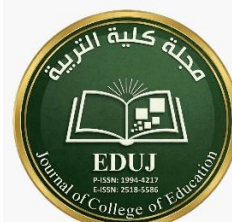




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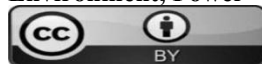
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Environmental Responsibility and Power Dynamics in David Brin's The Postman

A B S T R A C T

David Brin's post-apocalyptic novel *The Postman* (1985) depicts a dystopian world which he endeavors to reconstruct following a catastrophic event. Different power manifestations which individuals and organizations use against a precarious ecological environment are narrated in the story. Such kind of artistic dexterity is put into effect in order to describe how power dynamics interact with the environment through an eco-critical perspective, affecting human interactions and the world of nature as a whole. It examines how social structures are manipulated, resources are used, and how the means and modes of political authority are implemented into the environmental state of affairs. Moreover, David Brin, in this literary work explores the protagonist's journey, elucidating the transformative perspective of power when utilized responsibly and in harmony with the whole environment. Principally, an apocalyptic genre in stories comprises horrible events uncovering the incidents in an unexpected way, which is not only for the extension of the juxtaposition of events in the story but also for presenting the portrayal of individuals coping with the devastated society. With his exceptional knowledge of the Earth's destiny resulting from human domination, Brin posits global warming as a catastrophic civil conflict and directs the readers' focus towards the Industrial Revolution and the unforeseen consequences and advancements in technological paradigms that have transpired in the United States. Therefore, this study applies to eco-critical theory to investigate Brin's portrayal of power dynamics, underlining the complex relationship between power, environmental sustainability, and human agency within the novel's post-apocalyptic world.

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المسؤولية البيئية وديناميكية القوة في رواية ساعي البريد لديفيد برين

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الملخص:

تصوّر رواية ديفيد برين "ساعي البريد" (١٩٨٥)، التي تدور أحداثها في عالم ما بعد نهاية العالم، عالمًا بئسًا يسعى لإعادة بناء نفسه بعد كارثة كبرى. تسلط الرواية الضوء على مظاهر القوة المتعددة التي يستخدمها الأفراد والمنظمات في مواجهة بيئة منهكة، وتوظّف بأسلوب فني لتحليل تفاعل ديناميكية القوة مع البيئة من منظور النقد البيئي، مما يؤثر في التفاعلات البشرية والطبيعة على حدّ سواء. تبحث الرواية في كيفية التلاعب بالهياكل الاجتماعية، استخدام الموارد، وتطبيق أساليب السلطة السياسية في ظل الظروف البيئية القاسية.

علاوة على ذلك، يستكشف برين في هذا العمل رحلة بطل الرواية كوسيلة لتوضيح المنظور التحولي للقوة عند استخدامها بمسؤولية وانسجام مع البيئة. ويعتمد السرد من نوع ما بعد نهاية العالم على أحداث مروعة تُكشف تدريجيًا وبشكل غير متوقع، ليس فقط لتوسيع أفق التوتر الدرامي، بل أيضًا لتقديم صورة واقعية عن كيفية تأقلم الأفراد مع مجتمع منهار. من خلال وعيه العميق بالمصير البيئي للأرض نتيجة الهيمنة البشرية، يطرح برين مسألة الاحتباس الحراري كصراع داخلي كارثي، موجّهًا أنظار القراء نحو الثورة الصناعية، وتبعاتها غير المتوقعة، والتطورات التكنولوجية في الولايات المتحدة. لذلك، تتطرق هذه الدراسة من منظور النقد البيئي لتحليل تصوير برين لديناميكيات القوة، مركزةً على العلاقة المعقدة بين السلطة، والاستدامة البيئية، والفاعلية البشرية في عالم ما بعد نهاية العالم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: ديستوبيا، ما بعد نهاية العالم، النقد البيئي، البيئة، القوة.

1. Introduction:

The post-apocalyptic novel *The Postman* by David Brin vividly depicts a world cosmically fragmented in a chaotic condition due to an apocalyptic event, where the social structures collapsed, leaving a landscape tainted with anarchy and the environment's vulnerability. The central theme of this story is a profound analysis, examination and interpretation of power, including its acquisition, use, and ultimate corruption, closely intertwined with the ecological issues that come to the fore and handled and permeated in the novel.

This eco-critical analysis search the complex interplay between power dynamics and environmental degradation in the post-apocalyptic setting of Brin's *The Postman*. This search of power goes beyond the usual scope of political authority, as it also encompasses the exploitation of resources, manipulation of societal norms, and the consequent impact on the natural world. Applying ecocriticism approach, this study aims to shed light on how misuse or lack of control over power can lead to ecological destruction and social disintegration and chaos.

Furthermore, this analysis delves into the protagonist's change process, emphasizing the significant influence of responsible power usage in driving environmental recovery and societal regeneration. Brin's story illustrates the adverse outcomes of power inequalities and

highlights the therapeutic potential arises when power is exercised conscientiously alongside ecological protection.

2. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative methodology to examine David Brin's *The Postman* under the prism of ecocriticism. In this stage, an inquiry of David Brin's background, his ecological beliefs and various other recurring themes in his work have been the focus of concern. Following this, a concentrated textual analysis was carried out to recognize themes and motifs connected to power corruption and its ecological consequences within the story. This task involves a thorough examination of particular sections of the novel, including an in-depth analysis of characters and their positions within power structures and exploring how the book portrays the environment in a post-apocalyptic world. Secondary and primary sources are used to support the analysis, including scholarly books and articles on science fiction and Ecocriticism. This analysis was enriched with interdisciplinary perspectives, from fields such as environmental sciences, political sociology, and relevant critical theories, resulting in a comprehensive evaluation of the themes presented in the work.

3. Ecocriticism, its Historical development, and Assumptions

Ecocriticism is a recent field of literary studies, which directly establishes a connection between human beings and the environment. In ecocriticism, there are various groups of authors, theorists, critics, and writers who underline nature, place, and the physical world, and demonstrating the interconnectedness between nature and human culture.

The Ecocriticism Reader, edited by Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm, provides the most concise and accurate definition of ecocriticism. According to Glotfelty, ecocriticism can be regarded as the relationship between literature and the physical environment (1995, p. xviii). Ecocriticism gained legitimacy as a field of study in literary criticism in 1993. It explores the environmental issues in literary works. This earth-centered analysis and interpretation of literary studies parallels the gender-conscious perspective of feminist criticism with the economic class awareness of Marxist criticism (Bressler, 2011, p. 231).

The word "ecocriticism" was first used by William H. Rueckert in his 1978 article *Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism*. Glotfelty and other ecocritics advised the academic community to re-evaluate what they refer to as "nature writing." This challenge extends beyond simply reading the writings by Thoreau or Emerson and passively contemplating nature. Lawrence Buell, author of the influential text *The Environmental Imagination Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture*, defines ecocriticism as a call to activism (Buell, 1995, p. 430). Ecocritics encourage and challenge humanity to take action to improve environment rather than simply contemplating change or involvement. By studying texts that emphasize nature and environment, ecocritics invite humanity to participate in preparations that will change the material world and our environment, encourage to become protectors of the planet for ourselves and future generations. Writers like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and William

Wordsworth penned works on nature and created idyllic pastoral scenes for their readers (Bressler, 2011, p. 232).

Ecocriticism is evaluated as first - and second-wave of environmental criticism. Lawrence Buell was the first eco-critic to make this distinction in *The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination* (2005). He states that first-wave ecocriticism involves re-examining the "nature writing" of the 19th century. On the other hand, second-wave criticism focuses on more recent works, such as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962), which directly addresses contemporary environmental issues. Carson's influential text, for instance, sparked environmental debates that continue today, focusing on the harmful effects of pesticides, weed killers, and other chemical products that ultimately contaminate the food source. Arguing that these toxins are riskier than radiation, Carson presents evidence that pesticides can remain in a person's body forever, causing a range of diseases and birth defects (Bressler, 2011, p. 233).

From the mid-1980s to the late 1990s, ecocriticism's first wave concentrated on 19th century literature and divided ecological lines into American and British. During the "Flowering of American Literature" (mid-nineteenth century), prominent American writers such as Margaret Fuller, editor of *The Dial*, Ralph Waldo Emerson, author of *Nature* (1836), a seminal dissertation that defined the ethical basis of the American Romantic movement, and Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden, or, Life in the Woods* (1854), a quintessential nature writing text, established the basics for writing about nature. These works emphasize natural settings, nature, and a form of religion and spirituality that connects humanity and nature, representing a life force in and through nature that society should embrace (Bressler, 2011, p. 233).

Second-wave ecocriticism emerged in the late 1990s, shifting the focus from pastoral and Romantic American and British authors to contemporary environmental involvements. For instance, second-wave ecocritics actively contributed in the environmental fairness movement. In his 2006 essay titled *Environmentalism and Ecocriticism*, Welsh author-critic Richard Kerridge observed that the movement of environmental justice is a term for the efforts of disadvantaged societies to preserve themselves against the dumping of toxic wastes (Bressler, 2011, p. 233).

Ecocriticism highlights the interconnectedness of nature and culture, and it is an interdisciplinary field, which stresses that the sciences and humanities should engage in continuous dialogue, and recognizes that human culture is tied to the nature or physical world, with humanity influencing and being affected by the natural world. It assumes that nature, the world, and humanity have an ontological status. Furthermore, it analyzes texts that address the physical environment, and all texts create a concept of "place". It is environmentally sensitive in its approach to textual analysis and encourages political activism that supports its causes. It advocates for preserving the Earth for future generations, promotes inclusivity, and actively participates in political discussions through texts and textual analysis (Bressler, 2011, p. 237).

4. An Overview of David Brin's *The Postman*

David Brin (1951-) is a prominent American science fiction writer, scientist, and environmental activist. In addition, he works on the advisory committee and serves as an advisor there. The advisory committee involves critical issues as varied as homeland security and national preservation, space exploration and astronomy, philanthropy, and nanotechnology. Therefore, he is considered to be an environmental expert. His work and expertise in the field of the environment and the universe enabled the stories in his novels to skillfully address all the challenges facing our environment due to technological advancements (Bay, 2025).

Brin's *The Postman* (1985), one of the most crucial literary works, compares the collapse of our environment and climate change to a cold war that confronts humanity. *The Postman* is a post-apocalyptic dystopian novel. It narrates the circumstances of the collapsed American civilization and the ruined society after a civil war. As the planet becomes a wasteland of demolished buildings and a collapsed civilization, the streets are filled with the dispersed remains of a million bodies (Hay, 2017, p. 310). At the same time, nature stands silent and dark, along with the power grid, leaving everything shrouded in darkness. This is the grim picture which comes to mind when someone hears an apocalyptic story. Throughout history, humans have been captivated by tales of the end of the world, and the most contentious topic has been the survival of the human race. Science fiction stimulates people's imagination about the future with its tales of apocalypse and post-apocalyptic worlds. However, most of these stories, including those about climate change or environmental issues, are dystopian. This kind of literature is often called "climate fiction," but it can also be utopian, providing readers with optimism.

The Postman poses a dystopian view of America where societal collapse and environmental degradation are intensely interconnected. It illustrates the breakdown of civilization after ecological catastrophe. As it is argued in *US American Expressions of Utopian and Dystopian Visions* the emergence of dystopian literature is an answer to catastrophes, and the elements of utopian appear as a response to dystopian depression. The novel portrays a world which "ecological and economic future worlds" shape the political valence of American dystopias." (Poole, p. x) It is a reflection of historical concerns in European and American dystopian fiction in which environmental devastation represents both the nature's unpredictability and the human governance's failures. Poole in his conference paper focuses on how dystopian settings have been used as a predictions of social worries for a long time, stating that "America has also served as a dystopian space to project European fears onto." (2017, p. X).

The concept of utopia and dystopia is not limited to physical places but can also refer to a perspective or mindset. Both concepts significantly impact human beings and are prevalent in various literary works, particularly in the apocalyptic genre, which often features a dystopian atmosphere (Dündar, 2013, p. 4). Generally, many apocalypse novels focus on environmental issues and natural disasters because these problems significantly threaten humanity's future. For instance, global warming is a genuine problem that could potentially cause catastrophic events such as flooding in Caribbean nations, leading to a refugee crisis. Additionally,

scholars predict that natural phenomena will reduce agricultural production, resulting in a shortage of food. These are some of the fundamental assumptions about the impact of global warming on the future. However, despite efforts to decrease the factors contributing to global warming, they remain unchanged or even increased (Phillips, 2019, p. 9).

Consequently, the likelihood of a catastrophic event is becoming increasingly difficult to avoid. Human activities have caused harm to nature, and the concept of the apocalypse is well-known to people (Nordhaus, 1996, p. 12). In his novel *Existence*, David Brin discusses this tendency of humans towards being fascinated with the end of the world or doomsday scenarios. He explains that humans desire to learn about all the stories related to doomsday and believes that the idea that the past was better than the present or future is a driving factor behind the popularity of apocalyptic stories. Brin suggests that the pleasure humans derive from imagining bad things happening to others, or Schadenfreude, also contributes to the popularity of these stories (Brin, 2012).

5. The Corruption of Power in *The Postman* by David Brin

In David Brin's novel *The Postman*, the protagonist, Gordon, uses a postal uniform as a power vacuum to manipulate the situation to his advantage, in the aftermath of a catastrophic war. He recognizes that the postman symbol represents authority and trust, and uses this to gain obedience from the desperate survivors he encounters. He delivers charismatic speeches and promises of security and hopes to idealize himself as a leader, manipulating the power associated with the postman's image. It allows him to shape the world according to his vision and exploit the vulnerability of the survivors looking to him for salvation.

The postman's narrative is often regarded as a falsehood that ultimately assumes a potent and compelling truth. The novel describes how human activity achieved unparalleled heights in the United States, resulting in a climate that undergoes unanticipated shifts annually. The protagonist endeavors to validate the environmental conditions of both the authorities and the populace and prepare for the challenge of global warming, which engenders dehydration, air pollution, rising sea levels, deforestation, and the disappearance of species in nature. The protagonist in this novel is a survivor who traverses from one location to another, urging civilization to persevere rebound and abandon thoughts of war, as it has become a relic of the past. Simultaneously, the author emphasizes the notion of hope as a means of rejuvenating American civilization (Brin, 1985).

David Brin's novel *The Postman* portrays the degrading impact of power on the postal service of a fictional Renaissance America. The narrative reveals that the once-hallowed institution of mail delivery has become a hotbed of corruption and the misuse of power. The postal officials, including General Bethlehem and Captain Sheridan, exhibit a blatant disregard for the welfare of the citizens they are entrusted to serve, using their positions of authority to exert control and dominate those under their command. This corruption is not exclusive to the higher echelons, as even the most junior employees are prone to exploiting their power for personal advantage. The postal service, originally intended to promote unity and simplify communication, has unfortunately devolved into an instrument of control and oppression. This corruption within the postal service serves as a small-scale representation of

the widespread societal deterioration portrayed in the novel, underscoring the hazardous outcomes that can result from unrestricted power.

Brin's *The Postman* is a science fiction novel. This kind of fiction emerged in the late 19th century; this period had already seen the appearance of the United States of America as an imperial actor in the scene of the world. In science fiction novels, the authors consistently predict changes in society in the future. Also, Brin predicted a civil war in 2013 in North America. At the same time, he focuses on the American power in developing science and the impact of science and technology on the civilization and society in the novel. "It's said that 'power corrupts,' but it's truer that power attracts the corruptible. The sane are usually attracted by other things than power. When they act, they think of it as a service with limits. The tyrant seeks mastery, for which he is insatiable, implacable" (1985, p. 139). Their culture is the main factor that impacts the environment, especially in the northern part. Since they are a more technological society than the South. At the same time, Brin focuses on Californian society and culture in the north.

Brin shed light on the American devastated society due to the solid power of the development of science and technology that destroys the environment. Brin sends the postman to a lonely place as a hope for those who remain after the war. In his review of *Brin's The Postman*, Bradfield declares that it takes almost seventeen years after a nuclear war destroys America even to consider rebuilding a postal system. Based on this point, more than a mere ordinary postman is required; instead, America needs a remarkable postman who is not afraid to believe in grand concepts such as freedom, love, honour, and commitment, which are believed to have made America great in the first place. David Brin's latest novel features a mail carrier in Gordon Krantz, who refers to himself as the last idealist in a harsh and unimaginative world. He is confident in his manhood and can love a feminist despite having different political views. He doesn't confirm or posit violence unless it's necessary. Gordon may be calm, but he won't tolerate nonsense from anyone. He identifies his ontology with the idea of a natural moral order, as seen in Robinson Crusoe and the libertarian philosophy of today. In contrast to Crusoe, Gordon has undoubtedly spent considerable time in California. Furthermore, Brin's entire novel may have devoted too much attention to the state; its overly concocted plot, as well as the post-holocaust America it portrays, appears to be excessively convenient, resembling one of those midnight mini-markets that California is notoriously known for (James, 1986, p. 73).

The science fiction genre deals with the influence of natural or imaginary science on civilization or society or individuals in society. It means that the preservation and the time to preserve the planet from the catastrophic weather is removed from the human's own. Science fiction novels are literary genres regarding as well as related to the future. It predicts the impact of science on the future of the environment and society. The novels in the science fiction genre predict the future and how the evolution of science exploits the nature of the environment, culture and society in the most powerful countries, such as the United States of America (Seed, 2011, p. 3). David Brin's *The Postman* is one the most powerful climate change novels:

Chill winds still blew. Dusty snow fell. The Earth had spun six thousand times since flames blossomed and cities died. Plumes of soot no longer roiled from burning forests. Six thousand sunsets had come and gone—gaudy, orange, and glorious with suspended dust. Towering, superheated funnels had punched through to the stratosphere, fitting it with tiny bits of rock and soil. The atmosphere passed less sunlight—and it cooled. Temperatures and pressures swung out of balance. Great winds blew. Dingy snow fell, and in places even summer did not erase it. Only the Ocean, timeless and obstinate, really mattered. Ice grew, and the shallower seas began to sink. (1985, p. 3)

Regarding environmental issues, climate change or climate fiction will be considered a new genre in eco-fiction or science fiction novels. Climate change is the change of weather due to human activities. After the environmental activists discovered that an unexpected change in the weather would happen shortly, this new atmospheric circumstance changed from talking about it to writing about it. Many novels emerged with the climate fiction genre. Climate change-related fiction is a literary phenomenon, and it is known as a climate fiction "Cli-Fi". This term was invented in 2007 by Yaiwan-based blogger Dan Bloom. The term is newly coined, but the content is the same as science fiction. Climate fiction can be defined as novels which regard climate change induced by human activities. Many authors and novels emerged in this field. Cli-fi is considering the creative challenge that climate change poses (Liggett, 2018). In Cli-Fi novels, only individual protagonists or small communities take the role or act in action, but climate change influences the whole planet and all the species on this planet and assumes the end of the Earth. The individual protagonist in Brin's *The Postman* is strong evidence to apply this novel to the Cli-Fi genre. Also, the area's colour is grey in the Sci-fi novel. As well as, many cli-fi narratives could be categorized as post-apocalyptic, dystopian, both portraying terrifying societies caused by catastrophic climate events. One of the most influential narrative to designate the situation of climate change on Earth is a coming world (Walter Leal Filho, 2018, p. 251).

However, in the present time scale, the Earth confronts drier weather and lack of rain than a warm climate because of climate change. At the same time, it will affect water and agriculture or agribusiness resources. It is a catastrophic climate that will advance and constantly enlarge the peril of conflict. This era is the era of global warming; it has turned out to be a globally devastating and catastrophic problem. Global warming could desiccate the landscape by raising evaporation in typically dried soils by higher temperatures and feeble winds, which import a lack of rain. The struggles triggered by climate change grows to war either between countries or civil war.

In the same way, Brin discusses the factors which gave rise to the catastrophic circumstance of American civilization after a battle. He predicts a war because of climate change. The vast country as the United States of America may soon or maybe now face a climate change civil war due to the decisive power in the science of technology, astrology, and industry. As it is discussed in this network report below:

The U.S. Defense Department is taking the warning seriously. It issued a report last November declaring climate change a "threat multiplier" that will impact national security. When *Scientific American* asked Seager if his group's research supports that point of view, he said, Yes. It does. Climate change is a cause of concern for national, regional, and international security, and this study clarifies how that can work. The Syrian war has now taken on a life of its own. However, a drought made worse by climate change was one crucial factor that initiated the social unravelling. (Fischetti, 110)

David Brin's *The Postman* is the story of a lie that grows to a relatively strong truth. It is the tale of the heroic adventure of a man who relights the spirit of America through the power of a dream in a contemporary Master of Science fiction. Some sometimes sort too false to prevent or reduce the aggravation between individuals. The protagonist (Gordon) is a survivor and a man who wanders in the dark and sells his tales to keep himself from starving and protect the place danger of savages after a catastrophic war. A post-apocalyptic America in 2013:

In dust and blood- with the sharp tang of terror stark in his nostrils, man's mind sometimes pulls forth odd relevancies. After half a lifetime in the wilderness, most of it was spent struggling to survive. It still struck Gordon as odd- how obscure memories would pop into his mind right in the middle of a life-or-death fight. Panting under a bone-dry thicket-crawling desperately to find a refuge, he suddenly experienced a collection as clear as the dusty stones under his nose. It was a memory of contrast a rainy afternoon in a warm, safe university library, long ago a lost world filled with books, music, and carefree philosophical ramblings. After all, he was over thirty now, beyond the typical life expectancy of a post-holocaust traveler. (Brin, 4)

On a chilly night in winter, destiny touches him. He could find the dead body of a postal worker with an undelivered bag of emails. He borrows the postman's jacket to keep himself from the cold weather. He decides to act as a postman with a postal uniform. He attempts to deliver mail to the nearby town. The postal uniform keeps him warm and restores the United States. He tricks the town into feeding him by telling them the United States has been reconstructed. He continues weaving his tales about a nation on the way to reinstatement. The postal uniform gives him the power to feel responsible for restoring civilization's fall. The jacket is a symbol of hope. The protagonist also symbolizes hope because he could return hope to the population. He encourages them to survive and remember that one day, they will have a world which gives them courage.

Climate change is the central theme of all eco-fictional and science-fiction novels. In addition, global warming prediction is a prevalent subject among most novelists. Global warming is a worldwide problem and issue. Mother Earth faced a catastrophic atmosphere, and the environment collapsed. Meanwhile, the most observed feature of the Earth is life and existence. With the development of technology and industry, the danger of global warming is increasing. Both technology and industry require a large amount of energy and fossil fuel to sustain. At the same time, using fossil fuels causes carbon dioxide emissions to increase in

the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a rather poisonous gas that raises the sea's acidic water rate. When the atmosphere is dominated by carbon dioxide, the weather becomes hotter and affects the Earth's climate. The global warming is the new science of climate change (Darke, 2000, p. 1).

Alongside the global warming era, climate scientists have mentioned the greenhouse. The natural greenhouse is rather beneficial for the Earth and ecosystem. It is the collection of heat from the power of sunlight by the Earth. Greenhouse absorbs the heat from the Sun during the day, keeping the plants warm at night. On the contrary, the unnatural greenhouse is a greenhouse gas, one of the most problematic issues. Gases increase in the atmosphere due to human activity. These gases obstruct the heat that the earth releases. It is a significant factor in global warming. It causes hot weather daily and, finally, global warming (Casper, 2010, p. 5).

Taking responsibility solves some of the environmental problems. In Brin's *The Postman*, Gordon takes responsibility, but in the actual world of humans, who will take responsibility? Global warming is an international problem, not only the issue of a specific place or region but also the issue of the whole world. Any environmental change in any part of the world will eventually equally effects other parts of the world. Today, our planet is in danger of climate change. All the countries, especially over industrial ones, like the United States and China, must take the primary responsibility. They compete with each other in inventing new technology. Also, they have many destructive resources such as chemical and nuclear weapons. States are, in conformity with the fundamental law of the United Nations and the rules of international law, the potent right to destroy their resources due to their environmental policies. The responsibility to specific activities in their legal authority or restraint does not induce exploitation of the environment of the other States or lands in the boundaries of national jurisdiction (Harold Coward, 1993, p. 116).

The availability of power in human beings or the power of science or political power, all kinds of power are positive and not corruptible, but humans misuse power. In *What Are You Living For?* Pat Williams and Jim Denney discuss power as a favorable point of the human, not a destructive force. Power is the ability to distinguish problematic states affairs from the right ones. But humans always misinterpret this valuable point as money, fame, and pleasure. As Brin indicates in *The Postman*, power, instead of being corrupted, attracts the corruptible. Lord Acton has a quote about power: "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely" (Denney, 2008, p. 73).

The power of hope in Gordon's jacket could bring hope and security to the northern nations. This kind of power is related to a positive power in the postal uniform. In contrast, the power of science and technology has the quality of hybridity, giving humans a luxurious and easier life rather than a pure life. On the other hand, it spoiled nature, polluted the atmosphere and caused many other environmental issues. These are all related to the human influence on the Earth due to inventions new technologies. It reveals that humans have a mighty power to contrive technology and new science that has the power to devastate the atmosphere. Human activity is a power that causes global warming. Human power affects the environment in some negative ways: pollution, bad impacts of human activities on the air,

water, and soil like travel, networks, cell phones, power generation, using artificial ways in agriculture, and dumping industrial waste into the environment. Deforestation has expanded, giving way to urbanizations, humans destroy plants and trees. Greenfields are human shelters that protect the Earth from warm weather. Wasting of resources, excessive usage of commodities, technology, and non-vegetative diets also affect the environment (Rose, 2006, pp. 8-18).

6. Restoring Hope to the Earth

Even though *The Postman* is a post-apocalyptic novel, the euphemism of hope makes it different from the other post-apocalyptic novels. Hope is the only way to escape from the dilemma. Hope makes humans withstand and grasp problems. Hope in *The Postman* returns security for the civilization. Also, there is a hope to save the Earth from global warming. Brin uses a postal uniform as a symbol of hope to restore the fallen civilization in America. In the quotation below, the author uses optimistic words like renewal, reborn, and the tree is a symbol of fresh air, and above all, the word hope itself:

It was not the creature on the pyre that was reborn, and even in sleep, that surprised Gordon. The great bird was consumed, leaving only bones. But the tree blossomed, and from its flowering branches, things uncurled and drifted off into the air. He stared in wonderment when he saw that they were balloons, aero planes, and rocket ships. Dreams. They floated away in all directions, and the air was filled with hope. (1985, p. 21)

The author wants to show the reader that alongside the despair, there is hope to save humans and the Earth from climate change and global warming. However, the air is polluted by human activities, and science or technology is involved; there is a way to solve the environmental issues. The human's only anticipation to protect himself is the tree. The Earth's green cover creates a balance between nature and human activities. Trees can save both human and animal life on the planet. Saving trees is a hope to protect the environment. How could humans save trees? Undoubtedly, there are ways to save trees. Planting more trees wherever appropriate for planting, stopping the cutting down of trees for industrial purposes, letting plants grow with natural fertilizer rather than artificial fertilizer, and avoiding extra deforestation are all expected by global environmental organizations. If humans consider these ways, the Earth will be rescued from catastrophic weather. Brin's last lines in *The Postman* are optimistic and hopeful: "Spring was in the air. Men and women cheered as the little blimp rose, sputtering, into the sky. Gordon nudged with his heels and the mare sped to a canter. Once out of town, he did not look back" (1985, p. 166)

7. Conclusion:

To sum up, David Brin, in *The Postman*, highlights North American civilization and its circumstances after a destructive civil war in 2013. This civilization faced with food crises, killings, deprivation, oppression and loss of security. These people lose their responsibility and hope because of the degradations and destructions caused in every realm. They are incredibly disappointed and pessimistic in their lives. Meanwhile, Gordon, as the protagonist, uses his power to take responsibility for restoring this fallen civilization and returning hope to the people that they have lost. He wears the postal uniform as a symbol of hope, which gives him power. Gordon is his best character in *The Postman*. As David Brin said in an interview, this character uses his power positively to restore American civilization. Humans usually have power, but how do they use it? Does he use his power positively or negatively?

Through his prediction, the author wants to warn humanity of the upcoming global warming. So, humanity should prepare itself and use its power to reduce the danger of catastrophic weather, especially in the present time because it is the global warming era. The author metaphorically mentions the civil war to remind people of climate change. However, *The Postman* is a post-apocalyptic novel, but at the end of the book, hope changes the reader's view of the book and the subject matter. Suppose our environment is polluted by technology and industry. In that case, there is still hope to preserve our environment from factories' poisoned gases and solve even some environmental problems. The green cover of the Earth is the solution and the only hope for humans to survive and keep themselves from global warming and carbon dioxide. The green plants, unlike humans, breathe, inhale carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen. Planting more trees and stopping the cutting down of forests can help humans breathe fresh air. Trees can make a balance between science and the environment. In the end, we learn that humans should attempt to consider reforestation rather than deforestation. In my view, the character of the postman mirrors David Brin. Brin uses the power of writing to notify humans of environmental issues. Similarly, in the novel, the postman takes responsibility for warning people about climate change and other ecological problems.

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