

Ecological Perspective towards the Song of *Earth* by Michael Jackson

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Abstract

Michael Jackson is the famous singer in world. He has created many song lyrics and albums for decades. Furthermore, he has very serious attention against the forest destruction. So, he implemented his mind of sadness about through the song and lyric titled *Earth*. The study aimed to know how the Ecological perspective in analyzing the song *Earth*. There are relation between humans and nature represented in the song. This study uses qualitative method to analyze the song. In the findings, the writer found that there is the disharmonic relationship between humans and nature that represented ecology matters, the next finding is the environmental imagination is revealed by the past, present and future in the song as the environmental history.

I. INTRODUCTION

A song is a lyrical poem, which is sung with the playing of some musical instrument. It is a very old form of literature, which is passed from generation to generation. Nevertheless, it does not mean that song lyrics are poems. Song created from beautiful lyrics and music. Songs and poems have the same function to deliver the ideas with beautiful words to represent the thought and feeling.

Michael Jackson wrote lyrics related social and environment themes in these songs; *We are the World* (1985), *Heal the World* (1992) and *Earth* (1995). Song *Earth* went on to receive a Grammy nomination in 1997. *Earth* is not only addresses to the environmental issues such as deforestation and overfishing of the oceans, but also talks about other moral issues, for example children among the wars. In the poem, *Earth* is shown how the disharmonic relationship between human and environment has caused the world destruction. The situation described in the poem can be analyzed by eco criticism theory in order to gain the complete findings. To analyze the poem, the writer used eco critic theory. Eco criticism encouraged others to think about the relationship of humans and nature, environmental crises and about how language and literature transmit values with profound ecological implications (Glotfelty in Branch : 1994). Eco criticism explores ways on how we imagine and illustrate the correlation between humans and the environment in all areas of cultural studies. Eco criticism is inspired by the movement of modern environmental movements as a form of critical thinking. Greg (2004) traces the development of

movement and explores the concepts that related to Eco critic issues in the form of pollution, wilderness, disaster, housing, animals, and the earth.

As the pioneer of revolutionary of literature, Situmorang (2004) hopes the harmonies in human life that can bridge the people to their environment. Literature must be build based on the humanity. The humanity between nature and human being that has to be achieved because humanism is the foundation of everyone's peace. Therefore, the concept of harmony between human being and nature consider creating a conducive situation. Mostly the human being would always try to find the balance of life.

It is interesting study to find out the relationship between humans and nature represented on the song Earth. Using Eco critic theory, the writer focused on how the disharmonic relationship occurred between humans and nature that caused world destruction.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A song is a composition made up of lyrics and music, with the intent of the lyrics being sung, for the purpose of producing a proportionate feeling or emotion in relation to a particular matter. Lyrics reference topics and melodies reference feelings (though a beautifully constructed lyric can reference feelings as much as any beautiful melody). A song which combines a feeling that, for one reason or another, is not worthy of or proportionate to the matter at hand is called a *bad song*. Lyrics refer to particular topics and melodies refer to feelings. Finally, the power of a song is in how a melody and lyric work together to produce an emotion in regards to a particular matter. (Guerra:2015) In addition, song is more productive to ask how lyrics in songs relate to musical information, and how poems relate to the silences cultural and actual that surround them, and to recognize that lyrics and poetry, while different genres with different forces and imperatives.

The term Eco criticism can be traced through a number of writings such as *The Introduction to The Eco criticism Reader* (1996). Glotfelty's book is an important anthology of American critical tradition. Eco criticism is a study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. Besides the question of the question which considers the relationship between nature and literature. The foundation is that literary works have a connection with the surrounding environment. Thus, Eco criticism becomes a bridge for both.

Dean in Branch (1994) stated that the word 'Eco criticism is the study of culture and cultural product that connect to the human relationship to the natural world. Eco criticism is also a response to the need for humanistic understanding of our relationship with the natural world in the age of environmental destructions. Environmental crises are a result of humanity's disconnection from natural world and reattach the human being to the real concern of the world.

In addition, Philips (2010:598) stated that the environmental imagination becomes characteristics of ecological discourse in general which involves an exploration of the limitation of literature's representations. Eco critic is ecologically and environmentally to recover the habits of thoughts of some era in the past before the disruption of humans and nature, in this description, he wants to reveal that literary work can also represent the environmental imagination between humans and nature in such situation both in modern or traditional period.

III. METHODS

This study uses qualitative research method in qualitative interpretation type. To analyze the song, the writer uses descriptive analysis to understand how the Eco critic theory implemented in this study in the song of *Earth* by Michael Jackson. The writer limits the analysis of the song through ecocriticism theory only.

IV. RESULTS

The poem *Earth* used the natural image to define the contradictive situation of the nature such *What about sunrise. What about rain.* Ecologically, sunrise is contradictive with the rain. The use of the image is to reveal the disharmonic natural situation represented in the poem. He also reveals the situation of killing fields and human destructive power. A killing field can be a place of a war, and a place where they killed animals or destroyed nature in order for personal wealth, space and belongings.

In line three and four are repeated *All the children dead from war* and thus creates a direct connection to the *we've shed all the blood before.* Children are involved in something without being asked; they are killed without being guilty. As the same as the nature. Both children and nature are unable to defend themselves.

The questions *Did you ever stop to notice? In addition, The crying Earth the weeping shores?* Reveal the warning about the disharmonic relation between humans and nature. The next statement, *What have we done to the world. Look what we've done.* What about all the peace have shown that there will be great regret for what humans have done to the world with their destructive power.

In idealistic vision of a world without war, injustice, and harm, a world in which humans can treat everything and everyone respectfully, other humans as well as nature. A world of peace in the line *"Is there a time."* In combining past, present, and future, the poem showed that this idea, this time of a world in peace perhaps never existed. This part is the environmental imagination to reveal the imaginative situation in present and past after the destruction.

These statements are represent a great hope to recover the destruction, *I used to dream and I used to glance beyond the stars.* Unfortunately, the song also reveal this statement *Now I don't know where we are* and *Although I know we've drifted far.* It means that the situation is getting worse and nowhere to escape. This stanza also reveals the ecological matters that annoying the relation between humans and nature.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, the use of Eco critic theory to analyze the poem has shown the relation between the literary work 'lyrics' with the nature. In the Eco critic analysis, it's shown that the disharmonic relationship between humans and nature caused the world destructions. This song also reveals the environmental imaginative about the past, present and future situation in the song narrative. Finally, this song has revealed valuable message to the human being explicitly that nature has to be protected in lovely and harmonic way.

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APPENDIX

EARTH

Song by: Michael Jackson

What about sunrise?
What about rain?
What about all the things
That you said we were to gain?
What about killing fields?
Is there a time?
What about all the things
That you said was yours and mine?
Did you ever stop to notice
All the blood we've shed before?
Did you ever stop to notice
This crying Earth, these weeping shores?
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh
What have we done to the world?
Look what we've done
What about all the peace
That you pledge your only son?
What about flowering fields?
Is there a time?
What about all the dreams
That you said was yours and mine?
Did you ever stop to notice
All the children dead from war?
Did you ever stop to notice
This crying Earth, these weeping shores?
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh
I used to dream
I used to glance beyond the stars
Now I don't know where we are
Although I know we've drifted far
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Hey, what about yesterday?
(What about us?)
What about the seas?
(What about us?)
The heavens are falling down
(What about us?)
I can't even breathe
(What about us?)
What about apathy?
(What about us?)
I need you
(What about us?)
What about nature's worth?
(Ooh)
It's our planet's womb
(What about us?)
What about animals?
(What about it?)
We've turned kingdoms to dust
(What about us?)
What about elephants?
(What about us?)
Have we lost their trust
(What about us?)
What about crying whales?
(What about us?)
We're ravaging the seas
(What about us?)
What about forest trails?
(Ooh)
Burnt despite our pleas
(What about us?)
What about the holy land?
(What about it?)
Torn apart by creed
(What about us?)
What about the common man?
(What about us?)
Can't we set him free
(What about us?)
What about children dying?
(What about us?)

Can't you hear them cry?
(What about us?)
Where did we go wrong?
(Ooh)
Someone tell me why
(What about us?)
What about baby boy?
(What about it?)
What about the days?
(What about us?)
What about all their joy?
(What about us?)
What about the man?
(What about us?)
What about the crying man?
(What about us?)
What about Abraham?
(What about us?)
What about death again?
(Ooh)
Do we give a damn?
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Ooh-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo
Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah
Ooh-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo