

The Interaction between Human and Environment on the Perspective of Environmental Ethics

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Abstract—Environmental problems could not be separated from unethical human perspectives and behaviors toward the environment. There is a fundamental error in the philosophy of people's perspective about human and nature and their relationship with the environment, which in turn will create an inappropriate behavior in relation to the environment. The aim of this study is to investigate and to understand the ethics of the environment in the context of humans interacting with the environment by using the hermeneutic approach. The related theories and concepts collected from literature review are used as data, which were analyzed by using interpretation, critical evaluation, internal coherence, comparisons, and heuristic techniques. As a result of this study, there will be a picture related to the interaction of human and environment in the perspective of environmental ethics, as well as the problems of the value of ecological justice in the interaction of humans and environment. We suggest that the interaction between humans and environment need to be based on environmental ethics, in a spirit of mutual respect between humans and the natural world.

Keywords—The environment, environmental ethics, the interaction, value.

I. INTRODUCTION

THIS paper discusses the overwhelming anthropocentric paradigm that impacted ecological injustice, because society has disconnected from nature and perceive the natural world as a resource to benefit and fulfillment of their needs. The impact of this mindset can be observed from the increase number of natural disasters and emergence of environmental problems, which is not only happening in local and regional environment, but also in a global level. The changing of paradigm and human lifestyle in the way of production and consumption has exacerbated the ecological crisis. On the other hand, modern law is more directed and encouraged at the fulfillment of human desires that have the potential to exploit nature. Existing law is more oriented to the benefit of the economy while the importance of the environment is not considered as a top priority.

Environmental problems seem not only caused by a technical problem but also cannot be separated from issues human perspective and human behavior which are unethical for the environment [1]. There is a fundamental error in the philosophy of the human perspective on himself and its relation to nature, which is causing a disregard to the environment.

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Inappropriate human behavior and the human perspective manifests itself in government policies in favor of industrialization. There is a growing movement in Indonesia characterized by modern technology, unfriendly environmental measures, poor governance, decentralization of institutions due to low commitment and law enforcement. [2]. These perspectives and behavior may be caused by anthropocentrism. Anthropocentric environmental ethics view human beings as the center of the universe. Humans view themselves as part outside and above the universe even humans view themselves as the natural rulers and therefore, humans may exploit nature or the environment according to their wishes in order to meet the needs and desires of their lifestyle.

Every being in the universe is an expression of nature itself and has value and should be treated with respect. The universe and life should be respected by humans' based on moral concerns and responsibility. There is a need to change this human anthropogenic perspective and behavior concerning the natural world. There is a need for cultural change in the humans interact with environment. The political commitment of the State embodied in the formulation of policies related to development and their joint movement both locally and globally in saving the environment is needed as well. It is also necessary to implement the principle of non-interference where is humans can use natural resources and the environment wisely in order to keep the ecosystem and biodiversity sustainable [2]. Ideally, the growth of one's environmental awareness is attached to themselves in conjunction with aspects of wealth, intellectual, aesthetic, moral and spiritual [3].

II. DISCUSSION

A. Ethics in the Human Interaction with the Environment

Discussing about humans' behavior certainly cannot be separated from the discussion about other elements of the universe. Environmental factors play a role in the formation of the cultural, social, and human behavior. Human behavior is influenced and determined by the natural habitat where they live. Human's interaction with the environment must be based on an environmental ethic and a moral foundation.

Environmental ethics can be interpreted as the basis of morality which provide guidance for individuals or communities to behave or choose appropriate actions and treat everything related to the environment as a whole supporting the sustainable activities within our lives and welfare of mankind and other living creatures [4]. Environmental ethics is a guideline of how humans behave towards the entire