

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS REPRESENTED IN THEIR PICTURE BOOK
CREATION**

A THESIS

by

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Language and Arts Education Department



FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY

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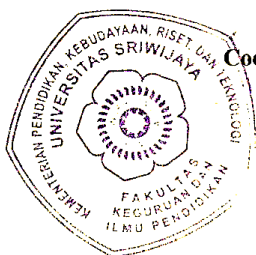
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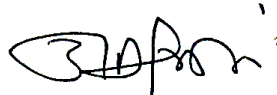
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DECLARATION

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned,

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Certify that thesis entitled "Junior High School Students' Environmental Awareness Represented in Their Picture Book Creation" is my own work and I did not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethics and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia Number 19, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

Palembang, June 2023

The undersigned



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DEDICATIONS

I dedicated this thesis to the most wonderful woman in my life, to the woman who always pray for me so I could complete this thesis successfully. This is for you, Mom.

I dedicate this thesis to my first love, to the man who always pray for me and gives me life lessons. This is for you, Dad.

Lastly, I also dedicate this thesis to the woman who always helps and supports me while I am writing this thesis, my one and only sibling, Teteh Anggi.

MOTTOS

“For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease. Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.”

– (Q.S Al-Insyirah : 5-6).

"Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle." -Christian D. Larson.

"Everything will be okay in the end, if it's not okay, it's not the end." –Unknown.

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Palembang, May 2023
The Writer

Malihah Putri Jasmine

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ABSTRACT

Since the 1970s, some countries in the world have been faced with environmental issues. Environmental Issues are currently being discussed globally, and it is also mostly caused by humans. Indonesia has many environmental issues, such as deforestation, littering, which results in flooding, and even the bad impact of household waste disposal that can damage environmental ecosystems. Awareness of environmental issues is very much needed, especially for people who will become the hope of future generations, such as students. Student awareness of the importance of maintaining and caring for the environment can be heightened through environmental education. In this study, the researcher applied environmental education to Junior High School Students of Sekolah Multitalenta by creating a picture book project themed on environmental issues. The researcher used qualitative methods to determine how creating the picture book about Environmental Issues could increase their awareness of the environment and improve their English writing skills by paying attention to the writing aspects of the stories they made. The data was collected through observations and interviews with students. The researcher analyzed student awareness of the environment with students' picture book creation and interview data with students. The findings show that students are highly aware of environmental issues after they created the picture book and paying attention to the writing aspects of the stories they created. It can be concluded that creating a picture book about environmental issues can help foster students' awareness of environmental issues and their English writing skills.

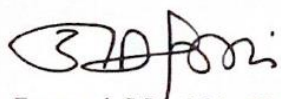
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents (1) the background of study, (2) the problems of the study, (3) the objectives of the study, and (4) the significances of the study

1.1 The Background of Study

Since the 1970s, some countries in the world, especially industrialized countries, have been faced with environmental problems. Some news about pollution, erosion, flooding, and drought can always be found in newspapers, radio, and television, reflecting the seriousness of the environmental problems afflicting nations. The problem was so serious that the United Nations convened a special conference on the environment on June 5, 1972, a day that was later designated as Environment Day. According to the OECD (2012) in its publication *Environmental Outlook to 2050: The Consequences of Inaction*, environmental problems that are currently happening and need to be addressed are climate change, increased house gasses, failure of biodiversity, air scarcity, and air pollution. Nowadays, these environmental problems are still serious, and some countries still have not been able to overcome these problems.

Our environment is dynamic. It occurs because our environment is constantly changing and evolving in response to the conflicting demands of society. According to Harris (2004), as the world's population and per capita use of natural resources increase, we will have an even greater impact on these environmental issues, causing them to worsen even further. Environmental problems are currently being discussed globally and it is mostly caused by humans. The big problem that needs to be considered is whether we still have sufficient resources to meet the needs of the present generation and also future generations. Awareness of environmental problems is very much needed, especially for young people, who will become the hope of future generations. Freire (1972) stated that understanding the state of the environment at the moment can help us work toward sustainability. However, it can only be possible if we will also have action and reflection or a so-

called praxis. Awareness of the environment must also be balanced with actions such as protecting the environment by not throwing garbage in anywhere.

All inhabitants of the earth need to take time to have an active role in maintaining the condition of the earth as a place to live, a place to stand, a source of air to breathe, and a place to find sources of livelihood so that the earth becomes a healthy, safe and comfortable place to live for all living things. Many inhabitants of the earth still do not realize that the earth is tired, sick, and miserable because of their actions. Smith (2017) said that the destruction of the earth continues to occur in each of our activities, even when we sleep, big companies always do it, and their production activities can relentlessly destroy life on Earth. Therefore, we cannot close our eyes not to see the problems that are happening to the earth nowadays. Based on the data from the Central Statistics Agency (2018), the behavioral index of indifference to the environment in Indonesia shows the number 0.51 in 2018. The number states that the level of public ignorance of the environment is quite high or their level of awareness towards the environment is still low. It is feared that the public's indifference to the environment will have an impact on the destruction of natural resources, which will cause disasters.

Indonesia is one of the countries that has many environmental problems. Many environmental problems occur due to the actions of ignorant human hands, such as deforestation, littering, which results in flooding, and even the bad impact of household waste disposal, which can damage environmental ecosystems. These environmental problems illustrate the lack of human awareness to preserve the environment. Another environmental problem that also occurs in Indonesia is environmental pollution. Environmental pollution in Indonesia is divided into water, soil, factory waste disposal, vehicle pollution, garbage disposal, and other things that harm the environment. Environmental pollution is a global problem, and its potential to influence the health of human populations is great (Fereidoun et al., 2007; Progressive Insurance, 2005.) Environmental pollution is one of the phenomena that has become a global crisis related to our current environmental conditions. In addition, it can also change the order or composition of the air due to human activities and natural processes, so that the quality of the environment

decreases, which can cause the environment not to work properly. Environmental pollution must always be considered, both on a small and large scale, because it can disrupt the ecosystem and the sustainability of life if it is not handled and acted upon quickly.

Another environmental problem that occurs in Indonesia is waste management. The problem is supported by the fact presented by the director of waste management at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry that 72% of Indonesian people are less concerned with the problem of waste and the composition of plastic waste, which continues to increase as in 2015, the percentage increase in plastic waste reached 11%. The Ministry of the Environment and Forestry predicts that in the next 10 years, the percentage of the number will increase, even reaching 16% (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018). People also use plastic for food packaging and no single plastic is safe for packaging. Plastic waste is the most dangerous pollutant to environmental sustainability. The plastic weathering process takes 50-100 years because microorganisms cannot destroy plastic and remain intact.

Environmental pollution is a big problem facing the earth nowadays, so we are also starting to feel it. Air quality is getting worse, which has implications for the lack of clean oxygen for breathing. The condition is further exacerbated by the use of non-renewable natural resources, degradation of soil and water, as well as the formation of new agricultural land for sources of life, which have also damaged nature reserves and damaged plant and animal life. In addition, citizens nowadays cannot escape from always using air conditioners (AC), plastic, paper, household cleaning materials, cosmetics, and various other necessities of life, which have the potential to increase environmental pollution.

Environmental problems may be unavoidable until now, but we can solve it by providing information about environmental awareness through learning in schools. According to the results of a survey by the Ministry of Environment or KLH (2013), it was found that only 2.5% of respondents received information about the environment through learning at school. Awareness of maintaining and caring for the environment is very important for students. Environmental education is

undoubtedly the most effective means of increasing the next to be more integrated into school curricula (Dixon et al., 2005). Environmental education is the process of recognizing values and clarifying concepts to develop the skills and tools required to understand and appreciate the interdependence of people, their culture, and their biophysical surroundings. Education must be used as a means of forming attitudes and caring for the environment effectively. With effective environmental education, it can foster positive behavioral attitudes in students towards the environment.

Writing has a very important role in education because writing helps one to think more easily. Writing is also a very powerful tool in learning which in itself plays a role in education. According to Gie (2002: 3), writing is termed composing, which is a whole series of activities of a person to express ideas and convey them through written language to the reader public to be understood. The main purpose of writing is as a means of communication indirectly or not face-to-face with the person being communicated to. Therefore, in modern life today, writing skills are needed.

For students, writing activities have the main function as a means of thinking and learning. One of the writing activities that can help students start writing and make it easier to find ideas is writing stories. The aspects of writing contained in the story can help them develop ideas and also student creativity. Writing stories can also increase students' knowledge about the environment and increase students' awareness of the environment, such as writing stories themed on environmental issues. By writing stories about environmental issues, students can express thoughts, ideas, and feelings that are helped by the aspects contained in the stories that students create.

From the discussion above, the researcher in this study aims to provide environmental education about environmental awareness to junior high school students to increase their awareness of environment through the representation of picture books. Besides that, this study also aims to pay attention to the writing aspects of students' story writing. Creating picture books about environmental issues by Junior High School students can be interesting, informative, and easy-to-

understand to them. In addition, making this picture book can also improve their writing skills and increase their vocabulary mastery.

1.2 The Problems of Study

Based on the background above, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. How does picture book creation enhance students' environmental awareness?
2. What writing aspects are involved in the book creation?

1.3 The Objectives of Study

In relation to the problem of the study mentioned previously, the objective of the research was:

1. To describe the picture book creation enhances students' environmental awareness.
2. To describe the writing aspects involved in the book creation.

1.4 The Significances of Study

The result of the study not only provides valuable knowledge and experience for the researcher herself, but also gives benefits for many people, particularly those in academic institutions, such as students, teachers, and other researchers.

a) Students

This study is dedicated to teaching Junior High School students about the importance of environmental preservation from an early age. Many earth problems will come because of human error, such as global temperature, rising sea levels, climatic change, natural calamities, and global warming.

b) Teachers

It is expected that creating picture books about environmental awareness would be used as a teaching tool and reference by teachers to raise students' knowledge of their environment, particularly in school areas.

Also, supporting media or environmental resources for learning to generate environmentally literate humans.

c) Other Researchers

This study is expected to be useful for further researchers. Researchers can use the results of this study as data to support other research, especially researchers in the field of environmental education.

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