

## INTISARI

Dominasi cara pandang yang terlalu berpusat pada manusia telah memicu krisis lingkungan dan mengikis ikatan batin antara manusia dengan alam. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengungkap mekanisme cerita rakyat Desa Uweth, Maluku, hadir sebagai benteng budaya yang merawat etika ekologis di tengah tantangan tersebut. Dengan memadukan perspektif ekokritik Greg Garrard dan imajinasi lingkungan Lawrence Buell, studi ini menelaah bentuk hubungan dan pola interaksi manusia dan alam dalam lima cerita rakyat: *Klopo*, *Maleo dan Kakatua*, *Usue*, *Asue*, dan *Otala*. Melalui metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif-analitis, penelitian ini membedah proses nilai-nilai ekologis dikonstruksi dan difungsikan sebagai medium edukasi serta penguat identitas ekologis masyarakat Uweth.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa alam dalam narasi Uweth bukan sekadar latar yang mati, melainkan ‘saudara’ yang bernyawa dalam relasi *dwelling* (hunian) yang harmonis. Temuan spesifik mengungkap bahwa kisah *Klopo* dan *Otala* mengajarkan sakralitas satwa melalui mitos perubahan wujud manusia; *Maleo dan Kakatua* memberikan kritik sosial atas konflik perebutan sumber daya; *Usue* menawarkan kearifan hubungan timbal balik dan pengobatan; serta *Asue* menegaskan etika kemitraan spiritual lintas spesies. Cerita-cerita ini memiliki fungsi strategis sebagai medium edukasi, legitimasi hukum adat, serta sarana penguatan identitas komunitas. Kepatuhan terhadap larangan adat terbukti bukan sekadar rasa takut, melainkan wujud empati mendalam yang mentransformasi imajinasi lingkungan menjadi aksi nyata dalam pelestarian ekosistem.

**Kata Kunci:** Ekokritik, Cerita Rakyat, Sastra Lisan, Maluku, Seram Bagian Barat

## ABSTRACT

The dominance of a human-centered perspective has triggered an environmental crisis and eroded the spiritual bond between humans and nature. This study aims to reveal how the folklore of Uweth Village, Maluku, serves as a cultural bulwark that preserves ecological ethics amid these challenges. Combining Greg Garrard's ecocritical perspective and Lawrence Buell's environmental imagination, this study examines the forms of relationship and patterns of interaction between humans and nature in five folk tales: *Klopo*, *Maleo* and *Kakatua*, *Usue*, *Asue*, and *Otala*. Using qualitative methods with a descriptive-analytical approach, this study dissects how ecological values are constructed and functioned as a medium of education and reinforcement of the ecological identity of the Uweth community.

The results show that nature in Uweth narratives is not merely a lifeless backdrop, but a living “brother” in a harmonious dwelling relationship. Specific findings reveal that the stories of Klopo and Otala teach the sacredness of animals through myths of human transformation; Maleo and Kakatua provide social criticism of conflicts over resources; Usue offers wisdom on reciprocal relationships and healing; and Asue affirms the ethics of cross-species spiritual partnership. These stories have a strategic function as a medium for education, legitimization of customary law, and a means of strengthening community identity. Compliance with customary prohibitions is proven to be not just fear, but a form of deep empathy that transforms environmental imagination into concrete action in ecosystem conservation.

**Keywords: Ecocriticism, Folklore, Oral Literature, Maluku, West Seram Regency**