
Man versus Wild: Illusion of Nature-Culture Dichotomy in Sean Penn's *Into The Wild* (2007) Film

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Abstract

This study describes the understanding of the relationship between nature and culture that reflected in *Into the Wild* (2007) film. It brings about the dichotomy between nature and culture which affect the main character's development. The film tells about an American young man from Virginia who leaves his wealthy life to prove that he is able to survive alone without the society; that nature will provide his needs in order to survive. This film brings the understanding that human must learn about nature. This study aims to show how nature and culture collaborate to develop the main character's survival in the wilderness. By employing qualitative method, the writer wants to give a clear representation about how nature and culture take part in *Into the Wild* film. To conduct the analysis, Ecocriticism approach by Cheryll B. Glotfelty is used as tool to make deeper understanding. Furthermore, the analysis will be done regarding the two aspects of film studies: narrative and non-narrative. The result of this study shows that human has been driven away too far from nature, and in order to survive, human needs to renew its knowledge towards nature because human is part of nature. Moreover, this study also reveals that the dichotomy of nature-culture is just an illusion. It also finds the ideology in the film is ecocentrism. Nature still can survive without human's help but humans always need nature for their survival.

Keywords: wilderness, nature-culture dichotomy, ecocentrism

Introduction

Environmental issues have become a major phenomenon which needs the attention of human beings. They are expected to participate and take responsibility to resolve it. In modern era, the environmental awareness should be higher. However, the reality shows the opposite. Certainly, it can be seen from the environment around us which is still a lot of waste everywhere. Society needs to keep the environment because it is closely related to disasters caused from a bad environment. As happens in our life, human life cannot be separated both natural environment and social environment.

Starting from the environmental problems that are common occur in society, it can lead to environmental problems are getting worse. In evidence, those problems which are considered as trivial, it could be the cause of serious environmental problems. Moreover, the impacts which are getting worse will certainly be perceived by humans on earth. Nowadays, there are many environmental problems that occur on Earth caused by human beings itself, such as global warming, climate change, and ozone layer degradation. To maintain the balance of our lives from the damage on the earth, we must appreciate the importance of our environment.

Many human beings do not realize that modern life as it is today greatly affects the environment and the condition of the earth overall. Increasingly of higher prosperity has given the easier living facilities through the development of technology. Along the development of the technology itself, a fundamental illusion in the world is that humans are separated from nature (Ausubel, Corners, Leila; *The 11 Hours* 2007). Because most of human beings want to separate themselves from nature, there is a separation between nature and culture in their life. Separation that occurs is called the dichotomy between nature and culture. Dichotomy means splitting in two, where a human wants to be in one side whether nature or culture only. The things happen because human beings always think that they are not part of nature. They

think that nature and culture is two different things, although it is one part. However, those are inseparable part which is still different things.

Every human being has their own mind to create something what they want. According to Barry Commoner, an ecologist, the first Law of Ecology is everything in this world is connected to everything else (Glotfelty and Fromm xix). It shows that there is a negotiation between the human and the non-human. Non-human is anything which is not human, such as plants, and animals.

The growing awareness of all levels of society, including governments, general public and the scientific community toward environmental problems lead that problems which are critical become fairly widely known at the present time (Bhatnagar 31). It means many human beings who have understood the importance of nature. It is proved by the evidence of the products of green living which is shown human beings can take advantage of the modern era evolved to be better. Most of people use the technology to search for a temporary solution, for example, the use of air filters and water filters which are very popular today. Besides, the thing that supposed to do is find the root of this problem. Actually, the root of the problem would be easily solved if they find a place to go back to the nature. Physically, nature is connected to human. All those human developments are recapitulated as culture. So, it would show interconnections between nature and culture (Glotfelty and Fromm xix). Human uses natural resources for their survival, obviously that nature and culture are interdependent. They must keep each other to balance their cycle life on earth.

Talking about nature, it always relates to everything that comes naturally such as mountains, oceans, animals, and also wilderness. Wilderness also part of nature. Wilderness area can be found in forests, National Parks, conservation preserves, and in areas along rivers. These areas have an important role for survival living of certain species, biodiversity, ecological studies, and conservation. Many reasons why wilderness is much protected, it because for a broad range of biological, social, economic, spiritual and recreational benefits. Wilderness also has powerful iconic value, holding great significance as spectacular, great inspiring places (US Forest Service: Wilderness). One of the examples of wilderness area in America is the Alaskan wilderness.

The dichotomy between human and nature are not only depicted in everyday life but also in film. One of the films that give the presence of human and nature dichotomy as the concept is *Into The Wild* film. In this study, the writer would like to examine film and focus on how challenging the issues play out in *Into The Wild*. *Into The Wild* is biographical drama survival film directed by Sean Penn. It is an adaptation of the best-selling book by Jon Krakauer with the same title. The story is based on true story of Christopher McCandless's adventure, a young man and top student who is graduated from Emory University. Growing up in wealthy family in Virginia suburbs of Washington DC, it makes him to decide and leave his previous life to enter the wilderness. Alaskan wilderness is his destination of his adventure to search of pure and authentic because he feels that his life is just a boring life. He thinks that nowadays humans currently being controlled by money, time and urban life depressed. He wants to live on his own which is free with no rules. In Alaskan wilderness, he is not surviving in a long time because the lack of understanding towards nature. He is found death in the Alaskan wilderness.

There is an issue that appears in *Into The Wild* film; nature and culture. The issue is interesting to analyze because this study related to environment which environmental issue becomes widely discusses today. The writer is interested to analyze this film because its story shows the relationship between human and nature which is based on a true story. Human beings have been driven away to far from nature and in order to survive human needs to renew its knowledge towards nature, because human is part of nature. In addition, the director makes the film very well and looks a really natural setting which is taken directly in Alaskan wilderness.

In analyzing *Into The Wild* film, the writer uses Ecocriticism theory by Cheryll Glotfelty. According to Glotfelty, Ecocriticism theory is the study that interposes mediation between literature and the physical environment (Glotfelty and Fromm xvii). That approach is related to ecology and ecological concepts to the culture studies. This film also has environmental message that is appropriate with this theory; the human died in the end of the film because he failed to understand nature.. By using Ecocriticism concept, the writer also tries to observe how nature and culture dichotomy is captured and used in this film.

Theory and Method

The writer uses Ecocriticism theory as a tool to analyze *Into The Wild* film which is directed by Sean Penn. William Ruckert's, in his essay *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism* in 1978, states that ecocriticism means the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature. As a critical thinking to criticize a literary works about nature. The definition is inclined the science of ecology specifically, which includes all possible relations between literature physical world (Glottfelty and Fromm xx). Environmental issues have become a part of human's existence in this world. Hence, this study focuses on depiction relationship of environment and human which are in Ecocriticism called nature and culture. In addition, narrative and non-narrative aspects are used to support the theory to create the complete exploration about this study.

For ecocriticism, nature actually present as an entity which affect us, and we can also affect them, in a destructive way, if we mistreat it (Barry 2002). It means there is no space between nature and culture in the world, they connect each other. The argument really reflects in the problem of main character when he prefers to live in wilderness. Nature completes to bring the serious problem for the main character. Therefore, the problem of this study is related to nature and culture appropriately toward Ecocriticism by Cheryll Glottfelty.

In this study, the writer applies qualitative method to answer the problem statements with more detail analysis. This qualitative method purpose is to make deep understanding toward this study which is about the dichotomy between nature and culture relationship in shaping the main character's personality toward nature. There are some ways to make the method of study more clearly.

The primary data used as the main source in this study is the film itself, *Into the Wild*. In order to get information and depiction about this film more clearly, the writer watches this film many times. Making a note about the important information is also helpful to get the depiction of a film such as the significant part of story, the issue, and important scene of this film. The other data to complete this study is secondary sources for instance, books, journals, articles, reviews and critics from the internet and some other sources that are related to this discussion; it could be printed or online sources. The writer needs secondary sources to strengthen the analysis from the primary sources. Those data sources are would like to support this study.

The writer also uses data collection technique for analyzing this study. Data collection of the study will focus on narrative aspect which is depicted the main character towards nature and culture. It is focused on the story itself, plot, setting, and character. The writer also collects the data from non-narrative aspects as the support of the narrative aspect itself. It is focused on camera angles, camera shots, color and tone, costumes, and lighting.

The technique of data analysis is one important step in order to gain the findings of the research. The data will be analyzed using the principal theory of environment, Ecocriticism theory. According to Cheryll Glottfelty, ecocriticism basically shows how the representation of nature in literary works. It can be concluded that there are three primary ways to do analyzing the literary works through the representation of nature. These are how the representation of nature is, the different ways in portray environmental issue, and the ideology constructed through the object (Maimunah and Arimbi 9). The writer follows the ways to analyze this study to gain the deeper understanding. After collecting these data analyses then the writer will be summarizing the data analysis to find the conclusion of the statement of the problem. It aims to understand about more detail of nature and culture dichotomy in this study related to Ecocriticism theory.

The representation of nature in this film

Ecocriticism theory will analyze the object through ecological side which is related to the nature and the things connected with the environment. At this point, the writer would like to explain the representation of nature in this film. There are some areas to analyze the relationship between nature and culture by dividing into four; the wilderness, the scenic sublime, the countryside and the domestic picturesque (Barry 254). The representation of nature in this film is about wilderness which means the land that rare, wild places where one can alienate from civilization, reconnect to the earth, and find healing, meaning, and significance (US Forest Service: Wilderness).

The beginning of this film obviously depicts of nature in this earth, the nature is still extremely natural and unspoiled by human beings, and that will make anyone fascinated with it. In this film, the scenery of Alaskan wilderness looks very beautiful. Mountains, snows, trees, and sky create Alaska to be an amazing and magnificent nature. The scenery of Alaska is so much grander than anything else of the kind in the world that, all other scenery will become flat and insipid when already see nature in Alaska (Dale 12). Among the countries in America, Alaska is a state that has the most beautiful snow scene. In Alaska, the ecosystem is very natural, the beautiful mountain, the forests, the lake, the wild nature have been unspoiled yet by humans.

Alaska is one of the largest states located in the United States with land area reaching 570,380 square miles. Alaska is the most northern part of American continent and closer to the Arctic continent; it makes Alaska identical to the prolonged winter. But in the summer (May-September), the time between sunrise and sunset is very long. The most ideal weather in Alaska is in July, the chill of about 10° C, and a bright day from about 4 am to 10 pm. One-third of part in the northern is Arctic Circle area. In the summer, it happens in June 20 or 21 when the sun does not go down for one day called summer solstice. In the opposite, when winter weather happens in December 21 or 22, the sun does not rise at all in one day called the winter solstice (Dale 44).

In *Into The Wild* film, there are a lot of depictions of beautiful places in US showed alternately. It can be seen from the selection of the image or the location that is very appropriate for this film where the wilderness atmosphere, living freely, and when the rapid surrounded by high cliffs. The places are shown very free and extreme. California, Mexico, Los Angeles and Alaska are chosen as some places which become the setting of this film. The portrayal of nature in this film looks natural as similar as in real life. Actually, there is no specific difference between the portrayal of nature in this film and reality. In this film, Alaskan wilderness becomes the destination of the main character's journey. To the lover of pure wilderness, Alaska becomes one of the most wonderful places in the world (Muir Online).

Traveling or doing a journey toward nature is one of the interesting things. When humans go back to the nature, they can feel the serenity. Nature has provided what is required by humans. In this film, nature is depicted in accordance with its function which can survive without human intervention. Nature is always able to renew itself and maintain its viability. Nature always provides support towards the main character who is trying to live in the wilderness. It can be seen in the monologue of the main character, "*The sea's only gifts are harsh blows and, occasionally, the chance to feel strong*" [00:34:55]. Actually, that monologue is one of the quotations taken from a short story called *Bear Meat* by Primo Levi in 1961. It shows that the harsh blows of nature makes human being feel strong. Basically, on earth, nature trains human being in order to be stronger. However, in the end of this film is not showing human being who is to be physically stronger. In other sense, nature trains human to be mentally stronger, in the sense that human becomes wiser in appreciating things around. The main character is shown less trained toward nature, therefore he is died tragically.



Figure 1. Alaskan wilderness [00:05:10]

Not only analyses from the narrative aspect, the writer also analyses the film from non-narrative aspects; camera angle and color. In figure 1, it can be seen the picture of Alaskan wilderness is taken by

extreme long shot. An extreme long shot is taken from a great distance, sometimes as far as a quarter of a mile away (Giannetti 11). It is also used to show a large amount of landscape around the character. Figure 1 represents that human is dwarfed into visual insignificance, he appears unimportant and powerless (Giannetti 11). The picture also shows that nature has a big role in survival living of human being. Green color of the film's title in figure 1 represents tranquility and aloofness (Giannetti 25). The portrayal of nature is very tranquil. It attracts the main character who wants to aloof far away from his previous life.

The representation of nature in the film and in reality shows no difference. It makes the audiences have the understanding about nature as they experience in reality. They will be easier to understand the meaning and the message contained in the film. Moreover, the audiences also can determine the risks or the things that will happen if they position themselves as the main character that lives in the wilderness.

The Different Ways to Deliver Environmental Issue

The different ways are used to analyze *Into The Wild* film through the dichotomy between nature and culture. According to Ecocriticism theory, ecology, environments, and ecosystem in the universe are categorized as nature, however human and non-human are included as culture. This analyzing will be examined the condition of nature and culture which are represented in this film and the real life. On the other hand, the tragic death of Christopher that is related to the nature also will be explained to make this analysis clear.

The Illusion of Nature-Culture Dichotomy

Human must also have a good knowledge towards nature to keep their life well. This film shows that the main character, Christopher as a human, prefers to live into the nature rather than his previous life. He is growing up in a wealthy family that only made him feel this life is empty, because his family has a very complicated problem. Christopher has one younger sister named Carine McCandless, he really loves her.

Christopher and Carine have other step-brothers who live in California from Walt's first marriage. Walt has not divorced from his first wife when Christopher and Carine were born, however Christopher did not know her father's infidelity. It causes Christopher upset against his father, and it could be a factor in his view about society. Since they were children, their parents often quarrel and make them think that their parents always concern with their own lives rather than their children.

Due to very complicated family problems, he just wants to be free and feels the happiness. It is shown in his monologue in the CHAPTER 1 of this film entitled "MY OWN BIRTH":

"It should not be denied that being footloose has always exhilarated us. It is associated in our minds with escape from history and oppression and law and irksome obligations. Absolute freedom." [00:20:13]

The first chapter is called "MY OWN BIRTH". As well as a newborn human, he just wants to live free and happy. He does not know about the consequences and risks of what will be received in an action. Christopher knows that he already feels comfortable to live alongside with nature. It gives the depiction that actually Christopher just begins his journey in the wild. He thinks that freedom and happiness will be achieved in his effort to leave his previous life. In his monologue, he quotes the sentences from Wallace Stagner's book entitled *The Spectator Bird*. From the quotation which is said by Christopher, it tells that he wants to go everywhere in order to find happiness and freedom because he feels disappointed with the family and the society around him.

The background of his wealthy family inharmonious develops his superficial mind toward his parents and American society around him, that they are always affected by power, rule and hypocrisy. Christopher grows into the person who has a very strong and powerful character. He feels that his life was too spoiled by wealth and luxury owned by his parents, all the things are valued by money and power. The hypocrites, the politicians, and the pricks, all of them are just a group of societies that could poison human's thought. He wants to break away from those humans who feel entitled to pass judgment and control other humans' life. Therefore, there is a dichotomy between nature and Christopher's life. The boredom of his life and nature are two opposite sides that cannot be united. He feels that his life empty and boring. Finally, he decides to fill the emptiness of his life by running away into the nature, in the wilderness and leaves everything in his life in the wilderness.

The reasons why he leaves his wealthy life and gets away from societies are related to the politic and economic condition in the 1990s in West Virginia. He is a young man who comes from West Virginia. He feels saturated with societies around him who always care about their life and prejudices to others. In West Virginia in 1990s, there was a dramatic decline in population as a consequence of the collapse of the mining workforce. Economic improvements were made at high costs to the environment, and government officials sought ways to balance economic gains against environmental concerns. By the late 1990s, the most profitable and damaging form of surface mining, had become common and led to sharp public debate. Many ruling people want to have a high position in their job although the work field is limited. In this case the greed of human beings was shown themselves for fear of the threat of decreasing economic. A lot of crimes in the form of fraud, judgment and greed that are made him want to get away from society.

In this chapter, MY OWN BIRTH, there is a connection between its title and his new life during the adventure in the wilderness. As we know that, actually there is no such thing as MY "OWN" BIRTH. It is because everyone was born by his or her mother, another person; and there is always the father. A birth would be impossible without both of them. In the word "OWN" that he uses in the beginning of his adventure, it tells that he tries to create his new life by himself. It is proven when he changes his name becomes Alexander Supertramp. His new life and his new name became the evidence that he was really born from himself.

In CHAPTER 2 entitled "ADOLESCENCE", Christopher tries to search for his true identity. When he does his journey, he confuses about his identity. It begins when Christopher plays around in the wild alone, without rules and he looks really enjoy his life into the nature. However, in this part show that he still needs people around him to interact and support his life. For instance, he still needs a ride to go where he wants to go, also needs a job and earn money to survive in order to reach Alaskan wilderness. When he is travelling in the wilderness, far from family and wealthy life, he almost contacts his family by public telephone. However, after he thinks twice, he cancels his plan to do it. From the case, it suggests that he longs his family and wealthy life. This is where the confusion arises, whether he belongs to society or belongs to the nature. Just like a teenager who is looking for a true identity, he is trying to find his true identity. He travels through some of the states of America by his car which he left after it is trapped in a flash flood area and by train, hiking, canoeing and of course walking.

However, because culture cannot adapt well to the nature, it makes Christopher, as culture, experiences a tragedy from his own mistakes. It is represented that nature and culture in this movie do not parallel. It emphasizes more on culture that can not cooperate with nature while in the real life. Thus, it is still emphasized to culture that they should be able to adapt with nature, because without nature, the existence of culture in the earth will not survive. Due to nature can always maintain its viability by itself. The thing that can happen is nature without culture would be better, because culture have a potential in damaging the nature.

From the nature and culture relationship, it appears the dichotomy between both. Dichotomy between nature and Christopher's empty life he comes from wealthy family but the background of his family is not harmonious. It makes him prefer to fill the emptiness of his life to go far away from his previous life and chooses wilderness. This film shows that there is a battle between nature and culture. It is represented in Christopher's adventure, between wilderness and himself. In order to survive or live, culture must have a good knowledge towards nature. Knowledge is a human's ability to create something. Nature becomes the winner in this film because Christopher as a human experiences the tragedy in the end of the story.

In this film, the depiction of nature and culture dichotomy is developed through flashback and flash-forward plot or called in medias res. In medias res means 'into the middle things', is a Latin phrase showing the literary and artistic narrative technique which in the relation of a story begins either at the middle point or at the conclusion, rather than at the beginning. It can be applied in any literary works of narrative genre such as poetry, novels, plays, or film. In medias res plot, the goal is to create dramatic effect, suspense and make the audiences to be curious, thus creating interest while showing a conflict that will later be resolved (campusnet.sebts.edu).

Development of nature-culture dichotomy can be shown in establishing setting, character, and conflict by flashback or expository conversations relate to the pertinent past. The beginning opens the story with Christopher's adventure in Alaskan wilderness and there are many flashback and flash-forward plots are shown through the film. Each scene of in medias res shows that there is the connection between nature and culture in Christopher's life.



*Figure 2. Airplane as a product of culture
[01:24:20]*



Figure 3. Plants [01:24:25]

Those two non-narrative aspects (figure 2 and 3) are shown the portrayal of nature and culture dichotomy. The two pictures above are the sequential scenes. The first scene shows airplane from very long distance which means that the scene is taken by extreme long shot. In extreme long shot, the subject generally appears small in relation to the surroundings (Kawin 58). Airplane is one of the products of cultures, where all things related to society are being shunned by Christopher. In figure 2, it shows the airplane is surrounded by the sky which is also a part of nature. From this scene, it appears that nature has an important role in human life. Thus, the next scene which is taken from a great distance also shows that Christopher wants a life away from society. This was reinforced by the emergence of the next scene, a plant which is called as nature. The second scene is taken by close up shot which the plants become an object. Close up shot magnifies the size of an object. It tends to elevate the importance of things, often suggesting a symbolic significance (Giannetti 13). The second scene symbolizes that Christopher finds his true identity belong to the nature and he breaks away from society.

CHAPTER 3, called "MANHOOD", implies a period which a person becomes a mature human. It means that a mature human has been discovering his true identity to live their lives. This chapter begins with Christopher's life in the wild, he looks really enjoying his life in the wild. On 28 April 1992, Chris McCandless walked into the bush in the east of Denali National Park. He lives in the Alaskan wilderness and stays in an abandoned bus on the Stampede Trail in nearby Healy, Alaska. He already finds his true identity that he belongs to the wilderness.

In searching for his true identity, Christopher decides to stop for a while in one of the big city in US. He tries to back to the society in the big city. The result of his searching for his true identity, he still disappointed with the society there. There are many social inequalities such as poverty and discrimination, but in the other side many humans live in an excessive wealth. He thinks that culture shows a failure. It is shown in the two scenes below:



*Figure 4. Poor people in a big city
[01:12:57]*



*Figure 5. Christopher imagines that a man
in a party as himself [01:13:43]*

In the scenes above show when Christopher imagines himself as a high class man who uses formal clothes (see figure 5). One of the ways to search for the true identity is imagining what he would be in the future. If he belongs to society, he will be able to become the part of high class society as he imagines before. Moreover, he is a clever young man and also he comes from a wealthy family. In contrary, he prefers to be with the nature. He still feels disappointed with the society. It makes the end of CHAPTER 2, "ADOLESCENCE" of this film shown when Christopher back to the wilderness. He decides that his true identity is belonging to the nature.

The CHAPTER 4 in this film is called "FAMILY". It begins when Christopher meets up with some humans that he already knows before, they are Jan and Rainey. They are couple but they do not have marital status. In this film, it can be said that depiction of family based on the nature concept is loving each other. In general, to build a family, a couple of man and woman must earn legitimacy of society first. However, the concept and the meaning of family are deconstructed in this film. It can be said a family, when one person interested to the opposite sex and they agree to live together even without marital status. Christopher always feels comfort when he comes together with Jane and Rainey even he just knowing them. He finds the comfort and happiness with them.

As human beings, we should learn everything about nature because we are part of nature. In Christopher's case, he should understand and learn every details of Alaska such as the season, the place, the animals and the plants which live there. Actually, those things are what called as knowledge. From this point, it is clear that there is no such thing as nature-culture dichotomy. It is merely an illusion, created by human culture to draw itself away from nature.

The Relationship between Human and Nature

In this film, a man character is described as human who really appreciates the existence of nature in his life. Christopher prefer to life into the nature rather than his previous life which is full of prosperity and luxury. In the world, humans always need nature to survive in life. It is impossible if human and nature are not living side by side. They have to support each other because human is part of nature. As stated by Barry Commoner's first law of ecology that everything is connected to everything else (Glotfelty and Fromm xix). It means that human and nature always be connected each other, they must keep their balance in order to survive.

Christopher is depicted as a human being who very appreciates the existence of nature. It can be seen in the beginning of this film from the poem:

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:
I love not Man the less, but Nature more
[00:00:36]

That poem is entitled *By The Dark, Blue Sea* by Lord Byron. This poem shows that there are many parallels between the tragedy told in the film and this poem, Christopher's arrogance of his independence in the wilderness. The poem above illustrates that this film is about the love of a man towards the nature, rather than his wealthy life and society.

As stated by Glotfelty that all ecological criticism shares the basic concept that physical world is connected to human culture (Glotfelty and Fromm xix). Automatically, human and non-human have been interconnected each other. In this film, it is proven when Christopher uses the animals and plants to survive. He hunts the animals and eats the plants to survive in the wilderness when there is no food left for his supply. He struggles for his survival when he was trapped in the Alaskan wilderness.

As a human being, we ought to realize that we are part of nature and nature has a very big influence on human survival. Nature already provides everything for humans, such as soil, air, water, forests. All of the facilities provided by nature are affectful for the human's life. In one scene in the film is shown as if Christopher had turned himself in nature because he does not wear his clothes or any products of culture when survive living in the wild. Like most animals that never wear clothes and products of culture, he

makes himself becoming as natural as he can, embracing only what nature has given to him. It is proven in this scene:



*Figure 6. Christopher does not wear
human clothes [01:30:22]*

The non-narrative aspect which can be analyzed from this scene is camera angle. In figure 6, the scene is taken by high angle. High angle means that the camera is above the subject and looks down. This angle can make the subject appear insignificant (Kawin 58). It shows that Christopher as part of nature when he lets himself flowing in the river. He only wants to be with nature and he enjoys his life that gets away from society.

This film shows the journey of Christopher who wants to live into the wild. At the first time, he always amazes with everything related to the nature. It proves when he tries to run away from his wealthy life then decides to go back to nature in finding purity and authenticity. Consciously, he chooses nature as his destination. However he does not realize that the wilderness of nature can be dangerous to humans in other side many humans feel deeply fascinated by the strangeness of nature as well (Drenthen 1).

In this film, Christopher's decision differs from others' believe that wilderness is not dangerous as they think. Nature has various reactions when people treat it. To be sure, every human being has a different way and view to understand the relationship with nature. That is because human beings come from different cultures and experiences that continuously change over time. That is why it is mentioned that the relationship between human and nature are dynamic, interactive, and complex (Williams 1).

The relationship between human and nature is the unity that cannot be separated from one to another. Human as a living creature certainly needs the nature for their survival. Actually without human beings, nature is able to survive and to renew itself. However, as long as humans still live in this planet, the continuity and sustainability of our ecosystem depends on them, how they will treat nature. If humans maintain the nature well, automatically nature will bring good feedback to them. Human and nature can keep their balance life. In the context of the natural sciences, it is called the mutual symbiotic between humans and nature which has dependency each other. In opposite, when humans treat nature improperly, they will not be able to live in harmony with nature.

The Death of Cristopher

The death of Christopher included in the FINAL CHAPTER which is called "GETTING OF WISDOM". In Alaskan wilderness, he is doing all the things that he wants, everything happens without rules, without knowing a time, enjoying the natural scenery in which is very beautiful and forgetting about the problems in his previous life. Christopher thinks that living in Alaska is easy and enjoyable. It shows when he said before he reaches Alaska:

"Alaska, Alaska. I'm gonna be all the way out there. All the way fuckin' out there, just on my own. No watch, no map, no ax, no nothing. ... You know, big mountains, rivers, sky, game. Just be out there in it, you know. In the wild." [00:46:10]

Those words show that there is no fear to walk into the wild alone. He does not think about the worst risk when he lives alone without society and technology. He only thinks that he wants to find freedom in Alaskan wilderness.

Christopher is trapped without enough food. He struggles to find food and tries to survive. Many efforts have to be done to struggle in such condition. His body becomes thinner, he begins to feel starving

because there is no food anymore to consume and his effort to hunt the animal is failed. In the book of flora and fauna, he searches for information about the plants that are safe for consumption. He accidentally poisoned himself by eating the wrong plant, the seeds of *Hedysarum alpinum*, also known as the wild potato. In the next morning, he wakes up and his condition already gets worse.

From that tragedy, Christopher learns that living in the wild is not as easy as he thinks. However, when he knows that he is no longer to live, he already prepares himself to face his death. He knows that death already comes closer with him. Actually in order to survive, he must have good knowledge towards nature in order to save himself, but he had no option other than ending of his life. He was dead in an abandoned bus on the Stampede Trail in nearby Healy, Alaska. Ironically, his stard body was found in an abandoned bus two weeks after Christopher's death by moose hunter.



Figure 7. The death of Christopher
[02:20:32]

In figure 7, it is taken by close up shot. The non-narratives aspects also support this analysis. It is taken by close up shot which shows very little if any locale and concentrates on a relatively the human face (Giannetti 13). Focusing on Christopher's face, it shows that he is crying because of his death is coming closer. Other non-narrative aspect from this scene is about lighting which uses high contrast, with harsh shafts of lights and dramatic streaks of blackness (Giannetti 18). The end of his life becomes the dramatic part in the end of the story. The ending of his life is portrayed very ironic solitude. It describes the tragedy that his life would not survive any longer because his fatal mistake that he did.

The ideology constructed in *Into The Wild*

The pseudo-presence of dichotomy between nature and culture in Christopher's life gives the strong meanings which there are two opposite sides as different part but in fact they are as a unity. Due to his boredom of his life, he tries to live in tune only with nature, in other side he makes his life separated with society. Actually, he wants to unite nature and culture in his life, but he failed to make that happened. From the dichotomy between nature and culture, thus there is a battle between both of them. The death of Cristopher explains explicitly about the battle between nature and culture. Due to he does not have any knowledge to survive in wilderness, he fails to live there. Due to the confusion to survive, he did a foolishness which he does not have a good knowledge toward nature. As the result is nature wins this battle in the end of this film.

Both nature and culture work together to bring happiness. Christopher has had a happy life as part of culture, however he simply does not realize it. Actually, nature helps him to realize it. By becoming Alexander Supertramp, Christopher grew an awareness that happiness can only be obtained in the harmony between nature and culture. The dichotomy is just an illusion. Culture is part of nature, there is no dichotomy. That is why the film is in medias res plot. Nature has always been the center, humans and their culture are just a part of it.

In this study, it is already found the ideology that brought by this film. The ideology that constructed in this film is ecocentrism. Ecocentrism is the core of a number of environmental positions focused on protecting on holistic natural entities such as species, ecosystems and landscapes. Ecocentrism uses insights from the science of ecology to locate value within ecological entities, processes, and relationships and ecocentrism represents an alternative to an anthropocentric or human centered ethic of the environment (Woods 1). As the writer said earlier that in this film, nature is depicted more dominate rather than human. It also shows the portrayal of the nature that has a big role in survival living of human being on the earth. It makes the ecocentrism ideology about strengthen and support this analysis. Cristopher as

the main character leaves his life, because of the family problem and society around him. He prefers to live back to the nature in wilderness to find purity and makes the nature as the refuge for him. In addition, in the end of his life he died because of a lack of understanding and knowledge toward nature. Nature still survives without human, however human always need nature for their survival.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that *Into The Wild* film brings nature-culture issue covered by Ecocriticism theory. This film brings the understanding that human being must learn about nature. The depiction of nature in this film is as same as in the reality. Through this analysis, it is clear that the depiction of nature in the reality makes the audiences' easier in understanding and correlating themselves to the condition in this film. Humans need to have good knowledge and build awareness toward nature because humans are part of nature. Nature has a big role toward the main character's living and it dominates to every part of his survival. In the end of this film, he fails to survive due to his mistakes that he does.

Pseudo-presence of dichotomy between nature and culture are considered by every single human being. Most of human beings try to separate themselves with nature, they are far away from nature to get closer with modern life. In other words, it can be said that culture is separated from nature. They want to be away from one of the nature or culture. That is what Christopher has experienced, he wants to go to the nature and leaves his previous life because of disillusionment towards culture. However, he is too late to realize the meaning of happiness in the end of his life. Christopher realized that happiness needs both nature and culture. It makes the dichotomy between nature and culture fail and it just an illusion, nature and culture must be balanced in human's life. It must happen because culture is part of nature as one ecosphere.

In applying Ecocriticism theory, this study analyzes through ecological side which is related to the nature and the things that have connection with the environment. Moreover, after analyzing the object, the writer finds the ideology which is brought by it. The ideology in this film is ecocentrism. Nature can still survive without human, however human beings always need nature to their survival. Actually, ecocriticism theory helps to reveal that the presence of nature-culture dichotomy is just an illusion. This film shows that nature is collaborated to develop the main character's survival in the wilderness. In addition, nature becomes the refuge for Christopher. It shows that nature very contributes substantially in human's life.

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