

**PUISI-PUISI LANGIT BY TAUFIQ ISMAIL: A LITERARY ECOLOGY STUDY**

*Maria L. A. Sumaryati & Muhammad Nasar Helmi*

Department of Language and Art Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, Banjarmasin, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: ibumariaedi@yahoo.com

DOI: 10.24815/xxx.v1i1.14526

Abstract

This study aims to describe the representation of nature and environmental issues expressed by *Puisi-puisi Langit* by Taufiq Ismail. The results of the study describe the existence of ecological criticisms 1) the ecological criticism of natural pregnancy provides, among other things, a warning that humans guard each other’s nature, and 2) the ecological criticism of environmental issues, among others, describes humans who do not care about the environment.

**Keywords:** Literary ecology, literature, poetry, *Puisi-puisi Langit*.

1. Introduction

Developments in the field of literature, especially poetry writing, are now very rapid. Almost every week poems and themes are born. Both written by senior poets and young writers such as Taufiq Ismail, W. S. Rendra, H. B. Jasir, Chairil Anwar, Widji Tukul, Goenawan Mohamad, Seno Gumira Ajidarma, Sapardi Djoko Damono, Sutardji Calzoum Bachri, Sitor Sitomang, Joko Pinurbo, Remy Silado, Faisal Oddang, Aan Mansyur, Esha Tegar Putra and Fileski. Some of the anthology books they wrote have been published and circulated in various bookstores today and in poetry publications through various newspapers. Poetry is a literary work that contains themes and very much. The theme in poetry is the main things that generally build problems in a poem, and the message in poetry is the message of the poem. There are many benefits when someone reads literary works, such as giving readers awareness about the truth of life, providing entertainment to its readers, literary work is eternal, knows no boundaries of nationality, invites to love art, gives a deep appreciation of the reality, and helps readers become cultured humans.

One of the works of Indonesian writers studied by the researchers is the works of Taufiq Ismail. Currently Taufiq Ismail’s works are in great demand by the public. Like a short story, and many of his poems are read and raised as a study. Taufiq Ismail is a writer who has many literary works such as short stories, poetry and poetry. Many of his poems were sung by the Bimbo Music Association, and the poems by Taufiq Ismail also appeared frequently in newspapers and electronic media. Like a collection of poems entitled “Takut 66”, “Takut 98” in the online newspaper Jendela Sastra. The online newspaper Republika.co.id which published the Taufiq Ismail news read its poem “Palestine” at the Islamic Cooperation.
Organization Summit. His collection of poems is included in the example of the best choice of literature published by online newspapers. Taufiq Ismail is famous as a leading Indonesian poet and literary activist. In addition to being dubbed the guardian of Indonesian literature, Taufiq Ismail, who was born in 1935 in Bukit Tinggi, West Sumatra is also known for his atmospheric navel, as seen in Taufiq’s poem “Sajak Ladang Jagung” which is also full of social criticism including a collection of poems “Malu (I) Jadi Orang Indonesia”, “Buku Tamu Museum Perjuangan”, and “Ketika Kata ketika Warna”.

The researcher raised the Literary Ecology Study on “Puisi-puisi Langit” by Taufiq Ismail because his poetry was very interesting to study with the study of literary ecology. In the poem there are not only one or two poems that describe the relationship between humans and their environment. Clearly the relationship between humans and the environment in the “Puisi-puisi Langit” by Taufiq Ismail such as “Membaca Tanda-tanda”, “Lingkungan Mati”, “Malam Seribu Bulan”, “Kopi Menyiram Hutan”, and “Kereta Malam Daratan Asia”. Taufiq Ismail explained the condition between humans and their environment. “Puisi-puisi Langit” by Taufiq Ismail departs from imagination, reality, sensitivity, glut, hunger, pain, love, uncertainty, oppression, remorse, arrogance, immunity, determination, uncertainty, birth, and death. In other words, the starting point of Taufiq Ismail’s departure in his poetry is the reality of human life as a Muslim. The vision and mission of Taufiq Ismail’s poet in all his actions, including in creating poetry, is obliged to practice the contents of the Koran as a guide to his life.

Literary ecology research has been carried out by several previous researchers, among others, by Akbar (2014) who wrote an article entitled “Ecological Criticism in a collection of short stories of Naga Naga by Korie Layun Rampan”. The results are the (1) interaction between characters and the environment as a form of ecological criticism, and (2) social, cultural and economic background with environmental problems in literary works in the collection of short stories.

Farida (2017) wrote an article entitled “Ecological Criticism of Women’s Literature at Gunung Karya Ika Permata Hati in the antology of “Perempuan di Ujung Senja” The theory used to examine the poem is ecofeminism Susan Griffin. Ecofeminism is a response to the ecological crisis as well as a critique of the development approach that does not pay attention to ecological sustainability while marginalizing one of the human edicts in it, namely women. The researcher chose “Puisi-puisi Langit” by Taufiq Ismail. Because this research is different from other studies. First, literary ecological research is very appropriate if the object under study is Taufiq Ismail’s literary work. Second, “Puisi-puisi Langit” is interesting researching with literary ecology.

Literary ecology is a way of looking at understanding environmental issues in a literary perspective. Or conversely, how to understand literature in an environmental perspective. The shuttle between the environment (ecology) and literature is what the field of literary ecology becomes. Endraswara (2016, p. 5) states, that “Literary ecology is an extrinsic science of literature that deepens the problem of literary relations with its environment”. The existence of a natural connection with literary works raises a concept of ecological problems in literature among literary critics. The term ecocriticism (ecocriticism) is used as a term regarding the concept of literary criticism related to nature and the environment. Harsono (2008, p. 31) says, an ecocritical term comes from English ecocriticism which is a form of ecology and critic.

This research is more focused on the relationship between humans and their environment, because literature is in the relationship of environment and humans. This description shows that “Puisi-puisi Langit” display ecological problems that are closely related to humans and the environment. So from that, “Heaven Poems” are literary works
that bring messages and themes of humans who struggle in the midst of nature and ecological problems so that it makes it worth researching.

2. Research Method

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach using descriptive methods. This collection has 13 poems and 7 poems related to literary ecology. Poetry that has relevance to literary ecology, namely: “Kopi Menyiram Hutan”, “Lingkungan Mati”, “Membaca Tanda-tanda”, “Syair Lima Tahun Anak Asongan”, “Palestine, How Can I Forget You”, “Bangku Tunggu Stasiun Bis Antar Kota”, “Menengadah ke Atas, Merenungi Ozon yang Tak Tampak”. The data source in this study, namely a collection of poems “Puisi-puisi Langit” by Taufiq Ismail. The researcher also used several other books as supporting material for the analysis process.

This study uses a literature study technique, namely the technique of obtaining data through written sources such as newspapers, manuscripts, poems, general reading books, and scientific reading books. The researcher used a literature study technique by reading and identifying a collection of “Puisi-puisi Langit” by Taufiq Ismail as a source of data, then the researcher recorded parts of the data source that matched the problem.

The data analysis technique used by researchers is extrinsic elements, with the main focus of the natural environment. This technique is carried out after the data collected then describes the nature that is represented and, describes the environmental issues of concern.

3. Results and Discussion

From the results of reading and analyzing the data in “Puisi-puisi Langit”, seven poems were obtained that were related to the research theme, namely “Kopi Menyiram Hutan”, “Lingkungan Mati”, “Membaca Tanda-tanda”, “Syair Lima Tahun Anak Asongan”, ”Bangku Tunggu Stasiun Bis Antar Kota “and” Menengadah Ke Atas, Merenungi Ozon yang Tak Tampak”. Of the seven poetry titles found 35 data relating to the formulation of research problems.

3.1 Nature Representation

Nature is the center of life that has harmony with all aspects that surround it, such as humans, animals, land, water, and air. As long as humans can position themselves as part of the environment, harmony in life will be created. This was revealed by Taufiq Ismail in several “Puisi-puisi Langit”. The following is a poetry quote “Kopi Menyiram Hutan” in “Puisi-Puisi Langit” by Taufiq Ismail.

Kopi Menyiram Hutan
Tiga juta hektar
Halaman surat kabar
Telah dirayapi api
Terbit pagi ini
Panjang empat jari
Dua kolom tegak lurus
Dibongkar dari bak pik-ap
Subuh dari percetakan
Ditumpuk atas aspal jalan
Dibereskan ajen-agen koran
The poem “Kopi Menyiram Hutan” consists of 8 stanzas, in the 6th part of the verse the poem describes how the representation of nature, such as:

[1] “Roti dalam panggangan
   Ketika tangan bersilangan
   Kopi tumpah di atas bacaan
   Menyiram tiga juta hektar koran”.
   (Ismail, 1988, p. 17)

From the verse quoted above in lines 3 and 4, Taufiq Ismail describes the destruction of nature that humans have done. With the black coffee spilled over the reading, then being able to water three million hectares of forest is extraordinary. The poem above also reveals the picture of nature represented by newspapers and coffee is an element that is able to destroy the forest. In this case the poet Taufiq Ismail gave a warning to humans through this poem in order to be able to take care of each other and care for nature and how humans respect fellow living beings who have been created by God.

The next poem entitled “Membaca Tanda-tanda” consists of 7 stanzas. This poem describes the relationship between humans and other environmental elements.

**Membaca Tanda-Tanda**
Ada sesuatu yang rasanya mulai lepas dari tangan
dan meluncur lewat sela-sela jari kita.
Ada sesuatu yang mulanya tak begitu jelas,
tapi kini kita mulai merindukannya

Kita saksikan udara, abu-abu warnanya
Kita saksikan air danau, yang semakin surut jadinya

Burung-burung kecil tak lagi berkicau pagi hari
Hutan kehilangan ranting
Ranting kehilangan daun
daun kehilangan dahan
Dahan kehilangan hutan

Kita saksikan zat asam didesak asam arang dan karbon dioksid itu menggilas paru-paru
Kita saksikan Gunung memompa abu
Abu membawa batu
Batu membawa lindu
Lindu membawa longsor
Longsor membawa air
Air membawa banjir
Banjir membawa air mata

Kita telah saksikan seribu tanda-tanda
Bisakah kita membaca tanda-tanda
Allah
Kami telah membaca gempa
Kami telah disapu banjir
Kami telah dihalau api dan hama
Kami telah dihujani abu dan batu

Allah
Ampuni dosa-dosa kami.
Beri kami kearifan membaca
Seribu tanda-tanda
Karena ada sesuatu yang rasanya mulai lepas dari tangan dan meluncur lewat sela-sela jari kita.
Karena ada sesuatu yang mulanya tak begitu jelas, tapi kini kita mulai merindukannya
(Ismail, 1982, p. 3)

dan meluncur lewat sela-sela jari kita.
Ada sesuatu yang mulanya tak begitu jelas,
tapi kini kita mulai merindukannya”.
(Ismail, 1982, p. 3)

The poetry verse above illustrates the negligence of humans guarding the surrounding environment. When everything breaks and disappears, humans feel regret. In the 3rd and 4th arrays affirming that disasters never show their awesomeness, and finally a great disaster will come suddenly over to humanity itself. The next verse in the poem “Membaca Tanda-tanda” describes a disaster that humans are slowly getting, such as:

Kita saksikan air danau, yang semakin surut jadinya

Burung-burung kecil tak lagi berkicau pagi hari
The above verse describes various disasters one by one arising like, “the gray air is the color”, these words are intended because of air pollution which increasingly closes the earth and disrupts human breathing. Both lake and river water recede and dry so that populations of animals such as birds that usually chirp in the cool air in the morning disappear without our knowledge.

The effects of air pollution that cause Global Warming are that the forest does not have twigs, the branches have no leaves, the leaves do not have branches, and in the end we do not have forests. It is only arid that adorns the earth that we live in today.

3.2 Environmental Issues

Environmental issues are a hot topic around environmental conditions on the earth, related to the symptoms and changes in the composition of basic levels that occur in the surrounding environment. The most important factor in environmental problems is the size of the human population the rate of population growth. Rapid population growth poses challenges that are tried to be overcome by development and industrialization. However, the existence of industrialization in addition to accelerating the supply of all human life needs also has a negative impact on humans due to environmental pollution. Environmental issues are divided into 3 types of issues, namely: Local Environmental Issues, National Environmental Issues, and Global Environmental Issues.

3.2.1 Local environmental issues

Local environmental issues are effects of activities that exist on the surface of the earth both naturally and due to human actions. Pollution is the entry or inclusion of living things, energy, matter, or other components into an environment that causes instability or living organisms. Changes in the composition (composition) of water, air, and land are caused by human activities or natural processes. The quality of air, water and soil becomes less or unable to function according to its nature and designation. At present environmental issues are often discussed. As is well known, the ozone layer is now depleting. With the thinning of the layer, it is very worrying if the layer does not exist or disappear completely from the universe. Without the ozone layer there are so many negative consequences that will befall the living creatures on this earth, among others, diseases will spread in a chaotic manner,
erratic weather, global warming, even loss of an area because of the melting of ice in the North Pole and South. The universe is just waiting for its destruction. Scientists provide various inputs to overcome this problem according to their scientific background. The writers also do not miss to participate in overcoming the problems that have been widely lately. The consequences and impacts will occur if all beings cannot respect each other as follows.

- Drought: drought is a lack of water that occurs because water sources cannot provide water for humans and other living creatures. The impact is causing health and food insecurity.
- Floods: are natural phenomena when the river cannot accommodate the overflow of rainwater because the influenza process has decreased. This can all happen because the forage retaining water is reduced. The impact is health problems, skin diseases, stunted human activities, decreased food productivity, etc.
- Landslide: is the erosion of land by running water because water retaining is reduced. The impact is damage to housing, fields, rice fields, disrupting the economy, and transportation activities.
- Beach erosion: the erosion of coastal land due to sea waves. The impact causes damage to housing and loss of economic potential such as tourism activities.
- Seawater Instrustion: (salty) sea water filling the basement has been widely used by humans and the absence of sea water intrusion such as mangrove areas. The impact is a shortage of fresh water stocks and health problems.

In Taufiq Ismail’s poem entitled “Lingkungan Mati” describes the human treatment of the local environment.

_Lingkungan Mati_

Kau sebut orang bicara tentang hijau daunan, rimbun pepohonan, bernilai kilometer kubik air yang memadat, mencair dan menguap, garis gunung dan lembah yang serasi, komposisi zat asam yang rapidalam harmoni, tapi yang nampak oleh mataku orang-orang bertanam tehu seluas lapangan sepakbola di bibir mereka.

Kau bercerita orang bicara tentang serangga dan fisika tanah, unggas dan kimia udara, ikan dan habitat laut-an, manusia dan tetangganya, bumi dan klimatologi,

Tapi yang terdengar oleh telingaku adalah serangka lagu dimainkan lewat instrumen tua sudah, dan bertaburdebu.

Kau tulis orang telah bicara mengenai rekayasa genetika padi dan sapi, pengggerajian kayu dan pengedukam mineral bumi, penyuburan industri dan transportasi, distribusi laba dan budaya, pemerataan angka-angka di atas bilangan jajaran kepala demi kepala,

Kau ingat-ingatkan aku tentang harmoni budaya antara tetumbuhan — hewan — angkasa — perairan — dan manusia, lalu kau beri aku 1000 kauiseri tentang kemanusiaan yang adil dan beradab, serta 1000 petunjuk
mengenai sivilisasi yang lestari,
Yang kulihat di layar kaca adalah hewan diadu hewan
untuk mengeruk isi kantong wisatawan walau itu
jelas melanggar peraturan, manusia diadu manusia
walau itu menghina otak manusia dan menggilas
akal waras, semua itu cuma karena kalap pada
seпотong nama dan serakah pada sejumlah rupiah,
Kau bercerita tentang orang yang berkata bahwa sesudah
hewan diadu hewan dan hewan diadu manusia
budaya jahiliah diresmikan sah, lalu manusia diadu
manusia bermula dengan pemujaan pada kepalan
dan luas-luas dipertontonkan, lalu naik satu tangga
manusia diadu manusia dengan senjata, naik tangga
berikutnya keroyokan atau pembantaian manusia
pada rakyat sendiri atau bangsa lain, dengan bedil
sundut bom nopal atau hulu nuklir, dengan ciri
kekerasan dan penindasan yang makin naik kelas
dalam kebiadaban, maka paripurnalah perusakan
pada kehidupan lingkungan.
Kau berkata orang masih juga bicara tentang lingkungan
hidup, aneh ingatanku malah-terpaku kini
pada lingkungan mati.
(Ismail, 1990, p. 6)

untuk mengeruk isi kantong wisatawan walau itu
jelas melanggar peraturan, manusia diadu manusia
walau itu menghina otak manusia dan menggilas
akal waras, semua itu cuma karena kalap pada
se потong nama dan serakah pada sejumlah rupiah”.
(Ismail, 1990, p. 6)

The poem verse above illustrates the local environmental issues that occur as the phrase
“what I see on a glass screen is that animals are pitted animals to dredge the contents of
tourists’ bags even though it is clearly against the rules, humans are pitted against humans.”
what will happen after that, and what we think is our stomach is full.
In the next temple Taufiq Ismail feels that the local environment is not beautiful anymore,
what happens is damage to the environment itself, such as;

[16] “Kau berkata orang masih juga bicara tentang lingkungan
hidup, aneh ingatanku malah-terpaku kini
pada lingkungan mati”.
(Ismail, 1990, p. 6)

3.2.2 National environmental issues

National environmental issues are environmental problems whose consequences can be
felt quite broadly. Environmental problems which are national environmental issues can
come from human activities or can also come from natural activities. National environmental
problems are also not a direct activity of humans or nature which results in disturbances to
living things but the effects of these activities that affect living things. National environmental issues that occur in Indonesia, such as forest destruction, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis. This happens very easily due to inconsistencies between humans as living things with other living things. Another big problem in Indonesia is about forest destruction. Of course if this is allowed to continue, it will cause a reduction in forest areas in Indonesia which results in ecosystem instability, such as:

- **Forest Fire**: The process of forest fires can occur naturally or by human activities. Human fires are usually intended to clear land for plantations. The impact: contributing CO2 in the air, loss of biodiversity, smoke generated can disrupt health, and the smoke can affect other countries. Not only local but also neighboring countries.

- **Offshore oil pollution**: the results of petroleum exploitation are transported by tanker to petroleum processing sites. Offshore oil pollution is caused by a leaky reservoir system or sinking vessel which causes oil to be released into the water. Impact: resulting in the waste can be dispersed depending on sea waves. It can have an impact on several countries, due to the closure of the sea surface layer which causes reduced sun penetration causing disturbed photo synthesis, binding of oxygen, and can cause the death of marine organisms. Taufiq Ismail’s poem entitled “Reading Signs” describes the current national environmental issues.

**Membaca Tanda-Tanda**
Ada sesuatu yang rasanya mulai lepas dari tangan
dan meluncur lewat sela-sela jari kita.
Ada sesuatu yang mulanya tak begitu jelas,
tapi kini kita mulai merindukannya

Kita saksikan udara, abu-abu warnanya
Kita saksikan air danau, yang semakin surut jadinya

Burung-burung kecil tak lagi berkicau pagi hari
Hutan kehilangan ranting
Ranting kehilangan daun
daun kehilangan dahan
Dahan kehilangan hutan

Kita saksikan zat asam didesak asam arang dan karbon dioksid itu menggilas paru-paru
Kita saksikan Gunung memompa abu
Abu membawa batu
Batu membawa lindu
Lindu membawa longsor
Longsor membawa air
Air membawa banjir
Banjir membawa air mata

Kita telah saksikan seribu tanda-tanda
Bisakah kita membaca tanda-tanda
Allah
Kami telah membaca gempa
Kami telah disapu banjir
Kami telah dihalau api dan hama
Kami telah dihujani abu dan batu

Allah
Ampuni dosa-dosa kami.
Beri kami kearifan membaca
Seribu tanda-tanda
Karena ada sesuatu yang rasanya mulai lepas dari tangan
dan meluncur lewat sela-sela jari
Karena ada sesuatu yang mulanya tak begitu jelas,
tapi kini kami mulai merindukannya
(Ismail, 1982, p. 3)

[21] “Kita saksikan udara
abu-abu warnanya
Kita saksikan air danau
yang semakin surat jadinya”.
(Ismail, 1982, p. 3)

The above verse describes the current national environmental issues. In the “we see gray air color” array this is the state of the environment that is currently happening. The fresh air turns gray and dirty, even the lake water recedes. If we as humans cannot keep one another, destruction will continue to emerge.

3.2.3 Global environmental issues
Environmental problems that can be categorized as global environmental issues are environmental problems caused by human and natural activities that can affect the environment as a whole. The environmental problems that will be discussed are something that is currently a hot topic in environmental problems and is a concern throughout the world.

Previously, people suspected that global environmental problems were more influenced by natural factors, such as climate, which included temperature, rainfall, humidity, and air pressure. Later people began to realize that human activities also significantly affect the climate and environment. Examples of deforestation, affect changes in temperature and rainfall locally. When the forest area that is lost is increasingly widespread, the result is not local, but is regional scale.

4. Conclusions

Based on ecological criticism research in “Puisi-puisi Langit” by Taufiq Ismail, it can be concluded that there are several ecological criticisms contained in the collection of “Heaven Poems” as follows.

1. Criticism of the natural ecology of the poem “Kopi Menyiram Hutan”, “Membaca Tanda-tanda”, and “Menengadah Ke Atas, Contemplating the Invisible Ozone” illustrates the visible relationship between humans and other living things, from the three poems it can be seen that harmonious relationship occurs when humans, animals and plants can meet each other’s needs and provide benefits. The seeds of plants sown and cared for by farmers will grow well. When the water solidifies and makes it rain, then it melts, the mountain and valley lines are harmonious, and the composition of the acid is neat to form something harmonious. Therefore, fellow human beings should look after each other so that great destruction will not arise.
2. Ecological criticism of environmental issues is a hot topic around the environmental conditions on earth, related to the symptoms and changes in the composition of basic levels that occur in the surrounding environment. The most important factor in environmental problems is the size of the human population and the pace of population growth. Rapid population growth poses challenges that are tried to be overcome by development and industrialization. Environmental issues are divided into 3 types of issues, namely 1) Local Environmental Issues, 2) National Environmental Issues, and 3) Global Environmental Issues.

3. Ecological criticism of local environmental issues, illustrated in the poem “Environment of the Dead”, “Reading Signs”, “Coffee Water Flushing the Forest”, “Looking Up, Contemplating the Invisible Ozone”, from the four poems above, the depiction is seen once local issues that occur, and environmental issues only focus on global warming. The discussion regarding environmental issues is actually not limited to the problem of global warming that threatens human life, but also the issue of the sustainability of water, air, land, plants, and animals that are victims of environmental damage. The issue of water, air, land, plants and animals that are victims of environmental damage often goes unnoticed.

4. Ecological criticism of national environmental issues, depicted in poetry, “reading signs”, “Asongan Five-Year Poem”, “Inter-City Bus Station Waiting Stool”, “Looking Up, Contemplating Invisible Ozone”, from four titles the poem above how the description of national environmental issues is very clearly seen and described by Taufiq Ismail, From the verse of Taufiq’s poem above it is clear that the description of environmental damage, forest destruction has resulted in abrasion. Activities such as taking beach sand, corals, and destruction of mangrove forests are causes of abrasion which will later be related to damage to the sea and the coast. If left unchecked, the sustainability of the seas and beaches in Indonesia will decrease. Moreover, the majority of Indonesia is the ocean.

5. Ecological criticism of global environmental issues, illustrated in the poem “Palestine, How Can I Forget You”, “Reading Signs”, from these two poems it is very clear Taufiq Ismail describes the current global environmental issue. The poet describes Palestine being fought by living things and Taufiq’s writing is very touching. Do any of us who dare to defend and stop the war do not exist. Taufik Ismail’s poem made the leaders of the OIC countries amazed and read a poem titled “Palestine, How Can I Forget You”.

Finally, this collection of “Sky Poems” by Taufiq Ismail is very appropriate to be used as a learning resource or as a supporting reading in the world of education, especially regarding the issues of ecological literature. Ecological problems in literary works not only discuss nature, but also discuss broad social and environmental problems in a literary work.

References


