

The Interdependence between man and nature and ecological discourses in two novels by Craighead Jean George Julie of the Wolves and My Side of the Mountain

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to reveal human dependence on nature, nature dependence on human, as well as ecological discourses reflected in the novels by Jean Craighead George *Julie of the Wolves* and *My Side of the Mountain*. The novels won the Newbery Medal and a Newbery Honor in USA. This research is needed considering that ecological discourse reflects the attitude and ideology of the writer, society, and the environment that are necessary in response to the earth's critical condition.

This research was conducted using qualitative content analysis method to examine the words, phrases, expressions in the novels. Triangulation techniques are applied in order to achieve the validity of the research findings.

This study shows that the novels reflect the interdependence between man and nature. The life of the main characters in the novels are indeed depend on nature. Miyax in *Julie of the Wolves* has been nurtured by nature. A wolf packs feeds her, protects her, and gives her happiness. Sam in *My Side of the Mountain* lives in a tree house and nature provides him with food. This novel also shows that, although at a lower rate, nature also depends on human. Miyax protects, takes care, entertains and heals the wounds of Kapu when he is shot. *In My Side of the Mountain* there is no strong evidence showing that nature depends on human, although Sam shows his empathy toward nature. Both novels show that the threat to nature comes from human. There are some important ecological discourses in the novels. One of the courses is the fact that carelessness of human can break the chain of life which consequently can stop the entire ecosystem that has been built in a particular region.

Kata Kunci: *children's literature, ecology, ecocriticism, sustainable development, ecological literacy*