Literary Ecology Study of Novels: A Strategy for Instilling Environmental-Based Character Education Values

Evia Firnadia¹, Nurizzati²

¹ Universitas Negeri Padang, Indonesia; eviadia11@gmail.com
² Universitas Negeri Padang, Indonesia; nurizzati_2138@fbs.unp.id

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to describe the attitude of avoiding the nature of damaging the environment, fostering an attitude of caring and responsible for the environment, and the attitude of saving the environment contained in the novel Serdadu Pantai by Laode Insan and the novel Dari Rahim Ombak by Tison Sahabuddin Bungin. The research method used is a qualitative descriptive research method, with the research stages of the preparation stage, the field stage, and the data analysis stage. The data in this study are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences related to literary ecology. The data sources of this research are the novel Serdadu Pantai by Laode Insan and the novel Dari Rahim Ombak by Tison Sahabuddin Bungin. Data collection techniques used reading and note-taking techniques. Based on the results of data analysis and discussion, it is known that the novel Serdadu Pantai dan Dari Rahim Ombak emphasizes to the reader how important it is to have a character who cares about the environment, so that humans can live in harmony with nature. In both novels, there is a great message to the readers about how fatal the impact that will be received by humans if they live by destroying the environment.

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Corresponding Author:
Evia Firnadia
Universitas Negeri Padang, Indonesia; eviadia11@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Literary work is one of the media used by the author to criticize a phenomenon that he observes. Cases of environmental damage caused by ignorant humans who cannot respect nature occur everywhere. The occurrence of natural destruction such as in the sea and in the forest by humans to meet their biological needs continues to increase. Based on this phenomenon, the author can convey his response to the situation in the surrounding community. Rinahayu & Kristianto (2022) stated that the use of nature to meet human needs is a major problem in the complexity of the relationship between nature and humans. The incident was then poured by the author into a literary work and categorized in the realm of literary ecology. Literary ecology is a way of understanding environmental issues from a literary perspective and vice versa, how to understand literature from an
environmental perspective. Literary ecology studies how humans adapt to their natural environment. The implementation of literary ecology studies will be able to reveal how the role of literature in humanizing the environment (Endraswara, 2016). Literary ecology reviewers remain optimistic that they will be able to find meaning in every literary work. Although the actual literary ecocritic theory is still being sought, what is clear is that the theory tries to link literature with its environment (Endraswara, 2016). The basic assumptions of literary ecocritic research are: (1) literature is born from certain environmental conditions, (2) literature cannot be born from the environment around writers, (3) literature is born to understand the atmosphere of the environment. From these three assumptions it can be clearly stated that literary ecocriticism is a literary criticism that pays attention to environmental aspects (Endraswara, 2016).

Ecological studies of literature in the second sense are popular as ecocritical studies (Kaswadi, 2015). Seeing the importance of literary ecology in a work, it makes writers produce works that put forward characters who love the environment. Characters with good characters can be guided by the reader to take an attitude from what he reads. Caring is one of the characters that must be owned by every individual. Environmental care attitudes are attitudes and actions that always try to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develop efforts to repair the natural damage that has occurred (Elmy, 2019). By giving birth to a character who cares about the environment, it is hoped that it will be able to make readers aware of caring for and loving the environment as expected by ecocriticists. Purwanti (2017) states that the objectives of environmental care character education are: a) Encouraging commendable habits and behaviors of students and in line with proper environmental management; b) Increase the ability to avoid properties that can damage the environment; c) Cultivating the sensitivity of students to environmental conditions so as to avoid traits that can damage the environment; d) Cultivating a caring and responsible spirit towards environmental sustainability.

The novel Serdadu Pantai tells the story of children’s characters who live on the coast. They were named Dayan, Odi, Poci, and Surman. Dayan, Odi, Poci, and Surman are four friends who live in Lopo Village, Buton Island. These four friends have the same vision, carrying out their hereditary tradition of preserving the sea. This novel tells the story of how they are on an adventure to find the cause of the many dead fish floating on the sea surface unnaturally. They are determined to find out the cause and try to address the problem. In addition to the coastal environmental problems that they have to solve, they also experience complex family problems. These problems can be seen how the author raises real issues regarding the marine environment in this country, this story also tells about the value of family love between parents and children, friendship, and mutual cooperation which are included in the values of character education that must be possessed by children. Each person

Environmental problems that have been damaged are the beginning of the story of the struggle of Katir, Anjul and Dampa/Jurmini to make people aware of the importance of protecting marine ecosystems. Katir, Anjul, and Dampa/Jumrini who are orphans and are considered enemies by most of the Bungin Island people who are fish bombers. Even though what they are doing is a good thing and should be imitated and supported by the Bungin Island community, the economic problems seem to blind the community. They are considered enemies that must be eliminated because they are considered to be able to hinder the fishermen who bomb fish. Studies on literary ecology in the novel Serdadu Pantai by Laode Insan and the novel Dari Rahim Ombak by Tison Sahabuddin Bungin have been carried out by several previous researchers. Novitasari (2018) reveals a Study of Social-Transformative Ecofeminism with the title Jurmini’s Struggle to Save Bungin Island in the Novel Dari Rahim Ombak by Tison Sahabuddin Bungin. The study of ecofeminism is a branch of literary ecology. Jurmini as the main female character in this novel is considered to have an important role as a provider of facilities for women and men in responding to the needs of saving nature on Bungin Island. The focus of this research describes the conservation and reclamation efforts made by Jurmini to save and restore the potential of marine ecosystems and the maritime world on Bungin Island, as well as how Jurmini was able to invite women and men to work together in carrying out the rescue.
Another study conducted by Setiawan & Qur‘ani (2017) also revealed that the characteristics of the characters in the novel have the character of loving the environment and a strong desire to keep the environment sustainable, but what is highlighted in the research is that these are just expressions that show the character of each character. This study describes the main character in two ways, namely the direct method (telling) and the indirect method (showing).

2. METHODS

The research method used is included in the category of qualitative research with descriptive analysis methods. Qualitative research methods are research procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from the objects and behaviors observed (Ahyar et al., 2020). This is in accordance with research conducted in the form of descriptive analysis on a literary work. Examining literary works with formal qualitative research data obtained from novel texts in the form of words, sentences, and discourses (Al-Ma‘ruf, A. & Nugrahani, 2017). Therefore, the researcher collected data by describing the dissection of the text of the novel Serdadu Pantai by Laode Insan in order to find the value of character education based on ecological reviews/criticisms possessed by the characters in the novel. Surgery is used to find words, sentences, and discourses in the novel that meet the research criteria.

The data in this study are excerpts/statements that show an attitude of avoiding environmental damage, an attitude of caring and responsible for the environment, and an attitude of saving the environment which is the implementation of the character education values contained in the novel Serdadu Pantai by Laode Insan. The data source of this research is the novel Serdadu Pantai by Laode Insan which was first published by PT. Grasindo. This novel was published in Jakarta in 2019 with a total of 415 pages. The novel Serdadu Pantai is the first of three series planned by the author. Reportedly this novel will be made into a trilogy. The next research data source is the novel Dari Rahim Ombak by Tison Sahabuddin Bungin published by CV. Erzatama Karya Abadi. This novel was published in Bogor in 2016 and has 375 pages.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

It cannot be denied that literature is always related to nature. The discussion of ecological literature emphasizes the teaching of meaning. Therefore, the environment cannot be separated from humans and so is literature which is always associated with the environment. The study of literary ecology remains optimistic that it will be able to find meaning in every literary work (Endraswara, 2016). The selection of the right literary works and the meaning of literary works that are in accordance with the implications in the daily lives of students will be able to shape the character of these students. Hasanah (2016) classifies character education values into four groups, namely character values related to God, character values related to oneself, character values related to others, and character values related to the natural environment/environment. Based on these groupings, it can be seen that the character value in relation to nature/around the environment is also an aspect of forming the character of students. Caring is one of the characters that must be owned by students. Environmental care attitudes are attitudes and actions that always try to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develop efforts to repair natural damage that has occurred (Elmy & Winarso, H., 2019).

2.1 Attitude to Avoid Behavior that Damages the Environment

Humans who can’t avoid damaging the environment will of course cause chaos in the future. Nature that has been damaged will have a bad impact on humans. Hardiningtyas, P. (2016) states that human relations with the natural environment are in crisis due to excessive use of nature which causes damage to soil, water, air in the environment directly or indirectly. This will damage and harm humans themselves in the short and long term for the next generation. Haryanto (2018) said that
environmental pollution concerns the safety, health, and life of humans and other living creatures. Environmental pollution can be caused by human activities and natural events. The importance of avoiding behavior that damages the environment must be owned by everyone, thus humans will realize how important it is to act without destroying the environment. The attitude to avoid damaging the environment can be done by not harming nature unnecessarily, taking actions that do not threaten the existence of living things in the universe, being able to maintain the obligation not to harm nature in accordance with existing norms, and leaving nature untouched. The characters in the novel Serdadu Pantai have an attitude of avoiding damaging the environment, even though they play on the beach everyday, they are aware not to take actions that can damage the sea and its contents. This is evidenced by the following quote:

"Including how to look for corals or snails in the sea, he always reminds and shows how to take coral or catch reef fish without damaging the coral reefs." (Insan, 2019).

Dayan as the storyteller in the novel explains that he and his friends remind each other in preserving the marine environment, even though they are still children, they have developed an attitude to avoid actions that can damage the environment. This is marked by the daily life of those who play in the sea but are still able not to take actions that have an impact on damaging the sea and its contents. Dayan and his friends catch fish in the traditional way while being careful not to damage the corals. They also do not hesitate to scold each other if they are caught doing actions that can damage the sea. Odi is one of the most assertive and strict children in preserving the ocean. He will scold Dayan, Surman and Poci if they are caught doing something that is trivial but can have a big impact on the marine ecosystem. This can be seen in the following quote:

"We learned a lot from him. From trivial things to serious matters such as throwing corn cobs and husks in the sea, coconut shells, stepping on coral reefs, what more about throwing away plastic soap or plastic snack packages into the sea and beaches, Odi is the most strict and strict forbidding us. He invites us to protect the sea and the coast." (Insan, 2019).

In the quote above, Dayan tries to explain that Odi is a very serious person in preserving the marine environment. Odi’s attitude was able to be guided by Dayan and his friends, so that together they could work together to preserve the sea. In fact, in various coastal areas not a few marine ecosystems are destroyed by humans and this has an impact on the crisis of certain species in marine ecosystems. But not a few people are also developing their role to maintain the continuity of marine ecosystems. This can be done by instilling the habit of protecting the marine environment in their children from an early age as has been applied to Dayan, Odi, Poci and Surman.

The environment is the surrounding conditions that affect the development and behavior of living things. Everything that is around humans that affects the development of human life either directly or indirectly is also an understanding of the environment. According to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 4 of 1982, concerning the Basic Provisions for Environmental Management and the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 32 of 2009, concerning Environmental Management, it is stated that: The environment is a unity of space with all objects, forces, conditions, and living things, including humans and their behavior, which affect nature itself, the continuity of life, and the welfare of humans and other living creatures. Habits that are done repeatedly will be able to foster an attitude of not destroying the environment towards nature. The indigenous people of the coastal areas certainly want to continue to pass on the marine nature to their children and grandchildren.

Not much different from the novel Serdadu Pantai, Ma Laina’s character in Dari Rahim Ombak’s novel has also reminded her children very much about the importance of protecting the marine ecosystem. The quote is as follows:
"That’s it son! Our parents taught pamali stone hitting stone. The stone means anchor, anchor, net weight or hard object hitting the rock. If violated, you can get hurt. Avoid fish. Moreover, bombing destroys coral reefs, if Ma has told you but you still don’t want to hear it, you are still with Mirroko. Don’t be sorry if Ma is angry. If Ma is angry, then Ma will walk to the shore as a mermaid”, Ma Laina deliberately put pressure, meaning not only heard by Katir. Let Anjul and Dampa hear at the same time.” (Bungin, T., 2016).

The previous description describes a piece of advice from Ma Laina spoken to Katir, Anjul and Dampa. Ma Liana explained that the sea is very vulnerable to human behavior. There are many impacts that one human action will have on the ocean. Therefore, Ma Laina tried to explain and put emphasis on the sentence “Our parents taught pamali stone hitting stone”. The stone means anchor, anchor, net weight or hard object hitting the rock. The sentence conveys that not only one stone will cause harm to humans if they ignore it, but the chain of existence will also be broken.

The quote from Ma Laina’s speech intends to convey that it is better to avoid damaging the marine environment by bombing because it will be fatal to the coral reef ecosystem. Concern for the environment can be viewed with two main objectives: first, in terms of the availability of natural resources, to what extent these resources are economically profitable to be extracted and then used as a source of income to finance development activities.

Second, if the wealth owned is indeed limited and economically unprofitable to be extracted and processed, then what strategy needs to be followed to meet the needs and demands of the development of the nation concerned. In that sentence, Ma Laina said that not only one stone will harm humans when ignoring it, but the chain of existence will also be broken. From the quote above, Ma Laina intends to convey that it is better to avoid damaging the marine environment by bombing, which is fatal to the coral reef ecosystem. Here are other data:

“We need to think about the rules so that the divers who come do not damage the coral,” Anjul added, “We will issue a diving guide. The miniature map of Indonesia was made a kind of special gate. Diving from Papua ends in Sumatra. And from Sumatra ended up in Papua. Sabang to Merauke and Merauke to Sabang. No one should touch the rock, let alone step on it. Underwater surveillance cameras are installed at several points.” (Bungin, 2016)

In the data above, Anjul carefully thought out a strategy so that the divers would not do any harm to nature. Anjul’s goal in the sentence No one should touch the rock, let alone step on it. Underwater surveillance cameras were installed at several points, showing the magnitude of Anjul’s efforts to maintain the marine ecosystem that has sheltered the lives of all fishermen on the island where he grew and grew. Caring for the environment means participating in preserving the environment as well as possible, this can be done by maintaining, managing, restoring and preserving the environment.

Guidelines that must be considered in environmental care or preservation include avoiding and saving earth resources from pollution and damage, avoiding actions that can cause pollution, damage health and the environment, make the best use of renewable natural resources, and maintain and improve the environment for future generations. The same is seen in the following quote:

“We are indebted to the reef. The fish live because of the coral. If there is no coral, there is no fish, and if there is no fish, we cannot eat. You have to be friendly with the corals but never hate the bombers and fish stunners who kill corals because they don’t understand the consequences.” (Bungin, T., 2016).

Based on the previous description, the speaker wants to convey that the seaside communities owe a lot to the marine ecosystem. The community’s main livelihood which consists of fishing is one of the biggest benefits of corals. These corals contain fish that can live and take shelter in their
ecosystem. The speaker conveyed that the task carried out by the community who felt the benefits of the marine ecosystem was to maintain the coral and fish ecosystems and not to hate the bombers and fish stunners. The speaker also meant to convey that if the bombers and fish druggers did what they did, it was because they didn't know the consequences. If the community already knows, then the community is the same as not being grateful to nature which has provided a source of income and livelihood for them.

2.2 Attitude of Caring and Responsible for the Environment

The attitude of caring for the environment and nature can be realized on the basis that the preservation and destruction of nature is a shared responsibility of all mankind. The importance of maintaining marine habitats is described by Effendi et al. (2018) he stated that damage to ecosystems and habitats will cause the death and even extinction of certain species. Therefore, the community has an important role to maintain the sustainability of the sea. This can be done by instilling the habit of protecting the marine environment in their children from an early age. Instilling a caring attitude towards the environment can be started by reminding each other, forbidding each other, and firmly punishing anyone who intentionally or unintentionally damages and endangers the existence of nature (Hudha, A. et al., 2019). Odi's character in the novel Serdadu Pantai is the main character who has the highest caring attitude towards nature. He could quickly realize the strange occurrences that he encountered in the Baubau sea. Odi realized that something was wrong when he found a large number of dead fish in the sea. This can be seen in the following quote:

"These fish are not caught by fishermen. I just checked his mouth, there are no hook marks…. Usually, all the fish that are caught, there must be a small scar on the hook in their mouth, ”explained Odi. (Insan, 2019).

In the quote above, it can be seen that Odi, who is used to following his father looking for fish using nets or fishing, realized that the fish he met died in an unnatural condition. Although at first Dayan, Poci, and Surman ignored Odi's suspicions, Odi was able to explain his thoughts very clearly. As a child of the sea he was able to explain the contents of his thoughts why he stated that the fish they met were not fish that just floated away, the character also realized that there was something wrong with the dead fish they met. Dead fish usually don't smell like medicine. Based on these findings, it is emphasized that humans who can realize if something is wrong with nature means that they have a caring attitude and high sensitivity to nature. Here are the following data:

"We have to find out why these fish died... This is the first time we have fish that die and smell like this,” Odi explained with a firm and serious look”. (Insan, 2019).

In the data excerpt above, it is clear that the form of the attitude of the soul to care for the environment is "We have to find out why these fish died. This is the first time we have fish that die and smell like this." This also confirms that Odi's character has a responsible attitude towards the environment and can be proven by what he will do, which is to find out what causes the fish to die. Unlike other children who might choose not to know about their surroundings, Odi shows the attitude that he has succeeded in cultivating a caring spirit towards the environment. This is what Odi is applying to his other friends. He clearly conveys the contents of his thoughts to his friends so that they can contribute to solving the problem.

The attitude of caring for the environment and nature can be realized on the basis that the preservation and destruction of nature is a shared responsibility of all mankind. As social beings, humans do not only have to have a tolerant attitude towards their fellow human beings. This means that humans have a moral obligation and responsibility not to interfere with the existence of all living
things, including nature and everything in it. Therefore at least humans must care about nature by not harming nature unnecessarily as humans are not morally justified to take actions that harm fellow humans, concern for the environment is also seen in the novel Dari Rahim Ombak by Tison Sahabuddin Bungin. As in the following quote:

“If it’s difficult for you to avoid your feelings. If your desire to live with me is as deeply ingrained as I feel, then allow me to awaken your father. Believe me, we will go to the aisle with the blessing of these beautiful corals” (Bungin, T., 2016).

In the description above, Katir persistently said that he could convince the father of his lover that destroying the coral ecosystem is a bad deed for the marine ecosystem. Katir persistently convinces his future wife that he can persuade his lover’s father and realize the wrong actions he has been doing all this time. Katir’s actions in this situation illustrate his concern for coral reefs. Speakers feel that losing Ulan is better than seeing the coral ecosystem destroyed in the hands of irresponsible people. From the data above, it is found that the characters in the dialogue have a great caring attitude and responsibility towards the marine ecosystem which has been the source of livelihood for the fishermen. They realize that they are given life by the sea and its contents, therefore they must stop anyone who does actions that can damage the sea and the composition. Anjul and Katir are examples of being responsible for nature, they don’t want future generations to only find their country destroyed due to the greed of today’s humans.

“My toughest homework is having to divert their livelihood immediately to avoid social conflict. The corals that I planted are not comparable to the number of beneficiary fishermen there. As I have told you, development is not only for us but for future generations, even though at that time we may not be able to live.” (Bungin, T., 2016)

Based on the dialogue excerpt above, the attitude of caring and responsibility can be seen in the sentence "My toughest homework is having to divert their livelihood immediately to avoid social conflict. The corals that I planted are not comparable to the number of beneficiary fishermen there. As I have told you, development is not only for us but for future generations, even though at that time we may not be able to live.” (Bungin, T., 2016)

2.3 Environmental Saving Attitude

Efforts to save the environment are important in the obligation to maintain the ecosystem. Endraswara (2016) states that if you dare to consciously damage the environment sometimes the laws of nature will play. At a certain time humans will regret the damaged natural conditions. After realizing that they have damaged nature and get the reward, of course, saving the environment should be done by all actors who take advantage of the unity of nature. Humans must take actions aimed at rebalancing the chaos as a form of regret. Based on the research conducted, the researchers found some data regarding the attitude of saving the environment contained in the Novel Serdadu Pantai by Laode Insan, as in the following data:
“But, he said tomorrow we’re going to go reconnaissance again. Cook not done? I’m still curious and want to know who uses potash to catch fish. If we find the person, we just arrest him and report the village head,” explained Odi. (Insan, 2019).

In the data above, the form of efforts to save the environment is stated in the sentence “Cook it doesn’t work? I’m still curious and want to know who uses potash to catch fish.” The words curious and curious have the meaning that the speaker is very interested in who is doing the damage to the fish whose ecosystem has been damaged. By trying to find out who the perpetrators of the destruction of the sea, of course, is one of the efforts to save the environment. If the person is caught and punished by the authorities, it will certainly have a deterrent effect and make other residents afraid to do the same thing. The same is also stated in the following data:

“We try to place some live corals around other coral reefs, and hope that the live corals can grow fast and make the surrounding sea even more beautiful, overgrown with grass and various marine life. Surrounded by fish that swim freely and play around the coral reefs.” (Insan, 2019).

Even though Dayan, Odi, Poci and Surman are still children, they feel they have a responsibility to save their marine biota and environment. They feel a responsibility to find the perpetrators who did this heinous thing, catching fish in a way that can destroy nature. Based on the story, it can be seen that other efforts can be made by them, namely placing the surviving coral reefs in another place. They did this in an effort to accelerate the growth of coral reefs which were also affected by the explosions and potash.

Katir, Anjul, and Dampa are also examples of people who are willing to take action to save the environment. They do this not to get a reward, they even use private funds to save nature. When they took action to save the environment, Katir and Anjul even received scorn and hatred from the surrounding community. Based on the research conducted, the researcher found some data regarding the attitude of saving the environment contained in the novel Dari Rahim Ombak by Tison Sahabuddin Bungin, as in the following data:

“More and more Katir became a byword among bombers, he continued to assemble coral planting media. Nearly four hectares of destroyed coral reefs have been rehabilitated. Not to mention the artificial coral habitat made of cast concrete, which requires a lot of money to continue to carry out.” (Bungin, T., 2016)

In the data above, Katir shows that he is a figure who is very consistent with his stance on saving the environment. Katir with his own efforts has rehabilitated an area of 4 hectares of coral reefs. This effort is not an easy effort to do alone, but seeing the coral reefs destroyed by the bombers leaves a wound for Katir. With all his efforts he continues to save the remaining coral reefs. Anjul has a very good attitude for deciding to save the environment. In an effort to save the environment, the most important main action is a strong awareness and a persistent desire to save the environment. Anjul in his current position strengthens the fishermen on the island to be active in maintaining the marine natural ecosystem and maintaining the balance of fishermen’s needs for marine products. Anjul’s attitude to save the environment has finally paid off. The fishermen and bombers eventually realized that destroying the sea means destroying the future of their island in the future. Therefore, the community works hand in hand to save and replant corals according to the program that has been designed by Anjul and Jurmini.

“We are rehabilitating an area of 30 hectares, now you need to calculate how many bottles of garbage, how much cement, how much sand, how much energy,” Jurmini had a dialogue with Anjul on the yacht witnessed by Ahok and his friends. In front of them, in the Boss’s office on the luxury yacht. He
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introduced various research tools. Because he needed data on the damage to Coral Reefs, Jurmini removed an underwater camera in a device similar to a propeller torpedo missile. (Bungin, T., 2016)

Referring to the data above, in the quote from the dialogue We rehabilitate an area of 30 hectares, now you need to calculate how many bottles of garbage, how much cement, how much sand, how much energy, shows an attitude of saving the environment. This is confirmed by the clause We rehabilitate an area of 30 hectares, the rehabilitation efforts carried out by Jurmini and Anjul and their friends show a very great concern for their environment. In the ethics of protecting the environment and responsibility for the environment, there is a theory that supports this attitude, namely Anthropocentrism.

4. CONCLUSION

The stories that occur in the novel Serdadu Pantai and the novel Dari Rahim Ombak are actually phenomena and facts that are happening in the field today. Indonesia is rich in marine life, but if humans are not able to maintain this ecosystem, it will certainly cause the extinction of certain species. Therefore, humans must be able to act by preventing damage to nature on a much larger scale later. Both of these novels can be an illustration and a hard slap for humans to treat nature better. The novel Serdadu Pantai dan Dari Rahim Ombak emphasizes how important it is to have a character who cares about the environment. Both novels have a great message about how fatal the impact that will be received by humans if life destroys the environment. Each character’s dialogue shows an attitude of avoiding damaging the environment so that the reader is aware not to take such actions. The attitude of a caring and responsible soul can be done by taking care of the state of nature and the surrounding environment. The attitude of saving the environment in the novel Serdadu Pantai dan Dari Rahim Ombak is illustrated by the efforts made by the community in overcoming the chaos they have caused to nature that has already been damaged.

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