

Human-Nature Relationship in Salih's *A Handful of Dates* Short Story and Lee's *Persimmons* Poem

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ABSTRACT This study aims to examine human-nature relationships presented in the characters from the short story *A Handful of Dates* by Tayeb Salih and *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee. In analyzing the texts, this study uses Kellert's typology of values on nature to examine the characters in revealing human-nature relationships. This study was conducted by: (1) analyzing the characters based on a typology of nine values of nature; (2) identifying the human-nature relationship reflected by characters; (3) drawing conclusions concerning with human-nature relationships found in both the text. This study finds out that the characters in both texts are utilitarian, moralistic, humanistic, ecological-scientific, symbolic, dominionistic, negativistic, and aesthetic. The characters who are moralistic, humanistic, and ecological-scientific perform positive human-nature relationship with nature and the characters who are utilitarian, dominionistic, and negativistic perform negative actions against nature.

Keywords: nature, human, relationship

INTRODUCTION As long as humans exist, there are relationships between human beings and nature (Ambrosius 2005). Human nature relationships perform positive and negative. Nature itself includes plants and various forms of vegetation, settings or landscape or places with plants (Kaplan & Kaplan 1989). In the relation of human and nature, nature provides foods and places for human and human should protect the existence of the nature. Human plays important roles in preserving nature. Nature gives benefits to human. Therefore in return, human shall to preserve nature to keep both better existences on the earth. Thus, the relationship between human and nature would be mutual order

Nature and human being are connected to each other (Budi 2018). Human plays important roles to nature. George Sessions (1995, 6) states about human roles on nature such as if human must protect and nurture wildness that involves bioregional living, intimate contact with wild animals and plants in wild ecosystems, animistic perception, and primal nature rituals. This study focuses on human-nature relationships found in the characters in valuing nature in the short story *A Handful of Dates* by Tayeb Salih, a Sudanese writer and in the poem *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee, an American-Chinese writer. Both texts contain nature theme and setting. In the short story *A Handful of Dates*, it uses date palm tree plantation as the main setting of the short story and in poem *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee uses persimmon fruits as the main theme in the story.

In the short story of *A Handful of Dates*, the main characters are a young narrator, the Grandfather who is new owner of plantation, Massod who is a former owner of plantation that sells his lands to new owners, and the other supporting characters are the merchant Hussein, neighbouring land owner Mousa, and two strangers who are also the new land owner and workers. This short story is told in the first person point of view of the young narrator character. The beginning of the short story tells that the young narrator really adores the figure of his grandfather. His grandfather is told as a good looking

figure, a respectable man in the village, and a religious person. It is told that the young narrator really likes his grandfather but then he turns to dislike his grandfather after he met Masood in the date plantation. In the story, his grandfather buys some acres of lands from Masood and those are date plantation. One day when the harvest time comes, Masood who was the owner of the lands invites the grandfather to come to see the harvest time. The young narrator remarks Masood's phrases that remind the workers not to cut the heart of palms. Suddenly the young narrator remember the event that he had also been reminded by Masood not to play hard with the young date palm branch since it causes the plant dead. The young narrator is quite aware on the situations he had that the date palm tree is also actually a living thing like human who also has a heart. No one is to give attention to Masood phrases including his grandfather. At the end of the short story, his grandfather demands more date yield to Masood and he burdens it as a debt of Masood.

The poem *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee tells his personal experience when he was a young school kid. The poem consists of 13 stanzas. The first stanza of the poem, he tells his teacher namely Mrs. Walker who punishes him because he cannot pronounce correctly the word *persimmon* and *precision*. In the second stanza, he expounds that the ripe persimmon has soft and brown spotted skin. The ripe one smells fragrant. The third stanza tells about his lover Donna. The fourth stanza tells that he just always remember the day when he got punished by his teacher. In order not to be punished anymore, he attempts to remember the other English words using Chinese words that sound the same and he recalls the memories of childhood with his mom in the yard. The rest of stanzas tell about the narrator's and his family's favorite fruit that is persimmon. He also tells that his father can paint persimmon eye-closed. One day, Mrs. Walker introduces persimmon that she calls Chinese apple. Mrs. Walker lets the students taste that Chinese apple or persimmon but the narrator does not want to taste the apple because the Chinese apple that is brought by Mrs. Walker is unripe. When the narrator realizes it, he does not want to taste that Chinese apple. Instead, The narrator sees his friends' faces turn differently chewing unripe persimmon that tastes sour.

There are previous researches that use ecocriticism on examining and discussing the various literary works especially in regard to human nature-relationship. The first is a thesis from TatikApriati with title *An Analysis of Human-Nature Relationship in Children's Book Julie by Jean Craighead George (An Ecocritical Study)*. Her research uses ecocriticism by Glotfelty to prove that human and nature is interrelated therefore there are always types of human-nature relationships. Her research reveals that there are good human nature relationship and bad human nature relationship in the characters in Children's book *Julie* by Jean Craighead George. She examines the good and bad nature relationships by seeing the actions of the characters, speech of the characters, and comment of the author. However, this study is different from Tatki's study. This study uses typology of values of nature by Stephen Keller to examine the types of characters in both texts to see the human nature relationship of characters in both texts.

The second previous research is a journal by Ginna Kurniafi Susilo entitled *The Disharmonious Relationship between Nature and Humans in HA Swain's Hungry*. This research discusses on disadvantages and imbalances of human nature relationship. This study focuses on the action of the characters that do

harmful and imbalance actions towards the nature and reveal the efforts of the main character to give in return towards the nature. Her study observes on human nature relationship depicted in the story. This study will be not only to analyze the human nature relationship in Tayeb Salih's short story *A Handful of Dates* and poem *Persimmons* in term of disharmonious or bad human nature relationship but also harmonious or good human nature relationship

The human-nature relationship in both texts of the short story *A Handful of Dates* and the poem *Persimmons* would be seen in the perspective of ecocriticism especially on human nature relationships. Ecocriticism is a study of relationship between literature and the physical environment (Glottfelty & Fromm 1996). Ecological criticism is also called an environmental study (Buell 2005, 138). Therefore, ecocriticism can be used to examine literary works that relate to the physical environment since literary works may also affect humankind's relationship to the natural world. It is because literary works such as novel, poetry, short story may bring some issues related to the natural world. Literary works may also portray the current issues of environment including showing the relationship between human and nature. According to Barry (2009, 255), there are five things that ecocritics do. The first is ecocritics do rereading on literary works from ecocentric perspective and they put the main attention on the nature world representation in literary works. Second is ecocritics use the applicability of a range of ecocentric concepts such as growth, energy, balance and imbalance, the uses of energy that is sustainable and unsustainable. Third is ecocritics do emphasize on canonical nature as main part of the subject matter in literary works. The writers that emphasize on canonical nature for example American transcendentalists, the British Romantics, the poetry of John Clare, the work of Thomas Hardy and Georgian poets of the early twentieth century. The fourth is ecocritics extend literary critical practice by placing a new emphasis on relevant writing such as essays, travel writing, memoir, and regional literature. The last is ecocritics turns away from social constructivism and linguistic determinism of dominant literary theories into ecocentric values of meticulous observation, collective ethical responsibility, and the claims of the world beyond ourselves. This study uses comparative study with the data of short story and poem which both reflect the personal experience of the writers in their childhood times. These texts in this study are observed in terms of their nature values as well.

Using ecocriticism perspective, literature can be read as messages for awareness of human to the environment and provide information about surrounding environment issues. According to Cunningham (2008, 16), human lives in two worlds. The first is the natural world that includes plants, animals, soils, air, and water that exists since billions of years ago. Second is the social and artifactual world that we create using science world of social institutions and artifacts that we create for ourselves technology, and political organization.

Both texts as the data used in this study finds natural environment as the main setting and theme. According to Barry (2009, 246), outdoor natural environment is divided into 4 areas. The first is called "area one" that is wilderness. It includes deserts, oceans, uninhabited continents. The second is area two that is scenic sublime. It includes forests, lakes, mountains, cliffs, and waterfalls. The third is area three that is the countryside. It includes hills, fields, and woods. The last is area four that is the domestic picturesqueness. It

includes park, garden, lanes, others. Are one is called wilderness because this area is nature in a state of uncontaminated by civilization (Garrard 2004, 59). The other areas including two, three, and four are predominantly in culture which means that human is in touch with these areas of nature. Especially area three and four, they are affected with civilization.

This study analyzes the nature or environment in area three and four from both texts *A Handful of Dates* and *Persimmons* in which these areas are in touch with human in order to see the relationship between human and nature. Area three and four in the short story *Handful of Dates* and *Persimmons* are including fields or lands of date plantation, park, and garden. In these areas, human plays roles in managing their environment. However, Human is always in touch with the nature. In the beginning of time, humans do food hunting in nature in order to do life survival. The life of human depends on nature and the life of nature also depends on human. Human takes advantages from nature and human must to give them in returns by preserving nature.

To reveal the quality of human-nature relationship of the characters in both texts, it needs to see the typology of human values on nature. Peter H. Kahn (1999, 17) mentions that this is called Kellert's investigations of people's attitudes and values concerning nature. In Kellert's book with title *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (2013), there are nine classifications of human values towards the nature. They are utilitarian, naturalistic, ecologicistic-scientific, aesthetic, symbolic, humanistic, moralistic, dominionistic, and negativistic. Each category indicates the human evolutionary dependence on nature including basis survival and personal fulfillment. The characters in both texts are classified based on their actions reflected in the text using the nine classifications of human values towards the nature by Kellert.

Each typology of human values of nature has its own specific definition and characteristic. The characteristics in the typology of human values of nature are reflected by humans when they interact with nature. So, the first is utilitarian. Utilitarian is a term used for human values on nature in form of his dependence on nature. It is like deriving benefits from nature for human sustenance, protection, and security. It does not give return to it since it is conventional basis of human. Kellert (2013, 48) claims about utilitarian character as the use of the utilitarian term here is restricted to the conventional notion of material value: the physical benefits derived from nature as a fundamental basis for human sustenance, protection, and security. Second is naturalistic. Naturalistic is term used for human values on nature in form of human satisfaction derived from direct contact with nature. Naturalistic involves the curiosity feeling on human in exploring the natural world. In line with that, Kellert (2013, 49) states that the naturalistic tendency involves an intense curiosity and urges for exploration of the natural world including the actions done by human indicated by naturalistic is also stated by Kellert (2013, 50). The naturalistic tendency has been cited as providing an important basis for physical fitness and the acquisition of various "outdoor skills" such as climbing, hiking, tracking, and orienteering." Third is ecologicistic-scientific. Ecologicistic-scientific is term for human values on nature with urge of motivational study and observational skills on systemic study of nature. It includes the motivation of understanding and knowledge about nature. But Kellert (2013, 51) also says the broad realization of ecological process has probably always been intuitively and empirically apparent to the astute human observer. An understanding of organismic and habitat

interdependence has likely been the mark of certain figures throughout human history. Moreover, this ecological insight has probably conferred distinctive advantages in the meeting and mastering of life's physical and mental requirements—including increased knowledge, the honing of observational and recording skills, and the recognition of potential material uses of nature through direct exploitation and mimicry. The sense of nature's functional and structural interconnectedness may have further instilled in the prudent observer a cautious respect for nature likely to temper tendencies toward overexploitation and abuse of natural processes and species.

Fourth is aesthetic. Aesthetic is term on human values on nature on the preference of aesthetic experience. It is human interest on physical appeal and beauty of nature functioning as inspiration, harmony, and security. Nature is as a central element to be valued by people's aesthetic experience. Fifth is symbolic. Symbolic is human values related to his expression of language and thought to nature. Kellert (2013, 55) mentions that " The use of nature as symbol is perhaps most critically reflected in the development of human language and the complexity and communication of ideas fostered by this symbolic methodology. The acquisition of language appears to be enhanced by the engendering of refined distinctions and categorizations. Nature, as a rich taxonomy of species and forms, provides a vast metaphorical tapestry for the creation of diverse and complex differentiations.

Sixth is humanistic. Humanistic is a human value of nature that is in form of attachment feeling toward nature. This is humanistic experience and feeling toward nature. It can be expressed like feeling love to nature. Kellert (2013, 57) claims the humanistic experience of nature can result in strong tendencies toward care and nurturance for individual elements of nature. Seventh is moralistic. Moralistic is a human value of nature in form of strong feeling of affinity, ethical responsibility, and reverence towards nature. Eight is dominionistic. This term reflects human value of nature in the dominionistic experience of nature. It is like the desire to master the natural world. Kellert (2013, 60) expounds life, even in the modern era, may be regarded as a tenuous enterprise, with the struggle to survive necessitating some measure of the proficiency to subdue, the capacity to dominate, and the skills and physical prowess honed by an occasionally adversarial relationship to nature. But Kellert also mentions that beyond an enhanced capacity to subjugate nature, the dominionistic experience may foster increased knowledge of the natural world. It means that dominionistic is not always bad as it will also be possible to give good experience to human. Ninth is negativistic. This term is to appoint the fear, aversion, antipathy, towards various aspects of natural world. Negativistic is performed by avoiding, isolating, harming, and threatening the nature.

This study is to examine the typology of human values on nature reflected by the characters. It is to show types of human-nature relationships in the characters depicted in both texts. The analysis of the study uses descriptive method. The data are taken from the short story of *A Handful of Dates* by Tayeb Salih and *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee. This study is conducted by doing close reading into the short story and the poem in order to study each character in both texts. It attempts to identify the characters in the text to show the relationship of human with the nature. Then, it is to see human roles to maintain human relationship with nature as reflected in the text.

**TYPOLOGY OF THE
VALUES OF
NATURE
REFLECTED BY
THE CHARACTERS**

The characters in both texts are classified based on typology of values of nature by Kellert. In short story of *A Handful of Dates*, the main characters that are analyzed using the classifications are the young narrator, the Grandfather, Masood, and the other characters who are merchant Hussein, neighboring land owner Mousa, two strangers, and workers. In the short poem *Persimmons*, the main characters that are analyzed using the classifications are the young narrator, Mrs Walker (the narrator's teacher), the narrator's mom, and the narrator's father. The analysis of each characters in both texts would name the types of human values toward nature based on tehtypology by Kellert. From both texts of a shoet story and a poem, there are found human characteristics toward nature or the typology by Keller such as moralistic, humanistic, dominionistic, utilitarian, ecologicistic -scientific, esthetic, symbolic, and negativistic. Therefore, here are he following analysis of the characters of short story *A Handful of Dates* by Tayeb Salih and *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee classified using typology by Kellert.

**In *A Handful of
Dates* Short Story**

***The young
narrator***

The young narrator has a moralistic and humanistic character. Moralistic is a type of human values on nature or in anotherword this word denotes to human qualities to nature that includes ethical concern to nature and spiritual reverence. Humanistic is a type of human values on nature such as strong emotional attachment in aspect of nature. Those types of characters are depicted in the short story when he notices Masood phrases addressed to the workers while they are harvesting dates. He notices the messages conveyed by Masood while he reprimands him not to play with the branch of date palm tree. He could feel the spiritual reverence after Masood's words.

I, however, had begun to think about Masood's phrase, the heart of the palm. I pictured the palm tree as something with feeling, something possessed of a heart that throbbed. I remembered Masood's remark to me when he had once seen me playing with the branch of a young palm tree: Palm trees, my boy, like humans, experience joy and suffering. And I had felt an inward and unreasoned embarrassment. (Salih 2000)

This passage of the short story reveals that the young character can do self-reflection and relates himself with the nature. The young narrator is the character that is aware of the existence of nature that is plants in here as also a living creature. He is able to feel a strong emotion or the kinship with plant. He can come to consider that plant is like him who has a heart that is beating. The types of values of nature owned by this character will lead him toward care and nurturance of nature.

***The
grandfather***

The grandfather is a dominionistic and utilitarian character. Dominionistic is a conventional notion that refers to the desire to master the land. The dominionistic character is seen when The grandfather is proud to have two third of land bought from Masood. He is told as a new master of almost all land in the village that he bought from Masood.

My grandfather then continued: Yes, my boy, forty years ago all this belonged to Masood - two-thirds of it is now mine.

This was news for me, for I had imagined that the land had belonged to my grandfather ever since God's Creation.

I didn't own a single feddan when I first set foot in this village. Masood was then the owner of all these riches. The position had changed now,

though, and I think that before Allah calls me to Him I shall have bought the remaining third as well.

I do not know why it was I felt fear at my grandfather's words - and pity for our neighbor Masood. How I wished my grandfather wouldn't do what he'd said! I remembered Masood's singing, his beautiful voice and powerful laugh that resembled the gurgling of water. My grandfather never laughed. (Salih 2000)

Utilitarian is a human value on nature that tends to do get the benefits of the land or date plantation without even considering on the date tree treatment so that he just exploits the nature without giving in return. The Grandfather is also a utilitarian character. For instance, he just demands for the date yield or in a form of nature material he doesn't notice any phrases or thought of Masood about the palm date tree as well as his grandson does notice that earlier. It is seen in this passage.

Someone brought my grandfather a stool covered with an oxhide, while I remained standing. There was a vast number of people there, but though I knew them all, I found myself for some reason watching Masood: aloof from that great gathering of people he stood as though it were no concern of his, despite the fact that the date palms to be harvested were his own. Sometimes his attention would be caught by the sound of a huge clump of dates crashing down from on high. Once he shouted up at the boy perched on the very summit of the date palm who had begun hacking at a clump with his long, sharp sickle: Be careful you don't cut the heart of the palm. No one paid any attention to what he said and the boy seated at the very summit of the date palm continued, quickly and energetically, to work away at the branch with his sickle till the clump of dates began to drop like something descending from the heavens. (Salih, 2000)

Utilitarian character tends to focus on the practical use of nature or exploitation. Based on the passages above, he burdens a debt of fifty ponds of dates on Masood which actually it doesn't have to be Masood's debt. His action is a kind of exploitation but he gives it to Masood. He wants nature to give more for him but he doesn't do anything in return. It is seen that the grandfather doesn't even put effort to care his land in order to increase the dates yield. Those are depicted in the passages below.

Then I saw them dividing up the sacks between them. Hussein the merchant took ten; each of the strangers took five. Mousa the owner of the field next to ours on the eastern side took five, and my grandfather took five. Understanding nothing, I looked at Masood and saw that his eyes were darting to left and right like two mice that have lost their way home.

You're still fifty pounds in debt to me, said my grandfather to Masood. We'll talk about it later. (Salih 2000)

It is dangerous and it could be harmful to nature if a human owns both characters of dominionistic and utilitarian but they do not own other characters classified in typology of human values of nature by Kellert as they are cited in her book *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (2013), especially other characteristics that is proto nature. The grandfather is proud of their winning land.

Masood Masood is an ecologicistic-scientific and humanistic character. Masood was a land owner of date plantation. He is supposed to know well the date palm tree as the land was inherited to him from his family. In the story, he is also told that he knows well the nature of date palm tree. He states that palm tree has an important part that is the heart just like a human. He expresses a feeling toward the young narrator that the date palm tree is also a living creature who owns organs to support its life. The heart of palm tree produces the date fruits. Certainly, based on his knowledge and experience he has ecologicistic-scientific and humanistic character.

Sometimes his attention would be caught by the sound of a huge clump of dates crashing down from on high. Once he shouted up at the boy perched on the very summit of the date palm who had begun hacking at a clump with his long, sharp sickle: Be careful you don't cut the heart of the palm.

I remembered Masood's remark to me when he had once seen me playing with the branch of a young palm tree: Palm trees, my boy, like humans, experience joy and suffering. And I had felt an inward and unreasoned embarrassment. (Salih 2000)

He is the first person that gives insight towards the young narrator and also the workers all about date palm trees.

Other characters The other characters in *A Handful of Dates* sort story includes Hussein or the merchant, the neighboring land owner, two strangers, and the workers. They are told in end of the story. Their roles are not as much as the main characters. But clearly, they are classified as utilitarian characters. It seen that the merchant, the neighboring land owner, and two strangers take all the date yields without giving considerations on their own date palms in plantation including the workers who work for the date plantation are insufficient knowledge on harvesting the date palms.

Then I saw them dividing up the sacks between them. Hussein the merchant took ten; each of the strangers took five. Mousa the owner of the field next to ours on the eastern side took five, and my grandfather took five. Understanding nothing, I looked at Masood and saw that his eyes were darting to left and right like two mice that have lost their way home. (Salih 2000)

From this paragraph, Masood who was a former land owner of date plantation left with an empty date harvests although he was the one who plants and treats the date trees for them who are as the new land owners. The new land owners are just taking only the benefits of the nature with date yields without even considering or giving in returns by the good treatment for their date trees.

In Persimmons Poem
The young Li Young Lee The young narrator has an ecologicistic-scientific character. He has observational skill and knowledge on treating the persimmon. He can differentiate the unripe persimmon with the ripe one. In the poem, he explicates that ripe persimmon has soft and dark spotted skin and the smell of the fruit is fragrant. Li Young Lee is able to treat unripe persimmon to ripe one by placing he unripe *persimmons* in his room temperature. It is seen in these Stanza 2 and Stanza 7.

Stanza 2

This is precision.
Ripe ones are soft and brown-spotted.
Sniff the bottoms. The sweet one
will be fragrant. How to eat:
put the knife away, lay down newspaper.
Peel the skin tenderly not to tear the meat.
Chew skin and suck it

Stanza 7

Once, in the cellar, I found two wrapped in newspaper,
forgotten and not yet ripe.
I took them and set both on my bedroom windowsill,
Where each morning a cardinal
Sang, *The sun, the sun.*
(Lee 1986)

Mrs. Walker Mrs. Walker performs negativistic. In the poem, Mrs. Walker is told that she cuts and shares unripe persimmon to her students. By that, she unconsciously puts a kind of bad image and bad memory about persimmon fruit on her children or her students' mind. So persimmon or Chinese apple is sour fruit and likely not edible to eat. She establishes a negativistic look on persimmon fruit only because she is less informed about this fruit.

Mrs. Walker brought a persimmon to class
and cut it up
so everyone could taste
a *Chinese apple*. Knowing
it wasn't ripe or sweet, I didn't eat
but watched the other faces.
(Lee 1986)

Li Young Lee's mother Li Young Lee's mother is a symbolic and humanistic character. Symbolic tends to use nature in language expression. Li Young Lee's mother uses nature in her language expression to express her love and kinship toward her son, the young Li Young Lee. As for example in the poem, she says that Li Young Lee's face is as warm as the inside of persimmon.

My mother said every persimmon has sun
Inside, something golden, glowing,
warm as my face.
(Lee 1986)

From the poem above, the author's mother also has a humanistic character, which means she has feeling toward nature. Li Young Lee's mother says in the poem that her son's face is as warm as the inside of *persimmons*. This denotes that the mother has a humanistic feeling toward nature and in this case is toward the persimmon fruit. She feels that persimmon fruit is as warm as her son's face, Li Young Lee, the author of the poem.

Li Young Lee's father Li Young Lee's father has an aesthetic and symbolic characteristic on valuing nature including. In the poem, he is told that as the one who adores and remembers well the detailed nature of things. Although he is blind, he could paint those things precisely and beautifully. Only by remembering the physical appeals of nature such as hibiscus leaf and white flower, two cats

preening, and two *persimmons*. He made them into three paintings painted on the clothes.

Under some blankets, I find a box.
 Inside the box I find three scrolls.
 I sit beside him and untie
 Three paintings by my father:
 Hibiscus leaf and white flower.
 Two cats preening.
 Two persimmons, so full they want to drop from the cloth
 He raises both hands to touch the cloth,
 Asks, Which is this?
 This is persimmons, Father.
 Oh, the feel of the wolftail on the silk,
 the strength, the tense
 Precision in the wrist.
 I painted them hundreds of times
 eyes closed. These I painted blind.
 Some things never leave a person:
 scent of the hair of one you love,
 the texture of persimmons,
 in your palm, the ripe weight.
 (Lee 1986)

From the poem lines above shows on how the author's father explains and express the nature thing such as *persimmons* into cloth paintings. When the author's father explains on how he remembers every details of *persimmons* and personifies persimmon as person, he uses his own words to express his adoration on the fruit that he always remember the fruit's smell like scent of one's lover including teh texture of persimmon is always fit to the hand pald. The Author's father has humanistic and symbolic character in valuing nature things such as hisbiscus leaf, white flowers, cats, and *persimmons*.

HUMAN- NATURE RELATIONSHIP ON THE CHARACTERS

Human culture is connected to the physical world affecting it or affected by it (Glotfelty, 1996, xix). It means that human is interrelated with nature. There are forms of relationship between human and nature. Based on the analysis of the characters using typology of values of nature, it is found that there are two kinds of human nature relationships. Those are poitive human-nature relationship and negaitive human-nature relationship. Postive human-nature relationship is found in the characters with typology of values of natures of moralistic, humanistic, and ecologicistic-scientific and negative human nature relationship is found in the utilitarian characters and negativistic characters.

Positive Relationship

Positive human-nature relationship is represented by the actions of the characters' personal spiritual feeling on nature, knowledge, and understanding of nature. For instance In the short story of *A Handful of Dates* by Tayeb Salih, good human nature relationship is presented by the young narrator and Massod. Both characters have personal awareness, understanding feelings towards nature and Masood is the one that inspire and to give insight to the young narrator and who is in knowledge on treating date palm tree.

In the poem of *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee, the good-human relationship is represented by character's actions of skills and knowledge. For instance, the young Li Young Lee who has ecologicistic-scientific character, he is able to mark the ripe persimmon and the one that is unripe. He also knows how to treat unripe persimmon in order to make it ripe and it is by placing it in room temperature.

Negative Relationship

Bad human-nature relationship is presented by the actions of seeking nature material without giving it in return and practicing greediness. In the short story of *Handful of Dates* by Tayeb Salih for instance, the Grandfather didn't care about date palm tree treatment at all and he demands more yield of dates without considering on giving more care to date trees. Beside of that, he burdens it as a debt on Masood.

In the poem of *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee, bad human-human nature relationship is performed by action of having less informed on understanding of nature. It is seen in the character of Mrs Walker. She is less informed about the way to taste the persimmon. She is unable to differentiate the ripe persimmon with the one that is not yet. Because of that, she eventually spreads negativistic look on persimmon fruit towards her students.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of a short story *A Handful of Dates* by Tayib Salih and a poem *The Persimmons* by Li Young Lee, this study reveals the human nature relationships found are both positive and negative both human nature relationship in each text.

Positive human nature relationship can be achieved by having informed on environmental awareness and environmental treatments. Human must give attention more on their roles for preserving and treating the nature. In treating plants for benefit, human needs to be familiar with agricultural information related to staple plants, food plants, medicinal plants, decorative plants and so on. Establishing positive human-nature relationship can help human to avoid careless exploitation on nature that may result in the danger of the human existence. This positive human nature relationship is reflected in the characters of young narrator and Masood in the short story *A Handful of Dates* by Tayeb Salih and in the characters of Li Young Lee's father and mother in the poem *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee.

While negative human nature relationship must be avoided because it will destroy nature and environment including it will danger the life of human and nature elements. This negative human nature relationships are reflected in the characters of grandfather and the other new land owners in *A Handful of Dates* by Tayeb Salih and in the characters of Mrs. Walker in *Persimmons* by Li Young Lee.

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