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## ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE IN NORTH SUMATRA LITERARY WORKS 2010-2022 AS TEACHING MATERIALS FOR INDONESIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE: A REVIEW OF LITERARY ECOCRITICISM

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Article Info	Abstract
<b>Article History</b> Received: Revised: Published: <b>Keywords</b> Literary works; North Sumatra; Natural phenomena; Literary ecocriticism; Discourse.	<b>Abstract</b> <i>The purpose of this article is to review the concept of natural damage in literary works in North Sumatra caused by natural phenomena. The next purpose of this finding is to prove that literary works are entertainment media, education, and the author's concern for his environment. This study is included in literary ecocriticism and looks at discourse or environmental issues in literary works that talk about nature's beauty and how nature can be damaged. The method used is qualitative descriptive. The results show that out of 25 literary works written by North Sumatra authors in 2010-2022, 7 titles discuss environmental damage due to natural conditions. The seven titles are the poem "Kampung Medan" by Afrion (2011), the novel "Pincalang" by Idris Pasaribu (2012), the poem "Langsam" by Nani Tandjung (2016), the novel "Young Woman in a Luxury Hotel" by Hamsad Rangkuti (2016). The results showed that the writers in the 2010-2022 literary works were already sensitive to environmental issues. There are also four consequences behind the damage that occurs to the environment discussed through literary works, namely based on natural phenomena, human exploitation, warfare and lack of human awareness of protecting the environment. The works illustrate the close relationship between humans and nature, as well as the destructive impact of human activities such as illegal logging, irresponsible development, warfare, and low ecological awareness. In addition to criticizing environmental damage, literary works also offer solutions in the form of sustainable management of natural resources, environmental conservation, and the importance of maintaining harmonious relationships between humans and nature.</i>

*How to cite:*

### INTRODUCTION

Nature is an object often used as a background in creating literary works. The author uses nature to depict the atmosphere behind the story and the author's feelings in the literary work. This shows a connection between nature and literary works, which raises new problems in the world of literature. The approach to studying this problem is called literary ecology, which connects literary works with ecology. Literary works as language art aim to express ideas or ideas of the author; in this case, literary works are expected to open readers' minds about the importance of preserving nature or the environment to be wiser in utilizing natural resources. Exploitation of nature has become an activity that is taken for granted by most of humanity. They do not feel afraid and guilty for destroying nature through their activities (Davies, 2023; Rishma & Gill, 2024).

The exploitation of nature by humans will cause many problems, such as the destruction of several ecosystems, environmental pollution, and even disasters such as floods, fires, landslides, deforestation, and so on. Ecocriticism, which examines the relationship between

literature <sup>17</sup> the environment, was chosen as a theory in studying recent Indonesian literature. Ecological insights, environmental ethics, awareness of nature conservation, and other virtues can be spread through literary works and supporting readings. Without judging, literature is exposed through symbols, metaphors, language styles, and so on, so commitment and policy implementation will be effective if the values in literature can be internalized (Tajane, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Ecocriticism is a new theory examining the relationship between literature and the environment. Ecocriticism comes from the Yunai words Oikos, which means 'house,' and logos, which means 'science.' Ecocriticism is close to postcolonial theory because both offer discourses challenging colonial and/or capitalist power (Garrard, 2014). Ecocriticism is a view that questions nature as an inseparable part of humans that humans themselves have exploited for economic and political interests. Therefore, ecocriticism can be operationally defined as the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment arising from the global environmental crisis, along with practical and theoretical efforts to improve the crisis (Oppermann, 2012).

The study of Indonesian literature can be done from the perspective of environmentalism. This kind of research is important because it will benefit various parties. So far, literary studies tend to be repetitive and normative due to the limited use of theory. By incorporating an ecocritical approach, researchers can explore how <sup>19</sup> Indonesian literary texts engage with themes of environmental degradation, cultural identity, and the impact of human actions on the environment (Isiguzo, 2017). In addition, ecocriticism has been supported by various academic associations and journals dedicated to studying literature and the environment, such as the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) and the Journal of Ecocriticism. These platforms facilitate the exchange of ideas and research <sup>34</sup> findings, fostering a collaborative environment for scholars interested in exploring the relationship between literature, culture, and ecological issues (Mason et al., 2013).

Environmental issues are a hot topic of discussion, especially in the 21st century. It takes humans with a sense of responsibility and mutual need for the environment to overcome these complex environmental problems (Lin, 2011). The concept of environmental literacy plays an important role in addressing these issues. Environmental literacy encompasses the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enable a person to engage in environmental issues critically. Research shows that a person's level of environmental literacy directly affects their understanding and actions regarding environmental issues (Ainin & Asafri, 2023; Vilmala et al., 2023). This indicates that an increased understanding of the environment can encourage individuals from different walks of life to participate in conservation activities.

Educational approaches that incorporate various disciplines can significantly deepen understanding of environmental issues. Students can build a well-rounded knowledge essential for dealing with complex environmental challenges by integrating diverse fields of study. This educational method enhances cognitive abilities and encourages critical thinking and appreciation of diverse viewpoints (You, 2017). Educational institutions can shape a more environmentally conscious generation by providing students with the necessary tools to understand and address environmental issues (Mahinay et al., 2023; Sihite et al., 2024).

This study examines environmental discourse in literary works originating from North Sumatra in 2010-2022, totaling 25 literary works and 8 titles discourse environmental damage due to natural conditions themselves, namely: "Kampung Medan" by Afrion (2021), Novel "Pincalang" by Idris Pasaribu (2012), Poem "Langsam" by Nani Tandjung (2016), Novel "Young Woman in a Luxury Hotel" by Hamsad Rangkuti (2016), Novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" by Remy Sylado (2016), The novel "My Girl in the Past" by Ashadi Siregar (2018), and the novel "Serdadu dari Neraka" by Arafat Nur (2019) are studied through

the review of literary ecocriticism and examine that literary works are not only a medium of entertainment but also have a big role in education and concern for the environment.

This research presents a new approach to integrating environmental themes into the framework of Indonesian literary education. This research is particularly urgent as the escalating environmental crisis demands re-evaluating how literature can serve as a medium for environmental awareness and education. The period studied, 2010-2022, coincides with significant environmental challenges in Indonesia, including deforestation, climate change, and biodiversity loss, often reflected in literary works produced during this period. The urgency of this research is underscored by the increasing global environmental challenges, including specific challenges in Indonesia, such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change impacts, which require a deeper understanding of ecological themes in literature (Hayati et al., 2021). This research not only contributes to literary studies but also emphasizes the role of literature as a medium for environmental education, which aligns with the broader goals of sustainability and ecological awareness (Clark, 2019). It can be concluded that the novelty of this research lies in the interdisciplinary approach that combines literary analysis with ecological criticism. In contrast, the urgency of this research is rooted in the pressing environmental issues facing North Sumatra. By reviewing literary ecocriticism in the context of North Sumatra, this research aims to prove that literary works are not only a medium of entertainment but also an education and the author's concern for the environment.

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## RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. The descriptive analysis method in this research is to do work by describing or describing the facts and then analyzing. This method describes the environmental and natural factors in North Sumatra literary works in 2010-2022 that influenced the existence of ecocriticism. The data source of this research is the literary works of North Sumatra in 2010-2022, namely: "Kampung Medan" by Afrion (2011), Novel "Pincalang" by Idris Pasaribu (2012), Poetry "Langsam" by Nani Tandjung (2016), Novel "Young Woman in a Luxury Hotel" by Hamsad Rangkuti (2016), Novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" by Remy Sylado (2016), Novel "Gadisku di Mana? Lalu" by Ashadi Siregar (2018), and Novel "Serdadu dari Neraka" by Arafat Nur (2019). This research used reading and note-taking techniques to collect data. Researchers read North Sumatra literary works from 2010 to 2022 and recorded data that included environmental and natural factors that influenced the existence of ecocriticism. Data analysis techniques were data reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing (Miles & Huberman, 2007). The steps of the data analysis technique are as follows. First, identifying market data related to environmental and natural factors that influenced the existence of ecocriticism in North Sumatra literary works in 2010-2022 in the form of sentences or paragraph fragments. Second, categorizing is grouping the data according to certain characteristics by the grouping category, namely natural phenomena, human exploitation, the effects of war, and the lack of human awareness. Third, the text is described as a description or explanation of natural phenomena, human exploitation, the effects of war, and the lack of human awareness, cause and effect, and habits in literary works. Fourth, interpret the text, and fifth, conclude the data results related to the damage caused by natural phenomena, human exploitation, warfare, and lack of human awareness.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Research Findings

#### Damage caused by natural phenomena



The cause of natural destruction can be caused by nature itself, for example, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, landslides, and long droughts. Landslides can also cause natural damage caused by humans, for example, free and continuous logging of forests, resulting in deforestation and triggering landslides (Rishma & Ricky Gill, 2024).

Tabel 1  
Data on natural damage caused by natural phenomena

No	Title	Author	Data Excerpt	Explanation
1.	The novel "Woman Named Arjuna"	Remy Sylado (2016)	<p><i>"Beberapa saat kemudian, ketika terasa mobil ini berkelok-kelok di jalanan bertikung-tikung, saya membuka mata, dan tertarik melihat monyet-monyet duduk anteng di pinggir jalan. Sebentar lagi terlihat warna biru danau di bawah sana. Di jalanan berjurang dan menikung-nikung terasa selangkangan saya seperti dicubit, gerindingan, ngeri kalau-kalau mobil ini terjun ke bawah."</i> (Hal 81)</p> <p>"Moments later, as I felt the car meander along the curvy road, I opened my eyes and was intrigued to see monkeys sitting quietly on the side of the road. Soon, I could see the blue of the lake below. On the curves and ravines, I felt like my crotch was being pinched, grinding, dreading the possibility of the car plunging."</p>	Visualize the natural conditions, which are mountains with winding roads. Although there has been a lot of road construction, the natural conditions are still beautiful, as seen by the many wild monkeys in the forest.
2.	Novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna"	Remy Sylado (2016)	<p><i>"Rencananya, di Parapat nanti Nelson akan berpisah dengan kami, pulang kerumahnya di selatan dengan menumpang kendaraan umum, dan kami akan meluncur berkelok-kelok mengerikan oleh jurang-jurang dari Parapat ke Pematang Siantar."</i> (Hal. 199)</p> <p>"The plan is that in Parapat, Nelson will part ways with us, return to his home in the south by public transportation, and we will glide through the terrible winding by the ravines from Parapat to Pematang Siantar."</p>	The idea is that along the road from Parapat to Siantar, which is indeed a plateau with a winding road and ravines dotted along the way,
3.	Novel "Serdadu dari Neraka"	Arafat Nur (2019)	<p><i>"Dia berlari-lari ke kebun belakang, melewati pohon-pohon kelapa yang setahun belakang ini enggan berbuah. Kemarau membuat kuning daun-daunnya dan banyak pelepah tercampak ke tanah."</i> (Hal. 166)</p> <p>"He ran to the back garden, past the coconut trees that had been reluctant to bear fruit for the past year. The drought had turned the leaves yellow, and many fronds had fallen to the ground."</p>	Describes the dry season that results in fruitless coconut trees and falling leaves.
4.	Puisi "Kampung Medan"	Afrion (2011)	<p><i>"Tapak-tapak kaki pembalakan, mengupak-kapik tanah runtuh; rumah rumah rubuh, tubuh hanyut di sapu pekik air."</i> (Hal. 27)</p> <p>"The footprints of logging, scraping the</p>	Flash flooding on the Bahorok River destroyed neighborhoods and claimed several lives.

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ground collapsed; houses collapsed, bodies washed away by the shrieking water."	This book has no ways to overcome this, such as the government helping.
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The first data quote describes a journey through a winding mountain road in the novel *Perempuan Bernama Arjuna* by Remy Sylado (2016). Although the area has road construction, the author emphasizes that the surrounding nature retains its beauty. In his description, the author mentions the sight of monkeys sitting quietly by the roadside, which indicates that the area is still natural and inhabited by wildlife. The winding road in this mountainous area reflects how humans adapt to extreme natural conditions while preserving the surrounding environment. Despite infrastructure development efforts, such as roads that cross mountains, the beauty and diversity of nature are maintained, showing the importance of balance between physical development and ecosystem preservation. This reflects the idea that infrastructural progress should not come at the expense of nature but should be driven by sustainability principles that consider the environment's viability.

In the second excerpt, the author describes traveling through a steep and winding road from Parapat to Pematang Siantar, an area that is a plateau with threatening ravines. The depiction of this challenging road not only describes the extreme geographical conditions, but also reflects the potential danger that the terrain can pose. The presence of deadly ravines along the road shows how natural conditions can threaten riders' safety. The tension felt by the characters on the journey reflects the psychological impact arising from the interaction between humans and nature, which has a wild and unpredictable nature. Thus, nature is not just seen as a backdrop <sup>19</sup> as an element that influences human dynamics and experiences and provides a picture of the complex relationship between humans and the challenging environment.

In the novel *"Serdadu dari Neraka"* by Arafat Nur (2019), the third quotation data describes the direct impact of the long drought phenomenon on coconut plants. The prolonged drought causes the coconut trees not to bear fruit, while the yellowed leaves fall. This phenomenon reflects how extreme climate change, such as prolonged drought, can disrupt the balance of the ecosystem. This situation impacts people's lives, especially farmers who depend on natural products to fulfill their needs. The author clearly illustrates how weather instability affects agricultural productivity, increasing the economic hardship of people dependent on the agricultural sector. Through this narrative, the author highlights the close relationship between natural conditions and human life and the importance of understanding how climate change can affect agricultural systems and people's food security.

Afrion's poem *Kampung Medan* (2011) illustrates the serious impact of natural disasters caused by human activities, particularly illegal logging. In this poem, the depiction of flash floods that hit the Bahorok River depicts widespread destruction, with houses collapsing and casualties being washed away. This phenomenon shows how environmental degradation due to uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources can worsen natural conditions, creating disasters that damage ecosystems and harm communities. Through this poem, Afrion highlights the link between human activities, such as illegal logging, and the destruction of nature that leads to major natural disasters. However, the poem does not provide solutions to address such disasters, which creates the impression that the damage has already reached a critical point and may be difficult to repair without more effective recovery or prevention efforts. This emphasizes the importance of human awareness and action in preserving nature to prevent similar disasters in the future.

### Damage from Human Exploitation

The destruction of nature by human exploitation is based on excessive use of nature. For example, humans need to use nature as industrial land, such as cutting down trees on a large scale without being followed by reforestation, resulting in deforestation. Deforestation will lead to natural disasters, such as landslides, that can be detrimental and take lives if not prevented early on. In addition, industrial factories can also cause water pollution. Water pollution occurs when waste is carelessly dumped into rivers and seas, affecting the health of river and sea biota. Water pollution also occurs due to human behavior in throwing garbage carelessly into rivers or sewers, resulting in obstruction of flow and flooding (Brito et al., 2018; Li et al., 2022).

Table 2  
Environmental Damage Due to Human Exploitation

No	Title	Author	Data Excerpt	Explanation
5.	Poem "Kampung Medan"	Afrion (2011)	<i>"Di tanah peradaban ini; mengalir sungai Deli; sungai dengan kepurbaan riwayat; menjelmakan raung kepedihan."</i> (Hal 44) "In this land of civilization flows the river Deli, a river with a historical heritage, incarnating the roar of pain."	This poem describes the change of the once beautiful Deli River into a polluted waste due to human exploitation, such as burning trees and building construction that replaces beautiful nature.
6.	The novel "Wanita Muda di Sebuah Hotel Mewah"	Hamsad Rangkuti (2016)	<i>"Sepuluh meter dari jembatan, terentang pipa air bersih, menjalar seperti ular di atas kerangka beton menyebrangi sungai yang sedang banjir itu. Rumput liar tumbuh di situ, dan menjelmalah pulau kecil dibawah rentangan pipa air bersih itu."</i> (Hal 28-29) "Ten meters from the bridge, a clean water pipe stretched out, snaking like a snake over the concrete frame across the flooded river. The weeds grew there, and a small island was under the water pipe."	The damaged and murky condition of the river, which is obstructed by garbage and waste, reflects the adverse effects of human exploitation of the environment, such as littering.
7.	Novel "Gadisku di Masa Lalu"	Ashadi Siregar (2018)	<i>"Medan ku pijak kembali. Langitnya masih seperti dulu jua. Cuma bangunan telah bertambah, menggusur pohon-pohon yang pernah menaungi jalanan."</i> (Hal 102) "My terrain is back. The sky is still the same as before. Only the buildings have increased, displacing the trees that once shaded the streets."	Recounting the changes in Medan City caused by development that displaced shady trees, the author depicts the city's loss, which was once a beautiful natural beauty due to the exploitation of space for development.
8.	Novel "Lelaki Bukan Pilihan"	Afrion (2018)	<i>"Tanah dataran yang hijau, kini seolah-olah ditumbuhi lapisan-lapisan besi berkarat, menjadi gundukan semak, seakan mengisyaratkan luka yang teramat dalam."</i> (Hal 54) "The green plains now seem to be overgrown with layers of rusty iron, becoming mounds of bushes, as if hinting at a deep wound."	Depicting a once-green flat land that has now become a dumping ground for used goods, hinting at the destruction of nature due to garbage dumping and human exploitation of the environment.
9.	Collection of rhymes "Halakah Panggang Sajak-Sajak Pilihan"	Damiri (2018)	<i>"Sebatang pohon akasia dipinggir sebuah jalan raya Tinggal rangka ketika seseorang entah siapa menguliti batangnya Tinggal seranting daun kuning di pucuknya."</i> (Hal 54) "An acacia tree on the side of a highway Stays in order when someone who knows	This poem describes the destruction of trees on the roadside due to the construction of a highway that displaced them. It depicts the impact of human exploitation on the dwindling existence of

			who skinned the trunk Leaves a yellow leaf at the top."	plants.
10.	The novel "Seumpama Matahari"	Arafat Nur (2017)	"Apalagi akhir-akhir ini, kehadiran makhluk asing seperti kami sering membuat kacau penghuni hutan, menunjukkan manusia belum juga puas membuat kekacauan di kota-kota tempat kami tinggal. (Hal 15)" "Moreover, lately, the presence of alien creatures like us has often disturbed the forest dwellers, showing that humans are not yet satisfied with creating chaos in the cities where we live."	In this novel, the characters describe the destruction of forests due to human logging, which affects the balance of nature. Logging is an example of exploiting natural resources that damage the ecosystem.
11.	The Novel "T.B. Silalahi Anak Hadal"	T.B. Silalahi (2008)	"Bagi orang Batak yang tinggal di sekitar Danau Toba, fungsi danau itu adalah tempat pembuangan limbah dan sekaligus tempat mandi, sikat gigi, mencuci, dan sumber mata pencahariannya." (Hal 19) "For the Batak people who live around Lake Toba, the function of the lake is a waste disposal site and at the same time a place to bathe, brush teeth, wash, and a source of livelihood."	This article describes people's low awareness of preserving the environment around Lake Toba. Waste disposal that damages the lake ecosystem highlights neglecting the natural environment's sustainability.
12.	Poem "Kampung Medan"	Afrion (2011)	" <i>Tak ada pantai karena bangunan menjorok ke danau; ikan mati di racun limbah; pinus habis menggelandang, disaksikan retak tanah; disapu angin membawa guguran daun-daun kering.</i> " (Hal 4) "There is no beach because the building protrudes into the lake; fish die in toxic waste; pine is depleted, witnessed by cracked soil; swept by the wind carrying dried leaves."	This poem describes the environmental damage of Lake Toba caused by human exploitation, which builds buildings around the lake, and waste disposal, which damages the lake's ecosystem highlighting humans' negative impact on nature.
13.	The Novel "Serdadu dari Neraka"	Arafat Nur (2019)	"Bukit-bukit yang bertebaran di sepanjang pinggiran kota Lamlhok ini pun banyak yang rata berantakan." (Hal 55) "Many of the hills along the outskirts of Lamlhok town were flattened."	Recounting the destruction of nature in the town of Lamlhok caused by unscrupulous soldiers and police officers who destroy nature, it illustrates how the exploitation of nature by humans causes extensive damage and threatens the ecosystem.
14.	Poetry collection "Selendang Berenda Hingga"	Zulkarnain Siregar (2011)	" <i>Ketika petang nanti, kusandingkan padamu sepasang pohon yang selalu kau rindu untuk menjaga bulir-bulir air pada tubuh mungilmu Cinta sepasang pohon akan berbuah pada alam Ketika tanah tak lagi merana karena kerakusan manusia.</i> " (Hal 19) "In the evening, I will give you a pair of trees that you have always longed to keep water in your tiny body. The love of a pair of trees will bear fruit in nature when the land no longer languishes because of human greed."	This explains the earth's aridity, which is due to humans' desire to cut down trees carelessly without replanting them. A society that is angry and leaves nature uncared for.
15.	Poetry Collection "Selendang"	Zulkarnain Siregar (2011)	" <i>Di sepanjang pagi utara jalan menuju bukit Toba tentang tanah menanti pepohonan rindang lalu membungkus</i> "	Explaining that the Toba Hills are being hit by aridity due to human greed. People are angry



Berenda Jingga"	<i>bumi dari keserakahan siang Ditengah padang liar tiada pepohonan dan dedaunan yang rindang di puncak bukit Toba entah kemana?" (Hal 21)</i> "Along the morning north of the road to the hill of Toba about the land awaits shady trees then wraps the earth from the greed of the day Amidst the treeless wilderness and shady leaves at the top of the hill of Toba who knows where?"	with the irresponsible actions of humans who are destroying the earth.
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The table above illustrates various examples of environmental damage caused by human exploitation, be it in the form of forest destruction, water pollution, or development that ignores the preservation of nature. The poem "Kampung Medan" by Afrion (2011) describes the major changes that have occurred in the Deli River as a result of human exploitation of the environment. The Deli River, previously known for its natural beauty, has now been polluted by industrial waste and other human activities. Exploiting natural resources, such as burning trees to clear land and constructing buildings that replace green open spaces, has caused major changes to the river's ecosystem. This process illustrates how poorly managed human actions can lead to the degradation of environmental quality and loss of ecological value of an area. Forest burning, often done to facilitate development, reduces nature's ability to absorb carbon and maintain water balance. In addition, infrastructure development around rivers often does not pay attention to its impact on ecosystems, such as reducing vegetation as an erosion barrier and water flow regulator. In other words, Afrion, through his poetry, illustrates how overexploitation of nature can cause ecosystem damage, worsen environmental quality, and destroy the beauty of nature that was previously sustainable. This leads to ecological disasters that can threaten the survival of various species, including humans, who depend on healthy ecosystems.

In the novel "Wanita Muda di Sebuah Hotel Mewah" by Hamsad Rangkuti (2016), this quote clearly describes the damage to the ecosystem that occurs due to human exploitation of the environment. The river, which previously had clear water quality, is now polluted and murky due to garbage and industrial waste being disposed of without adequate management. This pollution worsens the condition of the surrounding environment, creating ecosystem damage that negatively affects the health of aquatic biota and the quality of life of humans who depend on these natural resources. A clean water pipeline crossing a flooded river illustrates the strong contrast between human infrastructure supporting well-being and comfort and the reality of a degraded environment threatening water quality and ecosystem sustainability. The flooding also shows the inability of the environmental system to handle the adverse impacts of uncontrolled human activities. Exploiting nature, such as indiscriminate waste disposal and water pollution, causes wider damage to river ecosystems, disrupting the balance of nature and the quality of human life. This illustrates the close relationship between human activities and environmental damage that can have long-term impacts and the need for ecological awareness in preserving nature for the sustainability of a healthy and balanced life.

In the novel "Gadisku di Masa Lalu" by Ashadi Siregar (2018), the author describes the significant changes in Medan City due to rapid urbanization. The city was known for its beauty in the past, characterized by the many shady trees that provided shade along the streets. However, intensive urban development, especially the construction of high-rise buildings, has displaced these green spaces over time. Trees that were once an integral part of the cityscape are now gone, replacing open spaces that provided ecological and social benefits to the community. This change reflects the imbalance between the need for infrastructure development and nature conservation efforts. The massive exploitation of space for

constructing buildings and other facilities reduces the amount of green space vital to the health of urban ecosystems. This loss of green space not only reduces air quality and the comfort of people's lives but also disrupts ecological balance, such as reducing the filtering capacity of air and water pollution and disrupting the habitat of existing flora and fauna. Urbanization that does not consider the principles of environmental sustainability has the potential to damage the overall quality of the environment, reduce the carrying capacity of nature for human needs, and exacerbate the impacts of climate change. This highlights the importance of sustainable urban planning, which considers nature conservation integral to environmentally sound development.

In the novel "Lelaki Bukan Pilihan" by Afrion (2016), the author clearly describes the ecological changes in a green plain that was previously fertile and natural but has now been converted into a dumping ground for garbage and used goods. This change reflects the direct impact of irresponsible human behavior on the environment, such as indiscriminate waste disposal and exploitation of natural resources without considering their sustainability. Data excerpt eight describes "layers of rusty iron" as part of the degraded land, providing a deep symbolism of environmental degradation. The rusting iron represents the physical and symbolic destruction of a natural space that is supposed to be fertile and beneficial to the ecosystem. This layer of rust shows how the once green and productive land and environment has now become degraded and neglected, indicated by the presence of debris and non-biodegradable materials, which further deteriorate the condition of the ecosystem. This change process illustrates the close relationship between human exploitation of nature and environmental damage due to imbalances in utilizing natural resources. Human activities that do not consider the principle of sustainability lead to the loss of ecological functions of land, such as oxygen provision, water filtration, and biodiversity preservation. It also highlights the enormous challenge of reversing environmental damage, which requires significant changes in human behavior and a more responsible approach to natural resource management.

In Damiri's "Halakah Panggang Sajak-Sajak Pilihan" (2018), this poem raises the theme of ecological damage caused by infrastructure development that does not pay attention to the preservation of nature. In the excerpt, the previously green and shady acacia tree is now just a skeleton. This image illustrates the destructive impact of exploiting space for development, which sacrifices natural elements that are important for the balance of the ecosystem. The cutting down trees without any attempt to replace or maintain them illustrates the lack of attention to the importance of preserving plants as an integral part of the environment. Aside from serving as oxygen providers, trees also play a vital role in regulating air temperature, preventing soil erosion, and maintaining biodiversity. When these trees are cut down to make room for infrastructure development, air quality is jeopardized, and the ecosystems that depend on them are damaged. This irresponsible exploitation of space can potentially exacerbate environmental degradation more broadly. The loss of trees that previously thrived by the roadside also results in the loss of habitat for various species, reducing biodiversity and exacerbating local climate change. This process reflects the imbalance between progressive development and nature conservation efforts, which should go hand in hand for environmental sustainability. In other words, the poem highlights the importance of recognizing the need to retain green spaces and plants in any development planning to preserve the ecosystem.

In the novel "Seumpama Matahari" by Arafat Nur (2017), the author describes the destructive impact human presence, especially from cities, has on forest ecosystems. The presence of "foreigners" in this quote reflects the penetration of humans into previously untouched areas of nature, causing disruptions to the natural balance. The felling of trees by humans is one form of irresponsible exploitation of natural resources, leading to profound environmental damage. Forest shrinkage due to logging without wise management leads to

loss of habitat for various species of flora and fauna, reduced ability of soil to absorb water, and increased risk of natural disasters such as floods and landslides. As one of the most important ecosystems, forests are carbon stores and oxygen sources, climate balancers, and soil erosion preventers. Uncontrolled exploitation of forests undermines these functions, causing inevitable environmental degradation. This quote also reflects human dissatisfaction with nature and the tendency to alter or exploit nature for economic gain or other human needs. In this context, Arafat Nur highlights the paradox between humanity's desire to utilize nature and the destructive effects of such actions. The impact of this exploitation illustrates how indifference to the preservation of nature can worsen environmental conditions and the importance of awareness and responsibility in managing natural resources for the sustainability of a balanced ecosystem.

In the novel "T.B. Silalahi Anak Hadal" by T.B. Silalahi (2008), the author criticizes the low awareness of Batak people living around Lake Toba in preserving their natural environment, especially related to lake management, which is vital for the sustainability of the ecosystem. Lake Toba, one of the world's largest lakes with rich biodiversity, illustrates people's dependence on existing natural resources but also shows indifference to the adverse impacts of overexploitation. The quote that the lake is used as a waste disposal site and a bathing place reflects environmentally unfriendly management practices. The disposal of waste into lakes, both in the form of domestic garbage and industrial waste, causes pollution that threatens the health of the lake ecosystem itself. Water pollution not only affects water quality for human needs but also damages the habitat of various aquatic species that depend on the cleanliness and stability of the aquatic environment. In addition, the pollution in Lake Toba can potentially reduce the quality of life of people who depend on the lake as a source of water, food, and livelihood. Ignoring the importance of preserving this ecosystem can lead to serious ecological losses, including decreased biodiversity and disruptions to the hydrological cycle that can impact the overall stability of the environment. The novel conveys the need for a paradigm shift in how people view and manage natural resources. T.B. Silalahi encourages awareness to maintain a balance between utilizing natural resources and protecting the environment so that the Lake Toba ecosystem can continue supporting the lives of surrounding communities without destroying its sustainability.

Afrion's poem "Kampung Medan" (2011) presents a powerful picture of the environmental degradation around Lake Toba, one of Indonesia's largest and most important lakes. In this poem, Afrion criticizes the uncontrolled development of infrastructure, especially the construction of buildings around the lake, which has caused significant damage to the ecosystem and environmental quality in the region. Building development that does not consider the principles of sustainability results in the reduction of green spaces that are important for maintaining the balance of nature. In addition, widespread construction and development lead to drastic changes to the surrounding natural conditions, including waste pollution that is carelessly dumped into the lake. Sewage entering the lake causes deterioration in water quality, adversely affecting aquatic biota's sustainability. This pollution threatens the lake's already fragile ecosystem, worsens the condition of biodiversity, and reduces the quality of water that is the local communities' life source. Afrion uses this poem to illustrate how human exploitation of nature, in this case through development that does not consider its impact on nature, can cause extensive and long-term damage. Given the devastating effects of environmental degradation, he highlights the importance of people's collective awareness to preserve nature and the environment. In this context, the poem is a social critique of the lack of attention to nature preservation and a call to engage in more environmentally friendly and sustainable nature conservation efforts.

Arafat Nur's novel "Serdadu dari Neraka" (2019) presents a critical picture of the destruction of nature caused by the irresponsible exploitation of the environment by soldiers

and police officers. In this work, Arafat Nur illustrates how the destruction of the hills on the outskirts of Lamihok town results from activities that damage the natural structure and worsen the condition of the local ecosystem. Tree felling, illegal mining, and uncontrolled land clearing contribute to environmental degradation. The destruction of the hills signifies a natural imbalance caused by overexploitation, which in turn increases the potential for natural disasters such as landslides. Landslides directly result from destroying vegetation that is supposed to stabilize the soil, prevent erosion, and maintain land fertility. The deforestation of hills, often triggered by human activities without considering environmental conservation, causes the previously protected land to be vulnerable to extreme weather changes, such as heavy rainfall, which in turn triggers landslides. Arafat Nur strongly criticized this irresponsible act of nature exploitation, highlighting how supposedly responsible individuals' negligence towards environmental sustainability has worsened the ecosystem's condition and threatened the community's safety. This damage impacts local communities' quality of life and social and economic stability. Exploiting nature without considering its sustainability risks creating social tensions, with communities threatened by natural disasters caused by such environmental damage. This work serves as a reflection on the urgency of the importance of sustainable natural resource management and social responsibility towards the environment to avoid greater ecological disasters in the future.

The poetry collection "Selendang Berenda Jingga" by Zulkarnain Siregar (2011) conveys a strong message about the environmental damage caused by human activities, especially regarding uncontrolled tree cutting. In this poem, Siregar describes the negative impact of the over-exploitation of natural resources, which has led to the aridity of the earth, especially in the Toba Hills area. Massive tree cutting without replanting or adequate maintenance worsens environmental conditions and disrupts the balance of the ecosystem. Uncontrolled tree cutting removes important elements in maintaining environmental sustainability, such as water absorption, erosion prevention, and biodiversity protection. Trees play a role in maintaining soil moisture, regulating micro temperature, and providing habitat for various species of flora and fauna. Losing these trees reduces air quality and biodiversity and increases the risk of natural disasters, such as landslides and floods, which can harm local communities. The poem also reflects the community's anger towards human greed, which ignores the preservation of nature in favor of personal interests or development and does not consider the long-term impact on the environment. This damage-conscious society voices the rejection of over-exploitation that damages the earth and calls for awareness and action to preserve the environment for a better future. Zulkarnain Siregar, through this work, emphasizes the importance of collective responsibility in protecting nature and ecosystems and highlights the long-term consequences of irreversible environmental damage. This poem is a reminder that environmental sustainability is something that every generation must maintain to ensure the continuation of life on Earth.

### Nature Damaged by War

The destruction of nature due to war is one of the reasons natural resources are damaged, especially after the end of the war. That environmental degradation will exacerbate scarcity. The survival of a nation depends on resources from the environment. Resource sources of conflict include territory, strategic raw materials, energy sources, water, and food (Ohmura, 2018).

Table 3  
Data Kerusakan Alam Akibat Peperangan

No	Title	Author	Data Excerpt	Explanation
16.	The Novel "Pincalang"	Idris Pasaribu (2012)	"Laut memang ingin bersih. Semua benda yang terapung di atasnya, secara perlahan namun pasti, akan ditolakannya ke	Visualizing the destruction of a pirate ship makes objects float on the sea. All objects



			<p><i>darat oleh ombak. Termasuk kapal perompak itu, secara perlahan ia terdorong ombak menuju pantai.</i>" (Hal 41)"</p> <p>"The sea wants to be clean. Anything floating on it is slowly but surely pushed ashore by the waves. Including the pirate ship, it was slowly pushed by the waves towards the shore."</p>	<p>that float due to the destruction of pirates are lifted onto the boat, and the waves slowly carry the rest that have not been lifted to land.</p>
17.	Poem "Langsam"	Nani Tandjung (2016)	<p><i>"Kemarau terlalu panjang sekali Hujan tak membahasi sungai sawah dan ladang lagi Kering dan mati."</i> (Hal 9)</p> <p>"The dry season is too long The rains don't wash the rivers and fields anymore Dry and dead."</p>	<p>In stanzas 3, 4, and 5 of the poem Kering dan Mati (Dry and Dead!), we read that the prolonged drought has dried up rivers, fields, and rice paddies, making farming impossible.</p>
18.	Novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna"	Remy Sylado (2016)	<p><i>"Beberapa saat kemudian, ketika terasa mobil ini berkelok-kelok di jalanan bertikung-tikung, saya membuka mata, dan tertarik melihat monyet-monyet duduk anteng di pinggir jalan. Sebentar lagi terlihat warna biru danau di bawah sana. Di jalanan berjurang dan menikung-nikung terasa selangkangan saya seperti dicubit, gerindingan, ngeri kalau-kalau mobil ini terjun ke bawah."</i> (Hal 81)</p> <p>"Moments later, as I felt the car meander along the curvy road, I opened my eyes and was intrigued to see monkeys sitting quietly on the side of the road. Soon, I could see the blue of the lake below. On the curves and ravines, I felt like my crotch was being pinched, grinding, dreading the possibility of the car plunging."</p>	<p>Visualize the natural conditions, which are mountains with winding roads. Although there has been a lot of road construction, the natural conditions are still beautiful and can be seen by the many wild monkeys in the forest.</p>
19.	Novel "Menolak Ayah"	Ashadi Siregar (2018)	<p><i>"Seluruh bekas generasi terdahulu, bekas luka di batang pohon, batu yang rompal."</i> (Hal 126)</p> <p>"All traces of the previous generation, scars on tree trunks, broken stones"</p> <p><i>"Tanah terbongkar-bangkir, bahkan beberapa rumah penduduk hancur."</i> (Hal 263)</p> <p>"The ground was broken up, and some houses were destroyed."</p>	<p>Describes the conditions resulting from the march of a new territory-seeking group or war party.</p> <p>Describes the war-torn environment that destroyed people's homes.</p>

The excerpt from the novel "Pincalang" by Idris Pasaribu (2012) illustrates the natural processes that occur in marine ecosystems to recover from artificial pollution, such as the wreckage of pirate ships. This process can be seen through sedimentation and the movement of ocean currents that help restore the balance of the aquatic ecosystem. Waves and currents act as natural mechanisms that slowly move debris inland, reducing the impact of foreign objects on the ocean. From an ecological perspective, this reflects the ocean's natural ability to cope with pollution and restore its balance through physical and chemical processes, especially after being disturbed by human activities such as piracy or naval warfare. The poem "Langsam" by Nani Tandjung (2016) highlights the serious impact of a long drought

that results in water shortages in environments such as rivers, rice fields, and farms. Without rain for a long time, crops experience severe drought, which disrupts the water balance in the soil and lowers yields. This demonstrates the close relationship between climate change and threats to food security. Crop failure due to drought affects agricultural yields, the well-being of farmers, and their survival. Through her poetry, Nani Tadjung conveys concerns about how agricultural systems are vulnerable to extreme weather and its impact on rural communities' economic and social stability.

The excerpt from the novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" by Remy Sylado (2016) describes a journey across a mountainous landscape that combines natural beauty with topographical challenges. The winding and steep road creates an atmosphere of tension for the traveler, reflecting the potential danger of the rugged mountain terrain. However, natural elements such as wild monkeys still seen around the road indicate that the local ecosystem continues to support biodiversity. Despite human intervention through road infrastructure construction, the area's natural condition seems to have been preserved. This highlights the importance of a balance between infrastructure development and environmental conservation, where development does not destroy but instead integrates with the integrity of the natural ecosystem.

Ashadi Siregar's novel "Menolak Ayah" (2018) presents an in-depth description of environmental degradation due to armed conflict or the exploration of new territories. Visible wounds on tree trunks and damage to rocks reflect traces of intense human combat or expansion, symbolizing the violence left behind by previous generations. The images of excavated land and destroyed houses reveal significant destructive impacts on ecosystems and social structures. This physical destruction not only demonstrates the direct impact of war on the natural landscape but also reveals the broader consequences to local communities, including the disruption of daily life, loss of shelter, and degradation of the quality of the living environment. Through these narratives, the novel highlights the importance of understanding and addressing the long-term impacts of conflict on the environment and society.

### Nature Damage Due to Lack of Human Awareness

Human awareness of environmental management is not optimal, and many people tend to ignore it, leading to disasters such as floods, landslides, and so on. Humans are very dependent on the environment, which is a unit that includes various living things and their surrounding components, such as animals, plants, and so on (Baird & Tung, 2023; Haney & McDonald-Harker, 2017).

Table 4  
Data on Natural Damage Due to Lack of Human Awareness

No	Title	Author	Data Excerpt	Explanation
20.	The Novel "Pincalang"	Idris Pasaribu (2012)	"Melihat karang-karang yang rusak, mereka tanami dengan yang baru. Melihat bakau yang tertebang dan mulai bertunas, mereka jaga dengan baik." (Hal 123) "Seeing the damaged corals, they planted new ones. When they see mangroves that have been cut down and are starting to sprout, they take good care of them."	It tells the story of two characters who are not taught to live cleanly and exploit the sea for their immediate needs without considering the impact on the marine environment, such as coral and mangrove damage.
21.	The Novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna"	Remy Sylado (2016)	"Sambil berpikir begitu, saya memdaki ke bukit yang berdiri bangunan kuburan yang tampak begitu masif, mewah dan hanya orang-orang kaya yang bisa membuat bangunan itu."	It shows development on barren hills for specific purposes, such as luxury cemeteries, indicating suboptimal land use and

			(Hal 187) "While thinking so, I climbed to the hill where the graveyard building stood, which looked so massive and luxurious, and only rich people could have made the building."	potential environmental degradation.
22.	Novel "Serdadu dari Neraka"	Arafat Nur (2019)	" <i>Hei, Kau, Babi. Apa yang kau lakukan kemarin di semak-semak belukar?</i> " " <i>Saya tidak berbuat apa-apa, Komandan. Saya Cuma berak.</i> " (Hal 35) "Hey, you, Pig. What were you doing yesterday in the bushes? bushes?" "I did not do anything, Commander. I was pooping."	Explaining the condition of destroying the environment by throwing feces in the bushes.
			" <i>Orang-orang inilah yang menjaga sekitar tiga atau empat beko, alat berat yang telah mengeruk dan meratakan banyak bukit, merusak permukiman penduduk yang menyebabkan longsor, banjir, dan jalanan penuh kumbangan lumpur.</i> " (Hal 54) "These are the people guarding the three or four books, the heavy equipment that has dredged up and leveled many hills, damaging settlements and causing landslides, floods, and mud-strewn roads."	It depicts the impact of mining and quarrying activities on the surrounding environment, causing natural disasters such as landslides and floods.
23.	The Novel "Wanita Muda di Sebuah Hotel Mewah"	Hamsad Rangkuti (2016)	" <i>Air deras mendorong tubuh yang terangkut itu, tidak kesamping, tetapi ke atas. Sampah-sampah menolong kejadian itu.</i> " (Hal 30) "The rushing water pushed the body, not sideways, but upwards. The garbage helped the incident along." " <i>Air sungai tengah banjir. Bulan desember adalah musim penghujan. Saking dalamnya air, buntut Mercy it tampak timbul tenggelam ke atas permukaan air yang keruh.</i> " (Hal 40) "The river is flooding. December is the rainy season. Because of the depth of the water, the tail of the Mercy appeared to rise and fall above the surface of the murky water."	Explaining the condition of the corpse that was found stuck and the garbage helped from the supine position to the sitting position due to the very dirty and polluted environmental conditions.
				Describes the weather conditions that caused a wealthy man in a Mercy car to crash into a wall and a river filled with garbage.
24.	Poetry collection "Selendang Berenda Jingga"	Zulkarnain Siregar (2011)	" <i>Begitu belukar semak yang kau rambah, begitu berduri setiap daun yang kau sentuh</i> " (Hal 70) "So thick are the bushes you encroach upon, so prickly is every leaf you touch."	Depicting a journey through an unkempt environment, it portrays a damaged and poorly managed environment.
25.	Puisi "Kampung Medan"	Puisi "Kampung Medan"	" <i>Tapak-tapak kaki pembalakan, mengupak-kapik tanah runtuh; rumah rumah rubuh, tubuh hanyut di sapu pekik air.</i> " (Hal 27) "The footprints of logging, scraping the ground collapsed; houses collapsed, bodies washed away by the shrieking"	Flash flooding on the Bahorok River destroyed neighborhoods and claimed several lives. This book does not offer ways to overcome this, such as the government's help.

			water."	
26.	Antologi Cerpen "Mewariskan Lalat"	Dian Nangin (2021)	" <i>Senja tampak kelabu. Bus berguncang-guncang hebat demi menaklukkan jalanan berlubang menuju kampung halaman saya.</i> " (Hal 49) "The twilight looked gray. The bus shook violently to conquer the potholes on the way to my hometown."	Illustrating the poor state of infrastructure with potholes, showing a lack of attention to maintaining the environment and public facilities. The book does not describe the condition of the road in full, and no action has been taken to improve it.
27.	"T.B. Silalahi Anak Hadal"	T.B. Silalahi (2008)	"Danau Toba itu penuh ditaburi oleh semacam rumput danau yang mirip dengan rumput laut, namanya limut." (Hal 116) "Lake Toba is full of a kind of lake grass similar to seaweed, called limut."	It depicts environmental degradation around Lake Toba due to irresponsible development, which pollutes the lake and damages its ecosystem.
28.	The Novel "Yang Lahir Hilang Menangis"	Alda Mushi (2011)	" <i>Benar, rumah dan pohon-pohonnya sudah berganti dengan apartemen tinggi dan plaza mewah. Begitu pula bunga-bunga mekar. Bahkan Bugenvilnya yang tahan siksa juga harus sirna.</i> " (Hal 11) "That is right, the houses and trees have been replaced with high-rise apartments and luxury plazas. So have the flowers. Even the torture-resistant bougainvillea had to disappear." " <i>Tanah itu dahulu adalah ladang yang ditanami benih-benih jagung. Kini segalanya lenyap setelah terjadi pembakaran oleh oknum yang tidak bertanggung jawab beberapa bulan silam.</i> " (Hal 57) "The land was once a field planted with corn seeds. Now everything is gone after an arson attack by irresponsible people a few months ago." " <i>Tanah-tanah subur berganti dengan bangunan. Orang-orang kekurangan stok makanan karena lahan-lahan pertanian, lading, sawah, dan kebun sudah dilahap keserakahan.</i> " (Hal 105) "Fertile lands were replaced with buildings. People are short of food because farmlands, fields, rice paddies, and gardens have been devoured by greed."	The Government transformed houses into initially beautiful neighborhoods. Such was the fate of Nijam and Alisan's house because it was suspected that their parents were terrorists, so their parent's house with a beautiful environment had disappeared. The government burned down farmers' livelihood fields because a factory was to be built. What initially did not get approval from a leader/representative of other farmers ended up agreeing that the fields would be destroyed for personal gain. The destruction of a green, clean, beautiful city into a city filled with tall buildings that eat up all the beauty. The oxygen-producing environment, a source of income, has disappeared because unscrupulous, capital-supplying companies deliberately burned the city's forests and land.
29.	A Collection of Rhymes "Halakah Panggang Sajak-Sajak Pilihan"	Damiri (2018)	" <i>Sebatang pohon akasia dipinggir sebuah jalan raya Tinggal rangka ketika seseorang entah siapa menguliti batangnya Tinggal seranting daun kuning di pucuknya.</i> " (Hal 54) "An acacia tree on the side of a highway Stays skeletal when someone who knows who skinned the trunk Leaves a yellow leaf at the top."	Depicting trees cut down or destroyed by urban development shows the exploitation of the environment for the sake of urbanization.
30.	The Novel "Seumpama Matahari"	Arafat Nur (2017)	" <i>Apalagi akhir-akhir ini, kehadiran makhluk asing seperti kami sering membuat kacau penghuni hutan,</i>	Depicting the exploitation of forests by humans, which exacerbates the destruction of



			<p><i>menunjukkan manusia belum juga puas membuat kekacauan di kota-kota tempat kami tinggal.</i>" (Hal 15)</p> <p>"Moreover, lately, the presence of alien creatures like us often disturbs the forest dwellers, showing that humans are not yet satisfied with creating chaos in the cities where we live."</p>	<p>ecosystems, shows the imbalance between human needs and environmental preservation.</p>
31.	Novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna"	Remy Sylado (2016)	<p><i>"Setelah itu, kami tiba di bagian pulau yang menurut mata saya boleh dibilang tandus, yaitu bukit-bukit yang gundul, serta tanah datar yang rumputnya mengering.</i> (Hal 182)</p> <p><i>"After that, we arrived at a part of the island that, to my eyes, could be considered barren, namely bare hills and flat land where the grass had dried up."</i></p>	<p>It depicts the barren condition of a once fertile region due to a lack of attention to agricultural and plantation land management, which leads to environmental degradation.</p>

The novel "Pincalang" by Idris Pasaribu (2012) highlights the overexploitation of marine resources by two characters who lack environmental awareness. The twentieth data excerpt describes the efforts to restore the damaged ecosystem. The novel emphasizes the importance of environmental education and sustainability awareness, reminding us that the ocean is not an infinite resource. Pasaribu conveys the message of the need to maintain the ecosystem balance to support human life and nature. Remy Sylado's novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" (2016) depicts the transformation of a previously barren mountainous landscape into a place where luxurious tombs belonging to the rich are built. Kutipan "*Sambil berpikir begitu, saya mendaki ke bukit yang berdiri bangunan kuburan yang tampak begitu masif, mewah dan hanya orang-orang kaya yang bisa membuat bangunan itu*" highlights the social disparities reflected in land use. In addition, "*Dari bukit-bukit tandus, dengan jalan lurus dan datar di bawah sini, kami berangkat menuju Tomok, untuk naik feri...*" shows the infrastructure development that runs through the area, which despite serving as a link to other areas, has maintained its barren condition. Sylado explores how land use change reflects socio-economic dynamics and its implications for the local environment and culture.

The novel *Serdadu dari Neraka* by Arafat Nur (2019) raises the issue of environmental damage due to irresponsible human activities. The excerpt "*Hei, Kau, Babi. Apa yang kau lakukan kemarin di semak-semak belukar?*" reflects actions that pollute the environment, such as littering in the wild. Meanwhile, "*Orang-orang inilah yang menjaga sekitar tiga atau empat beko, alat berat yang telah mengeruk dan meratakan banyak bukit, merusak permukiman penduduk yang menyebabkan longsor, banjir, dan jalanan penuh kumbangan lumpur*" it depicts the over-exploitation of the environment through the use of heavy machinery, which damages ecosystems, results in natural disasters such as landslides and floods, and damages local settlements. The novel critically highlights the negative impacts of ignoring environmental ethics and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources due to a lack of human awareness.

The novel "Young Woman in a Luxury Hotel" by Hamsad Rangkuti (2016) depicts the adverse effects of environmental pollution caused by a lack of human awareness. Excerpt "*Air deras mendorong tubuh yang terangkut itu, tidak kesamping, tetapi ke atas. Sampah-sampah menolong kejadian itu.*" indicating the polluted condition of the environment, where garbage accumulated in the river caused the drifting corpse to become stuck. In addition, "*Air sungai tengah banjir. Bulan Desember adalah musim penghujan. Saking dalamnya air, buntut Mercy itu tampak timbul tenggelam ke atas permukaan air yang keruh*" it depicts a flood worsened by garbage blocking the flow of water, resulting in a tragic accident. The novel

highlights the critical impact of negligent human behavior on the environment, leading to ecological and social disasters.

The poetry collection "Selendang Berenda Jingga" by Zulkarnain Siregar (2011) reflects environmental damage due to a lack of human awareness. Excerpt "*Begitu belukar semak yang kau rambah, begitu berdiri setiap daun yang kau sentuh*" depicts the unkempt state of nature, full of brambles and thorns. This indicates environmental degradation that makes travel difficult and dangerous. This poem highlights how indifference to the environment leads to the destruction of ecosystems, which ultimately complicates human interaction with nature.

Afrion's poem "Kampung Medan" (2011) describes the environmental damage caused by illegal logging that led to landslides and flash floods in the Bahorok River. Excerpt "*Tapak-tapak kaki pembalakan, mengupak-kapik tanah runtuh; rumah-rumah rubuh, tubuh hanyut di sapu pekik air*" reflect the physical destruction of the environment, including landslides and the destruction of settlements, as well as the loss of life. The poem highlights the devastating effects of unbridled exploitation of nature and the lack of disaster mitigation efforts, showing how indifference to the environment exacerbates the risk of natural disasters for local communities.

Short story anthology "Mewariskan Lalat" by Dian Nangin (2021) in quotes "*Senja tampak kelabu. Bus berguncang-guncang hebat demi menaklukkan jalanan berlubang menuju kampung halaman saya*" depicts the deterioration of road infrastructure due to lack of care and attention. The potholes depicted reflect the direct impact of indifference to the environment and infrastructure, leading to a decline in people's quality of life. The absence of descriptions of repair efforts indicates a lack of awareness and proactive measures to address the damage, exacerbating environmental conditions and social welfare.

The novel "Anak Hadal" by T.B. Silalahi (2008) describes how the natural beauty around Lake Toba, which was originally extraordinary, is now threatened by development activities that are not environmentally friendly. Development around the lake damages the quality of the environment and causes pollution, which reduces the attractiveness of nature. Human activities that only focus on personal gain, without considering their impact on nature, cause ongoing damage. For example, although the lake has clear water, limes, and a type of lake grass, these indicate changes in the ecosystem caused by external factors, including pollution and neglect of nature conservation.

The novel "Yang Lahir Hilang Menangis" by Alda Mushi (2011) depicts environmental damage due to a lack of human awareness of the importance of natural sustainability. Development carried out by prioritizing personal gain has changed the initially beautiful environment into a dense one with tall buildings and luxury plazas, which damage the surrounding ecosystem. Land once used for farming, such as cornfields, is burned to make room for the construction of factories, causing the loss of natural resources vital to life. This process reflects the impact of development policies that do not favor environmental conservation, leading to the destruction of nature, loss of food sources, and hardship for people who depend on nature.

Damiri's "Halakah Panggang Selected Poems" (2018) describes environmental damage due to development that does not pay attention to natural preservation. The poem depicts an acacia tree that once stood tall on the side of the highway, now leaving only a skeletal trunk and yellowed leaves. This reflects the negative impact of urbanization and infrastructure development that ignores the importance of vegetation as part of the ecosystem that functions to absorb carbon and provide oxygen. This natural destruction also shows the lack of human awareness of the need to preserve the environment, which should be maintained for ecological balance and quality of life.

In the novel "Seumpama Matahari" by Arafat Nur (2017), the depiction of the destruction of nature reflects the negative impact of irresponsible human behavior. In the story, the characters do not look for food in the forest but bring supplies from the city, which shows that they do not depend sustainably on nature around them. In addition, the presence of wood thieves who deforest the forest depicts the exploitation of nature that damages the forest ecosystem. This illegal activity threatens the sustainability of the forest as a provider of natural resources. It shows the lack of human awareness of the importance of nature conservation for long-term living. This illustrates the dissatisfaction of humans who continue to exploit nature for personal interests without considering the impact on environmental sustainability.

In the novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" by Remy Sylado (2016), the destruction of nature is depicted through bare hills and dry land, which shows the impact of human negligence in protecting the environment. Land once fertile and used for agriculture or plantations has now turned into arid land due to neglect. This is due to the migration of people leaving the area and their unwillingness to sell or lease land due to concerns over land use change. Lack of attention to the sustainability of land management leads to environmental degradation that leads to irreversible damage to nature without significant remedial efforts. The novel highlights how indifference to land and natural resource management can worsen the overall condition of the ecosystem.

### Discourse Good habits in protecting the environment

In literary works, many discourses reflect good habits in protecting the environment through direct descriptions of nature and human interactions with their environment. These habits are often reflected in actions that support the preservation of nature through land management, plant maintenance, and respect for the surrounding ecosystem. In the literary works analyzed, the authors present examples of how humans can coexist with nature in harmony, maintain the balance of the ecosystem, and show how important environmental awareness is for the sustainability of life. The following are dialogs from various literary works analyzed that discuss good habits in protecting the environment.

Table 5  
Discourse Data on Good Habits in Protecting the Environment

No	Title	Author	Data Excerpt	Explanation
32.	The Novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna"	Remy Sylado (2016)	<i>"Dan kalau kami berada di daerah Karo, yang jalannya membentang ke arah atas dari Pematang Siantar ini, tentu kami bisa melihat petani-petani Karo itu di kebunnya masing-masing, ulet, kendatipun alam sering mengganggu, yaitu abu dari letusan gunung berapi Sinabung yang merusak tanaman-tanaman."</i> (Hal 235) "And if we were in the Karo region, where the road stretches upwards from Pematang Siantar, we could certainly see the Karo farmers in their respective gardens, resilient, even though nature often interferes, namely the ash from the eruption of the Sinabung volcano which damages crops."	The farmers along the road from Karo to Siantar continue to utilize nature and the hills as agricultural land even though sometimes the ash from the eruption of Mount Sinabung damages the plants on their land.
33.	The Novel "Yang Lahir Hilang"	Alda Mushi (2011)	<i>"Di rumahnya yang sederhana, rimbun pepohonan melingkari pekarangan, mulai dari tanaman-tanaman hias yang"</i>	Visualizing a place where the home environment is cool and beautiful makes

Menangis”		<p><i>punya bunga warna-warni, sampai pohon-pohon buah yang distek dan dicangkok.” (Hal 9)</i></p> <p>"In his modest house, lush trees circle the yard, ranging from ornamental plants with colorful flowers to fruit trees that have been cut and grafted."</p> <hr/> <p><i>“Kau ini seperti tidak punya suku saja. Negeri kita bertabur suku bangsa. Siapa bisa menyangka kau bersuku apa? Makanya perkawinan memakai baju adat ini akan menganalkan sosokmu ke hadapan khalayak bahwa kau bersuku Aceh, keturunan raja.” (Hal 21)</i></p> <p>"It is like you do not have a tribe. Our country is full of ethnic groups. Who can tell what tribe you belong to? That is why this marriage in traditional clothes will familiarize your figure to the public that you are Acehnese, a descendant of the king."</p>	<p>people feel at home and calm because of efforts to maintain and care for it, such as helping with gardening, taking care of flowers, cutting withered leaves, etc. There is no element of damaging the environment.</p> <hr/> <p>There is an effort to maintain the culture (Aceh) that is owned and not hesitate to show even though the culture that wants to be seen is not in its environment (Medan).</p>
34. The Novel “Menolak Ayah”	Ashadi Siregar (2018)	<p><i>“Permukaan danau Bagai cermin biru memantulkan gumpalan kapas putih.” (Hal 1)</i></p> <p>"The lake's surface is like a blue mirror reflecting white cotton wadding."</p> <p><i>“Di dekat pematang sawah, tumbuh beberapa batang singkong. Sepintas ditatapnya batang-batang padi yang menancap ketanah seperti seikat kecil batang lidi.” (Hal 166)</i></p> <p>"Near the rice field, some cassava stalks grew. He glanced at the rice stalks stuck to the ground like a small bundle of sticks."</p>	Promote beautiful and clean lake conditions.
35. The Novel “Lelaki Bukan Pilihan”	Karya Afrion (2016)	<p><i>“Sepetak ladang di tanah persegi panjang – ladang yang ditengahnya terdapat gundukan pasir berbentuk bukit. Di ladang itu aku selalu teringat kebun ubi yang ku tanam.” (Hal 38)</i></p> <p>"A rectangular patch of land - a field with a hill-shaped dune in the middle. In that field, I always think of the sweet potato garden I planted."</p>	The idea is that the community should clear land to open a patch of field to preserve agricultural land.
36. Short story anthology “Mewariskan Lalat”	Dian Nangin (2021)	<p><i>“Kebermanfaatan dari pohon enau tua membawa banyak dampak bagi masyarakat. Pohon enau tua itu sudah banyak mengalirkan air semasa hidupnya, memberikan lidi serta ijuknya bagi manusia - manusia yang membutuhkan.” (Hal 72)</i></p>	Utilize the enau tree for various human and environmental needs.



			"The usefulness of the old enau tree has greatly impacted the community. The old enau tree has drained much water during its lifetime, providing sticks and fibers for needy people."	
37.	Puisi "Kampung Medan"	Afrion (2011)	<p>"<i>Pinggiran danau hijau membentang; benih ikan berkejaran menyisir pasir; lalu air membawaku berkeliling menatap kedalam; begitu jernih begitu bersih.</i>" (Hal 1)</p> <p>"The green lake shore stretches; fish fry chase across the sand; then the water takes me around to stare inside; so clear, so clean."</p>	Maintain the cleanliness and natural beauty of the lake, maintaining the balance of the ecosystem. Toba Samosir's natural beauty makes people happy to explore and remember the beautiful place.
38.	Novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna"	Remy Sylado (2016)	<p>"<i>Beberapa saat kemudian, ketika terasa mobil ini berkelok- kelok di jalanan bertikung-tikung, saya membuka mata, dan tertarik melihat monyet-monyet duduk anteng di pinggir jalan. Sebentar lagi terlihat warna biru danau di bawah sana. Di jalanan berjurang dan menikung-nikung terasa selangkangan saya seperti dicubit, gerindingan, ngeri kalau-kalau mobil ini terjun ke bawah.</i>" (Hal 81)</p> <p>"Moments later, as I felt the car meander along the curvy road, I opened my eyes and was intrigued to see monkeys sitting quietly on the side of the road. Soon, I could see the blue of the lake below. On the curves and ravines, I felt like my crotch was being pinched, grinding, dreading the possibility of the car plunging."</p> <p>"<i>Bersamaan dengan itu, saya ikut turun juga dari mobil, menghirup udara alam asri- atau, kalau boleh saya memakai kata ini namun tidak perawan. Maksudnya, saya menyimpulkan bahwa tanah daerah batak ini adalah lahan menghasilkan yang sudah lama digarap sebagai sumber ekonomi.</i>" (Hal 165)</p> <p>"At the same time, I also got out of the car, breathing in the beautiful- or, if I may use this word, not virgin- air of nature. In other words, I concluded that the land of the Batak region is productive land that has long been cultivated as an economic resource."</p>	<p>Visualize the natural conditions, which are mountains with winding roads. Although there has been a lot of road construction, the natural conditions are still beautiful and can be seen by the many wild monkeys in the forest.</p> <p>Discouraging the beautiful scenery around the beautiful green mountains is not all original forest because the community has opened agricultural land as the main source of income.</p>

In the novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" by Remy Sylado (2016), the discourse of good habits in protecting the environment is reflected in the lives of farmers in the Karo region. Although nature often provides challenges, such as volcanic ash that damages crops due to the eruption of Mount Sinabung, the farmers persist and continue their agricultural practices. They show resilience and awareness of the importance of sustainable land use. Despite facing natural disasters, these farmers maintain a harmonious relation<sup>22</sup> with the environment, adapt to existing natural conditions, and manage their land wisely to ensure the sustainability of natural resources and the welfare of local communities. This discourse reminds us of the importance of natural and human resilience in facing environmental changes that occur naturally and due to human activities.

In the novel "Yang Lahir Hilang Menangis" by Alda Mushi (2011), a discourse of good habits in protecting the environment is reflected in the depiction of a house surrounded by shady trees. The colorful ornamental plants and fruit trees cared for by cutting and grafting signify the effort to create a cool and beautiful home environment. Caring for these plants includes positive actions such as gardening, tending to flowers, and cutting off withered leaves, all of which contribute to creating a home ecosystem that does not harm the environment. This shows the importance of individual awareness in maintaining the sustainability of the natural surroundings to create a soothing atmosphere that supports the well-being of its inhabitants. In addition, the novel also illustrates the importance of preserving local culture, such as in the use of Acehnese traditional clothing, which, although not in its native environment, is still maintained to introduce cultural identity to other communities. This discourse highlights that preserving the environment and culture is linked to building balance and harmony in social and ecological life.

In the novel "Menolak Ayah" by Ashadi Siregar (2018), the depiction of beautiful and well-maintained nature reflects a discourse about good habits in protecting the environment. The description "the surface of the lake was like a blue mirror reflecting white cotton wads" describes a clean lake, showing that environmental sustainability can be achieved when humans take good care of the water ecosystem. This condition reflects efforts to maintain the cleanliness and sustainability of natural resources, especially water. In addition, the depiction of rice fields overgrown with cassava stalks and thriving rice shows an awareness of managing agricultural land sustainably. The plants that grow well around the rice fields illustrate attention to the diversity of flora and the importance of maintaining the balance of nature. Both depictions highlight the important role of good habits, such as maintaining cleanliness and paying attention to agricultural sustainability, in maintaining the balance of nature for environmental and human well-being.

In the novel "Lelaki Bukan Pilihan" by Afrion (2016), a discourse about good habits in protecting the environment is reflected through sustainable agricultural activities. The depiction of clearing fields and planting yam gardens shows that people try to utilize land wisely. Planting crops such as yams is a food source and reflects the importance of careful and sustainable land management. By paying attention to the condition of the land and the crops planted, the community can maintain the balance of the ecosystem while meeting their needs. This emphasizes the importance of good farming habits, such as choosing crops suitable for the land conditions to maintain the impact on the environment.

In the short story anthology "Mewariskan Lalat" by Dian Nangin (2021), the discourse of good habits in protecting the environment is revealed by depicting the benefits of old enau trees. The enau tree, which has lived for a long time and provided various benefits to the community, reflects the importance of tree preservation as part of the ecosystem. The wa<sup>22</sup> that flows from the tree and the sticks and fibers given to humans show that the tree plays an important role in maintaining the balance of nature, providing daily needs, and providing

long-term benefit<sup>12</sup> for human life. This teaches the importance of caring for and preserving nature to ensure the sustainability of natural resources that benefit many.

In the poem "Kampung Medan" by Afrion (2011), the discourse of good habits in protecting the environment is visible through the depiction of the natural beauty of Lake Toba in Samosir. The clarity and cleanliness of the water and the diversity of underwater life described show the results of good nature maintenance. This preserved natural beauty encourages people to take care of the environment to remain sustainable, reminding them of the importance of preserving the ecosystem and avoiding pollution. Through in-depth descriptions, the poem conveys that the sustainability of a clean and beautiful environment is important for the ecosystem and the well-being of the people who depend on it.

In the novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" by Remy Sylado (2016), the discourse of good habits in protecting the environment is depicted through the contrast between preserved nature and human efforts in utilizing natural resources for survival. Although there is road construction in the mountains, nature still looks beautiful with the presence of wild monkeys, indicating that the forest and its ecosystem still have enough living space. However, the author also illustrates that not all land in the area remains natural; most of it has been used as agricultural land, which illustrates human involvement in modifying the environment to meet economic needs while maintaining nature's beauty. The message is the importance of harmony between exploiting natural resources and preserving a pristine environment.

### Discussion

In the four<sup>42</sup> literary works discussed, there is a close relationship between natural phenomena and human life and the impact of these interactions on the environment and society. In the novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" by Remy Sylado (2016), the author describes the natural beauty preserved despite infrastructure development, emphasizing the importance of balance between progress and nature preservation. This is also reflected in the second quote, which describes the dangerous terrain due to the ravines along the road, reminding us of the potential threat nature poses to human safety<sup>26</sup>. Meanwhile, in Arafat Nur's "Serdadu dari Neraka" (2019), long droughts show the direct impact of climate change on the agricultural sector and food security, illustrating the difficulties experienced by people who depend on nature. On the other hand, Afrion's poem "Kampung Medan" (2011) reveals how the destruction of nature due to illegal logging leads to major disasters such as flash floods, showing that irresponsible human activities can worsen the condition of nature and trigger costly disasters. These works emphasize the importance of ecological awareness and the need for preventive and restorative measures to preserve nature and protect human life from further environmental damage.

The literary works discussed<sup>35</sup> show the deep connection between natural phenomena and human life while highlighting the impact of these interactions on the environment and society. In the novel *Perempuan Bernama Arjuna* by Remy Sylado (2016), the author presents a picture of the balance between infrastructure development and environmental preservation. This theme aligns with the research results of Mei et al. (2017), which emphasize the importance of public awareness of the environment to encourage responsible behavior that minimizes damage to nature. The story's focus on natural beauty amid development emphasizes the importance of harmony between progress and ecological preservation. This idea is also part of the broader discussion on environmental management. The threats from nature, as depicted in Sylado's work, serve as a reminder of the dangers that can threaten human safety. This thinking aligns with research by Rassiah et al. (2022), which highlights the importance of awareness among stakeholders in managing the environment, particularly in the hospitality sector, where natural disasters can have a major impact on operations and relations with the surrounding community. Recognition of such risks is crucial to designing



effective environmental policies and practices, focusing on protecting human safety while maintaining ecological integrity.

Arafat Nur's novel "Serdadu dari Neraka" (2019) depicts a prolonged drought that demonstrates the direct impact of climate change on agriculture and food security while highlighting the challenges faced by communities dependent on natural resources. This is in line with the research of Baird and Tung (2023), which encourages adopting environmentally-based management practices to improve organizational performance while meeting ecological challenges. The link between climate change and food security is a crucial issue, as it emphasizes the need for adaptation strategies to minimize the negative impacts of environmental change on vulnerable groups. Afrion's poem "Kampung Medan" (2011) highlights the destructive impact of human activities, such as illegal logging, which leads to environmental disasters such as floods. This idea is in line with the research of Huang and Kung (2011), which highlights the importance of environmental awareness in driving the implementation of sustainable practices at the organizational level. The poem serves as a reminder of the urgency of raising ecological awareness and responsible behavior to prevent further damage to natural resources. These literary works underscore the importance of ecological awareness and the need for preventive and restorative measures to safeguard nature and human life. Insights from various studies reinforce the idea that fostering a culture of environmental responsibility is critical to reducing the impact of human activities on the environment, as highlighted by research on green human resource management and environmental practices (Anawati & Utari, 2023; Sapna et al., 2021). Integrating environmental education and awareness into societal norms is essential to encourage sustainable behaviors that protect our natural heritage.

The literary works analyzed in this study also show a clear picture of environmental damage caused by human exploitation. From tree felling and water pollution to development that does not pay attention to the preservation of nature, each work highlights the negative impact of human activities on ecosystems and environmental balance. The works illustrate how irresponsible human actions towards nature can cause degradation of environmental quality, destroy natural habitats, exacerbate natural disasters, and threaten the survival of species, including humans. Ecological awareness and social responsibility are themes emphasized in these works, given the importance of preserving nature to sustain a healthy and balanced life. Therefore, these works critique the imbalance between development and nature conservation, as well as a call for more responsible management of natural resources to create a better environment for future generations. Rassiah et al. (2022) highlight the importance of stakeholder engagement in supporting environmental management in the hospitality industry. Their research revealed that pressure from owners on hotel managers to prioritize environmental aspects raised their awareness while encouraging the implementation of responsible practices. This is in line with critiques in the literature on the imbalance between development and nature conservation, which emphasize the importance of stakeholders' awareness of their role in preserving the environment.

Jackson et al. (2011) also observed a change in corporate views on sustainability, with more and more large companies beginning to adopt environmentally friendly practices. This shift reflects a broader awareness of the importance of balancing economic development with ecological preservation, a theme that frequently appears in the literary works studied. The author argues that changes in policy and practice at the corporate level are essential to mitigate the negative impact of human activity on the environment while reinforcing the message of responsible resource management raised in the literature. Brogi and Menichini (2019) reinforced this opinion by emphasizing the important role of ISO 14001 environmental management systems (EMS) in reducing environmental impacts. Their research revealed that adherence to this standard can significantly improve a company's ability to innovate in the



environmental field, thereby supporting ecological preservation. This idea aligns with the themes in the literary works that highlight the negative impact of neglecting environmental management, emphasizing the potential of a structured approach to minimizing ecological damage.

Ma & Men (2022) highlighted the drivers of environmental management, specifically the importance of environmental awareness at the top management level in driving effective practices. Their research shows that leaders prioritizing the environment positively influences organizational behavior toward sustainability. This thinking resonates with the criticism in the analyzed literature against human exploitation that calls for a change in attitude and action toward preserving nature. In addition, Mei et al. (2017) supported the emphasis on ecological awareness and social responsibility by exploring people's environmental awareness and behavior in Malaysia. Their findings reveal that awareness alone is not enough to drive action; awareness must be accompanied by education and active engagement to bring about significant change. This idea resonates with themes in literature that encourage greater ecological awareness and proactive measures to protect the environment. The literary works analyzed serve as a form of sharp criticism of the impact of human exploitation on the environment, in line with modern research that emphasizes the importance of raising ecological awareness, responsible resource management, and the need for systemic changes in corporate and societal attitudes towards sustainability. Through their narratives, these works emphasize the urgency of concrete action and call for a shared commitment to preserving the environment for the future of the next generation.

The destruction of nature due to warfare also significantly impacts ecosystems and human life. War not only causes physical destruction to the environment but also exacerbates the scarcity of resources essential for the survival of the nation. Post-war environmental degradation creates huge challenges in restoring ecosystems, as various literary works depict. The novel "Pincalang" by Idris Pasaribu depicts the natural process of the sea recovering from war-related pollution. At the same time, the poem "Langsam" by Nani Tadjung illustrates how long droughts that may be triggered by climate change worsen food security. Remy Sylado's "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" highlights the mountainous topography's beauty and challenges that remain intact despite development. At the same time, Ashadi Siregar's "Menolak Ayah" illustrates the destructive impact of war on the environment and local communities. These narratives show that war causes physical damage and affects the balance of ecosystems and social welfare, emphasizing the need for sustainable environmental restoration and attention to the long-term impacts of conflict.

In Idris Pasaribu's "Pincalang," the depiction of the recovery of the sea from war-related pollution reflects the broader challenges of post-war environmental restoration. This is in line with the findings of Sabola (2024), which addresses the impacts of climate change on agricultural trade and food security, pointing out that environmental recovery is often hampered by ongoing resource scarcity and degradation. The narrative's focus on ecological recovery underscores the need for sustainable practices in the aftermath of conflict, as highlighted by the need for integrated adaptation measures in food systems (Favas et al., 2024). Similarly, the poem "Langsam" by Nani Tadjung describes how prolonged drought, potentially exacerbated by climate change, threatens food security. This theme is supported by research from Mahrous (2019), which shows that climate change significantly affects food production and security in various regions, including conflict-affected areas. The link between climate variability and food security is critical, as it highlights the vulnerabilities faced by agriculture-dependent communities, especially in post-conflict scenarios where resources are already severely limited.

Remy Sylado's novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" emphasizes the beauty and challenges of mountainous topography amid development, reflecting the tension between

progress and environmental preservation. This idea is echoed in the work of Gregory et al. (2005), which addresses the broader implications of climate change and environmental degradation on food security, especially for vulnerable populations. The literature's exploration of these themes critiques unsustainable development practices that ignore ecological balance and reinforce the need for responsible resource management. Furthermore, Ashadi Siregar's "Menolak Ayah" further illustrates the destructive impact of war on the environment and local communities, emphasizing the long-term consequences of conflict on social welfare and ecosystem balance. This aligns with the findings of Kanu & Onyekwere (2024), which note that climate change-related disasters can severely impact household food security, especially in areas affected by conflict. The interaction between war and environmental degradation creates a complex landscape where recovery and sustainability become increasingly challenging. These literary works highlight the urgent need for sustainable environmental restoration and focus on the long-term impacts of conflict on ecosystems and human life. The narratives call for increased ecological awareness and social responsibility, echoing the findings of numerous studies that underscore the importance of integrating climate change adaptation strategies into food systems and resource management practices (Favas et al., 2024; Masipa, 2017). Emphasizing sustainable practices after conflict is critical to ensuring the resilience of ecosystems and the well-being of war-affected communities.

The literary works that have been analyzed show that the lack of human awareness of the importance of ecosystem sustainability greatly influences the destruction of nature. In the novel "Pincalang" by Idris Pasaribu, the over-exploitation of marine resources illustrates how ignorance and indifference to the environment can damage marine ecosystems vital for life. Remy Sylado's "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" shows the impact of the transformation of the natural landscape due to development that does not pay attention to environmental balance, resulting in natural destruction and social inequality. In the novel "Serdadu dari Neraka" by Arafat Nur, human activities such as illegal logging and deforestation damage ecosystems and trigger natural disasters. At the same time, "Wanita Muda di Sebuah Hotel Mewah" by Hamsad Rangkuti highlights pollution and environmental pollution that worsens the ecological situation. Zulkarnain Siregar's "Selendang Berenda Jingga" and Afrion's "Kampung Medan" illustrate the destruction of nature due to irresponsible human behavior towards the environment, including illegal logging and infrastructure damage. In addition, "Yang Lahir Hilang Menangis" by Alda Mushi and the novel "Anak Hadal" by T.B. Silalahi show the impact of development that prioritizes personal gain without regard to the sustainability of nature, resulting in the loss of ecosystems and natural resources vital for life. Environmentally unfriendly development, as depicted in these works, leads to the destruction of nature that can harm society, and worsen the quality of life. These works show that the destruction of nature often occurs due to overexploitation, lack of environmental awareness, and inattention to the sustainability of nature. Repairing this damage requires a change in awareness and more responsible actions towards preserving nature and ecosystems.

In Idris Pasaribu's "Pincalang," the over-exploitation of marine resources is a poignant example of how ignorance and indifference can lead to the degradation of vital marine ecosystems. This theme resonates with the findings of Nguyen et al. (2021), which emphasize the importance of corporate governance and environmental performance in a highly polluting industry. The results of their research reveal that the lack of awareness and responsibility in corporate practices has the potential to exacerbate environmental damage, as depicted in literary works that highlight human negligence towards the preservation of marine ecosystems. Similarly, Remy Sylado's novel "Perempuan Bernama Arjuna" depicts the consequences of development that ignores environmental balance, resulting in natural destruction and social inequality. This is in line with the research of Huang (2022), which

discusses how economic growth can lead to environmental degradation if not managed sustainably. The transformation of landscapes without regard to ecological impacts reflects the broader challenges faced by societies that prioritize short-term gains over long-term sustainability, a theme prevalent in the literature and academic discourse.

Arafat Nur's "Tentara dari Neraka" highlights the devastating effects of illegal logging and deforestation, which trigger natural disasters and further damage ecosystems. This is supported by Potts et al. (2016), who state that human and natural systems are interdependent and that social and economic drivers contribute to pressures that affect ecosystem conditions. This literary work critiques irresponsible human behavior, echoing the call for more sustainable practices that consider the interconnectedness between human activity and environmental health. Hamsad Rangkuti's "Perempuan Muda di Hotel Mewah" addresses pollution and environmental degradation, reinforcing that human actions can severely disrupt ecological integrity. This is further illustrated by the finding of Jefferson et al. (2021), which emphasizes the importance of public perception in marine conservation efforts. Understanding how the public perceives environmental issues is critical to designing effective management interventions, as highlighted in the literature and research narratives. Zulkarnain Siregar and Afrion's work, which depicts the destruction of nature due to irresponsible behavior, resonates with the findings of Darnall et al. (2010), which discusses stakeholder influence on environmental practices. Their research shows that smaller companies are more responsive to stakeholder pressure, which suggests that increased awareness and accountability can lead to more responsible environmental management. This reflects the literature's call for a shift in human behavior towards greater ecological responsibility.

In addition, the novels "Yang Lahir Hilang Menangis" by Alda Mushi and "Anak Hadal" by T.B. Silalahi illustrate the consequences of development that prioritizes personal gain over environmental sustainability. This theme is also echoed in the research of Drevno (2016), which emphasizes the need for an integrated approach to manage agricultural pollution effectively. The literature's critique of development practices disregarding ecological balance aligns with academic discourse that advocates for sustainable resource management. The literary works analyzed thus serve as powerful commentaries on the destruction of nature due to human ignorance and irresponsible behavior. The themes of ecological awareness and the need for sustainable practices are echoed in recent research, highlighting the importance of integrating environmental considerations into development and governance. These narratives criticize current practices and call for a collective shift towards greater environmental responsibility and awareness to ensure ecosystem sustainability for future generations.

The discourse of good habits in protecting the environment in the literary works mentioned shows awareness and concrete actions in preserving nature while meeting the needs of human life. In the novels, the depiction of farmers' resilience in the face of natural disasters, the care of plants around the house, the cleanliness and sustainability of water, the sustainable management of agricultural land, and the preservation of trees and nature show the importance of harmonious relationships between humans and the environment. In addition, maintaining culture and awareness to protect the ecosystem contributes to social and ecological well-being. All these discourses remind us that environmental sustainability is not only an individual responsibility but also a part of culture and social values that must be maintained and preserved for a better future. As depicted in the literary works analyzed, the discourse on good habits in protecting the environment emphasizes the importance of awareness and real action in preserving nature while meeting human needs. The depiction of farmers' resilience in the face of natural disasters, its care, sustainable water management, and tree preservation reflect the harmonious relationship between humans and the environment. This theme is in line with the findings of Myren-Svelstad (2020), which states



that teaching literature can connect students with the concept of sustainability and foster a sense of responsibility for the environment. Integrating environmental themes in literature is a powerful tool to promote ecological awareness and encourage sustainable practices.

Moreover, these narratives' emphasis on cultural maintenance and ecosystem protection contributes to social and ecological well-being. This idea is supported by Kopnina (2014), who addresses the overly human-centered bias in environmental education and encourages a more holistic approach by considering both social and environmental aspects in achieving sustainability. These literary works emphasize that maintaining environmental sustainability is not only a personal responsibility but also relies on cultural and social values that must be preserved for the future of the next generation. Farmers' resilience and sustainable practices, as depicted in the narratives in the literary works analyzed, align with the concept of transformational leadership in an environmental context. Althnayan et al. (2022) stated that environmental transformational leadership can encourage organizational citizenship behavior that contributes to sustainability performance. This aligns with the literature's emphasis on community-driven efforts to protect the environment, which illustrates that collective action and leadership are critical to achieving ecological sustainability.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research on environmental discourse in North Sumatra literary works in 2010-2022, it was found that the authors in the 2010-2022 range of literary works were already sensitive to environmental issues. Based on the research results described, there are also four consequences behind the damage that occurs to the environment discussed through literary works, namely based on natural phenomena, human exploitation, warfare, and lack of human awareness of protecting the environment. The works illustrate the close relationship between humans and nature, as well as the destructive impact of human activities such as illegal logging, irresponsible development, warfare, and low ecological awareness. In addition to criticizing environmental damage, literary works also offer solutions in the form of sustainable natural resource management, environmental preservation, and the importance of maintaining harmonious relationships between humans and nature. Through social criticism and messages conveyed, these literary works encourage readers' awareness of the importance of balance between development and environmental preservation for a better life for future generations. Literary works can be used as learning media in formal and non-formal education to increase environmental awareness. This opens up opportunities for educational institutions to include literary works with environmental themes as part of the curriculum to build the ecological awareness of the younger generation. This research also shows that environmental issues can not only be studied through exact sciences but also through literary works as social and cultural reflections. This encourages a multidisciplinary approach involving literature, environment, and social sciences to understand ecological issues holistically. In fact, this research shows that environmental issues can not only be studied through exact sciences but also through literary works as social and cultural reflections. This encourages a multidisciplinary approach involving literature, environment, and social sciences to understand ecological issues holistically.

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