

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

This chapter summarizes the research findings, discusses their implications, and provides suggestions for future research or practical applications.

A. Conclusion

1. Ecocriticism as literary criticism explores the relationship between literature and the natural environment. The aim is not just to “build” human-nature relationships to be better directly and practically, but rather to critically analyze and understand how these relationships are depicted, felt, and influenced through cultural texts. The complexity of the relationship between human and nature is depicted in Richard Powers’ *The Overstory*, according to Garrard’s (2012) analysis, which represents various viewpoints on the positions concepts. The writer finds the following 32 data from *The Overstory* based on the four chapters in the novel.

The portrayal of environmentalism, ecomarxism, and Heideggerian ecophilosophy are the most prevalent positions in *The Overstory* novel. Environmentalism is depicted in a profound and multifaceted way. The author uses a variety of characters and storylines to explore environmental issues and highlight the importance of nature conservation. Some of the characters in *The Overstory* are involved in direct environmental activism. Olivia Vandegriff, Nicholas Hoel, Mimi Ma, Douglas Pavlicek, and Adam Appich for example, are activists fighting against deforestation and other threats to forests. Through their actions, the author shows the many ways

individuals can get involved in environmental conservation and make a difference.

Themes of ecomarxism are also depicted in the context of the struggle against environmental exploitation and the conflict between economic interests and ecological sustainability. This novel depicts how economic interests often conflict with environmental conservation efforts. For example, Humboldt Timber's large-scale deforestation for commercial gain and infrastructure development illustrates how capitalism can exploit and destroy the environment. This conflict represents a critique of an economic system that places short-term profits above ecological sustainability. Several characters in *The Overstory* represent groups who are marginalized or directly impacted by environmental damage, including local communities fighting against large corporations. The author shows how social and environmental injustices are often intertwined.

Heideggerian ecophilosophy which is a major theme in the novel that is rooted in Martin Heidegger's thoughts about existence and human connection to the world, is depicted through the themes of connectedness, existential awareness, and the way humans relate to nature. Heideggerian ecophilosophy emphasizes the importance of understanding the interconnectedness between human and nature. In the novel, the author describes how trees and forests are an integral part of human existence, not just as objects external to human but as entities that shape and influence human existence. For instance, Patricia Westerford's words that humans and

trees come from the same ancestor and are interconnected.

Heideggerian ecophilosophy often criticizes instrumental views of nature that only see it as a resource. The author challenges this view by depicting trees as entities that have intrinsic value and not simply as resources that can be exploited. The conflict in the story between Life Defense Force and the logging companies exploiting the forest reflects a critique of the instrumental view. Characters who fight against tree cutting demonstrate a rejection of the use of trees as mere commodities and emphasize the importance of valuing trees as an integral part of the natural world.

2. In the novel, the portrayal of the significant implications of trees for the Earth is depicted in a profound and multi-dimensional way. The author emphasizes how important trees are for the survival of the Earth and shows how trees influence various aspects of the ecosystem and human life. The author emphasizes that trees have intrinsic value that goes beyond their practical benefits to humans. Trees are considered entities with a right to exist and are valued in their own right, not just for human benefit. Trees also have a significant impact on human emotional connection and well-being. This novel describes how a relationship with trees can provide a sense of peace, inspiration, and meaning. A character like Olivia Vandergriff finds meaning in life and inner peace through her connection to trees and nature. She feels a deep spiritual connection to nature after her death.

In *The Overstory*, the author presents a complex and insightful view of humans' relationship to trees and the environment. Environmentalism is

portrayed through activism and struggles against environmental damage that largely stems from the exploitation of large corporations. Ecomarxism is seen in criticism of capitalist exploitation and social injustice. Heideggerian ecophilosophy is represented by a deep understanding of the interconnectedness and existence meaning, and the significant implication of trees for the Earth is emphasized through the role of trees that are practically vital to ecosystems, and emotionally to humans. The author invites readers to reflect on the importance of protecting and respecting the environment as an integral part of human existence and the sustainability of the Earth.

B. Suggestion

After the writer outlines the conclusions above, the writer would like to provide several suggestions for future research which are very helpful for readers and writers.

1. Writer
 - a. Since there are many concepts of ecocriticism to explore, the writer recommends that future writers inspire themselves on the relationship between human and nature. Scholars may focus on a variety of other subjects, such as the factor of characters' personal relationship to the trees.
 - b. Other writers can utilize this research as a valuable resource for gathering data for future research.

2. Reader

- a. For readers, particularly those learning about ecocriticism or approaching it without specialized knowledge, exploring papers that discuss different perspectives on the relationship between human and nature can be quite interesting. This involves studying topics such as social movements, interconnectedness, and the intrinsic value of nature. To apply this understanding effectively and accurately describe human-nature relationships in practical contexts, a solid understanding of these concepts is essential.
- b. To deepen readers' understanding of ecocritical perspectives and strengthen readers' connection to nature, start by exploring foundational texts and articles in ecocriticism. Note how these writings examine the connection between human and nature, the depiction of nature in literature and culture, and the significant implications of trees for the Earth. Actively engage with literary works that focus on environmental themes, reflecting on how they shape perceptions of nature and influence environmental awareness. By critically analyzing these perspectives and integrating them into personal practice and decision making, readers can cultivate a deeper appreciation of nature's intrinsic value and contribute to sustainable living practices.