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Pop Culture Study to Enhance the Awareness of Eco-Literacy

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the concept of enhancing eco-literacy through pop culture, which is the product of pop culture, such as music, songs, and books in fostering ecological awareness and sustainable practices. It synthesizes current research, identifies the trends and gaps, critically evaluates the impact of various pop culture elements, and suggests directions for future research to better leverage pop culture in promoting eco-literacy.

Keywords: *Pop Culture, Eco-literacy, Current Research, Trends, Gaps.*

INTRODUCTION

What do we expect more from this world, when all the people have run out of all the resources on this planet? The earth has given more and more support to our living, whether placed on the surface or inside of it. Whether the plants, woods, soil and all the fossils that support our daily life. Humans have been able to utilize natural resources freely, sometimes with disrespect to the environment. Everything has been depleted, without repairing or restoring its original condition.

Humans have been able to utilize natural resources freely, sometimes with their power over the environment. Everything has been depleted, without repairing or restoring its original condition. The world is poor, but some people try to voice their opinions of disappointment. By singing the songs, writings, and also protests by environmental groups. One of them is the well-known singer Michael Jackson who voiced his opinion by singing so that people would listen. With his reputation as a King of Pop, well-known all around the world, he tried to express his worry about the environment by creating songs that relate to the environmental condition.

Songs as part of pop culture can be such an effective way to show people what is going on with the earth. What is pop culture? Pop culture is part of culture, where the scope is very broad, including media, books, music, and movies. Most pop culture gives information about how the world is (Rets, 2016). Pop culture shows the condition of a society.

Songs can be easily listened to on digital platforms nowadays, including radio, YouTube, and Spotify. The culture we encounter every day is known as popular culture. Human groups have always tried to make sense of and enjoy their reality by creating music, folklore, festivals, and artwork. Popular culture is a reflection of societal dynamics. It can influence and reflect cultural ideals, inspire opposition, and symbolize how society is changing through activism (Fedorak, 2009).

An ecological-literacy or eco-literacy equips students with the knowledge and competencies necessary to address solutions for environmental issues in an integrated way" l Adawiah & Norizan Esa, 2013). From the literature review, it can be indicated that ecological literacy from environmental education must be taught and implemented in all curricula to fit the elements of education level in the state-supported by training programs (Pe'er et al., 2007). Higher education has a responsibility to practice environmental education sustainably manner to deal with social, ecological, and economic changes as development goals (Shahzadi et al., n.d.). The ideal ecological literacy needs to be harmonized between K-12 and higher education to create synergies between formal and informal education concerning the environment (McBride et al., 2013). Understanding ecological literacy is essential for society as it serves as an element in sustainable development in the 21st century (Kellner, 1998).

METHODS

Selecting the criteria of the journal and articles based on pop culture and ecology. Then, the discussion involves analyzing Michael Jackson's song "Earth" for its ecological themes, exploring the translated versions of a picture book to understand potential message variations, and studying how artists like T.Y Bello and Michael Jackson use music to advocate environmental protection. Additionally, it delves into ecological literacy among students and teachers, emphasizing the role of education in fostering environmental consciousness and sustainable practices. The discourse

underscores the importance of integrating eco-literacy into educational curricula to address pressing environmental challenges and inspire collective action for a healthier planet.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Michael Jackson's song lyrics, Earth is one of his songs that contain ecological value. It brings awareness by explaining the lyrics' meaning. The study of Ecological value is based on MJ's song Earth, with the literature approaches (Rahman I, 2022). The song of the Earth reflects the relationship between people and nature. The study uses qualitative research to study the song to understand the message. It is simply to show the ecological perspective toward the song of Earth. He uses descriptive analysis to interpret how the eco-critic theory was applied to the song. The paper teaches about the importance of protecting nature and living in harmony with the environment which uses imagery that also shows disharmony between humans and nature.

The picture book is translated from Polish to Italy, which is so interesting because the translation is too tricky since the pictures can tell the story without it. The paper shows examples of how the Italian version of the book changed some of the pictures and words from the original Polish version. By looking at these changes, we can see the message of the book might be different in Italian compared to Polish.

The titled An Ecological Delineation of Environmental discusses how two famous singers, T.Y Bello, and Michael Jackson used their songs to embrace the environment. T.Y Bello's song "The Land is Green" shows the beauty of nature and why we should protect it. She uses special words and comparisons to make her message clear. While Michael Jackson's song "Heal the World" talks about helping others and making the world becomes a better place. Both singers want to inspire people to care about the environment and work together for a peaceful world.

A contemplative dialogue is similar to having a special conversation where we reflect deeply on nature and its interconnectedness. Just like a big puzzle to see how plants, animals, and people are all pieces of the same picture. Through meaningful discussions and attentive listening, we can gain insights on how to protect the Earth and collaborate to create a healthier environment for everyone.

The research of Ecological Literacy among Secondary School Students this explains how teaching kids in high school about nature and how everything in the environment is connected. It discusses how important it is for students to understand how their actions can affect plants, animals, and the Earth. By learning about ecological concepts and how humans are part of the environment, students can make better choices to protect nature. The paper also mentions that when students care about the environment and have the right knowledge., they are more likely to act in ways that help the planet. Overall, the goal is to help students become more aware of the environment, make good decisions, and take care of the Earth for the future (Rabiatul Adawiah & Norizan Esa, 2013).

Exploring education for sustainable talks about how important it is to learn about taking care of the environment and being fair to people while studying creative things like fashion. It shows how teachers can help students understand these important ideas and make a positive impact on the world. The paper also discusses how the COVID-19 pandemic has given us a chance to rethink how we teach and learn about sustainability in education and in industries like fashion. It emphasizes the need for

educators to teach students about sustainable development to create a better future for everyone.

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Ecoliteracy Level of Student Teachers in Syiah Kuala University is a story about teachers who are learning about how to take care of the environment and teach their students to do the same. They found that most of the teachers they studied care a lot about the environment and want to protect it. The paper talks about how important it is for everyone to understand and care for nature. It also says that teachers play a big role in helping students learn about the environment. Just like teachers help students learn math or reading, they also help them learn how to take care of the Earth (Muliana et al., 2018).

In his work, Critical Pedagogy, Eco-literacy, and Planetary Crisis: The Eco-pedagogy Movement, talks about how important it is for schools to teach kids about taking care of the Earth because the planet is facing big problems like climate change and animals going extinct (Kahn, 2010). The authors, Peter Buckland and Jacqueline Edmondson discuss how educators need to help students understand these issues and work towards making the world a better place(Buckland & Edmondson, 2010). They mention a person named Richard Kahn who wrote a book about how teachers can help students learn about the environment and how to solve these problems. The paper also mentions a big meeting in Denmark where world leaders talked about how to stop climate change but didn't agree on a plan. It's like saying that everyone, including kids in school, needs to learn how to protect the Earth for the future.

CONCLUSIONS

Pop culture has the potential to significantly enhance eco-literacy by leveraging its broad reach and emotional appeal. Movies, TV shows, music, literature, social media, and video games each offer unique strengths in promoting ecological awareness.

Educators, policymakers, and media creators can harness these mediums to enhance eco-literacy, using pop culture as a tool for engaging diverse audiences. Integrating pop culture elements into educational curricula and public awareness campaigns can amplify their impact.

Future research should focus on empirical studies measuring the long-term impact of pop culture on eco-literacy, exploring the potential of emerging media, and developing strategies for integrating ecological education into popular content effectively. Interdisciplinary collaborations between media creators, educators, and environmental scientists can foster innovative approaches to promoting eco-literacy through pop culture.

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