

DECODING “ASAP-ASAP ITU TELAH MENGHILANG”: UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS IN INDONESIA’S SHORT STORY

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Abstract

This research focuses on the analysis of language and narrative in understanding how literary works can contribute to public awareness and understanding of the environmental crisis in Indonesia. It serves as an initial step in comprehending the role of language and literature in depicting the environmental crisis in the country. The study aims to reveal how the use of language, narrative, characters, symbolism, environmental context analysis, and environmental crisis analysis in the short story "The Vanishing Smoke" can provide a deeper understanding of the environmental crisis in Indonesia. The research method employed is an in-depth text analysis to comprehend the short story "The Vanishing Smoke." The methodology includes data collection, text analysis, and contextual analysis. The findings include: (1) Language analysis consisting of diction, language style, symbolism, and elements in the short story. (2) Environmental Context Analysis, including environmental context and environmental crisis. (3) Environmental Crisis Analysis, encompassing the messages in the short story, the environmental issue perspective in depicting the main character's feelings, and the implied messages to the public regarding environmental issues.

Keywords: *Indonesia's short story, environmental crisis*

I INTRODUCTION

The escalating environmental changes in Indonesia have reached an alarming point, constituting a significant crisis over the past decade. From the perennial scourge of forest fires to the pervasive air pollution in urban centres, the nation grapples with multifaceted challenges. Deforestation, water contamination, and the exacerbating impacts of climate change further compound these issues, endangering both ecosystems and human welfare. This intricate web of environmental degradation demands immediate and concerted action to safeguard the nation's natural heritage and ensure a sustainable future for its inhabitants.

Lako (2018) believes that the environmental crisis in Indonesia doesn't just affect the environment; it also deeply impacts the country's social and economic fabric. The repercussions of these crisis ripple beyond local communities, resonating on a global scale. Given Indonesia's rich biodiversity and its pivotal role in global climate management, addressing these issues becomes paramount. Raising awareness within communities about these environmental challenges is imperative for fostering proactive solutions and sustainable practices. By engaging in collective efforts, both locally and globally, we can mitigate the adverse effects of environmental degradation and pave the way for a more resilient future.

According to environmental experts, as revealed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 2020 report, environmental changes such as global warming, air pollution, and ecosystem degradation have the potential to threaten the sustainability of our planet's ecosystem. One prominent issue is the degradation of environmental sustainability, which needs urgent attention. The declining air quality issue, especially in urban locations like Jakarta, has become a major concern. Air pollution, particularly due to vehicle emissions and industrial activities, has serious impacts on human health and ecosystems. According to a 2018 study by the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution can lead to various health problems, including respiratory diseases, heart diseases, and even premature death. Besides negatively affecting human health, air pollution also disrupts ecosystem balance.

Lee and Greenstone, (2021) state that air pollution in Indonesia has tripled over two decades, exceeding the WHO recommended threshold. Satellite data shows that air pollution is mainly concentrated in the Java region and its surroundings. However, residents in Kalimantan and Sulawesi are also increasingly affected by air pollution. In DKI Jakarta, the impact is more significant, with residents estimated to lose up to 5.5 years of life expectancy if pollution levels remain as they were in 2019. Air

pollution in Indonesia, especially in areas like Depok, Bandung, and Jakarta, has resulted in an average loss of around 2.5 years of life expectancy for Indonesians according to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), following the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for fine particulate matter PM2.5.

Air pollution is not only a problem in major cities but also extends to plantation areas in Indonesia. One major cause of air pollution in plantation areas is land burning, especially forest and land fires. Data on forest and land fires indicate that these practices are becoming increasingly common. During the dry season, some regions in Indonesia face increasingly hot weather and annual occurrences of haze. Farmers and landowners often use land burning as a method to clear land for agriculture or new plantations, considering it more economical and effective than other potentially more environmentally friendly methods. However, the impact of this land burning on regional and global air quality is extremely serious.

Awareness of environmental issues in various aspects of life, including literature, can contribute to a deeper understanding of ongoing environmental changes. Literary experts, such as Lawrence Buell in his work "The Environmental Imagination" (1995), have emphasized the importance of literature in creatively and critically responding to environmental issues. Literature has the power to create narratives that evoke empathy and awareness, portraying the profound impacts of environmental changes.

Garrard (2004) in his book titled "Ecocriticism" discusses various aspects of the relationship between literature and the environment. He also states that literature can be used as a tool to depict and examine environmental crisis. The scope of research can utilize stories, characters, and literary themes to reference or respond to environmental issues. Karl Kroeber (1994) in his book "Ecological Literary Criticism" focuses on literary criticism related to ecological issues with various streams and theories of different environmental literary criticism. He also conveys that literature can be used to voice environmental issues.

One form of literary work is the short story which has the potential to creatively address environmental issues and influence society's perception of environmental changes. According to some literary experts like Ursula K. Heise in *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet* (2008), literature can serve as a platform to depict the complexity of the relationship between humans and their environment, as well as stimulate questions about how we should interact with nature. In this context, one concrete example that brings literature and environmental issues together is a short story titled *Asap-Asap Itu Telah Menghilang*. This short story captures attention not only because it is written in a powerful and evocative language but also contains elements that require deeper critical analysis to understand the messages embedded within.

Literature is considered a means to communicate ideas, thoughts, and views related to the educational goals of society (Alwi and Sugono, 2002). The function of literature as a tool to convey moral messages about the importance of preserving the environment for the survival of humanity is seen as a collective responsibility. Each literary work has a different mission and is presented with a unique writing style. Literary works are expressions of feelings and thoughts that arise from the social reality of society, are imaginative, and reflect human life. In addition, creativity in creating literary works involves literary elements that give meaning to the reader.

Understanding the meaning in literary works can be analysed through intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Nurgiyantoro (2018) asserts that both of these elements play a crucial role in literary criticism, helping to evaluate literary works. Specifically, literary works have elements that influence the structure of the story, shaping a narrative that depicts human life. In the context of this research, the narrative in short stories discusses the environmental crisis in Indonesia by involving language analysis, environmental context analysis, and environmental crisis analysis as main elements.

Nurgiyantoro (2005); Pradopo (2002) as cited in Bhaskara (2014), conclude that the language style in literature serves as a fundamental foundation in creating profound beauty. Through precise diction, rich symbolic meanings, and captivating figures of speech, a writer can craft works that bring expression and significance to life. Thus, language style not only serves as a tool for conveying messages but also shapes the aesthetic value of a literary work. This approach also applies to non-literary works, where the use of diction and figures of speech still imbue beauty and deep meaning into the work. By deeply understanding the subject to be expressed, writers can produce works that resonate with readers, making language style an essential element in the process of literary creation.

The use of diction, language style, and symbols in short stories can create attraction in the plot and substance. Language style has the ability to guide the feelings and mood of the reader, forming the characteristics and identity of the story, expressing meaning through metaphor and symbolism, creating nuances and tones, and shaping the storytelling style and story structure.

This short story provides a strong portrayal of the adverse effects of forest fires and air pollution on human life and nature. However, to understand in-depth how this story reflects the environmental crisis in Indonesia, a more detailed analysis of the literary elements used in this short story is needed.

In this context, the role of language in depicting and understanding the environmental crisis becomes crucial. One important aspect of understanding and addressing this environmental crisis is through language. Language plays a significant role in shaping society's perception of environmental issues. The use of language in terms of diction, figures of speech, and symbolism can provide insights into environmental problem.

Lakoff and Johnson (2003) discusses the concept of metaphors that play a role not only in language, but also in how we understand and think about the world. In the context of analysing environmental crisis in short stories, metaphors can be used to understand that language can influence perceptions and thoughts about environmental issues. Michael Ferber, in his book titled *A Dictionary of Literary Symbols*, explains how to understand symbolism in literature. In the analysis of short stories on environmental crisis, various symbols can be employed to identify and comprehend the symbols that authors may use to convey environmental messages. For instance, symbols like trees, water, or animals can carry profound meanings in the environmental context and assist readers in uncovering hidden messages in the story.

Clark (2011) describes literature, especially in short stories, reflecting the relationship between humans and nature. In his book, he suggests that messages about environmental crisis can be conveyed using elements of nature and the environment as symbols and metaphors.

Literary works, such as short stories, can serve as a medium representing language's response to environmental crisis. The short story *Asap-asap Itu Telah Menghilang* is one such literary work addressing the environmental crisis in Indonesia. This research aims to critically analyse the language representation in the short story, intending to delve into it as a reflection of literary understanding and response to the environmental crisis in Indonesia.

In this research, the language in the short story's narrative can uncover or expose the reality of the environmental crisis in Indonesia. Focusing on linguistic and narrative aspects will provide a deeper understanding of how literature can reflect and critique the environmental situation in Indonesia. Therefore, this research focuses on language and narrative analysis, seeking to understand how literary works can contribute to public awareness and understanding of the environmental crisis faced by the country.

Hence, this research will dissect the language used in the short story *Asap-Asap Itu Telah Menghilang* and analyse the crisis depicted in the narrative. The objective is to reveal how the use of language, narrative, characters, and symbolism in the short story can offer a deeper understanding of the environmental crisis in Indonesia.

Through an in-depth analysis of this short story, it is hoped that new insights will emerge on how literature can be an effective tool in conveying urgent environmental issues and how literature can significantly contribute to environmental conservation efforts in Indonesia. This research represents an initial step in understanding the role of language and literature in depicting the environmental crisis in Indonesia and has the potential to provide valuable insights into how Indonesian society views and responds to this increasingly urgent environmental challenge.

II MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research method to be used in this study is an in-depth text analysis method to understand the short story *Asap-asap Itu Telah Menghilang*. The methodological steps to be applied include data collection, text analysis, and context analysis.

In the data collection step, the researcher will gather data by reading and examining the short story *Asap-asap Itu Telah Menghilang*. Additionally, the researcher will collect relevant secondary sources such as academic journals, books, reports, and websites related to environmental crisis. This data collection serves as the basis for further analysis. The analysis will involve a meticulous examination of the author's diction, scrutinizing the choice of words and phrases employed throughout the narrative to convey meaning and evoke emotions.

Furthermore, the researcher will dissect the extensive use of figurative language, including metaphors, personification, parallelism, repetition and irony, to unravel underlying themes and messages regarding environmental degradation. Symbolism will be closely scrutinized to unveil hidden meanings and representations embedded within the text, shedding light on the deeper implications of environmental crisis.

Moreover, the researcher will deconstruct the elements of the short story, such as character dialogue, physical environment description, emotion and sensation description, environmental motives, and environmental change, to discern how they interplay with the language and contribute to the overarching narrative on environmental issues in Indonesia. Through this comprehensive language analysis, a nuanced understanding of the text's portrayal of environmental crisis and their impact on society will be attained.

Second, in text analysis, the researcher will delve into the language elements of this short story. This includes examining language style, metaphors, symbolism, and narrative used in the short story. This analysis will help the researcher understand how the author uses language to convey messages and meanings about the environmental crisis.

The third research method will emphasize the importance of analysing the context. Its main focus will be on social, cultural, and environmental aspects. Analysis will be conducted to understand how these factors interact and influence research outcomes. By considering the context comprehensively, it is hoped that this research can provide deeper insights into the complexity of the issues being studied and their implications in a broader context.

By combining these three methodological steps, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of how language is used in the short story to convey messages about the environmental crisis. Additionally, this study will contribute to describing how the short story can be seen as a reflection of the social and cultural context in Indonesia simultaneously. This in-depth text analysis method is expected to uncover deeper meanings in this literary work and contribute to our understanding of environmental issues.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 LANGUAGE ANALYSIS

This short story employs various elements such as diction, writing style, symbols, and metaphors that creating a rich narrative atmosphere. Tarigan (2013) emphasizes that the use of language styles produces specific impacts related to aspects of beauty. This is a characteristic of writers who want to express their thoughts, feelings, and identities through their writing. Added by Nurgiyantoro (2005) and Pradopo (2002) as cited in Bhaskara (2014), argue that the language style employed in literature plays a pivotal role in evoking profound beauty. Through precise word choices, intricate symbolism, and engaging rhetorical devices, authors have the power to infuse their works with expression and significance. This emphasis on language style not only aids in conveying messages but also shapes the aesthetic appeal of literary pieces, extending its relevance to non-literary works as well, where the careful selection of words and imaginative devices enhances the depth and beauty of expression. Some examples of language styles used in this text include:

3.1.1 DICTION

In this short story, the language employed is meticulously crafted to immerse the reader in a vivid tapestry of imagery and emotion. Each word is carefully chosen to paint a detailed picture, allowing readers to feel as though they are experiencing the events alongside the characters. Phrases such as “*sesak napas karena gas air mata*” (choking on tear gas), “*terjerembab*” (stumbling), “*mengepulkan asap*” (emitting smoke), and “*merasa takut sekaligus sakit*” (feeling both scared and in pain) are not merely words on a page; they are brushstrokes that bring scenes to life. Through the use of such descriptive language, the story captures not only the physical aspects of the characters' surroundings but also delves deep into their inner turmoil, making their experiences resonate on a visceral level with readers.

3.1.2 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

The narrative employs various forms of figurative language to deepen its impact. Metaphors vividly paint scenes, as seen in “*Wajah kesakitan serta teriak meminta ampun itu masih terekam dengan jelas di kepala Basau*” (The pained face and pleading screams are still vivid in Basau's mind), capturing the anguish of a friend's injury. Personification imbues non-human entities with human attributes, such as “*Asap dari pabrik sudah cukup*” (the smoke declaring it has "had enough"), symbolizing resistance against environmental degradation. Parallelism, evident in phrases like “*Dari hari ke hari. Dari tahun ke tahun*” (From day to day. From year to year), not only establishes rhythmic cadence but also underscores the generational continuity of environmental activism depicted in Basau and his son's parallel journeys.

Repetition of key terms like “*obsesi*” (obsession), “*asap*” (smoke), and “*teman*” (friend) serves to underscore characters' fixations and emotional states. Irony permeates the tale, notably in Basau's attempts to shield his son from his own past missteps, echoing the cycle of youthful fervour and disillusionment. These linguistic devices collectively envelop the reader in a rich emotional tapestry, amplifying the story's resonance and immersing them in the characters' trials and tribulations. The language styles in this story contribute to creating a profound atmosphere, allowing readers to feel the emotions and experiences of the characters.

3.1.3 *SYMBOLISM*

In the short story's exploration of environmental themes, symbolism plays a vital role in conveying its messages. Smoke emerges as a potent symbol, representing the pervasive pollution stemming from industrial activities like factories. It serves as a stark reminder of the detrimental impact of human actions on the environment, encapsulating the broader theme of environmental degradation.

Contrasting with the imagery of smoke, the symbolism of trees and fresh air embodies the innate human yearning for a harmonious coexistence with nature. Basau's refuge amidst verdant foliage and unpolluted air signifies humanity's longing for a clean and healthy environment, highlighting the fundamental connection between humans and their surroundings.

Moreover, rain emerges as a symbol of rejuvenation and optimism amid environmental turmoil. Its cleansing effect on the polluted atmosphere symbolizes the potential for positive change and renewal, offering a glimmer of hope amidst the bleakness of environmental degradation. Additionally, the portrayal of television as a conduit for disseminating information about environmental unrest underscores the role of media in shaping public awareness and perception, emphasizing the importance of informed action in addressing environmental challenges.

The narrative of the story encapsulates the journey of Basau, the protagonist, navigating through life's challenges amidst shifting environmental landscapes. Initially confronted with formidable obstacles like bureaucratic hurdles and evading conflicts, Basau's trials mirror the struggles of nature grappling with adverse environmental transformations. His journey serves as a poignant metaphor for the resilience required to confront the perils of ecological degradation.

In the story, cigarettes and smoke serve as potent symbols, representing acts of defiance and protest by Basau's son, while also symbolizing Basau's comprehension of his son's convictions. This imagery underscores the younger generation's fervent resistance against environmental harm, a stark response to the ecological damages wrought by preceding generations. It vividly illustrates how the youth actively engage in combating the legacy of environmental degradation inherited from their forebears.

Furthermore, the dynamic between Basau and his son symbolizes the evolution of perspectives across generations concerning environmental stewardship. Basau's past activism for social change finds continuity in his son's endeavors, signaling a generational shift towards proactive environmental advocacy. The son's efforts to sway his father's mindset and confront the factory's adverse impacts underscore the pivotal role of younger generations in effecting positive environmental transformation, offering a glimmer of hope amidst the narrative's depiction of human-industry-nature conflicts.

3.1.4 *ELEMENTS IN THE SHORT STORY*

The quoted short story employs a variety of elements to effectively communicate messages about the environment and the overall atmosphere of the narrative. These elements serve to underscore important environmental themes throughout the story. Firstly, through vivid physical environment descriptions like the presence of tear gas over twenty years ago, the narrative sets a tone of tension and danger, effectively conveying the hazardous conditions within the story's setting. Secondly, emotive descriptions such as the depiction of pain and pleas for mercy evoke the fear and suffering experienced by the characters, emphasizing the emotional impact of the environmental conflict.

Moreover, the dialogue between characters, particularly between Basau and his child, serves to highlight the disparity in perspectives regarding activism and struggle, thereby adding depth to their relationship dynamics. Furthermore, the motif of the factory erected in the village emerges as a poignant symbol of environmental change, affecting not only the characters' lives but also the air quality and their overall well-being. Finally, the narrative's portrayal of environmental changes, such as the cleansing rain purging the air of smoke, signifies a shift in environmental dynamics as the story progresses.

In sum, these narrative elements collectively convey profound environmental messages, illuminating themes such as the consequences of environmental change, intergenerational conflicts in

activism, and the characters' complex relationship with their surroundings in a rich and symbolic manner.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Analysing the environmental context in a short story is crucial. Aziz et al. (2024) states that the examination of short stories is integral to literary research, especially regarding environmental themes, as literature plays a pivotal role in tackling environmental concerns. The exploration of environmental ethics within literature is essential, shaping our comprehension and response to environmental issues. Through an ecocritical lens, literary works highlight the interconnectedness between humanity and the environment, emphasizing that human and natural histories are intertwined, offering an ecological framework to assess literary elements and address environmental challenges.

The environment not only serves as the physical backdrop for the story but also becomes a living entity with the power to shape and direct the narrative. It can influence characters by determining their lifestyles, values, and worldviews. Additionally, the environment can also serve as a trigger for conflicts that drive important events in the story, creating tension that captivates the reader.

Analysing environmental crisis is also important in short stories because it raises awareness of current environmental issues. Sihotang (2021) states that analysis of environmental crisis in short stories is of significant relevance. Through an ecocritical perspective, literary studies can delve into the impacts of environmental crisis beyond technical and scientific aspects, also encompassing cultural dimensions related to literature. There is a moral or message conveyed to readers about the importance of preserving the natural environment for sustainability and to warn about the negative consequences that will arise if environmental crisis is allowed to persist. Thus, the analysis of environmental crisis in short stories can serve as a means to raise awareness among readers about the urgency of environmental protection and its impact on the sustainability of human life and ecosystems.

Writers can use stories to address pressing environmental problems such as climate change, habitat loss, or environmental pollution. By incorporating environmental crisis into the story, writers can stimulate readers' thoughts and evoke empathy towards these issues. More than just entertainment, short stories that address environmental crisis can serve as tools to spread awareness and motivate action to protect the planet for future generations.

3.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

The narrative delves into the environmental backdrop of Indonesia, capturing its geographical, temporal, and cultural nuances. Geographically, it traverses various locales within the country, starting in the bustling capital where Basau faces a harrowing incident amidst a demonstration. As the story progresses, Basau relocates to a tranquil village, offering a stark contrast to the urban chaos. Despite the physical distance, both settings share a common thread of environmental degradation, underscoring a broader societal issue.

Temporally, the narrative unfolds over a span of more than two decades, bridging past events with contemporary occurrences. While rooted in the past, it interweaves present-day events such as the construction of factories, land clearing through burning, and student uprisings, reflecting the ongoing environmental turmoil gripping the nation. This temporal juxtaposition serves to highlight the continuity of environmental challenges despite the passage of time.

Culturally, the story embeds itself within the fabric of Indonesian society, portraying demonstrations and protests as integral facets of its political landscape. Moreover, it explores the intergenerational dynamics between Basau and his son, emblematic of evolving values and outlooks among Indonesian youth. Additionally, the portrayal of tobacco usage resonates with the prevalent smoking culture, further grounding the narrative within the intricacies of Indonesian life. Through Basau's journey, the story illuminates the adaptive responses of individuals amidst the multifaceted changes shaping Indonesia's social, political, and economic landscape.

3.2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

The narrative explores a multitude of environmental dilemmas through its characters and events. Initially, Basau's struggle with tear gas and witnessing a friend's injury underlines the pervasive issue of air pollution and its detrimental effects on human well-being. This depiction vividly mirrors the real-world consequences of polluted air on individuals' health.

Moreover, the story delves into the complexities of social discord, evident in the depicted riots. These disturbances often stem from grievances related to environmental degradation caused by

governmental or corporate negligence. Such conflicts highlight the inequalities in access to clean environments and natural resources, fostering unrest among communities.

The narrative further amplifies concerns surrounding environmental degradation through the portrayal of rampant construction and land burning by factories. This heedless exploitation of natural resources underscores the dire consequences of unchecked industrialization, including air pollution and forest devastation. Additionally, Basau's child's fixation on environmental issues signifies a growing awareness among younger generations regarding ecological crisis and their fervent aspirations for transformative action.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS ANALYSIS

The analysis of environmental crisis has become essential in examining this phenomenon. Ecological tensions and the impacts of natural pollution have drawn increasing global attention. Human actions towards the environment and excessive exploitation have led to serious damage to nature, threatening human survival. As Dewi (2015) revealed, environmental threats pose a serious challenge to the future of humanity. Findings by Sukananda and Nugraha (2022) further emphasize that widespread regional and global environmental damage, along with escalating impacts, increasingly underscore the threat to the future of humanity. The worsening global warming exacerbates the current environmental situation. Therefore, environmental protection and management become highly important. The management, utilization, and protection of natural resources must be balanced to maintain environmental sustainability.

3.3.1 MESSAGES IN SHORT STORIES

The short story highlights the environmental crisis, focusing on the detrimental effects of land burning, which releases thick smoke that severely damages air quality. This mirrors real-world scenarios of regions grappling with similar challenges, such as haze from forest and land fires. Furthermore, it sheds light on the authorities' indifference toward the negative health and environmental impacts of industrial activities like land burning. Despite these consequences, the factory appears to operate with official permission, reflecting a broader issue of regulatory apathy toward environmental concerns.

The narrative also explores generational continuity in environmental advocacy, as Basau's child inherits his father's commitment to resisting land burning. This underscores how values and struggles are passed down from one generation to the next amidst environmental crisis. Moreover, the story delves into the personal struggle of Basau, who initially attempts to change the situation but eventually compromises by relocating far from the capital. This reflects the harsh realities individuals face when confronting environmental crisis, often having to make significant sacrifices for survival. Despite the grim portrayal of environmental degradation, the story ultimately conveys a message of hope. The cleansing rain at the story's conclusion symbolizes the potential for positive change, emphasizing the resilience of nature and the possibility of overcoming environmental challenges with collective effort.

3.3.2 PERSPECTIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In this excerpt from the short story, the author presents their stance on environmental issues through the lens of the protagonist, Basau. Through Basau's experiences and emotions, several elements emerge that shed light on the author's perspective on environmental concerns. One key aspect highlighted is the detrimental impact of factories and land burning on both the environment and human health. Basau and his child grapple with the consequences firsthand, facing difficulties in breathing, disruptions from smoke, and the loss of clean air due to these industrial activities. Despite Basau's waning involvement in environmental activism compared to his youth, his child emerges as a budding environmental advocate. This shift represents a generational change, signalling an increasing awareness and concern regarding environmental issues among younger generations.

Feelings of regret pervade Basau's narrative as he reflects on his past involvement in environmental advocacy and his subsequent withdrawal from the cause. His remorse serves as a poignant reminder from the author that the fight for environmental preservation is a continuous and vital endeavour that should not be forsaken. The symbolism of rain at the story's conclusion carries a hopeful message amidst the environmental degradation depicted earlier. The rain symbolizes renewal and regeneration, offering optimism that despite the damage inflicted, nature retains the capacity to cleanse itself, purifying the air and washing away the pollution caused by human activities.

3.3.3 IMPLICATIONS OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

The narrative of this tale delves into the characters' experiences and emotions to underscore a profound message concerning the urgency of environmental consciousness and a necessary shift in societal attitudes toward ecological concerns. It vividly portrays how human activities' detrimental effects can wreak havoc on both the environment and human well-being, while subtly suggesting a glimmer of hope for transformative change.

Contained within the excerpt of this narrative are poignant insights that hold significant implications for public awareness regarding the environmental plight in Indonesia. One such theme is the poignant portrayal of the youth's sacrifices and struggles as they grapple with societal injustices and the degradation of their surroundings. Basau and his comrades valiantly confront the oppressive actions of authorities and corporate entities, staunchly defending their rights and the sanctity of their environment. The underlying message resonates with the idea that society ought to acknowledge and honour the younger generation's sacrifices in confronting the environmental crisis.

Additionally, the story poignantly underscores the profound impact of environmental degradation on human health. Through Basau and his friends' courageous stand against environmental exploitation, the narrative highlights the interconnectedness between ecological damage and its repercussions on individual well-being. By bravely challenging the forces contributing to environmental degradation, the characters symbolize a beacon of hope, suggesting that concerted efforts can mitigate the adverse effects of human activity on both the environment and human health.

Analysis of the story highlights several key themes that resonate with the broader societal context, particularly regarding environmental activism and societal responsibility. The protagonist's child, taking on the mantle of an environmental activist, symbolizes the potential for grassroots community engagement in effecting change. This portrayal underscores the notion that individuals hold a collective responsibility to safeguard the environment and can actively contribute to initiatives aimed at environmental protection and sustainability.

Moreover, the symbolism of rain in the narrative offers a poignant message of hope amidst environmental challenges. Rain, depicted as a cleansing force capable of purifying the air from pollution, serves as a reminder of nature's resilience and its capacity to mitigate environmental degradation. This portrayal suggests that by nurturing and respecting the natural world, humanity can harness its potential to address the environmental crisis and foster a more sustainable future.

Additionally, the narrative emphasizes the significance of remembering and honouring past struggles in the fight against environmental degradation. Through the protagonist's recollections of historical environmental activism, the story underscores the importance of drawing lessons from the past to inform present actions. By acknowledging and learning from the efforts of previous generations, society can cultivate a deeper understanding of the environmental challenges we face and develop more effective strategies for addressing them. Thus, the story encourages Indonesian society to reflect on these themes and embrace a collective commitment to environmental stewardship, community engagement, and historical consciousness in the pursuit of a sustainable future.

IV CONCLUSION

This research has explored a short story *Asap-Asap Itu Telah Menghilang* and analysed it in-depth to understand how language is used in this literary work to depict the environmental crisis in Indonesia. The short story effectively portrays the environmental crisis in Indonesia in a compelling manner. The author employs various literary elements such as diction, language style, and symbolism to illustrate the negative impacts of land burning, air pollution, and environmental changes on the characters, plot, and setting in the story. This creates a deeper understanding of the environmental challenges faced by Indonesian society. The author of this short story successfully connects environmental issues with the stories of its characters, making it a powerful medium to convey messages about environmental issues.

The research also provides a well-detailed description of the environmental context in Indonesia, including the story's location, time, and cultural elements influencing the storyline. It reveals how environmental issues affect social tensions and conflicts in society and how values and perspectives evolve from one generation to the next. This contextual analysis provides insights into how the short story reflects the environmental reality in Indonesia.

Furthermore, this research paves the way for further studies that can deepen our understanding of the interconnection between literature and environmental issues. Subsequent research could explore how literary works from various cultures reflect and respond to environmental changes, as well as how

literature can be used as a tool to stimulate positive action in facing the increasingly complex global environmental crisis. Thus, this research serves as a crucial foundation in recognizing the role of language and literature in shaping awareness and facilitating change in addressing urgent environmental challenges worldwide.

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