeed struggling through to a crisis stage.

- (5) *Kini satu-satunya sumber air bersih yang bisa mereka andalkan hanyalah sebuah sumur di sebuah lembah, di balik bukit kecil di seberang perkampungan mereka. Sumur itu merupakan lubang kesekian yang mereka gali, dan hanya satu-satunya yang mengeluarkan air. Itu pun setelah mereka menggali nyaris dua puluh meter.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

Now, the only source of clean water they can rely on is a well in a valley behind a small hill across from their village. It was one of many holes they had dug and the only one that gave off the water within nearly twenty meters (Kurniawan, 2021).

The impact of drought caused by illegal logging made it challenging to obtain water, as represented in Eka Kurniawan's story. The community responded to this issue by digging wells. As represented in the data (5), it was not an easy task, because the primary water source was lost due to the trees being cut down. Wells dug in several places did not produce water, indicating that the environmental crisis was massive, and undoubtedly worrying. In "Sumur", the most significant impact of the ecological crisis was drought. It represented the reality that occurred in life. Literary works must highlight the critical representation of the environment to provide broad insights into the importance of being considerate of the environment (Marland, 2013). Through literary works, the ecological crisis gains special attention and offers some explanation of its causes and consequences.

The drought portrayed in the short story depicted the impact of the crisis due to illegal logging. In Pacitan, Indonesia, illegal logging was mainly driven by the increasing changes in land use every year (Nita et al., 2020). Likewise, in Bima, Indonesia, illegal logging led to forest damage, encroachment, and land conversion, which then resulted in flash floods, heat, and air pollution during the rainy season, and fires, drought, and lack of clean water during the dry season (Ma'arij et al., 2021). Furthermore, in another island, land degradation in the Middle Mahakam Lake, Kalimantan, Indonesia, forced changes in pH triggered by an increase in acid due to deforestation, mining, and draining of peatlands (de Jong et al., 2015). These examples emphasized the significant impacts of the ecological crisis.

In addition, the ecological crisis affected the death of plants that were commonly used for cattle feed, as described in Data (6) and (7).

- (6) *Sambil menunggu musim hujan yang tak kunjung tiba, mereka masuk jauh ke hutan hanya untuk mencari rumput yang tersisa.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

While waiting for the rainy season that never came, they walked deep into the forest only to look for any grass that still remained (Kurniawan, 2021).

- (7) *Ayahnya bercerita, dulu rumput gajah bahkan tumbuh di pinggiran kampung dan kambing serta sapi bisa dilepaskan begitu saja.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

His father said that in the past, grass and bushes used to grow on the outskirts of the village, and that goats and cows could just be unleashed (Kurniawan, 2021).

The animals, particularly the community's livestock, were significantly impacted by their needs for food and water. Livestock owners had to work harder to secure grass and other feed for their animals. In other cases, the ecological crisis affected the habitat of freshwater fish (Banaduc et al., 2021). In conclusion, such a crisis exploited the environment and the availability of feed for livestock, leading to their death. This circumstance was corroborated by the following data (8).

- (8) *Kau tahu, singkong pun tak lagi mau tumbuh di petak sawah kami.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

You know, even cassava no longer wants to grow in our rice fields (Kurniawan, 2021).

Besides animals, plants wilted and stopped growing due to the loss of water source, as expressed in excerpts from data (8). The ecological crisis also affected cassava, classified as a field and agricultural product. This illustration is similar to a case occurred in the Subang and Karawang regions, West Java, in 2015, where the drought became more intense, from mild to severe, in agricultural lands (Sholihah et al., 2016). In Temanggung, Central Java, in 2019, tobacco farmers encountered the impact of erratic rainfall due to deforestation, which subsequently caused crop failure (Nurjani et al., 2020). Due to the ecological crisis, farmers must adapt to the climate through knowledge of the land, irrigation infrastructure, cropping systems, chemical fertilizer application, and agricultural extension by the government (Rondhi et al., 2019). Thus, it implied that this issue could lead to wide-ranging problems which had an impact on humans, animals, plants, and the living biodiversity that rely on the environment.

In addition, the long-term impact of the ecological crisis could affect climate and weather.

- (9) *Untuk pertama kali dalam beberapa tahun, mereka melihat air meluap hebat di sungai itu. Gelombangnya yang kecokelatan membawa batang-batang pohon kelapa, bergemuruh, dan mengancam.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

For the first time in many years, they saw the water overflowing in the river. Its muddy waves carried the trunks of coconut trees. It was roaring and threatening (Kurniawan, 2021).

Another impact of the environmental crisis was extreme climate change. Prolonged drought caused many problems, as described earlier. Moreover, the situation might worsen when it rained because there were no trees left to absorb the rain water. The rain after a long dry spell became unpredictable, which occurred at uncertain times. Furthermore, it could also trigger more harmful disasters for the community.

Therefore, forest logging must be carried out selectively in order to preserve the ecosystem and conserve biodiversity (Bousfield et al., 2020), thereby preventing an ecological crisis. In addition, selective logging could also minimize environmental impact, which could preserve both living organisms and existing biodiversity. Ultimately, the responsibility lies with humans, whose choices regarding living space and environment are crucial for ensuring the sustainability of life in the future.

In the end, deforestation caused by land expropriation for mining, oil palm plantations, and illegal logging, led to severe environmental damage that impact the community. The recent ecological problems that affected the environment was at a critical level, including droughts, loss of water sources, loss of animal feed and its ecosystem, crop failures, climate change and unstable weather patterns, and threatened biodiversity.

The impact of the ecological crisis on sociocultural relations

The ecological crisis affected not only the environment but also social relations. In some cases, it provoked a shift in social and cultural relations in people's lives.

- (10) *Lalu suatu malam, ayah Toyib berduel dengan ayah Siti. Duel itu berakhir dengan ayah Toyib menyabetkan parang ke perut ayah Siti.... Ada sebuah mata air di punggung bukit yang berupa kubangan rawa dipenuhi pohon nipah. Di waktu air melimpah, kubangan rawa itu akan menjadi kolam yang membuat angsa berdatangan dan di malam hari penuh dengan kunang-kunang. Di masa kemarau, ia akan menjelma hamparan lumpur tempat kerbau berebut untuk berkubang. Mata air inilah yang membuat ayah Toyib dan ayah Siti berseteru.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

Then one night, Toyib's father had a duel with Siti's father. It ended with Toyib's father stabbing a machete into Siti's father's belly.... There was a spring on the hillside, a marshy pool surrounded by palms. When the water was abundant, the marsh would turn into a pond that attract swans, and at night it would be filled with fireflies. During the dry season, it would transform into a stretch of mud where buffaloes fought to wallow. It was the same spring that cause the duel (Kurniawan, 2021).

The dispute was prompted by the struggle for water that often occurred in areas affected by drought, signifying that the problem did not end with environmental issues. The data (10) illustrated the violence due to water struggles. In the story, Toyib's and Siti's fathers got into a fight which caused Siti's father to die from being attacked by a machete. The two data were interconnected in cause and effect, in which the search for water triggered quarrels among people in the community during the dry season.

- (11) *Tak ada lagi jalan bersama ke dan dari sekolah bagi Toyib dan Siti.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

There were no more walks to and from school together for Toyib and Siti (Kurniawan, 2021).

Another impact of the quarrel was the estrangement of Toyib and Siti figures' social relations because of what happened between their fathers. Hence, environmental problems could extend to social relations, in which people who were initially on good terms might become distanced due to the upcoming concerns. This issue could not be separated from the relationship between landscapes, biodiversity, social welfare, and local cultural identity (Khamung & Program, 2015).

- (12) *Suatu pagi istrinya bertanya, kenapa ia harus mengisi bak penampungan rumah orang lain? "Sebab aku sudah melakukannya bertahun-tahun dan akan tetap melakukannya bertahun-tahun. Tak perlu kau urusi apa yang dilakukan suamimu!"* (Kurniawan, 2021)

One morning, his wife asked him why he had to fill someone else's water tank. He responded, "Because I have been doing it for years and will keep doing it. You do not need to mind what your husband does!" (Kurniawan, 2021).

From data (12), arguments also arose in the family. The need to search for water also led to increased suspicion between husbands and wives, which proves how environmental issues also impacted household relationships. Data (12) described the conflict between a husband and wife that was triggered by drought and the effort in looking for water. The suspicion could further provoke a more prominent issue which might escalate into more serious consequences. Women, already vulnerable due to the ecological crisis, were more discredited by accusations of unfaithfulness. This aligns with the portrayal of women threatened by crisis in "The Road", a novel by Cormac McCarthy (Chartudomdej, 2022). In such context, women were often viewed as weak and overly concerned because of the environmental challenges they faced.

- (13) *Lalu suatu malam Toyib terbangun dan tak menemukan istrinya... Suami Siti juga telah menghilang... Menjelang Maghrib, mereka berhasil menemukan keduanya. Tertelungkup bersama di dasar sumur kering. Tanpa nyawa dan tanpa catatan.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

One night, Toyib woke up and did not find his wife... Siti's husband had also disappeared... Towards Maghrib, they found both of them at the bottom of a dry well, died without any sign (Kurniawan, 2021).

Deaths from the environmental crisis and climate change were unavoidable, and fostered suspicion in the community, and many families could end up in the same situation. Data (13) revealed that there were victims due to suspicion between communities.

- (14) *Derita oleh tragedi di mata air, derita oleh sawah-sawah yang terabaikan, ternak yang menghilang, dan rasa lelah tak berkesudahan untuk mengangkut air setiap pagi dan sore.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

Communities suffered from the tragedy at the springs, the neglected rice fields, the disappearing livestock, and the endless exhaustion of carrying water every morning and evening (Kurniawan, 2021).

People suffering from the crisis had encountered a dangerous stage due to the scarcity of water, loss of animal feed ingredients, no growth of plants, and death of the community. In another case, the effects of deforestation in Meru Betiri National Park,

Indonesia, also set women as affected subjects because of the patriarchal system, corrupt forest management, and illegal logging (Jannah et al., 2022). In fact, despite these challenges, women play a crucial role in environmental preservation (Qomariyah et al., 2024).

As a result, it can be stated that the representation of the ecological crisis in literary works also prompted long-term anxiety, as illustrated in Aminatta Forna's novel set in Sierra Leone (Das & Routray, 2021). Deforestation particularly impacted marginalized genders. In addition, the ecological crisis disrupted mental health, which often led to anxiety and suffering. Ultimately, individuals in vulnerable or affected areas were forced to relocate.

- (15) *Satu per satu orang meninggalkan kampung. Jika tak pindah ke tempat lain dan menetap di sana, mereka pergi ke kota mencari pekerjaan.* (Kurniawan, 2021)

One by one, people left the village. They either moved and stayed in another place or went to the city looking for work (Kurniawan, 2021).

- (16) *Perempuan itu balik bertanya, "Kau tidak tahu? Bukankah ia telah memberitahumu? Ia pergi ke kota dua hari lalu mengikuti saudara jauhnya. Mencari kerja."* (Kurniawan, 2021)

The woman asked back, "Don't you know? Didn't he tell you? He went to town two days ago, following a distant relative to look for a job" (Kurniawan, 2021).

Data (15) and (16) depicted an anxiety felt by the community due to the crisis. In the end, the community decided to leave the drought-affected village. People moved to the city to work for a better life. Thus, the ecological crisis caused by deforestation threatened people's lives and caused socio-cultural changes.

The climate crisis, caused by deforestation, forced people to relocate to meet their basic needs, such as water. Environmental disasters, including climate crises, have resulted in significant migration (Mbaye & Zimmermann, 2021). This large-scale urbanization often leads to increased waste and decreased environmental quality (Dethier, 2017) as growing human settlements generate more waste. Migration occurred because certain places could no longer support essential needs, with water shortages and drought being the primary factors that drive people to leave arid regions.

The welfare of people in drought-prone areas became increasingly vulnerable due to ecological impacts. Deforestation in countries such as Indonesia, Bangladesh, Australia, India, Peninsular Malaysia, and Pakistan severely disrupted the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities (Khalid et al., 2019). As the forest was destroyed, urbanization emerged as a necessary means of survival. Moreover, drought significantly affected sources of income, pushing communities to the verge of poverty, as seen in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia (Kuswanto et al., 2019). Environmental issues also contributed to the marginalization of traditional communities and, in some cases, cultural genocide. This process can be seen as a form of cultural appropriation (Sahu & Dash, 2011), where established living spaces are assimilated into new cultural frameworks.

The ecological crisis gave significant effects on both the environment and the socio-cultural relations within communities. Migration and urbanization occurred because the affected areas no longer supported survival due to the crisis. Additionally, people

experienced growing anxiety and depression as a result of such challenging circumstances. Moreover, the crisis also lead to the loss of cultural practices that were once integral to daily life.

Conclusions

Based on the findings and discussion, we concluded that the ecological crisis caused by deforestation for oil palm plantations, mining, and illegal logging has led to significant problems across various aspects of life. Eka Kurniawan's short story "Sumur" illustrates these impacts, including 1) environmental effects such as drought, loss of water sources, damaged animal feed and habitats, crop failure, climate change, unstable weather patterns, all of which threaten biodiversity; and 2) socio-cultural effects such as deaths, anxiety within the affected communities, migration and urbanization, and the loss of cultural practices that tied to the communities and their environment.

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