

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Conclusion

From the discussion in the previous chapter, *North Woods* by Daniel Mason described the dynamics of the relationship between humans and nature using various characters as lenses to uncover the dynamics of the relationship. Utilizing the ecocriticism framework and assisted by the theory of human relationship with nature and intrinsic elements, this research shows three dynamics of human relations and nature over time, starting from the time of the British colony in America around the 17th century. At that time, nature became a place to live and survive for an anonymous couple. Continuing to the American art movement around the 19th century, where nature became right for solitude and seeking inspiration, like William Henry Teale. Until now in the 21st century, where nature can be a provider of memories of the past and a guide like Nora. This is proof that the character is a human being in a relationship with nature, and the relationship is dynamic from time to time in the novel.

The first dynamic relationship is in the 17th century, during the British colonial period, with an anonymous couple fleeing their settlement into the wilderness in search of shelter and survival. Relying entirely on what nature provided, they used tree roots for temporary shelter, gathered berries for sustenance, caught fish from the river, and eventually found a clearing where they built a cabin to start a new life.

Later, nature became a source of inspiration and creativity for humans, as was the case with William Henry Teale in the 19th century. A landscape painter associated with the Hudson River School; he fled the noise and bustle of the city for a house by the woods to be alone. In this silence, surrounded by the tranquil atmosphere of the forest, he reconnected with himself and drew inspiration from his surroundings into art, drawing and painting on the landscape, the wood, and the changing seasons.

The dynamics of this relationship are also present in the story of Nora, a nature-loving graduate student studying the ephemeral spring flowers. After a sudden accident

in the woods, the nature she loves brings back memories, from childhood moments with flowers to the vivid beauty of autumn leaves. Nature also acts as a guide, embodied by Charles Osgood, who leads her through the woods to a yellow house that seems destined for her arrival.

In my opinion, Daniel Mason's novel, *North Woods*, depicts how the relationship between humans and nature is never static, but is constantly reshaped by time, culture, and circumstances. This novel illustrates that even though time continues to pass and generations change; nature remains there for humans. Furthermore, it illustrates that humans have a dependence on and need for nature, a human dependence that varies depending on what humans do. Reading *North Woods* made me realize that our relationship with nature is best not one of domination or possession, but rather one of coexistence.

5.2 Suggestion

There are some suggestions that can be used or applied in future research. This study discusses the relationship between humans and nature from a positive side, where some benefit and no one is harmed. For example, for future researchers, they can use different sides. Take from the negative, such as human activities that have a negative impact on nature. Human activities drive various environmental pressures in various ways such as pollution, burning fossil fuels, deforestation which can eventually have an impact on climate change, soil erosion, poor air quality, mass extinction, polluted water and impacts on biodiversity (Keck et al., 2025).

Another suggestion is to use the same novel as this research, *North Woods*, but with a different topic. In the story of this novel which consists of 12 chapters, there is a yellow house that is always present in every story. For example, taking the yellow house as the object of research.