

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nature is an important theme in literature for many years, often connected to show how humans relate to their environment and the unavoidable aspects of life. Gerard Brach, a French screenwriter, is recognized for his skill in portraying these themes in his works. His movie script adaptation of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* provides a deep examination of symbol, especially through the perspectives of nature. Gerard storytelling highlights the conflict between human choices and the outside forces that shape life, making his work a fascinating topic for analysis. In this case, it not only shows the struggles of Tess, a young woman living in a male-dominated society, but it also highlights the important role of nature in forming her identity. The dual nature of the environment, acting as both a supportive force and a source of trauma, is crucial for understanding Tess's character and her tragic destiny.

Nature is shown as a vital part of Tess's life, affecting her emotions and mental state. The repeating patterns of nature reflect Tess's life experiences, suggesting that she is connected to the natural world. Tess represents a metaphorical identity that closely links her to nature, indicating that her struggles are not just personal but also represent larger ecological themes (Nuruzzaman, Md. (2017)). Doubts about modernity and industrialization show how these changes can disturb the balance between people and their environments, resulting in tragic events for characters such as Tess (Vanjani, P. 2021).

The use of nature symbol in literature highlights its importance as a way to understand the human experience. A look at texts from the Victorian era shows that there is a consistent focus on natural landscapes and their symbolic links to human feelings and destinies. Gerard works, including *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, illustrate this pattern by using vivid descriptions of fields, seasons, and rural scenes to reflect the main character's journey, emphasizing its key role in his narrative structure. Furthermore, the theme of nature as an unavoidable force is deeply integrated into his narratives, raising questions about determinism and free will (Chifane, 2012).

The connection of nature shows a complex issue that has not been fully explored. The movie script adaptation offers special chances for analysis, as both visual and written elements come together to highlight these themes. However, the ecological and deterministic aspects found in the story are not thoroughly examined from an viewpoint. This lack of attention creates a gap in understanding the multiple layers of symbol that uses to critique social and environmental issues (Chunxiao, 2022).

The importance of filling this gap becomes clear because of the broader relevance of studies in today's discussions. As global concerns about environmental damage and its connection to human systems increase, literature provides a way to reflect on these issues, showing how human lives and the natural world are connected, and reminding us of the consequences of ignoring this relationship. Analyzing his symbol offers not just insights into literature but also a way to understand ecological ethics and how influences human experiences (Filipova, 2021).

Previous studies mostly concentrate on the social and feminist aspects of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, leaving these elements less examined. While researchers

recognize Gerard use of nature imagery, few explore in depth how this imagery connects with the theme of nature. This gap in research provides a chance to look at the movie script from a new perspective, allowing for a thorough analysis of how ecological and deterministic stories come together (Filipova, 2021).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The study of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Gerard through a lens reveals significant insights into how symbol of nature and influences life. There is two points that focuses on the subject matters of analysis. This research aims to explore the following key problems:

1. What symbols of nature are found in the movie script *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*?
2. What is the relationship between Tess and nature in the movie script *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The purposes of writing this will be explained below based on the problem identification above:

1. To identify the symbols of nature found in the movie script *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.
2. To analyze the relationship between Tess and nature in the movie script *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of this research is limited to the movie script adaptation of Tess of the d'Urbervilles and does not include a detailed analysis of the novel or other film

adaptations. The focus is on the specific symbols and themes found in the script instead of a wider examination of Gerard complete works or other literary pieces that also discuss nature. The role of nature in reflecting or representing these forces becomes a key point of analysis, alongside the relationship between Tess and nature. The research does not explore the broader historical or biographical context of Gerard life but places the analysis within the framework of nature.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The practical significance of this study lies in its contribution to the fields of film studies and adaptation theory. Theoretically, it broadens the scope of nature by applying it to film and offering a new perspective on nature. This research has the potential to impact future academic studies in adaptation and feminist literary criticism, while also serving as a helpful resource for educators and filmmakers. Overall, it emphasizes the importance of nature in examining the relationship between literature and the environment, encouraging readers to think about how human experiences connect with the natural world.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Symbol

The concept of a symbol is broad, with many complicated meanings and connections across various fields. In natural science or engineering, a symbol refers to mathematical symbols and computer codes. In linguistics, it signifies the basic unit of language. In the realm of Western liberal arts, it represents a rhetorical device, a genre, an archetypal structural unit, and sometimes even a concept that relates to the phenomena of art. Regarding the development of symbols, originally, a symbol in Greek simply meant a token representing friendship. It then evolved into something that facilitated interaction between humans and gods, with meanings that included artificiality and convention while serving as either a token or an agent between them. However, the deeper meaning and theoretical status of symbols undergo significant changes. Specifically, a symbol shifts from being a conventional term to becoming a more vivid technique in the liberal arts, moving from an ordinary idea to one that plays an important role in theory and literature.

Generally, a symbol is something used to stand for something else. This connection is based on what we agree on as a society or what culture says it means (Peirce, 1991; Saussure, 2011). More recently, studies show that symbols aren't just fixed; they also change based on how they interact with social and cultural situations (Chandler, 2020).

According to Eco (2017) explains that symbols have these three main qualities:

1. **Arbitrariness:** There will be no natural reason why a symbol relates to what it represents.
2. **Conventionality:** Society decide what a symbol means.
3. **Polysemy:** A symbol often have several possible meanings, and those meanings will change depending on how we use it.

2.1.1 Symbols in Cognitive Semiotics

Symbols in cognitive semiotics refer to signs and representations that carry meaning and are understood through human cognitive processes. Unlike traditional semiotics, which often focuses on the relationship between signs and what they represent, cognitive semiotics emphasizes how individuals interpret and internalize these symbols based on their experiences, knowledge, and cultural backgrounds. This approach recognizes that meaning is not fixed but is shaped by the cognitive frameworks that people use to understand the world around them.

In cognitive semiotics, symbols take many forms, including words, images, gestures, and sounds. Each of these symbols evokes different meanings depending on the context in which they are used. For instance, the symbol of a dove is commonly associated with peace, but its meaning shifts in different cultural contexts or narratives. This flexibility in interpretation highlights the dynamic nature of symbols and the role of human cognition in understanding them.

The study of symbols in cognitive semiotics also examines how individuals create mental representations based on their interactions with symbols. When people encounter a symbol, they do not just recognize it; they engage in a cognitive process that involves recalling related experiences, emotions, and knowledge. This process allows individuals to derive personal meaning from symbols, making communication more nuanced and rich.

Ultimately, understanding symbols in cognitive semiotics enhances awareness of how meaning is constructed and communicated. It encourages us to consider the subjective nature of interpretation and the importance of context in shaping understanding of symbols. By recognizing that symbols are not just static representations but are deeply intertwined with human cognition, this is able to improve communication skills and foster greater empathy in interactions with others.

Cognitive semiotics emphasizes that symbols are processed in the human mind through certain neurological and cognitive mechanisms. According to Fauconnier and Turner (2019), the “Conceptual Blending” theory suggests that symbols work through mental integration of multiple sources of information to create new meanings.

Furthermore, research in cognitive neuroscience shows that the representation of symbols in the brain is related to the activation of specific areas in the prefrontal cortex. This supports the idea that symbol understanding is the result of complex cognitive processes.

2.1.2 Symbols in Cultural and Social Perspective

Symbols play a crucial role in shaping understanding of the world from both cultural and social perspectives. They are not just objects or signs; instead, they carry meanings that are deeply rooted in the cultural contexts in which they exist. For example, a flag symbolizes national identity, pride, and unity for one group, while for another, it may represent oppression or conflict. This duality highlights how symbols can evoke different emotions and interpretations based on individual and collective experiences.

In a cultural context, symbols often reflect the values, beliefs, and traditions of a society. They serve as a means of communication that transcends language barriers, allowing people to express complex ideas and emotions. For instance, traditional

clothing, rituals, and art forms are all symbols that represent cultural heritage and identity. These symbols help foster a sense of belonging and community among individuals who share similar backgrounds, reinforcing cultural continuity across generations.

From a social perspective, symbols also influence power dynamics and social structures. Certain symbols are used to assert dominance or control, while others serve as tools for resistance and social change. For example, the raised fist becomes a powerful symbol of solidarity and resistance against oppression, particularly in social justice movements. This demonstrates how symbols can be mobilized to challenge existing social norms and advocate for change, highlighting their potential as instruments of empowerment.

Understanding symbols from cultural and social perspectives allows us to appreciate their significance in daily lives. They shape identities, influence interactions, and help navigate the complexities of social relationships. By recognizing the power of symbols, it is become more aware of the cultural narratives that inform beliefs and actions, fostering greater empathy and understanding in a diverse and interconnected world.

In a recent study on symbolic sociology, Bourdieu (2020) argues that symbols not only function as a means of communication but also as a means of social domination.

2.1.3 Similarities between Symbol and Symbolism

Symbolism is recognized as a literary genre that evolved from the concept of symbolism itself. It is also seen as a particular genre of literature that expresses ideas and emotions by suggesting, rather than directly describing or defining them. Symbolism is considered one of the earliest and most influential movements in

European and American modernist literature. The movement first appeared in poetry, started by the famous French poet Baudelaire in the 1850s. The artistic claims and aesthetic principles of symbolism include an exploration of humanity and mysticism, a critique of bourgeois society, an assertion of individuality, and a search for expressive forms within modernism. Based on this, symbolism explains that an object can represent a certain meaning or idea found in everyday life or the surrounding environment. Moreover, symbolism is not only seen as a rhetorical device, but also as a compositional rule, literary spirit, and even the essence of art (LitCharts, 2024).

Symbolism is a literary device used to give objects, characters, or events a deeper meaning than their literal interpretation. According to Cuddon (2013), symbolism is defined as “the representation of one thing by another, usually through a symbol or sign that conveys a deeper meaning.” In literature, symbols are used to evoke emotions, create relationships, or suggest complex ideas in subtle ways.

Symbolism in literature is often used to give deeper meaning to themes. Elements such as forests, and seasons often act as symbols that reflect characters emotions (Shires, 1999). This approach to symbolism is important for examining how nature influences narrative and character development.

To understand the difference and relationship between symbol and symbolism, the main features will be explained as follows: Symbolism is seen as an innovative approach closely related to worldview, often referring to a trend of thought in literature and art during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The theoretical concepts of symbolism include musicality, suggestion, and mystery. Symbols, on the other hand, are seen as specialized and communicative techniques in artistic creation, functioning

on words or phrases that help indicate something that symbolizes more than itself or has a set of references (Saliba, 1976).

However, symbols have much in common with symbolism, both terms being based on the idea that there is an inner connection between the human mind and the external world, as well as between the natural world and the spiritual realm. This belief awakens the human imagination and reveals the secrets of the inner world. In addition, symbols serve as important intermediaries for symbolism, allowing symbolism to achieve its artistic goals of musicality, suggestion, and mystery. At the same time, literature that focuses on symbolism views it as an aesthetic principle and seeks to understand the world from an aesthetic point of view (Abrams & Harpham, 2012).

2.2 Nature

Nature play a central role in literature, often serving as both a setting and a symbolic element that reflects human experiences and emotions. According to Glotfelty and Fromm (1996), studying nature in literary texts will be essential for understanding the relationship between the environment and human culture, which forms the basis of nature.

Nature become an object of study in various fields, including philosophy, ecology, and literature. In philosophical studies, viewing nature as part of human existence highlight that it is not just the background of life but also something that shapes human experiences in the world. This perspective emphasize that humans have an ontological relationship with nature, which affect how they understand existence.

In modern ecological studies, it emphasized that nature is not just a separate entity from humans but also part of a network of actors that influence each other within the context of ecology and technology. This approach will critique the division

between humans and nature that often appears in traditional scientific discussions and propose a more holistic way of understanding their interaction.

Nature not only provide the backdrop for the story but will also symbolize the emotions, conflicts, and destinies of the characters. It depicted as a living entity that Tess interacts with constantly, reflecting her happiness, and suffering. For instance, green fields represent Tess's early innocence, while storms or bad weather will often symbolize her inner conflicts or impending tragedies. It is help us to understand how nature is used to connect physical conditions with character psychology (Zeng & Dong, 2024).

In literary and cultural studies, nature often be used as a symbol that reflects human emotions and spiritual conditions. For instance of analysis, nature not just serve as the setting of the story but also carry symbolic meanings that reflect the internal and external conflicts of the characters in a narrative. Modern theory also highlights how the way nature is represented in literature to influence people's awareness of ecological issues.

Almost all significant moments in her life have a close connection to nature. The natural atmosphere, landscapes, seasonal cycles, and nocturnal animals introduced in the story will echo Tess's inner rhythms. She act and react in ways that can be metaphorically linked to nature. Her relationship with nature raise the question of whether she is a unique human being, a part of nature, or simply another aspect of nature itself (Chunxiao, 2022).

From these various perspectives, it can be concluded that nature not only be a physical entity but also have complex symbolic and philosophical meanings. By understanding nature through different theoretical, deeper insights can be gained into the relationship between humans and their environment.

2.2.1 Nature as a Mirror of Emotion

The idea of "Nature as a Mirror of Emotion" suggest that the natural world reflects human feelings and emotional states. In literature and art, nature often shown in ways that match the inner experiences of the characters. For example, a stormy sky symbolize turmoil or conflict, while a calm landscape represent peace and contentment. This link between nature and human emotion allow people to explore their feelings through the environment around them.

In many literary works, authors use nature to deepen the emotional impact of their stories. For instance, when a character feels joy, the description of blooming flowers and bright sunshine enhance that happiness. On the other hand, when a character experiences despair, the depiction of barren trees and gloomy weather evoke a sense of sadness. This approach not only enrich the storytelling but also help readers connect with the characters on a deeper emotional level, as they will be able to relate their own feelings to the natural imagery presented.

Furthermore, the idea that nature reflects emotions beyond literature and into everyday life. People often find comfort in nature during tough times, using the beauty of the natural world to help them process their feelings. A walk in the park or a hike in the mountains will provide a sense of calm and clarity, allowing individuals to think about their emotions. This connection between nature and emotion highlight the healing potential of the environment, suggesting that being in nature will help people understand and cope with their emotional states.

In the end, "Nature as a Mirror of Emotion" emphasize the deep connection between humans and the natural world. By recognizing how nature reflects feelings, will gain insights into emotional lives and develop a greater appreciation for the environment. This understanding encourage to interact with nature not just as a

background to lives, but as an essential part of emotional experiences, reminding us of the interconnectedness of all living things.

Nature reflect the character's emotions. For example, when Tess feels happiness or hope, nature will seem to celebrate with her; on the other hand, when Tess feels sadness or loss, nature will mirror her mood with dark and cloudy weather. In this context, Tess's relationship with nature not only be physical but also psychological, as nature will become a reflection of her inner state (Chunxiao, 2022).

2.2.2 Nature Indifference

"Nature Indifference" refer to the idea that nature operate independently of human emotions, desires, and concerns. Unlike the belief that nature is a nurturing force that responds to human needs, this perspective suggest that the natural world will be indifferent to human existence. Natural events, such as storms, earthquakes, and droughts, occur without considering human suffering or well-being. This indifference can be both awe-inspiring and a reminder of humanity's vulnerability in the face of nature's power.

In literature and philosophy, the concept of nature's indifference often serves as a backdrop for exploring human struggles. Authors depict characters who face overwhelming natural forces, highlighting the insignificance of human life in the larger context of the universe. For example, in works like those of Gerard Brach, characters often find themselves at the mercy of nature's whims, illustrating the harsh realities of life. This portrayal evokes feelings of despair and helplessness, as individuals will confront the fact that nature does not cater to their needs or emotions.

Furthermore, nature's indifference lead to a deeper understanding of the human condition. By recognizing that nature not respond to human desires, individuals come to terms with their own limitations and the unpredictability of life. This realization

help build resilience, as people will learn to adapt to their circumstances instead of expecting nature to meet their wishes. In this way, nature's indifference act as a catalyst for personal growth and self-discovery.

Ultimately, the idea of "Nature Indifference" challenge the romanticized view of nature as a kind and helpful force. It will encourage a more realistic understanding of the relationship between humans and the natural world. By acknowledging nature's indifference, individuals develop a greater appreciation for the complexities of life and the need to coexist with an unpredictable environment. This perspective inspired a sense of humility and respect for the natural world, reminding us that we are just one part of a much larger ecosystem that operates beyond control.

Although nature often portrayed as beautiful and supportive, it also sometimes show indifference to human suffering. For instance, the red roses that symbolize Tess's beauty and purity at the beginning of the story will later turn black, representing her downfall. This illustrate that while nature can offer beauty, it can also be a silent witness to human suffering (Chunxiao, 2022).

2.2.3 The Relevance of Nature in a Modern Context

In today's fast-paced and technology-driven world, nature still be very important. As urban areas continue to grow, many people find themselves more disconnected from the natural environment. This disconnection can lead to various problems, such as stress, anxiety, and a lack of appreciation for the ecological systems that support life. By recognizing the importance of nature in lives, individuals will be able to reconnect with the environment and improve their overall well-being.

Nature play a vital role in both mental and physical health. Many studies show that spending time in natural settings will reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance cognitive function. Activities like hiking, gardening, or simply walking in a park will

provide a much-needed break from the pressures of modern life. By engaging with nature, individuals will experience a sense of calm and renewal, which is essential for maintaining a balanced lifestyle in an increasingly chaotic world.

Overall, the relevance of nature in a modern context remind us of the importance of maintaining a balance between human progress and environmental sustainability. By integrating the values of nature into daily lives, create a more harmonious and sustainable world.

In a modern context, the symbol of nature in Gerard work remain relevant, especially when discussing human relationships with the environment. According to Hardy (1891), show that understanding nature in literature will provide insights into how humans will interact with their environment. In "*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*", Hardy remind of the importance of maintaining a balance between humans and nature, as well as the consequences of exploiting the environment. Therefore, works like these serve not only as literary pieces but also as social critiques that will be relevant to current environmental issues.