

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Conclusion

From the discussion in the previous chapter, it is safe to say that humans have contributed significantly to environmental issues. Furthermore, it can be inferred from the discussion above that those human activities, such as deforestation and oil drilling, not only influenced the wildlife population but also affected fellow humans. Humans have altered the environment for a long time. Therefore, it is fair to say that this era, where we are living now, is an anthropocene era; a time when humans have heavily influenced nature.

Humans used to live in harmony with nature. However, as the human population grows, the demand for dwelling places also increases. As a result, humans started to clear the wilderness (forest) to make dwelling places for themselves. Furthermore, the advance of technology also drives away the harmonious life with nature. Humans started to exploit nature using new technology. This exploitation has dire consequences on nature and further destroys it. The novel *Scat* (2009) portrayed the effect of exploitation, particularly deforestation induced by urban development and illegal oil drilling. Urban development in Florida is happening due to significant population growth. As a result, humans convert the wilderness (forest) into buildings or roads. These actions impacted the habitat of wildlife, including the Florida Panther. They are experiencing a population decrease due to habitat loss. Furthermore, habitat loss also increases the encounters between humans and wildlife. For example, some

wildlife will enter the residential area to look for food. Such interaction not only brings danger to the animal itself but also to humans. It is likely that wild animals, such as panthers, will hurt humans.

Despite the novel not mentioning whether the deforestation still lingers after the exposure of Diamond Corporation's illicit behavior, several recent articles have shown that deforestation still happens in Florida. The deforestation that occurs is caused by overdevelopment; the natural beauty of Florida has been converted into apartments, offices, hotels, or malls (Gardner, 2025; Isa, 2024; Young, 2024). Therefore, carefully executing sustainable urban development becomes essential. Similarly, fossil fuel is another environmental problem that needs to be addressed properly. Oil is widely used in various types of vehicles, such as trucks, motorcycles, cars, airplanes, and trains, and humans can use it to transport goods or for transportation. Therefore, it is not an exaggeration to say that fossil fuels are beneficial for our lives and economy. However, fossil fuel is not that beneficial. It has negative sides for the environment. For instance, oil spills as a result of the drilling could contaminate water and soil. It also killed some animals and posed a health threat to humans. Furthermore, a forest fire can occur due to the drilling activity. Another thing that should be noted is that fossil fuel is a non-renewable energy source, which means that it cannot be replenished when it is completely depleted. Since fossil fuel is beneficial for our economy, its unavailability will have a devastating effect. It can disrupt our economy, potentially leading to economic collapse due to a lack of energy.

In addition, children's literature is one of the best media for teaching children about environmental issues. It provides children with material that could help them appreciate their surroundings, and it is also important to train children's social awareness (Obi, 2009:18&22). Therefore, children's literature makes them more aware of any issues in their surroundings, including environmental issues. There are several criteria of children's literature, including that it must be constructed with children as the heroes or protagonists (Obi, 2009; Silva, 2014). This is to make the reader (children) feel related to the story. Furthermore, a survey conducted by Spanothymiou (2015) found that children tend to love heroes with "bravery, someone who is willing to help fellow humans, and someone who has self-sacrifice". The novel *Scat* (2009) also reflects this, the main characters are two teenagers, they are Nick and Martha. They possess bravery and do not hesitate to help save the Florida Panther, even if they have to sacrifice themselves. It is proven in the narration, "*He is proud of Martha and Nick, who had risked their lives for that panther cub; they were tough and brave* (Hiaasen, 2009:367)." Therefore, the protagonists in the novel are the defenders of wildlife, and it might encourage children to do the same as the protagonists. By doing so, children can learn how to respect and preserve nature from an early age. Moreover, children have their own interpretation of villains (Spanothymiou et al., 2015). They see villains as someone who "*know-it-all*" and is "*a pain in the neck*", they also perceive villains as "male and older than the children". This description matches the main antagonist in the novel, Drake McBride; he is a grown-up man, and he is much older than the protagonists and the children who read the book.

5.2 Suggestion

There are some suggestions for future research. First, the researcher hopes that future research will focus on studying ecocriticism using the children's literature perspective. Children's literature is often overlooked by researchers, as it is believed to lack deep messages like adult literature. On the other hand, children's literature is important. It has the potential to shape how children perceive environmental issues in the future.

Additionally, since oil drilling in the Everglades still receives minimal study, the researcher hopes that the next researcher who is interested in studying its effect on vegetation, particularly native plants like cypress, can study its effect on vegetation. By examining the dire consequences of Florida Everglades' oil drilling activity, this research could help to understand how it affects the lives of wildlife in the Everglades.

Another topic that can be explored regarding the drilling activity in the Everglades is its effect on Florida's tourism industry. Tourism is a major contributor to the state's economy. Furthermore, the dominant tourism sectors in Florida are coastal and eco-tourism, and both sectors depend on some factors, including the quality of the environment (Macdonald et al., 2023). Therefore, it is crucial to study whether drilling activity could have impacted tourism in Florida.