

Community Participation and Collective Action in David Derrick Jr. *Moana 2* Movie Script

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Abstract

This study analyzes community participation and collective action in David Derrick Jr.'s *Moana 2* movie script in the context of ecological restoration. The objective of this study is to examine the manner in which community participation and collective action are depicted in the context of ecological restoration in the script. The present study employs a qualitative descriptive method, utilizing Cheryll Glotfelty's (1996) Ecocriticism as the theoretical framework. The data were obtained from dialogues and scene descriptions in the *Moana 2* movie script and analyzed through data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings indicate that community participation and collective action are manifested through cooperative behaviors, shared responsibility, collective decision-making processes, and joint efforts aimed at environmental restoration and the revitalization of communal bonds. These representations demonstrate that ecological restoration is achieved through active participation and cooperation among communities. The study posits that *Moana 2* presents community participation and collective action as integral components of ecological restoration, underscoring the interconnection between environmental recovery, collective responsibility, and human interaction with nature.

Keywords: Community Participation and Collective Action, Ecological Restoration, Ecocriticism, *Moana 2*

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between humans and nature is not just about the physical, but also the mental. (Marland, 2023) says that people often feel disconnected from nature because of how fast modern society is growing. This can make people feel cut off from the world around them, even though being in touch with nature is important for our mental health and emotional well-being. *Moana 2* is a great example of how people are trying to reconnect with nature and deal with the problems caused by damage to the environment. Ecocriticism is an approach to literary studies that examines the relationship between literature and the physical environment (Glotfelty, 1996). That ecocriticism emerges because people need to read literary works (and films) from an environmental perspective, not just from an aesthetic or social perspective (Long, 2024).

Research on ecocriticism in animated films has seen significant growth in recent years, particularly about the representation of human-nature relationships. As Susanti (2022) explores the exploitation of the Earth depicted in *Moana* and its pertinence to contemporary environmental concerns.

Ecological Restoration is the process of helping ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed to recover (Aida et al., 2016). It was a response to ecosystems caused by human activities (Suding, 2011). At that time, people around the world started to understand how bad industrialization, cutting trees, and pollution were for environmental activists who realized that protecting ecosystems wasn't enough. They knew that they also had to take action to repair and restore damaged areas. Gann et al. (2019) posits that ecological restoration can be applied to a variety of ecosystem types, including forests, lands, and ocean ecosystems. This was driven by scientific reports on declining biodiversity (the variety of life on Earth) and land degradation (the deterioration of land), which led to the development of restoration as an important part of environmental conversation (Society for Ecological Restoration, 2004).

One of the main figures often associated with the definition of ecological restoration is John Curtis, a well-known ecologist who helped develop this idea in the mid-20th century (Curtis, 1959). Curtis and other experts said that ecological restoration is a planned process to help ecosystems recover when they have been damaged or destroyed by outside factors. The main idea is to restore ecosystems, so they are balanced and natural. This allows ecological functions like nutrient cycles, species interactions, and productivity to work well. This definition has changed over time, with an increasing focus on ethical and social aspects, such as human responsibility toward the environment (Hobbs & Norton, 1996).

METHOD

Tahapan Penelitian

This study uses a qualitative descriptive design to explore how the *Moana 2* movie script represents ecological restoration. The descriptive component is how the researcher systematically shows how the script creates ecological problems and solutions without changing the variables (Creswell, 2014). This framework is similar to the goals of ecocriticism, which is the study of "the relationship between literature and the physical environment" (Buell, 2005). According to Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), the analysis of qualitative data comprises four sequential stages: data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. These stages facilitate the systematic organization of qualitative data and the derivation of reliable conclusions by researchers.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results and discussion of community participation and collective action as represented in David Derrick Jr.'s *Moana 2* movie script. The analysis focuses on how the characters participate and work collectively in responding to environmental problems and supporting the process of ecological restoration. The findings indicate that community participation and collective action manifest through various forms of cooperation, shared responsibility, and collective efforts to restore the environment and reconnect communities.

Data 1

"We need to convene a council if—" (David Derrick Jr., 2024, Page 24)

From the above quotation, the thesis writer identifies that the proposal to convene a council represents the initial stage of community participation in ecological restoration. Rather than addressing environmental problems individually, the characters recognize that the crisis requires collective discussion and cooperation. The dialogue indicates that the restoration of the damaged environment is regarded as a collective responsibility that encompasses all members of the community. This collective decision-making process underscores the notion that ecological restoration is predicated on communication, collaboration, and mutual agreement prior to the initiation of any practical restoration efforts.

According to Glotfelty (1996), ecocriticism emphasizes the relationship between humans and the physical environment by examining how literary works portray environmental responsibility. The council meeting is indicative of this perspective, as environmental issues are addressed as shared concerns rather than individual interests. The willingness of community members to convene and deliberate on solutions underscores the notion that ecological restoration is contingent on collective participation and a shared environmental consciousness. Consequently, this quotation serves as evidence that community cooperation becomes one of the fundamental proofs of ecological restoration in *Moana 2*.

Data 2

"It's the only way to bring our people together again." (David Derrick Jr., 2024, Page 24)

From the above quotation, the thesis writer interprets this dialogue as an indication that ecological restoration extends beyond merely repairing environmental damage to rebuilding social relationships among island communities. The statement emphasizes that the restoration of Motufetū is expected to facilitate the reconnection of individuals who have been separated due to environmental disruption. Consequently, ecological restoration is portrayed as a process that simultaneously restores ecological balance and social unity.

As Glotfelty (1996) elucidates, literature frequently exemplifies the intricate interconnection between humans and the natural environment. In this quotation, the damaged marine ecosystem has caused isolation among the islands, while its restoration creates opportunities for communication and cooperation once again. The dialogue indicates that environmental sustainability is a direct contributor to human well-being, as healthy ecosystems facilitate interaction, cultural exchange, and collective development. Consequently, the prevailing aspiration for the restoration of both nature and social harmony is indicative of community participation, thereby substantiating the significance of this quotation in the context of ecological restoration.

Data 3

"WE'LL GO BEYOND AND WE'LL REACH IT SIDE BY SIDE." (David Derrick Jr., 2024, Page 109)

From the above quotation, the thesis writer posits that the phrase "side by side" symbolizes solidarity and cooperation in overcoming ecological challenges. Rather than emphasizing individual courage, dialogue underscores the significance of teamwork as the primary strategy for achieving environmental restoration. The members of the group contribute to the shared mission, thereby demonstrating that ecological recovery requires cooperation among individuals with different abilities and responsibilities. This collective commitment underscores the notion that successful restoration is contingent on the presence of mutual trust and coordinated action.

From an ecocritical perspective, Glotfelty (1996) posits that environmental problems must be understood within the context of human relationships with nature and society. The cooperation exemplified in this quotation aligns with the notion that the restoration of ecosystems necessitates the unification of communities around shared environmental objectives. The screenplay portrays collective participation as a social value that strengthens environmental resilience and encourages responsible action toward nature. Consequently, this discourse validates that collaboration is among the most salient indicators of community engagement in ecological restoration.

Data 4

Her gift for being the bridge, the connector — of people, of the ocean... (David Derrick Jr., 2024, Page 109)

From the above quotation, the thesis writer emphasizes that Moana's role as a bridge symbolizes leadership that fosters unity between human communities and the natural environment. The quotation suggests that ecological restoration cannot be achieved solely through physical efforts to repair nature; it also requires individuals capable of connecting people, encouraging cooperation, and inspiring collective responsibility. Moana's leadership role serves as the catalyst that fosters collaboration among diverse communities, unifying them under a shared environmental mission.

According to Glotfelty (1996), ecocriticism is the study of how literary texts portray the interconnectedness between humans and the environment. Moana serves as a prime example of this ecocritical principle, acting as a conduit between human society and the natural world rather than exerting dominance over it. Her ability to facilitate reconnection among people and to restore harmony with the marine environment demonstrates that ecological restoration is fundamentally a collaborative endeavor. Therefore, the quotation reinforces the importance of community participation by illustrating that environmental recovery is achieved through shared leadership and cooperation rather than through individual achievement.

Data 5

ONE BY ONE, every nearby island begins to celebrate. (David Derrick Jr., 2024, Page 109)

From the above quotation, the thesis writer posits that the celebration among neighboring islands symbolizes the successful outcome of collective ecological restoration. The involvement of multiple communities signifies that the restoration of Motufetū yields benefits that extend beyond a single island. The celebration symbolizes a collective sense of accomplishment, as the reopening of the ocean channels facilitates communication, cooperation, and harmony among previously isolated communities. This scene suggests that ecological restoration has a beneficial impact on both environmental conditions and human relationships.

According to Glotfelty (1996), literary works demonstrate a close interconnection between environmental well-being and human society. The collective celebration depicted in this scene symbolizes the social impact of ecological restoration, wherein environmental recovery fosters solidarity and cultural unity among diverse communities. The screenplay under scrutiny places significant emphasis on the collective nature of successful restoration, emphasizing that success is achieved through cooperation rather than individual effort. Consequently, this quotation offers compelling evidence that community participation and collective action are indispensable components of ecological restoration in *Moana 2*.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, this study suggests that the *Moana 2* movie script by David Derrick Jr. reflects the importance of community involvement and collective action in ecological restoration efforts. This notion is supported by both research and discussion. The depictions suggest that environmental restoration is not achieved through individual actions but rather through collective decision-making, cooperation, and collaboration among characters and communities. This perspective aligns with the underlying belief system. The outcomes of the study indicate that the characters are actively engaged in addressing environmental issues and reestablishing connections between individuals and their environment. Collaboratively, they facilitate the restoration of Motufetū and the reconnection of communities that have been separated. These representations underscore the ecocritical perspective of Cheryll Glotfelty (1996), which posits that human communities are inextricably linked to the physical environment. *Moana 2* underscores the significance of community involvement and collective action in ecological restoration, underscoring the necessity for collaboration and shared responsibility between human beings and their environment.

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