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Ecological Ideology in Dugong or Mawar Fish Stories in Alor Regency

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ABSTRACT

Every living thing communicates with humans through sounds, facial expressions, and body gestures. Man's relationship with the environment creates an ecological ideology that includes views, values, and actions toward nature. The focus of this research is the unique interaction between humans and dugongs in Alor Regency, where dugong intelligence creates a unique representation of man's relationship with nature. To collect research data, research methods are used by way of interviews referred to as "qualitative research methods". Qualitative methods are research approaches that aim to understand social phenomena or human behavior through direct interaction with research subjects, such as interviews, observations, or document analysis. The purpose of this study is to understand how ecological ideology is reflected in the stories surrounding dugongs in Alor Regency and their impact on people's views on human and nature interactions. Through an in-depth understanding of everyday stories, research is expected to make a positive contribution to environmental conservation and ecological understanding in the region, potentially as a foundation for more effective policies.

I. INTRODUCTION

The knowledge that all living things in the world have a means of communication and that language is a significant tool for communication serves as the foundation for this research (Afif, 2023). Scholars in the field of ecological communication have emphasized the intricate relationships between humans, animals, and the environment (Abram, 1997; Griffin, 2001). Abram, in his seminal work, explored the ways in which language extends beyond human discourse to include non-human entities, highlighting the interconnectedness of all living beings within an ecological framework.

Apart from serving as a means of human-to-human communication, language also facilitates

human-animal contact. In addition to using sound to communicate with animals, humans can also use body language and facial expressions to convey meaning and hints (National Geographic, 2023). In addition, humans and their natural surroundings are highly influenced by and have a tight relationship. Various ecological and environmental preservation theories have turned their attention to this idea. The ideology of ecology is one of the conceptual frameworks pertinent to the dynamics of human-environment interaction. Understanding how people form their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors toward nature—as well as how those behaviors affect the sustainability of the environment—is a component of ecological ideology (Smith, 2000; Brown, 2015). It is also evident in how people

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connect with other species, particularly marine creatures like dugongs, which are thought to be intelligent and have a particular bond with people in the Alor Regency.

Humans and dugongs have a special bond because of the dugongs' presence on the coast of Kabola District, Alor Regency. The first time a dugong's intelligence was observed was when Pak One, a local, noticed it pursuing a mangrove twig that his wife had tossed into the water. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), a global non-governmental organization dedicated to environmental protection and conservation, received reports about the occurrence. The significance of this study is in a thorough comprehension of how ecological ideology is expressed in Alor Regency tales about dugongs or mawar fish and how this influences people's perspectives on how humans and the environment interact. In this area, the emergence of dugongs—which are thought to be intelligent and capable of interacting with people like pets—is a singular illustration of the link between humans and the environment. The goal of the research is to shed light on how local populations understand their ecosystems, how dugong stories affect their perspectives, and how ecological ideology affects how they think and behave about the environment.

This research is anticipated to significantly improve ecological knowledge and environmental conservation activities in Alor Regency by providing a deeper understanding of the relationship between humans and nature through tales like dugong fish or mawar. The Alor district necessitates a thorough comprehension of the dynamic interactions between humans and their environments because it is a part of a maritime environment rich in biodiversity. It is intended that this research will enlighten local communities, governments, and relevant stakeholders by removing the ecological values and meaning that emerge from common stories like dugongs or Mawar. The study's conclusions and findings can serve as the foundation for more effective policies that support environmental conservation, raise public awareness of the value of protecting marine ecosystems, and encourage community participation in preserving the sustainability of the surrounding environment. Furthermore, it is anticipated that this study will make significant scientific advances in our knowledge of the ecological dynamics of Alor Regency and its surroundings in general. As a

result, this study represents not just an academic endeavor but also a significant advancement in the Alor Regency's efforts to maintain a peaceful and sustainable environment.

II. METHODS

Examining the ecological ideology underlying the existence of dugongs and Mawar fish is the primary goal of this study. Research methods—also known as "qualitative research methods"—are used to gather data through interviews. Through direct engagement with study subjects through observation, interviewing, or document analysis, qualitative methods are research approaches that seek to understand social phenomena or human behavior. One of the most popular methods for gathering qualitative data to obtain detailed understanding of people's or groups' experiences, opinions, and perspectives regarding a specific study issue is the interview (Sugiyono, 2021).

The following procedures are taken in the study to initiate the interview method:

1. Interview Planning: After arranging the location, time, and length of the interview, the researcher decides on the main topics to be addressed, the goal of the interview, and the identification of respondents who fit the study goals.
2. Researchers get up close and personal with their sources
3. Researchers Establish rapport by kindly introducing themselves and outlining the goal of the research.
4. First Queries To create a calm environment, the researcher begins by asking basic questions. Then, by the goals of the study, the researcher moves on to more fundamental inquiries.
5. After paying close attention to the respondent's response, the researcher records the discussion.
6. To wrap up the interview, the researcher formulates a closing question and poses it.
7. Respondents are given the chance to provide more details by researchers.
8. The investigator praised the respondent after giving more details.
9. Researchers examine the data from the interview transcription once they have the interview findings.

To enhance their comprehension of Ecological

Ideology in Dugong/Mawar Fish Stories in Alor Regency, researchers employed a range of approaches beyond simple interviews, which could provide more depth to their analysis. Apart from conducting interviews, researchers can also employ direct observations as a useful tool to see people's relationships with their surroundings and how Ecological Ideology is manifested in daily life. Document analysis can offer further context for comprehending how the ideology has changed and been understood throughout time. Examples of these documents include historical records, environmental policies, and literature from the area. Case studies can also give a thorough overview of the application of ecological ideology in the context of Dugong/Mawar Fish Stories in the Alor District by looking at particular instances that illustrate implementation difficulties or successes. Ecological ideology analysts can become more comprehensive and offer a more nuanced understanding of the function and impact of ecological ideology in the lives of local people by integrating these diverse research approaches.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings demonstrated that the ecological worldview put forward by Smith (2000) is reflected in the stories that the residents of Alor Regency tell daily about dugong fish or Mawar. The way the locals see and react to their contact with the species demonstrates this idea. Through interviewing community members, the researchers discovered that a profound comprehension of the value of preserving environmental sustainability and the mutually beneficial relationship between humans and nature is required. The locals' daily narratives are shaped by this ecological ideology, which offers a compelling justification. The dugong, sometimes referred to as Mawar by the residents of Alor Regency, is a marine animal that is protected and has a relatively small global population. There are only three dugong habitat places in Indonesia, and one of them is located in the East Nusa Tenggara Province (NTT) of the Alor Islands, namely in Kabola Bay and the Mali Beach area.

Pak One Simusla is a conservation pioneer who, in the last few years, has opened an observation area for dugongs in Kabola Bay. The Pantar Strait Marine Nature Reserve (SAP) Conservation Area is overseen by Pak One as well. In an interview, Mr. One described how he first came upon a dugong that he would eventually come to refer to as Mawar. One went

on to establish a dugong observation point in Kabola Bay as a result of this friendship. Pak One was preserving mangrove planting on Sika Island at the moment, in 1999. He said that his meeting with the dugong Mawar was unintentional. "In 1999, while planting mangroves for conservation, I met this dugong. "At first, my wife was upset because the other child was enrolled in college. If it weren't for plants, we wouldn't have this money," Mr. One remarked. A short while later, two dugongs materialized next to his boat. The two then trailed One back to Mali's coast. "He stayed with me from that point until the third day," Mr. One stated. When Mr. One once extended his hands toward the sea, a dugong appeared to kiss his hands. "I reached out and he kissed my hand as soon as I got to where I was, and then he naturally wanted to follow me. I handled it from there," Mr. One stated. Currently known as SAP (Aquatic Nature Reserve), Pak One is one of the fighters who help the community comprehend the need to fight for Regional Marine Protected Areas (KKPD). To cut a long story short, Pak One was in partnership with WWF until 2013, the year the WWF Indonesia Foundation moved to Alor. Then, in 2017, Pak One went to Bogor to attend a dugong workshop led by the WWF Indonesia Foundation. One then started selling dugong observation items at Kabola Bay following the training. He was unaware at the time that the dugong he had discovered was a male. Mawar is the name that was given to the mermaid and is still used today. One claims that Dugong Mawar is currently 28 years old. Mawar named her partner Melati, a woman. Siska is the name of this mammal's male cub. Siska, a Dugong Mawar youngster, needs to be cared for initially to help her get used to it before tourists may witness it. as only Dugong Mawar has been visible to tourists up until this point. These results align with ideas put forth by Brown (2015), who contends that attitudes toward environmental preservation have a big influence on how individuals engage with the natural world. According to both theories, ecological ideology is a major factor in determining how the residents of Alor Regency feel about dugongs and Mawar fish and how they behave. These results also contribute to a better understanding of how people's perceptions of their ecosystems are influenced by local ecological values. There are ecological messages in this story. Among them is the significance of preserving the natural equilibrium. The dugong is a marine animal that is crucial to the upkeep of marine ecosystems because of the

following:

1. Dugongs are marine herbivores that primarily graze on seaweed, particularly in seagrass beds and coral reef seagrass beds. By doing this, they help regulate the growth of seaweed, prevent overgrowth, and maintain the equilibrium of seaweed ecosystems.
2. Preserving Coastal Ecosystem Equilibrium
3. Because dugongs are frequently found in shallow coastal waters, their presence serves as a barometer for the condition of coastal ecosystems. By establishing habitat zones that are home to a range of marine creatures, dugongs' everyday activities contribute to the preservation of biodiversity in coastal ecosystems.
4. Contribution to the Health of the Elderly: Dugong treats the elderly by putting in around the area in question. Exercises that involve rumpug dugong can help membersihkan terumbu karang and maintain conditions that will protect other people's beach lives.
5. Nutrient Exchange: During the defecation process, dugongs help to facilitate the exchange of nutrients between the surrounding waters and seaweed habitats. The dugongs' nutrients can improve the fertility of the soil in the vicinity of the seaweed.
6. Importance as a Key Species: Dugongs are significant contributors to the maintenance of the trophic balance in marine environments, making them "sustaining species" or "keystone species."
7. Keeping dugong populations stable can contribute to the overall sustainability and well-being of marine ecosystems.
8. Impact on Culture and Economy The life of the locals, who rely on marine resources, can be supported by the presence of dugongs.

Since the presence of dugong fish or mawar has a significant positive impact on sustaining the marine ecology, everyone—visitors as well as the Alor community must be able to preserve the marine ecosystem.

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IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

The Alor Regency's dugong or mawar fish tale highlights the significance of environmental preservation. The ecological concept serves as the foundation for environmental conservation efforts, and improper maintenance could jeopardize the region's land and marine ecosystems. To ensure the survival of ecosystems, the community and local government must comprehend and implement ecological concepts. This includes raising public knowledge of the need of using tubs to conserve the environment. The necessity for education and socialization to raise people's awareness of and concern for the local ecology may be reflected in this story. Additionally, development in Alor Regency must be carefully considered to avoid harming ecosystems and species like dugongs or mawar. The environmental impact of development must be taken into account while measuring its sustainability.

Suggestion

To improve environmental education, local governments and educational institutions can collaborate. Ecological values and sustainability-focused programs have the potential to increase public awareness of the need for policies that support environmental protection and involve communities in the decision-making process. A balance between economy and ecological must be the goal of development, and community involvement in environmental conservation initiatives must also increase. Research on the environmental conditions in Alor District, particularly dugong or mawar populations, is necessary. Initiatives like volunteer groups or partner initiatives to conserve certain species can assist maintain biodiversity. Frequent observation can assist in spotting changes and implementing preventative actions.

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