



**BE AWARE OF WATER ZOMBIES:  
AN ECOCRITICAL STUDY ON SHUSTERMANS' *DRY***

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**Abstract**

Natural damage, disaster, and catastrophe can happen due to human mistreatment toward the environment. Thus, there is an urgency to treat the environment better and to sustain the comfortable living of human life. Environmental issues in recent literary works are still tightly engaged due to people's high concern and attention toward the environment's condition. The condition of the environment has been illustrated in a novel entitled *Dry* written by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman (2018). Through the ecocriticism literary perspective, this study sought to reveal the conditions of nature as the impact of human mistreatment in the aspect of six concepts brought by Greg Garrard (2004). Using his theory, this study explored the environmental damage and its implication as the result of human exploration of the environment from the aspect of pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, dwelling, animals, and the earth. This study employed content analysis to seek the intended objective. The findings declared that *Dry* successfully illustrated the existing environmental problems. The human-nature relation from the six concepts was described and exemplified very tightly that it is expected to wake the readers up to pay more concern and care toward the environment. At last, this study implied the need to analyze the human-nature relation through the specific concept of Garrard's or other kinds of theory to sustain the environment with the ecocriticism perspective.

**Keywords:** *Water Zombie, ecocritical portray, Shusterman's Dry*

**INTRODUCTION**

Emphasizing harmony between humanity and nature should have been the responsibility of humans to sustain the environment. Focusing on the environmental concern of humans is much described in ecocriticism literary study. In the study of literature, ecocriticism is known as a study of human-nature relations in literature, film, and other cultural expressions (James & Morel, 2018; Habib, 2011; Bracke & Corporaal, 2010), and it is still becoming a forefront interest as it emphasizes the study on environmental issues. Due to the fact that nowadays the world is facing an eco-disaster (Mishra, 2016) therefore, the environment is now at stake. A study or a criticism of environmental issues has been urgently required. Uncontrolled climate change as a result of global warming, unpredicted fire in unpredicted locations, and the decreasing of natural resources such as clean air, clean water, and renewable energy for human life support have urged many nature writings of some ecocritics to produce. It is obvious that ecology-based problems become scientific problems rather than objects of cultural analysis.

The older the world with its unaware numerous populations the more devastated the world as the nature of living things habitat. The more populations, the more interaction with the environment leads to devastation. Environmental issues are worth to deal with since they are related to the sustainability of nature in relation to human beings and living things to survive. Seeing this, one of the literary and environmental experts, Cheryll Glotfelty, developed ecocriticism in the late 1980s. Ecocriticism is an approach to reveal natural problems through literature. In the UK around the late 1990s, it is called as green studies which focus on the relationship between the literature and the physical environment (Garrard, 2004; Barry, 2020).

Right after the existence of ecocriticism theory, there are many ecocritics who express their ideas through literature or literary works such as novels, films, and poems as a way to criticize what has happened to the environment. They use the works to evaluate and to respond toward the environmental crisis. It addresses how humans relate to nonhuman nature or the environment in literature (Johnson, 2009). William Rueckert in 1978 had already mentioned in his essay entitled "Literature and ecology: an Experiment in Ecocriticism" that a literary work should have been ecology-oriented. Habib (2011) in his recent work defines that ecocriticism examines the manifold significance of nature and the environment in literature. Similarly, ecocriticism is an umbrella term used to refer to the environmentally oriented study of literature and the arts and it is an ecological-based study either and bio-social context and explores excessive exploitation toward nature (Buell, 2009; Nayar, 2009; Kroeber, 1997). It brings an obvious portrayal of the use of literature to promote environmental concern.

In addition, ecocriticism initially aimed at earth care (Mishra, 2016). Recently the issue of nature has been increasing since an environmentally oriented development becomes a great issue as it is a place for all living things to survive. Therefore, ecocritics are rapidly growing up and commonly read and criticize literature from an ecocentrism point of view; apply ecological issues to the representation of the natural world; focus on nonfiction and environmental writing that features "nature"; and show appreciation for ethical positions toward nonhuman nature (Johnson, 2009). Since Glotfelty had urged literary critics to develop an ecological approach to literature, many ecocritics came up with their own ideas of integrating the issues of literature and environments. It makes clear that the perception of the environment in literature is a matter of defending ethics and survival.

Due to the importance of criticism toward human relations to the environment that in fact, it could affect environmental survival, some ecocritics write their nature writing to portray environmental issues. The essays in Fiona Becket and Terry Gifford's useful collection *Culture, Creativity and Environment: New Environmentalist Criticism* focus on the politics of environmental crisis (Becket & Gifford, 2007). Whereas in *Writing for an Endangered World*, Buell (2009) identifies environmental movements as the first wave of ecocriticism, a wave that focused on nature writing, ecocentrism texts, and natural history.

On the other hand, Garrard classifies the literary concern of the environment including pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, dwelling, animals, and the Earth (Garrard, 2004; Johnson, 2009). They are common themes that might be used to be manifested in texts. The other inspiration for ecocriticism also came from Ralph Waldo Emerson (Mishra, 2016) who intentionally linked nature in his first reflective prose narrative *Nature*. He involves a nontraditional approach to nature also popularly called as 'transcendentalism' (a concept that explains if 'God' pervades nature) (Emerson, 1995). Garrard (2004) further explains that ecocriticism stands between contemporary literary and cultural theories and it has a close correlation to the science of ecology, thus, ecocritics can build their own ecological literacy. Moreover, according to Bunting (2015), those ecocritics have also examined an interdisciplinary interest, extending the scope of their work into the fields of environmental philosophy as well as the environmental sciences, especially ecology. Using the ecocriticism perspective, environmental threats and cases that are faced by the world today can be explored to find the best solution to the recent environmental problems.

Although there had been many studies or literary works used to find solutions, there was minor research that criticize a literary work from the perspective of the existing theory or concept of Garrard (2004). Thus, this study is aimed at investigating the conditions of nature in Neal and Jarrod Shusterman's novel entitled *Dry* by the use of Garrard's six concepts (2004).

The authors of *Dry* are father and son, Neal and Jarrod Shusterman. They published

their novel in 2018, and it started to get numerous nominations and awards, such as The New York Public Library's Best Books for Teens, inclusion among the American Library Association (ALA) Best Books for Young Adults, and the Cooperative Children's Book Council Choices.

This novel tells about the condition of Southern California which has to face severe drought, and even it almost becomes an apocalypse due to the terrifying event called Tap-Out. This horrific situation is triggered by the legal withdrawal of Arizona and Nevada from the reservoir assistance agreement that causes the Colorado river could not irrigate Southern California.

Some families consider water tap-out as a serious disaster even on the first day water runs dry. In fact, prior to the incident, many people used water as they like as if water is such an abundant resource. People used water unwisely by making too many unnecessary pools at tourism objects, giant aquariums, and water supplies at home. Since the Tap-Out incident occurred, people had only one similar intention which is getting a drop of water to sip.

The center characters in the novel are two young teenagers Alyssa Morrow and Kelton McCracken and a ten-year-old boy named Garrets, Alyssa's brother. At first, Alyssa does not know how to conserve water. Her uncle, however, takes Alyssa and Garrets that evening to get supplies and found nothing except ice cubes that they still bought in case they would need those ice cubes. A snapshot shows that some people even try to flee California, however, it is not that easy due to the highest demand. Kelton McCracken who comes from a military family is well prepared for such a disaster. Alyssa's uncle eventually decides to leave, not wanting to use up the Alyssa family's water resources. In the meantime, Alyssa and Garret have to lose their parents till they searched for them anywhere with a help of Kelton. However, they were unsuccessful to find them.

Their real journey to face the severe drought started. On the way home, Alyssa tried to help a man that was bothered by two water zombie men. The two of them threaten to kill the man for the water he has in his car in return. However, Alyssa was even too weak to fight, and finally met Jacqui who came for help. Jacqui, who lives on her own, squatting in houses, negotiates treatment for her arm wound in exchange for driving the kids home. Now there are the four of them, and they decide to go to Kelton's House and live with sufficient water there. Until one day they got news from Alyssa's parents and some water zombies, Kelton and Alyssa's neighbors, tried to grab the water reservoir in Kelton's house. The severe and horrific incident where people are killing each other for the sake of a sip of water could not be avoided. The four teenagers ran away and they went to the water reservoir as Kelton instructed. In the Dove canyon, they met Henry that already had Uncle Basil's truck. Henry negotiates to get along with them in exchange for the truck they want.

The stories of being water zombies started toward five of them. Meanwhile, too many murders, house robberies, violence, and cruelty news triggered by a drop of water are broadcasted via radio satellite. The uncommon phenomenon in Southern California happened where people would only try to save their own life by quarreling even killing each other for a drop of water. It is more like an apocalypse that the world would extinct because there was no more water. After a long journey for several days, they found out that Henry tells them a lie by saying he has some bottles of water at the beginning while they were still in Dove Canyon. When they were suddenly going to open the box of AguaViva water, instead of getting those bottles of water, they found only many brochures of AguaViva. Spontaneously, Alyssa, Kelton, Garret, and Jacqui were desperate and upset. Henry finally betrayed his friends for the sake of getting a sip of water from the two men in the camp. The other four were now really in severe drought.

Everyone was severely dehydrated, weakened, and under the threat of fire, which then makes Jacqui decide to head through the flames toward the reservoir while Alyssa, Garret, and Kelton try to walk around. They soon realize that they are trapped, and Alyssa

thinks she will need to kill everyone to spare them from death by fire. In a snapshot, a water bomber pilot sees the kids and decides to ignore his orders so that he can rescue them. He drops his water supply on the fire near the kids, saving them. The three kids are brought into an evacuation center before going home. Alyssa's parents, who were in jail and hospitalized, had been relatively safe. On the news, Kelton and Alyssa see that Henry, who's apparently 13, is safe and pretending to be a hero. Kelton's parents are now divorcing, and Kelton plans to stay with his mom. The novel closes with Alyssa's dad picking up Alyssa and Kelton to take them to the hospital, where Jacqui is recovering from her burns.

Some previous studies had already been conducted to discuss the novel *Dry*. One example is the study conducted by Azizah et al.(2023). This study focused on the role of the character "Alyssa" and its implications for Indonesian language learning in High School. This descriptive qualitative study directly emphasizes the study on the characterization of the characters but does not highlight the whole message or content which implicitly and explicitly contained in the story. Therefore, there is a profound gap toward this study on the basis of the object of the analysis.

Another previous study on the novel *Dry* was conducted by Sephiani & Hartati (2022). It tries to compare the classification of the main character's emotions towards disasters and personal problems experienced by the main character in "*Hujan*" by Tere Liye to the novel "Dry" by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman. Employing descriptive analysis with emotional classification analysis, it reveals the type of emotions that the main characters of the two novels might have and then compared both of them.

The research gap toward this study is quite vivid that the previous study had not yet revealed the critics toward the theme of the novel. Realizing that the study from the lens of ecocriticism has not been conducted yet, moreover, criticism given toward the novel would give much understanding for readers to perpetuate and conserve nature for the sake of human beings and other living things survival, thus this study to investigate the novel *Dry* from the ecocriticism lens is required and much beneficial to conduct.

## **METHOD**

This research employs descriptive qualitative that aims at describing the nature through the use of the six concepts of Garrard (2004) as illustrated in the novel *Dry* by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman. The data in this study were collected on the basis of sentences, quotations, paragraphs, and statements that arise in the novel *Dry* that represent the relation and interaction between nature and humans.

This data was collected by the technique of reading and note-taking and they were analyzed using content analysis where data reduction, data display, and conclusion were taken and it is to make replicable and valid inferences from texts (or other meaningful matter) to the contexts of their use (Krippendorff, 2018; Drisko & Maschi, 2016). Therefore, it is to only refer to what is overtly, literally exists, or present in the written communication. This novel was first published in 2018 with 400 pages and is currently translated into Bahasa Indonesia version as many as 455 pages. It is published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers in origin version and by Gramedia Indonesia in Bahasa Indonesia version.

## **FINDINGS**

This study is aimed at investigating how nature is represented in the novel entitled *Dry* through the ecocriticism concepts of Garrard (2004), namely pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, dwelling, animals, and the Earth. The finding of this study is presented in the following table.

**Table 1. Ecocriticism Concept through Nature-human representation**

No.	Concept/theme	The form
1.	Pollution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water in Dove Canyon is contaminated with Bacteria that it caused dysentery diseases.</li> <li>2. The severe air pollution is described vividly as the result of forest fire triggered by prolonged drought.</li> <li>3. The three characters (Alyssa, Garret, Kelton) and all people in the story were impacted by the toxic carbon monoxide.</li> </ol>
2.	Wilderness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The wilderness one of which is represented by the Angeles National Forest is getting worse and wild. Besides, Kelton family's refugee house that is located inside could no longer be a safe place since the surrounding is damaged .</li> <li>2. A wide green area of forest is no longer found except for the drought anywhere due to the dry water reservoir and the fire burn in almost all parts of the forest.</li> </ol>
3.	Apocalypse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People risk their lives and kill each other for a bottle or just a drop of drinking water.</li> <li>2. The worst drought and other worse conditions had altered kindness to rudeness.</li> <li>3. Many people think illogically and irrationally to survive their own lives.</li> </ol>
4.	Dwelling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arizona, which is usually abundant in water supply, is turning towards severe drought and Every resident's house has a dead faucet.</li> <li>2. The stock of water in the household is running low until it's finally gone and nothing is left resulting in dry yards, and plants no longer getting the water that is sprinkled.</li> <li>3. Many people left their homes to find out about the dead faucet tragedy. Even, many people try to move out to another city for a better living.</li> </ol>
5.	Animal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many dogs' nose, one of which is Kingston's, is drier than it ought to be.</li> <li>2. Animals represented by a dog could not find a comfortable place to live due to the lack of water supplies in their owner's dwelling and they become crueller than ever.</li> </ol>
6.	The Earth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water resources that used to be abundant suddenly vanished resulting in a water crisis.</li> <li>2. The beauty of nature has faded away due to the climate change caused by global warming.</li> </ol>

It is highlighted by the place of nature of Southern California as it is represented in the Novel. California, as illustrated in the story, is affected by the crisis of water. In this place, murder and chaos happen since people need a drop of water to survive. In such a situation some people change drastically being water zombies that seek for a drop of water. The central argument of this paper lies in the six concepts of ecocriticism by Garrard (2004) that show what nature is like and how the concepts could bring strengths in criticizing the human relation toward environmental issues to end its crisis.

## DISCUSSION

This section provides the interpretation and meaning of the findings. In accordance with the theory of Garrard (2004) related to ecocriticism, the findings are elaborated through the six concepts of pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, dwelling, animals, and the Earth which each is assumed to reflect the existing phenomenon in the real social life. The illustration of each concept is elaborated in the following discussion section.

### **Pollution**

Neal and Jarrod Shusterman focused on describing the pollution in the novel in the type of water and air pollution. Those two pollutions represent how the crisis affects many people and lead to the worst condition. First, water pollution was described in a vulgar scheme through the story that it generates many crowds to die. It came up when the water reservoir in Dove Canyon was contaminated by bacteria causing dysentery disease. Many people of Dove Canyon passed away even when the four young characters; Alyssa, Kelton, Garret, Jacqui dropped into the Dove Canyon to get Uncle Bassil's (uncle Herb) truck, they found no one on the way there. In fact, the water was not yet sterile. Luckily uncle Bassil could still survive from the contaminated water. The quote of this description is shown as follows;

“The water makes you sick uncle Herb, It's Dysentery, which could be contagious, so we shouldn't eat anything you have touched, I am sorry”.

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019:199)

From the above quotation, it is very clear that the water was already contaminated thus the environment had not been providing comfort to its habitant. Moreover, the main characters Alyssa, her brother, and her friends could not find any other else in Dove Canyon except the bloody smell and silent place of Dove Canyon. Luckily, they could still find Alyssa's uncle though in his very weak condition. Besides water pollution, the dad-son Shusterman employed the description of air pollution. It is described horribly at almost the end of the story when the five characters; the four and Henry should pass the terrific fire in the jungle when they were trying to approach the water reservoir. Henry finally betrays his friends by leaving them for a drop of water. The four characters were trapped in a heavy fire and almost had no way out.

“Is this from the campsite fire? or is it another fire? The fire has already leaped to another side of the road. Now the narrow roads look like the black tongue of a great beast of fire about to swallow us”.

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019: 357)

The black tongue of a great beast here means that the fire almost sent them to die. Their lung seemed to be burnt out and could not survive any longer. As seen in the below quotation:

“Carbon monoxide. It bonds to your red blood cells like oxygen, but unlike an oxygen, it doesn't let your blood cells go. They become useless. That's why people die from smoke inhalation”.

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019:354)

From the illustration above, it is obviously shown that pollution of water and air could be triggered by human-nature relations. The domino effect can result from people's treatment toward the environment, which then might threaten human lives. If the environment is treated well, it will stand as a great resource for humans. As stated by (Mishra, 2016; Barry, 2020) the ecological crisis that occurred is a byproduct of human culture. The description of Shusterman as the author of *Dry* fits with this theory. People's culture to treat the environment affects the sustainability of the environment. Hence, it determines how the nature cooperate to human in return.

### **Wilderness**

Another concept of ecocriticism by Garrard is the concept of wilderness. Some ecocritics use this concept to depict how wilderness or the wild jungle or space could affect

the people's life. As it is shown in the novel, the five young characters; Alyssa and her groups had to pass the wild "Angeles National Forest" in the purpose to get a safe place to live as well as some water and staple food to survive. They had to face the wildlife during their trip since the forest also altered to be an unfriendly jungle with its darkness and even sharp road, risky on fire and uneasy way to pass by. It is uncontradictory to the theory of the basic concept of wilderness is actually the purity or the narrative virgin of a forest (Garrard, 2016), and somehow, it is constantly used as a space for dangerous adventures, filled with predatory beasts and dark creatures and it also reinforces and embodies the wild (Noda, 2018). Even at almost the end of their journey, they had to struggle in order to reach the Angeles National Forest. On the way there they need water to drink however, the forest which used to be having a lot of water resources, just remains the story because they did not even find water anywhere. Till they had to make up their mind and seek another place to get the water they need.

"Finally, we come to a sign that says NOW ENTERING ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST with a red placard that says FIRE RISK: HIGH. Big duh. It looks like there had been a roadblock here".

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019:304)

As shown in the quotation, the forest might have many advantages for humans such as protecting nature from flood, for water resources, but it is now the other way around. The five characters; Alyssa, her brother, and her friends even had to sacrifice their life to pass the road forgetting to reach their first main goal "water". besides, they had to face the terrific fire on their way looking for a water reservoir. The wild jungle that used to contain abundant water in it, is now in drought. In the concept of wilderness, humans affect the damage of the wild jungle or forest. In the story, it is described that the forest was burnt out by fire, and it produced unhealthy smoke. It implied that the wilderness was no longer beneficial for humans. On the other hand, this worse condition was caused by the human-nature relation.

### ***Apocalypse***

The apocalypse narrative in the novel *Dry* represents the public anxiety about environmental catastrophes, which reflects cultural fears. People were found to quarrel with one another for the sake of a drop of water. As the dad-son Shusterman described the crowd uncontrollably fight one another for the water. even many people died because they were too weak to fight against stronger men. The quote for these situations could be found in the following;

"Call 911! And then on the screen, the crowd seems to explode into action. All of them, all at once. They're ripping bottles off the truck, smashing the windshield. Pulling over the driver. My God! It happened in the blink of an eye!

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019:81)

The quotation, obviously portrays that people do not care about others. They even feel no doubt to hurt one another since they thought they need to survive with a bottle of drinking water in front of them. Those illustrations imply that when people do not take care of the environment, then it would lead to crises and unpredicted human-nature relations. It seems like violence and the tropes of a catastrophe have happened (Hall et al., 2000; Huggan & Tiffin, 2015). Another quotation found is illustrated in the following;

"The water sloshes in the cup as I try to grab it from her, spilling over the edge. I cannot grapple for it, because if I do it will all spill out. Benji! Kyle! Help. I grab her hand, trying to stop the water from splashing".

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019:350)

From the above illustration, the writers of *Dry* portray that even such a good and tough girl like Alyssa could do rude actions even toward an old woman. Based on Sephiani & Hartati's research (2022) Alyssa used to be a kind-hearted girl. Due to an emergency, she had to make the most difficult decision regarding her brother's life, she had to violate her kindness and chose to hurt the woman for her brother's life. A bad attitude that was supposed to be something impossible, but it happened for the sake of a drop of water. It shows catastrophe that anyone even the most kindhearted one could do something terrible for the sake of water.

### ***Dwelling***

The dwelling that is illustrated in the novel is the location where the story took place and this place is affected by environmental changes. As it is previously mentioned, the story occurred in California where many people have known as a developed city in America. However, the writers of *Dry* would like to urge readers that such a developed city could also face a crisis if the human-nature relation could not run harmoniously. Thus, human culture should be the fundamental reason for the sustainability of the environment (Garrard,2004). Here is an example of taken from the novel entitled *Dry*;

“Arizona and Nevada just backed out of the reservoir relief deal”. Mom tells him. “They’ve just shut all the floodgates of all the dams, saying they need the water themselves, which means that the Colorado river won’t even reach California”.

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019: 4)

It is explicitly stated that the region of California would not get any more water supply from Nevada and Arizona. Even the Colorado river could no longer supply water for the residents. Many people could not get water that they actually have the right to get. This condition urges people in California to leave their houses and some of them decided to move to other cities to get water supply. Another example of dwelling illustration is in the following;

“My parents, garret and I gravitate outside as well, all of us standing strangely, looking at one another for some kind of guidance or at least validation that water tap-out is really occur”.

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019: 6)

It seems that dwelling will show that people are used to live on the authentic earth. However, since there was an uncontrolled strange condition that they had never faced, they seemed to have a new weird activity that forced them to leave home to find another thing they need to survive. Explicitly, the authors of *Dry*, want to remind people to take care of the environment.

### ***Animal***

Involving animals in criticizing the existing phenomena for the sake of reminding humans for taking care of nature through the animal concept of Garrard (2004) is possible. The novel *Dry* also illustrates the existence of the animals in the story. One of which is through the dog character, named Kingston. It is described as Garret's obedient dog. Due to the severe drought and many water zombies in Southern California, Garret cannot provide enough water for Kingston to drink. Thus, Kingston's nose is getting drier than it used to be. That is why at almost the end of the story when Garret met Kingston for the first time after a while, the dog refused to obey Garret. He even became a fierce dog similar to the other two Garret's neighbor dogs; Rottweiler and Doberman. As shown below:



“Their dog, Kingston who is looking sluggish, comes up to Alyssa and nudges with his nose. His nose is a way drier than it ought to be”.

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019: 88)

Ironically, animals have become the victim of human culture, another example shows this:

“It’s Doberman, it is eyeing me like I am a much more attractive proposition than the jerky. I am startled, I am almost jump out of my skin. Garret stay back! I said. Then the Doberman starts growling.

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019: 138)

It is clear that animals can be the victims of people's habits. The wild character of animals may be stimulated to burst when they also feel threatened. On contrary, as stated by Huggan & Tiffin (2015) that it is now the animals' turn to be treated better and well by humans, and it would create a better relation between humans and nature.

### ***The Earth***

Criticizing the earth, based on Garrard’s concept (2004) could not be separated from the discussion of globalization that requires sophisticated communications technologies, global and local environmental issues, ozone layer depletion to soil erosion, climate changes, and others (Garrard, 2014). And the earth is supposed to be a better place for humans to live in. However, the earth is now facing climate change that leads to the increasing temperature and which leads to natural system changes and affects the earth's condition. This is the point that the *Dry*'s authors want to emphasize that the earth has been too kind to accommodate people. Therefore, people should protect the earth in return so that dynamic and harmonious relation between humans and nature could be best achieved for a better ecosystem. The focus on earth that the Shustermans want to deeply show is seen in the following quotation:

“The book is dedicated for those struggling to undo the disastrous effect of climate change”.

The above quotation shows that the authors believed in the importance of human awareness in avoiding climate change, therefore they dedicated the novel to those who fight for the earth’s betterment. Since nowadays the earth is facing severe climate change that affects the temperature, drought, and many other unpredicted disastrous nature phenomena. Thus, this is the best time for people to start to be aware to take care of the earth, the place where they live. This phenomenon could be seen below:

“Water crisis for drought, and climate change for global warming. And they are now having a new chapter to face the earth and water crisis as it is “tap-out”. “No storm surges, no debris field, tap-out is as silent as cancer”.

(Shusterman & Shusterman, 2019:

23)

Here, the authors imply that tap-out as a reflection of the water crisis as the effect of climate change or global warming had been seriously shown how the earth had been unfriendly to humans due to their unawareness of the importance of taking good care of the earth. As mentioned by Johns-Putra (2010) that the issue of climate change and its representation in literary texts can be seen as a way of appreciating the relevance of genre to the ecocritical endeavor. Hence it must be understood well.

## CONCLUSION

This study portrays the way Neil and Jarrod Shusterman's novel entitled *Dry* could represent the existing phenomena of nature. Furthermore, Garrard's concept of pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, dwelling, animal, and the earth could also make people aware of the need to build a harmonious relationship with nature, so it would never bring detrimental effects on the earth as the place to live. Moreover, it could also be concluded that the nature where people live could provide for humans' needs, thus, humans also need to take care of the nature to survive.

This study implies that the ecocriticism perspective that was implemented to criticize the relationship between nature and humans should have been effective enough to make people realize that they have to build a positive relationship between themselves and nature. Thus, the sustainability of a peaceful zone to live in with its abundant resources could be achieved. At last, this study suggests other researchers to examine human and nature relations by focusing on one single concept of Garrard so that the study could be more specific and detailed.

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