CHAPTER III
DISCUSSION

3.1. An Overview of Bishop’s Life Story

As like described in the previous chapter. In this paper the writer will discuss and examined Elizabeth Bishop point of view, the concept that can be found in two of her poems, and the poet’s expectation. The writer choose the fish and The Map to be examined in this paper. From the eco-centrism knowledge the readers will be able to aware about environment.

Elizabeth Bishop was born on 8\textsuperscript{th} February 1911. When she was less than a year old, her father died, and shortly after, her mother was devastated after her father’s dead and committed to a mental asylum. Then, Bishop was sent to live with her maternal grandparents in Nova Scotia and later lived with relatives in Worcester and South Boston. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Vassar College in New York, in 1934. Bishop’s love to travel around for four years.

Bishop’s commit to put aside her personal problem and focuses on natural write, poems in particular. Focusing to create such a masterpiece that based on her ability to transform nasty past, struggle in her present and still sees beauty in things like nature, things that might keep memorable memory for Bishop it is mesmerizing to analyze and learn Bishop interpretation on eco –centrism. That is also the reason why the writer choose Elizabeth Bishop in this research.

Firstly, the writers examined poem of The Fish by Elisabeth Bishop. The modern American poet Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979), attach animals in her poetry for the recognition of human identities. This is due to the poet go through of certain
unacceptable habits and bitter experiences as her struggling with illness like asthma, alcoholism and also her sexual orientation. Such acts made the poet shield away from believing the dominance of humans over animals and think about an absolute equality between them. However, the unbearable sufferings of modern man in the twentieth century may contribute in forming the poet’s attitudes which conform to some of the theories of the previous centuries that claim equality between man and animals. This poetry was first published in 1927-1979 the poem itself is a free verse poem.

Secondly, the writers examined poem of *The Map* by Elizabeth Bishop. Written in 1934 and published in 1935. The Map was Bishop’s first New York poem, Bishop often viewed New York as a dark, threatening environment, and she was rarely healthy living in the city. She suffered from severe asthma, depression, and alcoholism, all get worse by the stresses of living in this urban environment. In the end, Bishop’s relationship with the city was critical. Her time in New York both built her and hurt her. The city developed her as a poet but destroyed her mentally and emotionally.

3.2. The Poems and the Synopsis

3.2.1. *The Fish*

*The Fish*

I caught a tremendous fish and held him beside the boat half out of water, with my hook fast in a corner of his mouth.

He didn’t fight.

He hadn’t fought at all.

He hung a grunting weight, battered and venerable and homely. Here and there his brown skin hung in strips like ancient wallpaper,
and its pattern of darker brown
was like wallpaper:
shapes like full-blown roses
stained and lost through age.
He was speckled with barnacles,
fine rosettes of lime,
and infested with tiny white sea-lice,
and underneath two or three
rags of green weed hung down.
While his gills were breathing in
the terrible oxygen —the frightening gills,
fresh and crisp with blood,
that can cut so badly—
I thought of the coarse white flesh
packed in like feathers,
the big bones and the little bones,
the dramatic reds and blacks
of his shiny entrails,
and the pink swim-bladder
like a big peony.
I looked into his eyes
which were far larger than mine
but shallower, and yellowed,
the irises backed and packed
with tarnished tinfoil
seen through the lenses
of old scratched isinglass.
They shifted a little, but not
to return my stare.
—It was more like the tipping
of an object toward the light.
I admired his sullen face,
the mechanism of his jaw,
and then I saw
that from his lower lip
—if you could call it a lip—
grim, wet, and weapon like,
hung five old pieces of fish-line,
or four and a wire leader
with the swivel still attached,
with all their five big hooks
grown firmly in his mouth.
A green line, frayed at the end
where he broke it, two heavier lines,
and a fine black thread
still crimped from the strain and snap
when it broke and he got away.
Like medals with their ribbons
Frayed and wavering,
a five-haired beard of wisdom
trailing from his aching jaw.
I stared and stared
and victory filled up
the little rented boat,
from the pool of bilge
where oil had spread a rainbow
around the rusted engine
to the bailer rusted orange,
the sun-cracked thwarts,
the oarlocks on their strings,
the gunnels—until everything
was rainbow, rainbow, rainbow!
And I let the fish go.

Source: (“The Fish Poem by Elizabeth Bishop - Poem Hunter,”)

Elizabeth Bishop’s poetry The Fish displays her ecological awareness
that lead her to accept a relationship of mutualism between human beings and
nonhuman beings. This ecological awareness in the poetry is reflected when
she leaves the fish free. It is one of her typical and representative poetry. In it,
she deals with commonplace incident of hauling a big fish, and after looking
into its body and eyes jubilant, suddenly realizing that she had been one of
the agents of cruelty upon animals, and also that she is not very different
victim of wickedness from the fish. The realization and identification are the
moment when Bishop as a poet suddenly become conscious of something that
is very important.
3.2.2 The Map

The Map

Land lies in water; it is shadowed green.
Shadows, or are they shallows, at its edges
showing the line of long sea-weeded ledges
where weeds hang to the simple blue from green.
Or does the land lean down to lift the sea from under,
drawing it unperturbed around itself?
Along the fine tan sandy shelf
is the land tugging at the sea from under?
The shadow of Newfoundland lies flat and still.
Labrador's yellow, where the moony Eskimo
has oiled it. We can stroke these lovely bays,
under a glass as if they were expected to blossom,
or as if to provide a clean cage for invisible fish.
The names of seashore towns run out to sea,
the names of cities cross the neighboring mountains
-the printer here experiencing the same excitement
as when emotion too far exceeds its cause.
These peninsulas take the water between thumb and finger
like women feeling for the smoothness of yard-goods.
Mapped waters are more quiet than the land is,
lending the land their waves' own conformation:
and Norway's hare runs south in agitation,
profiles investigate the sea, where land is.
Are they assigned, or can the countries pick their colors?
-What suits the character or the native waters best.
Topography displays no favorites; North's as near as west.
More delicate than the historians' are the map-makers' colors.

Source: (“The Map Poem by Elizabeth Bishop - Poem Hunter,”)

In The Map, Elizabeth Bishop records her thoughts on the nature of a map relationship to the real world. This poem consist of three stanzas. On the stanzas one and three have a regular rhyme over their eight lines (ABBA CDDC) and for stanza two has no rhyme over its eleven lines. Implicitly, the poem asks why maps fascinate people so much. The poet suggests that the human fascination with small-scale representations of land and water has to do with the imagined worlds maps can offer, the images of far-off
people and places that maps can bring to mind. More precisely, maps excite the viewer's imagination. "The Map" celebrates the mapmaker's (or poet's) power to create illusion and fantasy as well as new ways of looking at what is real.

For the poet, it is a representation by which to compare reality with perception. The poet seems to prefer her fanciful perception to the real places the map represents. This image also looks again at the relationship of land to water. "Are they assigned, or can the countries pick their colors?" These three observations suggest questions of perspective. For example, how one sees an object such as this map is a very personal experience. The poet's (unrevealed) conclusions are her own; there are not definitive answers, no "favorites."

3.3 Analysis of Eco–centrism

In a literary work, especially poetry, the element of eco-centrism cannot be directly seen in the beginning of a poem. The core of the poet itself is in the end of the poem when the transition from anthropocentric into eco-centric be the end of the poem. In the poem The Fish from Elizabeth Bishop, it shows the transition of anthropocentrism of human being to eco-centrism of human being.

3.3.1 The Fish

(Data I)

“I thought of the coarse white flesh packed in like feathers, the big bones and the little bones, the dramatic reds and blacks”
Based on data I in lines 25-28, Elizabeth Bishop describes her desire as a human who always wants to consume other creatures. Here in “I thought of the coarse white flesh”. She focused on the physical aspects of the fish, especially the fish meat on the first lyric. Bishop’s highlighting the flesh and the bones, most likely thinking about eat the fish. This explanation goes along with theory by Almeida and Vasconcelos in press they said eco-centrism is frequently contrasted to anthropocentrism, where human conduct is justified only in relation to human motives and desires. The eco-centric perspective is related to a need to preserve natural systems in their equilibrium condition, which might impose limits on particular human activities (Almeida and Vasconcelos).

(Data II)

“They shifted a little, but not to return my stare.”

Based on lines 39 – 40, usually when animals look at someone’s eyes they want something, like for example, to be saved. The fish thinks he is done for and doesn’t fight back. This is when Elizabeth Bishop start to feel sympathy for the fish. Similarly with the statement by an Ecologist Aldo Leopold (1949: 203-04) provided a classic example of the notion I what he called ‘the land ethic’: The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals a land ethic of course cannot prevent the alteration, management, and the use of these ‘resources’ but it does affirm their right to continued existence, and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state.
(Data III)

“I admired his sullen face, the mechanism of his jaw,”

Based on data III lines 43-44, after witnesses how hurt and broken the creature or the fish itself in here beaten up. Bishop begins to honor the fish by examine how the fishes jaws work. Bishop analyzing the way the creature get off the hook even though there are several hook stuck in its jaw, the fish manage to survive. Finally, Bishop applauding the way he has escaped 5 times from death by hooks and arise the eco-centric side of Bishop until Bishop feel sympathize for the fish.

(Data IV)

“then I saw
that from his lower lip
—if you could call it a lip—grim, wet, and weaponlike,
hung five old pieces of fish-line,
or four and a wire leader
with the swivel still attached,
with all their five big hooks
grown firmly in his mouth.
A green line, frayed at the end
where he broke it,”

Based on the data IV line 45-55, Elizabeth Bishop shows the reader how the character is trying to find out the fish's sullen face. He also looks at his jaw and how it looks with the hook in it. The hook crush the fish’s lips to the point where someone could not recognize it’s as a lips. His face will frown because of the pain in it. In this part of the poem, it is can be interpret as a symbol of pain and despair. The fish is in pain and cannot do something to save himself. Bishop uses her imagination to describe things that happen to fish is something that also happens to her and other people when life
smash them down and their I despair but no one there to help. So, she is not only talking about a fish but there are many things that can happen. Bishop also talked about her life, some problems in her life were still attached to her that she could not let go of, asthma, alcoholism, depression, loneliness, and lesbianism for example. The problem has a big impact on her life.

3.3.2 The Map

Here in The Map, the poet imagine herself as a map – maker and take a cartographic inspiration to make her poem. The map is made by Bishop to conduct her idea of relationship between non-living thing and human being also the reality and her imagination.

(Data 1)

“Land lies in water; it is shadowed green. Shadows, or are they shallows, at its edges showing the line of long sea-weeded ledges where weeds hang to the simple blue from green.”

Based on data line 1 – 4, here in the “land lies in water” Bishop’s emphasizes land in a map. The poet giving an explanation with her imagination about a map which is a non-living thing and make it like an authentic circumstance of the real world is. The mainland area she saw on the map draw her attention. She considers land as a mass that can resemble floating islands, regardless and supported by the sea which indicate how mesmerize the poet to the land. In the “it is shadowed green” the poet refer to a coastal area which is a seashore where all the transition between land and sea happen and it is reminds her that the land extends below the surfaces of water and map.
(Data II)

“has oiled it. We can stroke these lovely bays, under a glass as if they were expected to blossom, or as if to provide a clean cage for invisible fish. The names of seashore towns run out to sea, the names of cities cross the neighboring mountains— the printer here experiencing the same excitement as when emotion too far exceeds its cause.”

Based on line 12 – 17. In here, Bishop’s love and tenderness for the land and sea seems to pass through the lyrics such as “stroke the lovely bays,” “expected to blossom,” “excitement.” “emotion too far exceeds its cause,” “take the water between thumb and finger,” lastly on the “feeling for the smoothness of yard-goods.” Bishop’s has a background as a traveler, so she is familiar with map as the central of her need to travel. Map also as a symbol of the earth, lands and also all the seas to seek. Here, bays, towns and city has a represent of physical and cultural features.

3.4 The concepts of eco-centrism revealed in Elizabeth Bishop poems

3.4.1 The Fish

The concept of eco-centrism in The Fish by Elizabeth Bishop is an ecological terms. Since eco-centrism is the main theme of the poet it’s sure that ecological have a big part that is choose by Elizabeth bishop to share her message.

“where oil had spread a rainbow around the rusted engine to the bailer rusted orange, the sun-cracked thwart, the oarlocks on their strings,”
Based on the data I line 67 – 74, Bishop imply the oil as her guilt spilling all over at the moment she saw the fish. Bishop create fantasy about how to solve her problem by set the fish free to get her peace back and decrease her guilt to the fish itself. So, she let it go so the guilt will fade away. She also talks about the rusted orange as illustrate how broken the vehicle where the oil spread. The last lyric of this poem helps to convey an understanding of how human being must work within the natural setting and not work against it. The ending of the poem the rainbow represents the victory of not only the fish, but of the character, as well. In the end, the character shows mercy to the fish who has gain the hard won respect of the character after surviving previous struggles. After sympathize with the fish Bishop finally letting the fish go as a form to appreciate its beauty and sympathize with it.

3.4.2 The Map

Elizabeth Bishop in the Map shows a stronger eco-centrism ethic than The Fish. Same with The Fish, the map also contain a concept of ecological terms in most of the lyrics. Elizabeth Bishops shows the readers on embrace the beauty in every element. The map is one of the non – living things that Bishop’s make to influence and drag the reader attention in appreciate a non – living things.

(Data I)

Are they assigned, or can the countries pick their colors?
-What suits the character or the native waters best.
Topography displays no favorites; North’s as near as west.  
More delicate than the historians’ are the map-makers’ colors.

Here in lyrics 24 – 26. Bishop declares for all poets, historians and cartographers by mentioning that if she want to define them in terms what they see, she have to do it precisely in any possible way. Bishop argue on countries boundaries are as willful as their map colors. From there, both boundaries and colors it’s about the human being or an cartographer who is design them affected with their background so there are tons of different maps. In “are they assigned, or can the countries pick their colors?” Bishop’s considers every angles when create a poem and take sides. Bishop’s put the approach to nature at first in every singe of her poems without try to change or create them.

Additionally, Bishop sets up distinction between physical and political maps. Physical maps still maintain boundaries, but their colors are muted in favor to showcase the geographical features. On the next lyric “More delicate than the historians' are the map-makers' colors.” Bishop refer that gender differences can be seen both in map – maker and the historian. Even it is not clear as a black and white. Bishop refers historian as male, and the map – maker as a female.

The delicacy of colors that map – makers refers to a female and the historians as a male. Here, eco – centrism shows as Bishop defend how map can be different, muted their color by the map – maker personal taste, decided the shape etc. by the map – maker as a representative of human who probably would never knew in particular the real color of each element in the map since their not realize that the earth is so huge but still
the human create as their wishes. Bishop here want to imply that earth has something that make each every area different and human must keep take care of and put extra respect in treat earth.

3.5 Elizabeth Bishop’s expectation through her poems

Bishop realizes people should treat all sentient beings with respect. She imply that the more you respect life and refrain from harming living creatures, you will be not harmed in your many lives to come. Life is basically equal but, attributes make human and others living things different. Particularly, intelligence and being good are superior to being unintelligent and being bad or evil. All life should be respected for its uniqueness and be valued for its importance within the ecological sphere of the planet.

Bishop reminds the readers that all life is matters. As human and the self – proclaimed top of the food chain, people have chosen to use and genetically mess with a vast array creatures. If we choose to make use of them, then it must be a responsibility to provide them with an environment where other creatures, animal for example can be safe and can live in conditions that aren’t detrimental to their overall wellbeing.

Bishop creates poem as natural appreciation. Bishop shows human being’s relationship to nature and her poems helps to complement the idea that individuals are a part of this natural world and not poised against it. In a broader point of view, the poem helps to both value in the individual and devalue the individual in a grand configuration. Bishop’s poem simultaneously praises in the human being, but also examines the human being’s endeavors as small in the larger scope of consciousness. In this, Bishop’s poem is verse that is truly beautiful. Bishop reflected the natural
appreciation and influence the reader of her poem to learn and sympathize with all creatures.

Bishop concerns on human attempts to control nature. Nowadays, human cruelty through a living nor non–living things is increasing. It is natural for humans who want something or have power over something. It is correct that human need control something in order to make them superior. Human see maps whether it is on paper or globe that is so small that they can see the world. Without any consideration on how vast and large the world is in the reality.

Human feels powerful when the decision of the shape and the color of the maps is in their hand to control which is what Bishop imply in her poem as a imagery of human intention to treats the earth at their will. This kind of attitude is something that negligence depicted by Bishop and map as a media or the earth in this case that certainly does not have the power to fight back. In the other hand, without any consideration on how vast and large the world is in the reality. To summarize, Bishop wants to reveal that even a non-living things can arouse imagination and creativity and remind others that the real world is something that cannot be controlled and must think that humans are part of the world not apart from it.