Natural Destruction and The Role of Humans in Ongkak: A Collection of Short Story by Spn. Fakrunnas Ma Jabbar (An Ecocritic Study)

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Abstract. The environmental crisis is not a new topic. It is a phenomenon that we cannot ignore. Natural damage, forest fires, floods and others are caused by humans. Therefore, this study aims to find out the forms of natural damage and how the role of humans in providing defense in the short story entitled *Ongkak: a collection of short stories* by SPN. Fakrunnas MA Jabbar based on eco-critical theory, and tries to correlate research results with social phenomena that are currently happening. This research is a qualitative research, the data in this study were taken from short stories with environmental themes. The instrument in this study was the researcher as a human instrument assisted by notes. In analyzing the data, the researcher reads the short stories repeatedly and interprets it using ecocritical theory. This study found that some short stories use nature as mystical symbols, such as butterflies and trees, and some short stories show natural damage in the form of deforestation, flooding, infrastructure damage, fog, water pollution and tornadoes. The role of humans in overcoming natural damage occurs in the form of providing defense. The results of this research should be able to provide an impact in the form of insight and a sense of responsibility towards the importance of protecting nature.

Keywords: Natural Damage, Ecocritic, Short Story

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INTRODUCTION

Humans and nature cannot be separated. Humans are very dependent on nature in every aspect of their life. For example, to get good air, they need forests and trees. The tendency of humans who are very dependent on nature makes them forget that nature also needs attention, and not only humans who want to enjoy all the comforts that exist. Humans tend to be unaware and do not care about the preservation of nature. After utilizing nature, they sometimes forget to preserve it again. This is in line with (Laily, 2012; Mubarok, 2017; Rini, 2018; Uniawati, 2014)

The deplorable nature conditions encourage literature to take part in describing the destruction of nature. For example, the phenomenon that occurred in Riau recently. As quoted from Harian Kompas, the police arrested three suspects for the Sumatran tiger killer (Tanjung, 2019). Still from the same source, on September 24, 2019, the police arrested two forest arsonists (Maulana, 2019).

Literary works try to make human be aware that the nature has begun to be damaged and of course it will have an impact on humans themselves. As said by (Harsono, 2008), The emergence of eco-criticism itself is caused by the existence of nature that need attention and the lack of balance between nature and culture. Due to this imbalance, humans continue to exploit nature. According to (Glotfelty & Harold, 1996) Literary ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. Added to that, (Garrard, 2004) said that ecocriticism is related to the development of environmental orientation which is related to the ecological critical movement. Ecocriticism is expected to have a positive impact on the preservation of nature; there must be a balance between the preservation of nature and culture.

A little attention has been paid to ecological issues and there are limited literary works or researches that try to raise this issues such as the research conducted by (Dewi, 2015) about Humans and the Environment in Contemporary Short Stories: An Ecocritic Analysis of Compass Selected Short Stories. In her research, Dewi reveals the description of natural damage and partiality, where she reveals that the party who feels the most impact of natural damage is the poor and she wants to see the alignment of literary works towards that society. Other research that discusses ecocriticism is conducted by (Juanda, 2018) on the Phenomenon of Environmental Exploitation in the Short Story of the Indonesian Sunday Newspaper, an Ecocritical Approach. In his research, Juanda revealed that the short stories that had been studied focused on pollution, wilderness, natural disasters, settlements, animals, and the earth. As suggested by (Dewi, 2016) It is very important to promote literary works with an ecological perspective because of the many natural phenomena of concern such as floods, water pollution, etc. According to her, literary works are able to contribute awareness and move people to care about nature. Therefore, analyzing literary works from the perspective of caring for the environment is very necessary to warn us all about the importance of protecting the environment.

This research raises the issue of environmental damage and the role of humans in providing a defense against natural damage in Ongkak: A Short Story Collection by SPN. Fakhrunnas MA Jabbar. This collection of short stories consists of 172 pages and contains 17 short stories in it, namely "Ongkak", "Banjir Kupu-kupu", "Kemarau Airmata", "Buih, Ombak dan Sepenggal Tanya", "Kiamat Kecil di Sempadan Pulau", "Nun", "Perempuan dalam Kabut", "Republik Banjir", "Parit Dorba", "Sungai Terluka", "Hantu dan Perempuan Sundal", "Pemburuan Sanif", "Kamboja Merah di Pekarangan", "Mimpi Maruti", "Ikan Kayangan Tuan Besar", "Semburat Petang di Lagoi", and "Semokel".

The short story entitled Ongkak was written based on the author's concern for the phenomenon of natural damage in Riau, because according to Jabbar, environmental conditions, especially forests in Riau, attract attention both domestically and abroad. Where forests are experiencing fires and illegal logging is very rampant. This short story is one of the Nominees for the Equator Literary Award, that is the reason why the researchers are interested in studying the short stories in Ongkak's short story. In addition, as explained by (Pinto, 2015) about the environmental damage to the Kuwaru beach caused by ponds and tree cutting along the coast. Another research that reveals about the destruction of nature is (Pramudyanto, 2014), he revealed the damage to the coastal areas of the city of Semarang, the damage to mangrove forests and coral reefs. Adding those two opinions, (Akihary, 2011) revealed that the damage to coastal areas caused by culture can actually be repaired through culture such as satire, advising, and warning expressions or proverbs.

Based on the importance of raising ecological issues, the formulation of the problem in this research are: (1) What are the forms of natural damage that appear in Ongkak: A Collection of Short Stories? (2) What is the role of humans in overcoming the destruction of nature in Ongkak: A Collection of Short Stories?. In addition, this study also tries to correlate the results of research in the form of natural damage and the role of humans with social phenomena that occur today. This is done by the authors because there have not been many previous researchers who have correlated research with an ecological perspective and social phenomena.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative descriptive method, according to (Muhammad, 2011; Prastowo, 2012) Qualitative research was a systematic research that was used to examine objects in a scientific setting without any manipulation. This study used human instrument where the researchers were the instrument in the study and was assisted by notes. The data in this study were obtained from a collection of short stories entitled *Ongkak* written by (Jabbar, 2010). Not all short stories in this short story collection were analyzed because not all stories in Ongkak: A Short Story Collection by SPN. Fakhrunnas MA Jabbar raised ecological issues, some raised issues of norms, trust and love. Therefore, by using a purposive sampling technique, this study only selected short stories with environmental themes to be studied. The short stories that will be analyzed include: "Ongkak", "Banjir Kupu-kupu", "Kemarau Airmata", "Buih, Ombak dan Sepenggal Tanya", "Kiamat Kecil di Sempadan Pulau", "Perempuan dalam Kabut", "Republik Banjir", "Parit Dorba", "Sungai Terluka", "Pemburuan Sanif", "Kamboja Merah di Pekarangan", "Semburat Petang di Lagoi", and "Semokel".

The selected short stories were then read over and over to get information about environmental damage and the role of humans in it. From short stories, data was collected in the form of phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or discourses related to the formulation of the problem. The data was then recorded, classified, and interpreted using ecocritical theory. Data that was considered irrelevant was reduced. In addition, the data were validated semantically, and tested for reliability using intrarater and interrater techniques. According to (Wakano, 2019) semantic validation is a validation pattern used to measure the sensitivity and depth of symbolic meaning related to ecocritical contexts. Furthermore, the use of the intrarater technique meant reading the research subjects until they get the same results. In addition, the researcher also uses the interrater technique by discussing with colleagues who have good intellectual abilities about the results that have been obtained.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Two focuses of this research are the forms of natural damage that arise and what is the role of humans in overcoming natural damage in the environment in *Ongkak: Sebuah Kumpulan Cerpen* will be presented in this discussion.

RESULT

The forms of natural damage

Deforestation

Natural damage in the form of deforestation is found in the short story entitled "Ongkak", which is narrated in this short story by Sudir as a wood logger. He and his friends deforest for the tauke. When Sudir's wife Kanah is pregnant with their third child, Kanah really wants to accompany Sudir to log wood into the forest. Sudir keeps refusing her wish until when Kanah is six months pregnant, Sudir finally grants her wish. However, something very unexpected happened, when Kanah is helping Sudir pushes the logs on the ongkak, She falls and his body is exactly stretched out in the middle of the ongkak. The logs rolled on top of her pregnant belly. Then Sudir feels that he had lost Sunah who died directly in bad condition. Here are some quotes that describe the natural damage in the form of denuded forests due to logging where the forest used to look green but has now become bare due to chainsaws that uprooted trees.

"...But since long ago, there was no bald jungle ... "(p. 20)

"... The Rimba-Raya keeps falling down by machine ..." (p. 23)

Barren forest is also featured in "Republik Banjir", it is said that water already has its own place, such as the sea and the river. But many trees that are used to absorb water on land have been cut down, so the water is overflow (in the short story called angry) and everywhere. The following are some quotes that describe the destruction of nature in the form of deforested forests due to the construction of buildings so that forests and plants are destroyed. "...People on earth are increasing and there is imbalance between people and forest. The forests and plants that live in are liquidated ... "(p. 78)

"... Since long ago this area became a green area and conservation forest that allowed the water to live comfortably and calmly, but the area continued to be hurt. In the name of the construction of the area ... turned into a concrete jungle with the establishment of luxury building villas and golf courses ... "(p. 80-81)

Short story "Parit Dorba" also shows the phenomenon of natural damage in the form of deforestation. The story is about the character Dorba who tries to defend his homeland, the land from his ancestors, and his livelihood from plantations belonging to big companies. The following are excerpts that show the damage to forests caused by the opening of oil palm plantations by several companies.

"...Dorba is in the middle of a bald land in the Minas area ... "(p. 82)

"... he tried to survive on an empty shrub after a dense jungle on it spilled a chain swallowed ..." (p. 83)

"... the sound of the roar bulldozer and chaiinsaw singing ..." (p 84)

"... The ditches are deliberately made by several forestry companies that work on the area to build plantations or oil palm plantations ..." (p. 84)

"... also a giant pipe that contains petroleum flow belongs to a foreign oil company ..." (p. 84)

"... the bald area turns into an oil palm plantation or forest plant owned by large companies ..." (p. 85)

Natural damage in the form of deforestation is also shown in "Semokel", it is said that the character Umang who used to be a forest logger feels restless and concerned because now the forest is increasingly denuded due to chainsaws, which make felling trees easier. This short story also shows that it is actually the big people who are behind the logging, the small people only know about earning money. Here are some quotes that show the condition of the forest being deforested due to logging.

"...When he was with young people like himself in the village doing illegal logging on the peninsula ... "(p ... of 161)

"... the area is now increasingly balance ... the more and more wooden points are merging ..." (ps 162)

Flooding

The form of natural damage that is also shown in this collection of short stories is flooding. The phenomenon of flooding as a form of natural damage is shown in the short story "Banjir kupu-kupu". It is told about a husband and wife named Bib and Nursinah. There is a kapok tree that is hundreds of years old behind their house. The tree is considered the "guardian" of the village. There is always a season where many butterflies perch on the tree which indicates the village will be hit by floods so that people will be prepared. However, Bib cut down the kapok tree because his wife, Nursinah, was afraid that something bad would happen to the butterfly because Nusinah believed in her parents' belief that butterflies were a bad sign. Actually, this short story has the theme of mystical elements so it doesnot really show the form of damage that occurs. The following quote shows the phenomenon of flooding due to the felling of kapok trees.

"...Our village was hit by the biggest flood ... "(p. 31) "... I started swinging machetes to the old kapok ... without caring, I kept riding the machete to the base of the kapok stipulates until it fell ..." (p. 29)

The short story "Buih, Ombak dan Sepenggal Tanya" also presents a natural phenomenon in the form of flooding. It is told that the figure of "I" comes from a small island and is very close to the sea. She went wandering to another island and had a family, she was left behind by her husband and then met her past love. In this short story, it actually describes the feeling of the figure of "I" who is distracted by existing natural phenomena. The rain that fell and the flood that hit the housing complex made her distracted from his confusion. Here are some quotes that show a natural phenomenon in the form of flooding due to the bad attitude of humans throwing garbage carelessly so that it clogs ditches.

"...Heavy rain that dropped overnight in my house complex changes everything instantly ... it felt surprising for the occupants of this complex, because the small flood like this never happened before ... water on the floor of our house did not recede for days... "(p. 47) "... My neighbor said, this was due to the actions of humans who disposed of garbage as soon as possible. Until clogging ditches everywhere ... "(p. 47)

The phenomenon of flooding is also shown in "Republik Banjir". As explained in the first point on natural damage in the form of denuded forests. This short story tells about deforestation which causes floods to occur. Water should have its own place, namely in rivers and in the sea. Deforestation also results in no more water absorbing media even though it is the trees that can absorb water. The following is a quote that shows the phenomenon of flooding due to violent water because there is no longer a water absorbing medium.

"...the water that was shackled to the roots of the woods of the forest began to be free... so that the water began to run wild..." (Pages 78-79...)

The short story that also shows the flood phenomenon is "Pemburuan Sanif". It tells the story of a character named Sanif who has lost both his parents due to a flood. Now he has become a trusted assistant to the head of the company. The head of the company is named Sukarman. Pak Sukarman is very fond of hunting, this short story uses natural phenomena as parables and a little description of natural disasters because the core of this story is the lie of a Sanif against Pak Sukarman. So in the end, it was Sanif who became the object of Mr. Sukarman's hunt. The following quote shows the flood phenomenon.

"...The great flood that hit the village had washed away and drowned all the people he loved..." (Page 113)

Infrastructure damage

The form of damage that is also shown in the short story is the phenomenon of infrastructure damage as contained in "Kemarau Airmata". Not only nature in the form of forests and rivers that can be damaged by human behavior but also infrastructure. This short story tells about a hydropower project that entered the village. Communities are the ones who suffer losses due to the construction, heavy-loaded trucks make potholes on their roads, the compensation given for their land is also very cheap. The following excerpts indicate the damage to infrastructure and inappropriate compensation.

"...compensation is too cheap, guys. Too cheap! Sergah Maryam" (Page 33) "...the road from the sub-district capital that was once rough paved, is now full of potholes and stubble..." (Page 34)

Fog

The phenomenon of smog is shown in "Perempuan dalam Kabut", it tells about women who are hit by problems like thick fog and tell of thick fog that has hit their area due to forest fires and irresponsible human actions. The following is an excerpt that shows the smog that occurs due to forest fires.

"...the smog grew thicker all around me..." (p. 68) "...I also want to get rid of all the fog from burning land and forests that have made the lives of the people around us bitter..." (Page 74)

Water pollution

In addition to showing the flood phenomenon, the short story "Pemburuan Sanif" also shows the phenomenon of water pollution. As stated in the previous discussion, this short story tells the story of a Sanif figure who lost both of his parents due to the flood and is now an assistant in a company and becomes a confidant of the head of a company named Sukarman. This short story tells about the sadness of Sanif's figure so that his face looks "cloudy" which means gloomy like a small river behind his house. Here's a quote that shows about polluted water which makes it cloudy.

"...his face is cloudy. As muddy as a small river behind his house..." (Page 111)

The phenomenon of water pollution is also shown in "Semburat Petang di Lagoi", it is narrated that a young man named Sufian went abroad but when he returned he was surprised to see settlements, stilt houses where his parents used to be uninhabited, the area around the beach had been converted into an industrial area and tour. Ecological issues are not raised too much in this short story, there is only one sentence that describes the water getting cloudy and the rest tells the love story of Sufian and the woman he once loved and then fell in love with each other again, the woman is named Asliah. The following quote shows the phenomenon of water pollution that makes the water cloudy: "...crossing the increasingly murky straits of Malacca on a magnificent ferry crossing..." (Page 149)

The short story "Sungai Terluka" also shows the phenomenon of water contamination. It is told about Yusar who is confused by the construction of a hydropower plant which means that their village will sink, their livelihood will be lost and their land will no longer exist. In this short story it tries to show how helpless the small people are with the changes that exist, in this short story the river is damaged due to development and causes the water to be polluted and turn red. Here's a quote that shows the water that was originally clear turned red due to contamination.

"...all the reflections of the past and the future are clearly reflected in the clear flowing river..." (Page 93)

"...the game of water ripples that were originally clear suddenly turned red..." (Page 101)

Tornado

The phenomenon of natural disasters in the form of a tornado is shown in "Kiamat Kecil di Sempadan Pulau", it is told that humans on an island continue to exploit nature by continuously dredging sand using machines. The phenomenon of natural disasters that occur in the short story is not solely because of human actions against nature but also the distance of humans from the creator. The following quote shows the occurrence of the tornado phenomenon and the actions of humans who continue to exploit nature.

"...its produce is land sand and sea sand dredged by giant machines..." (Page 51)

"... a cyclone hit the port city on the island. Hundreds of houses on stilts were lifted into the sky and slammed back to the earth..." (Page 53)

Mystical symbol

The phenomenon of natural damage is not find in the short story "Kamboja Merah di Pekarangan". This short story uses trees as symbols of ancestral beliefs. It is told about the frangipani tree planted by Mai's character. The frangipani tree here is associated with the belief of the ancestors who said it would be difficult to find a mate when planting a red frangipani tree. Mai hasn't got a mate yet, she finally adopts Iyah as her son. Iyah also planted a frangipani tree but eventually got married. So in this story the tree is used as a symbol of trust and is used as a symbol of shade. The following quotes are related to the red frangipani tree and the myth:

"...It's not good for a girl to plant a red frangipani tree in the yard. It can be slow to match," said the grandmother..." (Page 123) "...the red frangipani flower is the spirit of life. The color never fades. Always calm like the heart of a woman who patiently accepts her fate..." (Page 128) The forms of natural damage that occur are in line with research findings by (Dewi, 2015). Natural damage in the form of flooding in the short story is actually caused by humans and is often carried out by elite groups.

Human' roles in Ongkak

The role of humans in overcoming the natural damage that occurs is in the form of defending and caring for this phenomenon. There are only 3 from 13 short stories that show human concern for nature, namely: "Ongkak", "Parit Dorba", dan "Semokel". The minimal role of humans displayed in this collection of short stories indicates that humans are still ignorant of environmental issues. As stated in the introduction, quoted from Harian Kompas, the condition of forests in Riau is indeed in a bad condition and has to be a concern, these things are caused by forest fires. Hunting for animals is also very rampant. Still from the same source, on December 17 2018, the police arrested 4 forest encroachers in Riau with evidence in the form of three excavators (Tanjung, 2018). Surprisingly, this matter of concern has not been the focus of humans. In this collection of short stories it shows that only a small community is concerned about environmental issues. Short story "Ongkak", "Parit Dorba", "Semokel" illustrates that people like bosses and owners of big companies just want profit without thinking about nature.

The short story "Ongkak" by Jabbar shows the role of a character named Sudir who is aware and stops being a forest logger. He also invited his friends to quit the job, after all they were only paid very little while the tauke were the ones who made big profits. Sudir is a small community who voices about the destruction of nature. He says people have always cut down trees only as needed for their needs and no forest has been deforested as a result of this. However, now the forest is already bare due to the chainsaws of the tauke who are big people. A quote that describes the character's concern for the denuded forest phenomenon that occurs. Sudir advised his friends and invited them to look for work other than logging the forest, such as gardening.

"...Sudir just wants to free the jungle from the touch of people who want to destroy it..." (p. 22)

"...comrades, it's not nice to cut down this forest as we like..." (Page 22) "...comrades, our land is very large in the village. Time to try gardening. Let's start farming..." (p. 22)

"Parit Dorba" is also one of the short story that displays the role of humans in an effort to save nature that has been damaged. The figure of Dorba in the short story tries to save the land left by his ancestors from big companies who want to open oil palm plantations. Dorba tries to stay afloat and fight for the land. The figure of Dorba is actually just an ordinary person. He is a native of the Sakai tribe with a very simple life. Dorba is only supported by a few of his friends who are also ordinary people, but they are still powerless, because the important people like tribal leaders in their village have held certificates for their ancestral land to be traded in big companies. Here are some quotes that show the role of Dorba's character in defending the forest. "...Dorba tries to survive and regains the ulayat land left by his ancestors..." (Page 84)

"... but, sir. The forest area here has always belonged to the ancestors of the Sakai people. This is our customary forest, in fact, it is the state that has usurped our rights..." (Pages 86-87)

"... but Dorba wants to fight in his own way..." (p. 89)

"...to him, defending the land that was declared to belong to his group was more important than anything..." (p. 89)

The role of humans in caring for the natural damage that occurs is also shown in "Semokel". The illegal logging that occurred made Umang's character moved to stop the cutting of trees by foreigners. Umang is also the same as Sudir and Dorba. He is also an ordinary citizen and is no longer young. He does not have any power to exert influence on the big bosses who buy and sell timber. The following is an excerpt from the form of Umang's role in the destruction of nature, where he is not afraid to say that foreigners have a big role in cutting trees.

"...the extinction of the jungle here is precisely the result of your temperament, white people too..." (Page 165).

DISCUSSION

Social phenomenon related to ecology issues

The results of this study show that the natural damage that occurs in the form of denuded forests, floods, infrastructure damage, smog, water pollution, and tornadoes and the minimal positive role of humans in protecting nature feels very correlated with the current situation. Literary works seem to have started to care about the issue of environmental damage by raising environmental themes in short stories such as the Ongkak short story. However, humans are still ignorant of the environment even though humans themselves feel the impact. Deforestation of forests, for example, a lot of logging is done to open up new land such as oil palm plantations by big companies and clearing forests for residents' settlements. Quoted from (BBC, 2021), Oil palm plantations are even carried out in every category of forest area, from national parks to UNESCO sites and are spread across Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Papua. This of course threatens the existing habitat in the protected forest. Still from the same source, on 12 November 2020(BBC, 2020) stated that a Korean company which is one of the palm oil companies with the largest land in Papua is suspected of deliberately burning forests to clear new land. This shows that the phenomenon of denuded forest is closely related to human life today, which continuously exploits nature to meet human needs. This is in line with research conducted by (Dewi, 2015) where the beneficiaries are the big people and not infrequently foreigners. Massive forest encroachment by large companies is of course very detrimental to local communities, especially small communities, not only from the side of natural resources but also from the economic side.

The flood phenomenon is indeed very correlated with the current situation, where Kalimantan, which has never had a major flood for 58 years, has experienced

flooding which greatly hampers the mobility of residents. This is very worrying, apart from being caused by high rainfall, this is also caused by the less than optimal absorption of water by plants, which is decreasing day by day. The criticisms conveyed through literary works with an ecological perspective have indeed started to exist, but seeing at least the positive role of humans in protecting nature shows that humans are still ignorant of the existing natural damage. This is in line with the opinion Dewi, (2015). As stated by (Juanda, 2018) the phenomenon of natural exploitation in the short story is one real picture of how concerned our nature is at this time..

The phenomena of natural damage that are happening which are also directly proportional to the current social phenomena are considered quite a lot, in addition to deforestation and flooding, water pollution is also one of the things that needs to be considered. Currently, the positive role of humans in protecting existing rivers is seen to be very lacking. As reported by (Kompas, 2021), Marine pollution is thought to occur due to human lifestyle and lack of sewage treatment which causes the sea to be contaminated with paracetamol. This of course has an impact not only on humans but also on the animals that live in the waters of Jakarta Bay. This social phenomenon of natural damage caused by humans is a clear picture of the correlation between current social phenomena and the research results obtained.

The description of the existing natural damage and the minimal role of humans in improving nature in the results of this study are expected to be able to provide encouragement and a sense of wanting to repair and maintaing natural resources. Such as the purpose of the study of literary ecocriticism itself which is an illustration of the caring attitude of the writers in calling for the importance of protecting the existing environment.

CONCLUSION

The results of the research on the types of damage shown in the 13 short stories analyzed were in the form of deforested forests due to illegal logging, floods, damage to infrastructure such as roads, smog, water pollution and tornadoes. Meanwhile, one of the short stories makes the tree a symbol of ancestral belief, namely the frangipani tree. The role of humans in overcoming the existing natural damage is to provide a defense by voicing the damage that has occurred as was done by Sudir's character in "Ongkak", Dorba in "Parit Dorba", and Umang in "Semokel". This finding shows that short stories can provide examples related to human concern for nature which is shown through the characters of the story. This research not only describes the existing natural damage but also correlates it with the current situation. This is expected to be able to contribute to the environment by providing awareness to readers about the importance of protecting the environment. This research is also expected to be useful as literature material for researchers who want to research a similar topic. As stated by (Akihary, 2011) for nature can also be improved through literary works that are satirical, advise and warn.

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