

## Human Nature's Deterioration in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* A Psychological Study



Hayder M.Saad M.Ridha AL-Hasani

Al-Mutafawqeen Secondary School, General Directorate of Education in Najaf, Ministry of Education, Iraq.

**ABSTRACT:** The study investigates the human nature degradation in "Lord of the Flies", by William Golding. When society constraints and parental supervision are removed, these fortunate situations become accessible. Golding attributes man's bad character to the Original Sin, which occurred when Adam disobeyed God's instruction in the Garden of Eden. When the boys believe they are no longer under parental authority and the instructors are unchecked, they begin to break the regulations of the island, even murdering one other, and a return to savagery occurs. The study examines different methods of deconstructing dichotomies to re-imagine the connection between humans and the environment. Of course, the underlying antithesis is between civilization and nature. The topic of human nature's degeneration was the most well-known aspect of the novel, as a result, the depiction of the external environment was often disregarded. It is the purpose of this article to examine the worsening connection between man and the atmosphere from the viewpoint of psychologists to show the eventual demise of humanity in the book. As a critical endeavor, psychological analysis requires a rethinking of the link between man and external environmental factors which affect his life. It is the study of how humans and the physical world interact.

**KEYWORDS:** Lord of the Flies, psychology, degradation, environment, external world.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The human exploitation of natural resources has increased in recent years with technological advancement. Humans pursue economic and material benefits at the expense of the environment, escalating psychological and ecological issues. *Lord of the Flies* is Golding's most renowned work. It has progressively gained popular prominence since 1954. The natural, social, and spiritual aspects of the island are examined in this essay to better understand human relationships with nature, society, and themselves. People will have a better understanding of the significance of human-nature harmony as a result of this investigation. The beautiful island and nature's son, Simon, are used to show the relationship between man and the environment. The degradation of forests, the slaughter of wild pigs, and the pillage of natural resources illustrate the confrontation between humanity and the natural world. As shown in humans surrounded by different factors, people may observe the harmony between humans and society and the rigorous hierarchy of social structure via the description of the interaction between humans and society (Nurdiansyah, S. 2017).

Some readers may perceive the tension between men by looking at the rivalry between Jack and Ralph and the murders of their buddies. This also touches on Golding's irony about scientific authority. In addition, spiritual ecology is shown via the distorted character analysis of Jack and Ralph and the loss of home consciousness. It sums up the idea of human depravity, and the narrative also conveys the admonition that all creatures must live in peace. As a side note, though, it also brings up several issues that need to be further investigated. The narrative is about a bunch of English youngsters living on a tropical island. The lads are marooned on the island during an atomic war. Initially, the boys govern the island and act polite (Mazhar, S., Malghani, M., & Khan, F. R. 2020,p.31).

They appear to have a pleasant existence. Soon they are debating whether they should watch the fire or not. The lads separated up and they start the competition of leading the boys. The rivalry between the two groups grows, and some of the lads start to show their true colors and become nasty. Intentionally or not, three boys are slain. In the end, Ralph wipes for the loss of purity and the darkness of man's heart. This theory reads *Lord of the Flies* as an ecological study of human deterioration. It seeks to assess the island's environmental, social, and spiritual conditions. To depict the relationships between man and nature as well as the associations between man and oneself that are portrayed in this work, it is designed to mirror the following: There is an attempt to discover Golding's psychological and ecological thinking to offer a fresh aspect for the analysis of his works (Ibid).

Nature and man are shown to live in harmony via the vivid depiction of the island and Simon's return to nature. Man against nature is mirrored in the island's devastation of the forest and the ruthless killing of wild animals by the lads. Golding's admiration for nature is clear from the comparison above, and he slams man's violent treatment of it. The study investigates the emergence of evil

## Human Nature's Deterioration in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* A Psychological Study

in a tiny community and follows the origins of the fight between Jack and Ralph, implying that the battle between civilization and barbarism has an impact on the stability of society. It also reveals the irony of science's ability to save people from themselves. The story explores the factors that contribute to societal unrest. It is envisaged that the study of social struggle would give some new perspectives on how to tackle today's societal challenges. On the island, the story reflects the spiritual tendencies toward violence, which is defined as the link between man and himself. It delves into the twisted personalities, with a particular emphasis on Ralph's suffering and Simon's degraded social standing. Specifically, it is concerned with the loss of homeland awareness and the divergence of faith in the novel, which also entails the devastating impact of such loss and deviation on a person's spiritual soundness, among other things (Demir, A. 2019, p.49).

## 2. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

### 2.1 Wilderness and Man activity

Natural environments that exist naturally around us on the planet and have not yet been influenced by human activity are known as wild places or wilderness. To put it another way, these are places over which people have no influence and where they have not caused any disruption by road construction and pipes or establishing manufacturing capacity, and which are still as natural as they were before humans arrived. As a result of the ongoing impact of human activity on the marine environment, it has recently gotten more attention. Nevertheless, attempts are also being made to keep them in good condition and safeguard them from outside meddling, and some administrations already have begun to pay attention to their needs. Governments in developing countries are constantly attempting to limit the mechanized activities of humans in areas that have not yet been transformed for agriculture, transport, or manufacturing output (AMELIA, F. 2014).

Literature has devoted sufficient attention to the development and definition of tropes to comprehend the wilderness. This method looks at how wildness is produced and how it contributes to the health of the environment and the survival of life on the planet. However, it may also be regarded in two distinct ways in the American and British cultures, depending on one's point of view. According to the first notion, wilderness is seen as a potential danger to human life. This is present in early British culture as well as in the Biblical stories of creation. The wild-land is referenced as a location where demonic operations take place in early American literary works. However, in contemporary literature, it is shown as a secure haven where animals may be preserved in their natural environment and in their natural way of life. Those who live in the contemporary world have chronicled their interactions with the environment to better comprehend it from a more positive standpoint. Many books have been written on living in the wilderness, and this has altered the way the world used to see the wildland and its surroundings in general (Ibid).

### 2.2 The Lads' Conflicts on the Island

The events of *Lord of the Flies* started with an airplane catastrophe in which all of the adults perished. Only boys survived, and they were dispersed around an uninhabited island. Nature expands as it reveals its mysticism and tranquility to us. There were just palm trees along the coast, small, dazzling fish twirled around in the ocean, and white waves flanked a coral reef hundreds of kilometers distant. The scene is representative of the wildness that existed before the entrance of human beings and existed for and by itself before the introduction of human beings. Ralph appreciated the freedom he had at home on the unspoiled island. When the boys were abandoned on the remote island, the young ones called out for someone to take them back home, while the larger lads remained on high alert for any potential threat. Being different from them, Ralph was overcome with joy upon realizing that he had been abandoned on a genuine island by his companions. He expressed his excitement by giggling, dancing, and even standing on his head to show his delight. Ralph seemed to be shaking hands with a new acquaintance as he patted the palm trunk tenderly. Ralph finds nature to be so alluring and strong that he can't wait to go closer to it by disregarding Piggy's inane ramblings about it (Ferrari, G. 2019).

As a naturalist's son, Ralph cherished the conch, which symbolized the power and beauty of nature and could only be established and exploited by the naturalist himself, Ralph. First and foremost, Ralph was the only one who noticed the beauty of the conch. As Piggy and Ralph searched for the conch together, Piggy stressed the conch's expensive price and its use as a calling device for other guys, while Ralph was captivated by the conch's natural beauty alone. He paid special attention to its form and pattern in various situations, both in and out of water. For Ralph, the conch was enticing because of its inherent worth rather than because of its anthropogenic significance. Meanwhile, the conch signifies the overwhelming force of nature, and it gave Ralph the confidence he needed to compete with Jack for the position of leader. Ralph, who had superhuman abilities, was not intimidated by Jack and was finally selected as the leader. According to the other boys, Ralph was distinguishable from them by the conch he held in his hand, which represented a secret natural power. To all ecologists, this pure area represents the Garden of Eden, to which they have long yearned to return. A healthy connection between man and nature was represented in Ralph's unity with nature, to which the author strongly called attention. Now, let us turn our attention to Simon, who has remained a steadfast friend of nature (AMELIA, F. 2014).

### 2.3 Nature Conquest by Man

Throughout the narrative, the lads under the leadership of Jack set out to control nature, which they believed was even more important than maintaining the lifesaving fire always burning. Among boys, the wilderness was a terrifying force that had to be

## Human Nature's Deterioration in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* A Psychological Study

overcome if they were to live more than a day. So, pigs and other animals were used as a direct means of achieving the aim. Hunting was not so much about obtaining food as it was about conquering nature. Pigs were sensuously enjoying the shadows cast by the trees even before the lads showed around. Pigs were jolted up from their slumber, and the largest sow was slaughtered as a result (Simeone, D. P. 2008,p.278). The hunters had no compassion for the pigs, who were enjoying a pleasant day with their respective families. They tormented the mother pig even more viciously, prodding each chunk of flesh with a spear until it was completely decomposed. Killing pigs provided them with the satisfaction of having triumphed against the weird force of nature. Beasts, who were associated with primitivism and the condition of nature, were untraceable and more terrible than pigs in their appearance. Boys invented a form of circular dance to slay monsters to collect all their power before attacking. Meanwhile, a song with the words "Kill the beast!" was playing in the background, accompanying the dancing. Make a slit in his throat! Spill his blood on the floor. Jack and his merry men were enthralled by the dance since they had a ravenous appetite for blood and death. Even Ralph and Piggy were enthralled by their song's message. They grew numb in front of the ceremonial dance, as they stood by Simon's death, as he died. The spectacle of a beast being slaughtered was converted into a religious ceremony to commemorate humanity's victory over evil in the world. Ironically, the only beast they were able to kill was Simon, who had come to inform them that there were no beasts on the island in the first place (Williams, R. C., 1975).

Pigs and other creatures depict the natural enemies that the boys were hoping to defeat. Boys believed they were superior to everyone else on the island, and they used their authority to eliminate everything that threatened their position of dominance. However, it was later discovered that they were creatures that murdered Simon and tormented pigs, among other things. The anthropocentrism of our culture is reflected in the self-centeredness of the guys' viewpoints. When it came to controlling nature, the guys saw killing as their main life purpose, even if it meant sacrificing their lifesaving fire. Another important part of their victory was the control of the island, which they achieved by fragmenting and mistreating it... The islands were separated into many sections by the boys in two processes (Yonghong, Z. 2018, p2). To begin with, they split the island into two fields: the platform and the rest of the island, to protect themselves from animal attacks. It was in this manner that human people on this island were metaphorically isolated from the rest of the ecosystem. The lads of Jack's tribe moved to a new and private location to separate themselves from the previous group. As a result, different Fields were used to differentiate between Jack's sons and Ralph's boys. In addition, the term "field" refers to the term "safety." While tracking down a beast in the dark, Ralph would rather bring his company back to the platform than allow them to rest wherever they were to assure their safety. During the conflict between the two tribes, Jack also requested his son to guard the gate in case someone tried to sneak in and ruin our plans.

The boys weakened the island's unity by separating it into several fields. When it comes to adapting to their environment, other creatures do so, but humans are unique in their ability to alter the natural world for their benefit. To ensure the safety of humans, the land was fragmented, destroying its inherent complexity and unity. In the same way, as farmers cultivate their fields for various crops, humanities, and work fields are divided, the island's separation was caused by the lads' desire to better regulate nature. In addition to the partitioning of the island, the lads utilized the island as their playground. When Jack was unhappy, he would continually pound on the trunk. It was blamed on the trees and grasses for the mishandling of the fire. Because of human foolishness or depravity, the nature that gave them all they needed ultimately succumbed (Ferrari, G. 2019).

### 2.4 Manipulation of nature

What follows in this section is an examination of how nature has been reduced to a simple tool in the hands of commercial interests. Nature was the most efficient technique for Jack, who was vying for the position of chief, to gain status and set up hegemony; for others, destroying nature was the most effective method for overcoming fear and killing boredom. Jack assumed that since he was a chorister and head boy, he could sing in C sharp, and he would certainly be picked as the choir's conductor. Ralph, rather than him, was the winner of the vote, which was unexpected. He was psychologically scarred by being passed up for the position of leader by the boys, and he took advantage of every chance to display his might. He was the one who led the way in tracking creatures, picked up pig-related clues, and slashed trees with knives. As a result, the conquering of nature was only a method of regaining the favor of the other guys and winning the right to be selected as the leader. It is undeniable that hunting assisted him in regaining control over the lads. Furthermore, he employed forest fires as a plan to destroy his adversary (Nurdiansyah, S. 2017).

In the last chapter, when Ralph was the only remaining danger to Jack's position, Jack ordered the forest to be burned to eliminate Ralph. The burning of the island, as well as the slaughter of animals, were both intended to establish dominance over other youths. Nature, in particular, was converted into a tool for Jack to use to build his dominion. Neither animals nor woods were considered to be members of the human race or residents of the world. Any creature on the island, according to Jack, was inferior to him. In today's culture, the notion of human centralism predominates, and this arrogant and ignorant attitude toward nature is a mirror of that concept. Jack's decision to become a hunter was not just to fulfill his appetite for meat, but also to overcome his fear. All of my problems and feelings of despair vanished when I was out hunting. The only thing that would keep them up at night would be their prey—pigs. Hunting, as challenging and exhilarating as it was, provided boys with a sense of purpose and significance in their lives. They were able to overcome their phobia by taking pleasure in killing animals or simulating a killing scenario. The fact that they

## Human Nature's Deterioration in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* A Psychological Study

were able to kill pigs one after another increased their confidence in their abilities. When they murdered Simon during the dance night, the guys felt oddly thrilled because they believed that they had slain the beast via a deliberate effort (Ibid)

### 3.1 The destruction of human nature

The novel explores human nature and the mind. Golding depicts the horrors of evil that can only be found in the hearts and minds of human beings with the assistance of his youthful characters. Children are in a location that is distant from corruption, yet the evil that exists inside humans is nevertheless able to manifest itself, leading to both the destruction of nature and the harmony that it provides, even in a place where there is no outside influence. Humans' anthropocentric nature is examined in this article, and how the nature inside humans becomes an insurmountable danger to nature outside. Nature's lessons are difficult for a man to comprehend, and the beast that lives inside him quickly takes control and destroys all order and knowledge (Yonghong, Z. 2018, p2). At long last, the term "mankind's fundamental disease" becomes legitimately binding. It is represented by Jack and his gang, who is alluded to as "something shadowy" at the beginning of the novel. Chaos is created by this power, with the sole goal of conquering and taming everything as its single goal. Wisdom and spirituality are murdered in this thirst for conquest, and oneness is suppressed in the process.

Golding throughout the narrative is attempting to convey the anthropocentric mindset of man via all of the events and personalities that are shown. He does an excellent job of portraying man's detrimental attitude toward nature. He portrays humans as entropic, in contrast to nature, which he describes as a symbiotic system. Nature is engulfed in flames because of this anthropocentric human. This perspective leads to a man claiming everything as his own, completely overlooking the fact that nature is a distinct and self-balancing entity. When it comes to a little island, "Lord of the Flies" depicts the contemporary world as one in which man has abused the natural world for his benefit, because of his animalistic nature. The novel's title has numerous meanings, it may be interpreted in a variety of ways. If we observe Ralph's and Jack's groups competing for power, then "Lord" may reflect that. They get more and more ferocious, monstrous, filthy, and diabolical as the narrative progresses. Flies are also associated with death and decay, which might be interpreted as the death and decay of natural beauty (Nurdiansyah, S. 2017).

### 3.2 Nature Vas Civilization

Nature has been depicted as something clean, unadulterated, and uncontaminated, and this is still the case. Man's desire for civilization and growth has caused nature and the environment to be ravaged, polluted, and filthy because of his desire for progress. Since the island in *Lord of the Flies* is a small representation of the actual contemporary world, the island's original climatic and physical circumstances were such that "the beach was covered with palm palms" and "the salty water of the sea was clean," as the novel describes. As for the terrain, there was "a bank covered with coarse grass, interspersed with rotting coconuts and palm saplings," according to the description. Earth's environment was like that of the fictional island in the novel before human activity on the planet started, and its true beauty and innocence were maintained until the arrival of humans. However, with the advancement of technology and the founding of human settlements, the planet began to become contaminated with the imprints of so-called human civilization, which is essentially the root cause of its impure state (Larasati, R. 2019).

The boys "had constructed castles in the sands at the bar of the tiny river, and they already attempt to create homes for themselves. This might be compared to this situation. Although two shelters were in place, they were unstable. A taint started to spread throughout the island as the lads sought to practice civilization on the island. Some commentators believe that the entrance of the navy at the end of the novel symbolizes the return of civilization, which in turn reflects the restoration of the filthy environment and nature that society had contaminated. For this reason, the entrance of the military, according to some critics, is ironic, since although they arrive as rescues, they symbolize civilization, hence reflecting the root cause of the devastation of the environment and natural ecosystem (Ibid).

### 3.3 Man's exploitation of nature

Some critics believe that the environment is something that stays quiet and hauntingly silent, but it is very strong and has the potential to have long-term consequences for people. The experimentation with nature and its surroundings has been going on since the beginning of time. Soon after acquiring the tools to provide for his basic needs of food, housing, and covering, the man began to exploit nature for excess, leisure, and to fulfill his brutish and inquisitive natures. Nature and the environment, on the other hand, were mute observers of man's exploitation of them, and they proved strong in the end since man now is constantly threatened by global warming, climate shifts, ozone depletion, and other natural calamities, among other things. A depiction of this power of the environment can be seen in this narrative, where the boys first establish all of the regulations as if they were civilized English people and attempt to put up the amenities that they were used to having back home in their nation (Nurdiansyah, S. A. 2017).

As a result, they exploit the island, in exchange for which the environment secretly trains its might on them and overpowers them, causing them to lose all sense of civility and surrender to the environment and nature. The environment also can punish by keeping quiet and harming the minds of those who live within it, as well. Simon, in *Lord of the Flies*, is terrified by the cave mystery and the pig's head because of the island's eerier, quiet eloquence, and he rushes furiously to the other lads for assistance. There, he is brutally murdered by the boys, who mistook him for a beast in the dark and attacked him with their wooden spears. It also explores

## Human Nature's Deterioration in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* A Psychological Study

how one's animalistic impulses may be sparked by the environment, and how one's humanity might be snuffed out by one's connection with the environment. There has been a lengthy history of man-eating leopards and tigers in many regions of the globe. Many Indian towns and villages are home to a constant battle between creatures like rhinoceros and elephants, monkeys, and large cats. When it comes to slaughtering a pig in *Lord of the Flies*, however, Jack and his hunters first hesitate. Eventually, after he kills one, he makes it a habit to slaughter and eat pigs as a reward. It wasn't long before the lads threw stones at Simon, but they made sure that none of them struck him. Jack's crew, on the other hand, savagely threw stones at Ralph when he went to get Piggy's spectacles from them afterward (Hanafy, I. A. 2011, p.39).

After Simon and Piggy's murder, Jack and his lads had grown so barbaric that the beast inside them had overtaken them and they ran after Ralph to kill him. They show how nature and the environment awakened the beast in these youngsters, causing them to slaughter pigs and people alike, with little regard for the consequences. As a microcosmic portrayal of nature, the island has been shown by Golding in an unadulterated state. For the sake of countering the impure civilization that society places on us, he has put it up. Golding, on the other hand, seems to support the idea that abandoning civilization results in a person's dehumanization. In *Lord of the Flies*, Golding argues that civilization or culture helps people rein in their wild or monstrous inclinations by giving a fitting outlet for these feelings. He does not seem to have much confidence in human nature (Larasati, R.2019).

In the forest, where there is no authority to keep them from succumbing to their natural impulses, the lads quickly lose their humanity. This is shown by the fact that civilization offers a proper outlet for Jack's first impulse to hunt. In a civilized society, Jack poses no harm to the people around him as long as he abides by the established norms. When he openly opposes Ralph's authority and the legitimacy of society, he becomes a real threat to the rest of the group. Savagery may be a part of human nature, but civilization may aid to balance it out by generating a more socially acceptable "civilized" version of oneself. This is what Golding seems to be advocating. By abandoning their civilization, the lads relinquish their humanity and "reenter nature on its terms," as the saying goes. Since they are naked and cultureless, their feelings become illogical, mingling with the perceptions of the animals around them, to the point that they become inextricably linked to the natural environment in which they find themselves. When Ralph first encounters this new environment, he instantly takes off his clothing and jumps into the water, demonstrating his want to learn more. Ralph's discarding of his prior identity – the loss of his culture; his civilized self – and the adoption of a new identity; one that is more at 'home' in this natural environment is symbolized by the act of dressing down (Ahmadian, M., & Farahani, S. 2012).

The rest of Golding's argument in this novel is that when there is no rule and order when there is no authoritative person to hold one in control, those suppressed desires find a way to manifest themselves. This is seen in the boys' demeanor as their hunts evolve into killings, their need for food develops into pure bloodlust, and they develop a desire for human blood. This degradation starts with pig hunts that devolve into violent ritualistic slaughter and ultimately culminate in the death of Piggy. Because they killed their buddy, the lads have no guilt; instead, they are filled with immense delight and contentment at having completed another successful murdering mission. Even when living in harmony with nature, Golding seems to have little trust in the ability of one's humanity to be preserved. In this sense, Golding contributes to the perpetuation of the opposition between nature and civilization (Ibid).

This figure represents a naval commander who helps the youngsters find their own "selves," reassume their "identity," and integrate culture into what has become a harsher environment for them. As a symbol of authority, power, and most of all, civilization, and culture, he is revered around the world. They are reminded of what they have done when he appears; they are forced to consider how they have transformed into ferocious bloodhounds who feel no sorrow for the brutal death of their comrade. "Realization starts with Ralph, as he recalls the killings of the other lads and the horrible methods that they went to. Soon after, they all begin to sob as they realize that they have been dragged away by their instincts, gradually and step by step. Although instinct was the only thing that taught them how to live on the island, they now see the flaws and inadequacies in their methods (Said, M., & Rizano, G.,2020. p20).

To summarize, man is born into the natural world, yes; nevertheless, as soon as he develops awareness of himself, both he and nature are alienated from one another, resulting in a state of separation. To live following society's laws and regulations, he is instructed to suppress his natural needs and drives. Lawrence Buell writes in the preface to his book *The Environmental Vision* that wildlife has been "probably equally otherized" in contemporary discourse. Golding maintains this point throughout his story by depicting how the boys feel as though they are missing something when they are isolated from their society and thrown into the woods. It's almost as if they are missing a piece of themselves, and that piece is culture. According to Imam A. Hanafy, the tragedy of their lives is the fact that people are unable to exist outside of culture; they are unable to cope with life without culture, without civilization, and without authority (Larasati, R. 2019).

Golding also proves the negative impact that culture has on the environment. The contemporary ecologists who believe that the current ecological problem is caused by "nasty behaviors of mind" are drawn into the discussion. Ralph has described the situation that arises when a fire becomes not just dangerous but also lethal. While the boys consider the fire to be a source of amusement, Piggy and Simon see the fire's potentially deadly consequences and recommend that the youngsters stay away from it. Piggy is the one who advises that smoke should be used as a signal for aid rather than fire, which has the potential to set the island ablaze. If we want to see a shift in human attitudes toward nature, we must embark on a revolution in ideas. It is possible for humans, just as it is

## Human Nature's Deterioration in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* A Psychological Study

for Piggy and Simon, to interpret things differently when they so want. This helps them have a more in-depth understanding of the interaction between culture and the natural world. As students look closer, they can see how the two are similar in their core meanings since they are variants on the same topic (Lewis, R., Montuoro, P., & McCann, P. 2013, p.271).

This new knowledge reimagines man as not only physically reliant on the environment but also culturally dependent on it, as shown by the boys' need for food, which is given by nature. Culture is also a product of nature, even though it relies on nature. Meaning that culture and nature are inseparable and cannot exist without one other. A dual responsibility to nature and culture is the greatest chance for survival: when one abandons culture fully, the outcome is death, and if one accepts culture totally, the result is likewise death when considered from an ecological perspective. Golding seems to be accepting this thought, culture is the life-sustaining force for human beings, but it also has its own set of issues due to its estrangement from nature (Ahmadian, M., & Farahani, S. 2012).

As a result, Golding distinguishes between the dual essence of man - his ability to live in harmony with nature and his estrangement from it. All human beings possess this ability; this ability to choose between two possible outcomes based on their level of 'power of awareness.' In this approach, Golding tries to dismantle the contradiction between man and nature on the one hand, and between culture and nature on the other, to re-envision the self and comprehend it in connection to nature. Considering the above debate, it may be stated that the environment and nature are powerful forces that have a profound impact on the thoughts and behaviors of man. In exchange for the exploitation of nature and the environment, man is forced to endure the catastrophic consequences of his actions. Ironically, man is the architect of his demise via the exploitation of his surroundings. The eco-critical analysis is carried out for this same reason, and to bring attention to how man interacts with his surroundings and nature. In the book *Lord of the Flies*, Golding also attempts to draw attention to certain elements of this treatment and its effects; he warns us about the devastation of our ecosystem and attempts to explain how the environment is more powerful than man (Hanafy, I. A. 2011, p 29).

### 3.4 Destruction to the Extreme

Towards the conclusion of the story, the island, which had been overly abused for human aims, was abandoned and left to bear responsibility for the error of the lads who fled to a new life. Human beings are the primary perpetrators of this disaster. Between boys, the power struggle between Jack and Ralph resulted in a confrontation between themselves, during which they both killed their pals in collaboration with one another. Meanwhile, they murdered animals, plowed woods, and set fire to the island's vegetation. The boys, driven by greed and violence and guided by individuality, harmed both the interaction between human beings and the relationship between humans and the environment they lived in (Larasati, R. 2019). It turned out that those youngsters were the creatures with wicked jaws and claws that had been stalking the streets. The lads, on the other hand, were not penalized. They were returned to their homes and given a fresh start. It was the island that ended up bearing the brunt of the responsibility for human wrongdoing. Fire licked away everything on the island during the thrice blazing conflagration. The natural ecosystem that had provided them with a means of survival had been destroyed. It was those youths who conquered and made the island into a terrifying place, and they did it while acting as if they had been victims of a crime.

Not only was the island destroyed, but the story's conclusion also implies that human beings have been destroyed. That group of youngsters deteriorated into feral creatures out in the forest. According to Ernst Cassirer, symbolic imagination and intellect are the characteristics that separate humans from other animals. Based on the act of logical or abstract thinking, the system of symbols serves as the foundation upon which humanity has built its cultural system, which includes art, mathematics, and so on. Those youngsters, on the other hand, were incapable of comprehending logical reasoning (Meuronen, J. 2013). They were fully driven by want and selfishness throughout their search for the island, and as a result, they were reduced to the status of mindless criminals. While those guys were physically rescued and lived, they have lost touch with the core of what it is to be human. Homo sapiens, on the other hand, is a "common member and citizen of the land community," as the saying goes. All creatures, including humans, are guaranteed to live if the ecological system continues to function. Or to put it another way, the devastation of nature heralds the impending extinction of humans. The image of the burning island represents the hopeless destiny of the planet, which may be attributed to the strong anthropocentric attitude that humans have toward the natural world.

## 4. CONCLUSION

It was the subject of this study to look at the deteriorating interaction between boys and the island. Ralph had a strong connection to nature at the start of the story, and Simon had a similar relationship with nature throughout the narrative. Those guys, on the other hand, gradually were overwhelmed with a feeling of accomplishment. As a result, the island was conquered in the role of adversary. For even worse, the control of the environment was seen as a means of achieving dominance among human beings or addressing other psychological needs. As the fable predicts, human beings would eventually bring calamity upon themselves and the natural world as a result of their obsessive study of the environment.

*Lord of the Flies* is a study of fundamental human nature and psychology. Using the voices of his youthful characters, he depicts the horrors of evil that exist nowhere else than inside the hearts and minds of humans. Even though the young children are in a place that is free of corruption and outside influence, the evil that is inherently present in human beings, the insatiable desire to conquer

## Human Nature's Deterioration in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* A Psychological Study

and tame the external in any way, manifests itself, destroying both nature and the order and harmony that it provides (Yonghong, Z. 2018, p2). Inside the setting of Golding's book, this article will try to understand man's anthropocentric nature, as well as how the nature within becomes a danger to the environment around him. The characters Ralph, Simon, Piggy, and Samneric seem to represent the code of nature in some way. These are the characters who are the carriers of order and harmony, which can be seen and learned best in nature, such as Ralph and his conch – nature, and order, Piggy – wisdom, Simon – the spiritual side, and Samneric – a sense of togetherness. Ralph and his conch – nature, and order, Piggy – wisdom, Simon – the spiritual side, Samneric – a sense of togetherness Nature's lessons are difficult for a man to comprehend, and the beast that lives inside him quickly takes control and destroys all order and knowledge (Williams, R. C. 1975, p 22).

At long last, the term "mankind's fundamental disease" becomes legally binding. It is represented by Jack and his gang, who is alluded to as "something black" at the beginning of the film. Anarchy is created by this power, with the sole goal of conquering and taming everything as its single goal. Wisdom and spirituality are murdered in this thirst for conquest, and oneness is suppressed in the process. In a manner, Golding is attempting to convey the 'anthropocentric' mindset of man via all of the events and personalities that are shown. He does an excellent job of portraying man's detrimental attitude toward nature. He portrays humans as entropic, in contrast to nature, which he describes as a symbiotic system. Nature is engulfed in flames because of this anthropocentric human." This perspective leads to a man claiming everything as his own, completely overlooking the fact that nature is a distinct and self-balancing entity.

### REFERENCES

- 1) Amelia, F. (2014). *Civilization versus Savagery in William Goldings Lord of the Flies* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Gadjah Mada).
- 2) Ahmadian, M., & Farahani, S. (2012). A Study Of Archetypes In William Golding's Lord Of The Flies From The View Point Of Jungian Psychoanalysis.
- 3) Demir, A. (2019). Violence Surpassing Innocence in Lord of The Flies by William Golding and The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter. *The Literacy Trek*, 5(1), 49-59.
- 4) Ferrari, G. (2019). *Islands of dread: an ecocritical reading of The Tempest, Robinson Crusoe, and Lord of the Flies* (Bachelor's thesis, Università Ca'Foscari Venezia).
- 5) Hanafy, I. A. (2011). Deconstructing Dichotomies: An Ecocritical Analysis of William Golding's Lord of the Flies. *Ain Shams Bulletin*, 39.
- 6) Larasati, R. (2019). *Psychoanalytic view: the savagery of the main character Jack Merridew in the novel Lord of the Flies by William Golding* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Negeri Malang).
- 7) Lewis, R., Montuoro, P., & McCann, P. (2013). Self-predicted classroom behavior without external controls: Imagining a 'Lord of the Flies scenario. *Australian Journal of Education*, 57(3), 270-291.
- 8) Mazhar, S., Malghani, M., & Khan, F. R. (2020). The Hallmark of Civilization: A Psychoanalytic Study of Ralph in Lord of the Flies. *Global Regional Review*, 1, 31-39.
- 9) Meuronen, J. (2013). Construction of otherness in William Golding's Lord of the Flies.
- 10) Nurdiansyah, S. A. (2017). The impact of Jack's Ambition on other characters is described in William Golding's Lord of The Flies (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim).
- 11) Said, M., & Rizano, G. (2020). The Relationship Between Narcissistic Personality and Violent Behavior as Represented in William Golding's Lord of the Flies. *Vivid: Journal of Language and Literature*, 9(1), 18-25.
- 12) Simeone, D. P. (2008). The usefulness of Lord of the Flies in the Social Psychology Classroom. *Teaching the Novel Across the Curriculum: A Handbook for Educators*, 278.
- 13) Williams, R. C. (1975). Lord of the Flies: An Ethnological Study of Dominance Ordering in a Group of Human Adolescents.
- 14) Yonghong, Z. (2018). An archetype study of Lord of the Flies based on the view of the Bible. *Journal of Contemporary Educational Research*, 2(5).



There is an Open Access article, distributed under the term of the Creative Commons Attribution – Non Commercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits remixing, adapting and building upon the work for non-commercial use, provided the original work is properly cited.