

# The Pattern of Land-Grabbing Practice in *Year of the Weeds* Novel by Siddhartha Sarma

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**Abstract**—Environmental issues are increasingly worrying, some of which are in the form of deforestation and land degradation caused by the conversion of forest functions into mining. This study describes the practice of forest land-grabbing by the government in corporations with companies to be used for mining. The data source is *Year of the Weeds* novel by Siddhartha Sarma. Then, it was analyzed using document analysis techniques with the following stages: unitizing, sampling, recording, reducing, inferring, and narrating. The data validation used an ecocritical approach with primary and secondary references in the form of relevant research articles, books, and information in the media. The findings revealed a pattern of land grabbing practices in the form of government-company cooperation; surveying, measuring, and setting stakes; offering compensation and employment; changing the regulation on the function of the area; involvement of the apparatus and violence; land acquisition experts; and the issue of the involvement of radical groups; and arresting residents. Several developing countries, including India, Indonesia, and Brazil, engage in confiscation with the same practice pattern. This pattern of practice, if carried out continuously, will cause environmental crises.

**Index Terms**—land grabbing, corporate practice, ecocriticism, environmental crisis, Siddhartha Sarma's novel

## I. INTRODUCTION

The environmental crisis is getting more worrying. There are four challenges regarding environmental issues in Asia, which include water management, air pollution, deforestation, land degradation, and climate change (Howes & Wyrwoll, 2012). Deforestation and land degradation are major threats due to the conversion of forest land into plantations and mining for the industry. In Indonesia, the conversion of forest functions into plantation areas causes a reduction in forest area and even contributes quite large carbon emissions (Abood et al., 2014). In addition, the conversion of forest functions causes a water quality decrease (De Jong et al., 2015). This indicates a negative impact of the environmental crisis.

In deforestation and land degradation for plantations and mining, there is a process of expropriation of land by the state or government from the community. This is the beginning of the change in forest function into a plantation or mining area. The process of changing forests into plantations and mining areas goes through various upheavals that cause conflicts. This conflict is due to intervention in policy-making and several actors (Corbera et al., 2017). Conflict occurs gradually and forms a practice pattern of forest land expropriation.

In the midst of booming industries that exploit nature, green literature is here to provide criticism and efforts to protect nature. Green literature aims to provide a message about nature conservation. Also, it can be used in the education world, especially regarding environmental care (Murti, 2019). Ecocriticism is a literature study that relates to nature, ecology, and the environment (Khan, 2019). Thus, ecocriticism can be used as an approach to literary works that raise environmental issues.

Leavenworth and Manni (2020) stated that the literary research approach is closely related to the purpose of exploring nature representations, climate change, and students' or readers' reflections on nature through fiction. Teaching and building social awareness is possible through learning literature, especially writing and reading about the environment (Giddens, 2012). Through literature, sensitivity to the environment will be more easily conveyed. Criticism of the environment is a form of contextual criticism because it is related to cultural and historical contexts (Clark, 2011). Environmental problems become so important because they relate to humans at large. Garrard (2004) states that ecocriticism is a study of the relationship between humans and nature or humans and their environment.

Because basically, human behavior has an impact on the environment and nature, and it takes gratitude and respect for nature so that ecological balance and sustainability to occur (Siwi et al., 2022).

The novel *Year of the Weeds* (2018) by Siddhartha Sarma also raises the issue of environmental-based literature, which researchers will then study to find valid data and discussions. Researchers will focus on ecocritical studies so that the exposure will be focused on environmental-based literature. This novel was published in English by Duckbill Books (Chennai, India, 2018) and published in Indonesian by Marjin Kiri (Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia, 2020). This novel was awarded the 2019 *Neev Book Award* for the Young Adults category 2019.

The novel *Year of the Weeds* by Siddhartha Sarma tells the story of the Gondi Tribe, who live in the Devi Hills area, India. This novel needs to be studied further because not many novels talk about land-grabbing for mining. The benefit of this research is to provide an understanding of land-grabbing practices that will impact the environmental crisis. The current environmental crisis stems from land grabbing with certain interrelated patterns of practice. Then, it causes problematic problems in Siddhartha Sarma's novel. Thus, this study aims to explain and describe the practices that occur in customary forest areas that are seized to be used as mining areas.

## II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Ecocriticism can be understood as human concern for the environment for the sake of survival, both now and in the future. One of the impacts of neglecting the environment is the extensive and massive misuse of natural resources, which causes serious problems for nature. Also, it causes irregular seasonal cycles and ecological disasters (Mishra, 2016). Moreover, it fosters a broader understanding of ecological responsibility and environmental justice (Marland, 2013). Therefore, there is an interrelated relationship between humans and the environment. For example, a magazine that covers landscapes will make people aware of the idea of protecting the natural environment (Krisnawati et al., 2021).

Hootie and Ashrafian (2014) argue about the environmental crisis's negative impact that has enveloped literary writers' imaginations. Human attitudes towards nature are out of control. Therefore, it is important for humans to be aware and concerned about nature's limitations if it continues to be exploited (Clark, 2015). Given the increasingly widespread natural damage, it is necessary to have a broader eco-critical study, namely learning based on the environment. Ecocriticism emphasizes narrative values related to the origins of environmental justice (Ryan, 2019). For example, a film "The Cherry Tree" depicts loyalty and awareness of the environment in a child who interacts with nature (Mishra, 2018). The depiction of children's closeness to the environment will stimulate children to love the environment and nature.

In language learning, an ecological system of language is used as the main biological interaction parameter, and diversity in which is used as a metaphor and utilized to interact between language, nature, and the environment as a prerequisite for an ecological approach through language and culture (Busse, 2006). Culture and language, especially literature, should be ecologically oriented through an ecocritical process to reflect life in the present (Zapf, 2006). Thus, there is a continuity between language, literary texts, and culture for protecting and preserving nature and the environment.

Several literary works reveal themes about the environmental crisis. Satur Apoyon, a writer from the Philippines, raised the theme of the environment in the form of human aggressiveness towards nature and the background of the environmental crisis (Culajara, 2016). Meanwhile, a poet from Malaysia also raised the issue of environmental sensitivity through the poetry he wrote (Alvi et al., 2019). This shows the attention to the environment carried out by fiction writers, both story writers, and poets. This shows that there is an environmental crisis, especially in Asia, and it is necessary to study its causes.

Garrard (2004) describes in more detail the concept for exploring ecocriticism which includes pollution, wilderness, apocalypse, dwelling, animals, and earth (p. 5). The researcher uses theory to analyze Garrard's approach because it deals with the consequences and impacts of environmental crises or disasters in literary works. This can't be separated from the description of Garrard (2004) regarding the description of the relationship between humans and the environment and the consequences. Clearly, ecocriticism basically departs from the relationship between humans and the environment and the consequences of human behavior that directly impact the environment. The impact of the involvement of humans, nature, and the environment is the main focus of research. Thus, Garrard's theory becomes a strong foundation for examining literary works on ecocriticism in this study.

## III. METHOD

This study uses qualitative research with a content analysis approach using descriptive data, and written or spoken words from the observed object (Creswell, 2014). The data and data sources were obtained from the *Year of the Weeds* by Siddhartha Sarma published by Marjin Kiri in 2020. Krippendorff (2004) suggests content analysis consists of six steps and researchers apply them in research originating from the novel *Year of the Weeds* by Siddhartha Sarma, namely (1) unitizing, data collection in the form of narrative texts and dialogues from the novel *Year of the Weeds*, (2) sampling, the sample is determined which is abstracted from the existing data, (3) recording; recording is done to separate the data from other texts, (4) reducing, the data is reduced by determining the data to be analyzed according to the needs of the

researcher by being classified, (5) inferring, conclusions are obtained from reduced data and then interpreted with secondary literature, and (6) narrating, decryption and analysis are carried out by taking into account the interpretation results and determining the practice patterns that arise in forest clearing into mining areas. Compared and strengthened with relevant research and existing facts.

The ecocritical theory is used to understand texts that represent environmental or ecological issues for interpretation. Secondary literature review is also used to analyze the content and validate the novel's content, which involves critical systematics and understanding of knowledge about the topic being analyzed. Secondary literature is in the form of relevant research, books, articles, and media information that contains related environmental issues.

#### IV. RESULT

The pattern of land-grabbing practices occurs in several developing countries. The pattern of practice is motivated by several reasons for converting forest land to mining areas. In some cases, it is also used for monoculture plantations. The novel *Year of the Weeds* by Siddhartha Sarma tells the story of land grabbing to be used as mining. Researchers found patterns of practice used in an effort to take over customary forest areas and community residences to be used as mining areas by the government in collaboration with companies. The practice pattern of clearing forest land for mining does not only occur in India as the novel is set, but also occurs in other developing countries such as Indonesia, Brazil, and other developing countries (Mongabay, 2021; Asia Times, 2020; The Times of India, 2022; The Conversation, 2022). This pattern of practice involves not only the government, companies, and the community but also has an impact on several bigger issues.

##### **Government Cooperation with Companies**

- (1) "The company excavated the mine and extracted the metal. The government is looking for land for companies" (Sarma, 2020, p. 47).

Deforestation and land degradation occur in many parts of the world, such as Asia, South America, and other developing countries. This is based on cooperation or corporation practices between the government and companies. The cooperation between the government and companies has significant negative impacts, including poor regulation. Also, in some cases, there are corrupt practices that have an impact on unsustainable land use (Howes & Wyrwoll, 2012, p. 7). The novel *Year of the Weeds* represents the cooperation between the government and a company that plans to take over customary forest land to become a mining area. This is the beginning of environmental damage.

In West Kalimantan, Indonesia, the conflict started when the local community refused to use land that local people did not want because it disturbed agricultural areas, customary forests, and sacred sites. However, it is continued because they received full support from the government (Levang et al., 2016, p. 287). Forests owned by the community were confiscated without ever considering sociocultural aspects, even though people in forest areas have a close relationship with their environment in the form of local beliefs and livelihood dependencies from forest areas.

- (2) "Companies like this, they're like weeds. We can't stop it if they want to take over... The government will force you to move and give them the land. This has happened elsewhere, too" (Sarma, 2020, p. 49).

Aspects that are not considered in land grabbing by corporations are based on the fact that the main priority of land grabbing or land conversion is for the sake of economic gain through mining alone. The government assumes that Devi Hills holds treasures because it contains bauxite but ignores the existence of environmental and human ecosystems (Oskarsson, 2017). This is evidenced by the increasing size of the mining area, especially in the Odisha region, India, from year to year (Mishra et al., 2022). The expanding mining area will have an impact on the environment as well as on socio-cultural issues.

In Indonesia, in the land-grabbing practice for monoculture crops in the form of oil palm, there are also corporations between the government and companies to the exclusion of customary rights, diverse agricultural systems, and biological balance (Li, 2018). There are practical similarities between land grabbing for plantations and mining (Perreault, 2018). In fact, protests against land grabbing have been carried out by communities in the affected areas. However, many of these protests failed from the start because there was some kind of collusion between power holders and companies that facilitated the crackdown on protests and overrides conflict resolution mechanisms (Berenschot et al., 2022). As a result, efforts to fight back are very difficult, even it is impossible.

In Central America, land grabbing is also carried out by governments, corporations, and domestic elites for the agroindustry and mining (Aguilar-Støen, 2016). The same characteristics also appear in Latin America, especially Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina, namely the existence of corporations between governments and foreign companies forcing local people to leave their lands (Borras Jr. et al., 2013). There is an increase in conflict and land grabbing for both mining and oil palm plantations in developing countries. On the other, relationships between humans with non-humans always place positions as subalterns under humans (Chukwulobe et al., 2021).

Generally, corporations are carried out because of weak government, rampant corruption, and lack of transparency to the public. These characteristics indicate that the novel *Year of the Weeds* represents the reality of forced land grabbing between the government and companies. This representation of land-grabbing practices represents a picture of the global problem regarding land grabbing and forest expropriation from communities by governments and companies. This issue shows that indigenous peoples and local communities occupy a critical position because their life space can be uprooted at any time.

### Survey, Measurement and Stake Installation

The next practice pattern after the agreement between the government and the company is an effort to check the mineral content in the soil. As in *Year of the Weeds*, surveys and measurements of substance content were carried out by several people using supporting tools.

- (3) A group of experts from the Ministry of Mines in Dehli will come to inspect the bauxite content stored in the underground Gondi tribe (Sarma, 2020, p. 69).

The relationship between humans, culture, and the environment should be considered when carrying out the process of land conversion. Many surveys and measurements override the existence of people living in the surrounding environment. In fact, if viewed culturally, anthropological relationships and attachments between humans, belief systems, and cultural practices blend with the natural landscape in customary forest areas, for example, represented in the film *Avatar* (Lundberg et al., 2022). This is because the forest and the environment that people have lived in for a long time are not only a place to live but have been integrated in relation to local beliefs and culture.

- (4) One of them took a piece of cardboard made of some thick and shiny material. Then, he hammered it into a nearby tree. The text: LAND OWNED BY THE ODISHA GOVERNMENT (Sarma, 2020, p. 32).

The novel tells about the arrival of people conducting surveys to measure bauxite content and measuring land area accompanied by the stake installation indicating that the forest area belongs to the government. In the process, the installation of stakes by the government is an arbitrary step because the forest area should be reviewed first for its function and ownership following the existing law. In general, practices will cause vertical and structural conflicts between community groups, academics, government, and companies and generally involve religious leaders, as happened in Rembang, Indonesia (Rokhmad, 2020). Conflict is unavoidable because there are groups of pros and cons against the mining plan. Because basically, the exploitation of nature will cause the loss of culture and traditional values that have been built (David & Bhuvanewari, 2022).

The stake installation generally occurs when forest land has been taken over. The underlying factor is that it legitimizes and reinforces that the land belongs to the government and that the community no longer has the right to use and utilize forest land. This practice is a sign that if the state wants, then everything must happen. The main reason is purely economic interests, without paying attention to the problems that will be faced in the future in the form of environmental problems.

### Compensation and Job Offer

- (5) "People should be happy. They will have jobs. Work, got it?" (Sarma, 2020, p. 33).

The offer of compensation and the provision of jobs for affected communities are very common. This is done to open up greater opportunities because this method is considered effective in winning people's hearts. However, this compensation offer is not commensurate with the environmental damage. The conversion of forest land for mining or oil palm plantations will eliminate biodiversity and native vegetation because it requires land for resource extraction (Sontar et al., 2020). Of course, the community will consider compensation and job offers from the government and companies.

The practice of offering compensation and job offers is also represented in the novel *Year of the Weeds*, namely the existence of an offer to the Gondi Tribe community, which has rights to Devi Hills and its surroundings because it has been their residence for a long time. However, due to the government's ambition to acquire land for the bauxite mine, an offer of compensation and several jobs was put forward by Rath, the secretary of the local official who served as the relay for information from the central government.

- (6) "Ladies and gentlemen, this is a very good project from the government. This project will give you jobs (Sarma, 2020, p. 57).

However, there is another problem that needs attention. Also, it will impact increasingly marginalized communities and inevitably cause environmental disasters (Mbaye & Zimmermann, 2015). This fact needs to be reviewed because it could be that what is offered is not commensurate with the impact on the social and environmental conditions of the community. The process of offering compensation is problematic because it tends to be forced and only looked at from an economic point of view but ignores environmental factors, society, local beliefs, and culture (Temper & Martinez-Alier, 2013). If this is continued, it is feared that it will have an adverse effect on wider social and environmental problems. Moreover, if left unchecked, it will become a more complex and dangerous problem, especially in terms of the environment and society. Especially in social issues will cause debate in the community between accepting compensation and job offers or maintaining their living space.

### Changing Regional Function Regulation

Indigenous peoples' rights to natural resources in forest areas have been recorded in government regulations. For example, the indigenous people of Jharkhand district in Bihar, India, have been affected by the exploitation of natural resources to supply other areas and cause people to be displaced from their territory (Devalle, 2018, p. 73). In India, the government has the power to revise, cancel, or modify regulations to resolve disputes even including protected forests and customary forests so that the government has the power to make regulations for cultivation, harvest forest products, and utilize forests (Gopalakrishnan, 2012).

This arbitrariness is dangerous for the community and the environment because forest areas will be easier to take over and exploit. As a result, this issue is not a trivial issue. Supervision and involvement of the wider community is needed so that similar incidents do not occur.

(7) Then, Rath took out tiny glasses, put them on his nose and read from an official document. According to the document, the government has removed Devi Hills from the list of forest areas (Sarma, 2020, p. 57).

Some prose in Indonesia represents the impact of regulation change on the forest areas function into oil palm and mining areas which cause ecological impacts in the form of forest crises, karst destruction, and river water pollution (Rahmayati et al., 2018). This representation will arouse readers' awareness that there are fraudulent practices carried out by the government in order to perpetuate corporate actions.

The forest area, originally a protected area, has been converted into an ordinary forest so it can be explored. This practice is a continuation of the government's installing stakes process. The function of the forest area can be replaced according to the government's will. Thus, it ignores the function of the forest area that was originally protected.

(8) He (Jadob) said not only was the hill more important than any mine but it was also protected by law as a forest area by the government itself, based on old laws enacted ninety years ago (Sarma, 2020, pp. 60-61).

Jadob, a student, understands well that the forest in Devi Hills is a protected forest. Also, it is managed by the Gondi Tribe community as recorded in the law. When the government tried to change the function of the land through a new law, it realized that what the government was doing was wrong. Thus, Jadob conveys what is known and explains what happened. This shows that *Year of the Weeds* is a representation of reality. This is because it is common in real life, namely changes in forest functions with new laws (Setiawan et al., 2016).

The basis for this representation is the practice that will cause conflicts to arise. The trigger for conflict is basically due to the expansion of oil palm plantations or mining so there is resistance from local communities, as has happened in Papua, Indonesia (Herman & Sota, 2014). In some cases, regulations regarding the function of customary land forest areas have been hampered due to political and administrative problems which have made indigenous peoples vulnerable to conflict (Ungirwalu et al., 2021). Corruption, collusion, and nepotism are the intertwined fabric behind this practice.

#### **Apparatus Involvement and Violence**

In a tropical environment, it is necessary to consider indigenous peoples' cosmological worldview (Lundberg et al., 2021). It has a cosmological world that is closely related to its forests. Some people occupy forest areas that are about to be confiscated. In addition, the majority of local people reject mining in the Devi hills area. The reason is that rivers and water sources support the surrounding district. Generally, hills that are used as mining areas are the community's main water source which is connected through rivers centered on the hill (Oskarsson, 2017). In fact, the right of nature is superior to the right of humans (Khazaie et al., 2020). However, the community is never involved in the decision-making process. People who refuse get more violence from the authorities when they fight than in the mediation and deliberation process.

Research conducted by Ranjan (2019) shows that mining in India contributes to extensive deforestation and has a wide impact on the loss of forest areas in the areas where mining occurs. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, precisely in the Middle Mahakam Lakes, there is a very significant increase in acid that pollutes rivers and lakes (De Jong et al., 2015). In Maghalaya, India, limestone mining adversely affects water, soil, and air quality. Then, it results in forest degradation and loss of water availability (Lamere & Singh, 2016).

(9) The policemen, forty people in all, got out of their vehicles and lined up. Patnaik gives orders. The use of *lathi* or bamboo batons is not an arbitrary command. That's a very specific act... Form a line like this, then advance like that, slowly, sticks raised. Then hit that side (Sarma, 2020, pp. 75-76).

The violence practice in overtaking land by the government and companies often involves both the police and the army. This fact occurs in several areas in Indonesia, such as in Wadas Village (Purworejo, Central Java), Kendeng Hills (Rembang, Central Java), Segar Wani Village (Ketapang, West Kalimantan), and other places (Huma, 2014; Tempo, 2022). Many of the community groups were arrested and detained at the police station. Some of them also received violence from the police. Another example is the involvement of the apparatus in Colombia, which is quite prominent, and is carried out by paramilitaries and local authorities who have regional dominance and mostly use violence to solve land problems (Nieto-Matiz, 2020).

Thus, it can be said that the process of land-grabbing always involves the apparatus. Also, there will be violence if there is a refusal. Several cases in the world show the similarity of motives and practices. This practice is widespread in land conflict areas. Therefore, what is told in the novel *Year of the Weeds* represents real-life practices. Moreover, it is dangerous for the social sustainability of the indigenous peoples who have power over their hilly and forest areas.

#### **Bringing in Land Acquisition Expert**

Due to community protests and environmental activists' support, land acquisition experts were brought in to overcome resistance to forest takeover. The aim is to speed up the process of land acquisition to be used for bauxite mining. Experts are brought in because they are used to doing similar practices. The expert brought in *Year of the Weeds* is represented as a person who is used to dealing with rejection. Also, he has studied the lifestyle of the target community, namely Bernama Ghosh, as shown in the following narrative.

(10) He (Ghosh) never seemed to notice anyone's presence. Humans, individuals, groups of people, they seemed nothing to him... Ghosh saw minerals. He saw metal; he even looked at the numbers. As he gets older, he looks at systems like governments and companies (Sarma, 2020, p. 130).

In fact, if viewed carefully, the experts that need to be recruited are not only land acquisition experts but also experts on environmental impacts. Of course, it is based on the environmental impact that will occur after mining. One important thing to forget is the post-mining impact. This needs to be observed because bauxite mining leaves a big problem. Problems that arise after mining, for example, in the Ud giri area, India, are in the form of loss of nutrients in the soil so that which has an impact on surrounding agricultural areas, impacts on biodiversity, soil and hydrology, and impacts on dam catchment areas in the form of sedimentation (Lad & Samant, 2015).

Land grabbing is increasingly widespread from year to year and has actually been noticed by environmentalists. Some of them have criticized it, but they have not had a major impact because they have no power and are not involved in policymaking (Schoenberger et al., 2017), yet the impact of mining is extreme. Coal mining or other mining causes chemical contamination to the environment and becomes a pollutant in water, soil, and air (Dontala et al., 2015). Therefore, it would be better if the experts brought in also mastered the environmental impact. The experts brought in are more familiar with the concept of how to suppress community resistance. The novel also conveys the abilities of a land acquisition expert named Ghosh and his expertise.

(11) Ghosh was incredibly powerful and incredibly intelligent. Also, he would fix any problem (Sarma, 2020, p. 136).

Experts cannot separate this practice because there is a link between politics and land grabbing due to capitalism, the availability of natural resources, and the interests of certain groups (Franco & Borrás Jr., 2019). Social problems in the form of the rights of customary institutions tend to be ignored, underestimated, and violated, as is the case in Papua, Indonesia (Runtuboi et al., 2021). This reality is indeed concerning, where society and the environment are completely ignored. *Year of the Weeds* makes readers aware that the practice is negative, prioritizes economic benefits, and ignores the socio-cultural community and the environmental impact.

#### **Throwing Radical Group Involvement Issues and Arresting Citizens**

Experts or experts who usually deal with problems will corner people who reject mining by accusing them of being involved in radical groups. In the novel *Year of the Weed*, and in India in particular, the most prominent radical group is the Maoists. This method is used to undermine sympathy for the community outside the mining area to remove empathy from the land conflicts. Right-wing Maoist groups were used as a tool because they fought violently against the Indian government due to caste and ethnic discrimination and advocated social equality (Verghese & Teitelbaum, 2019). For this reason, it will be easier to generate antipathy from the wider community outside the conflict because they think that radical groups should not be supported. This is clearly illustrated in the novel *Year of the Weeds*.

(12) "There won't be a Maoist group," Ghosh explained. "But you will announce that they came here because the villagers want to start a war against the government. You bring your men into the villages and arrest the leaders of the protests. The village head, and other people who have spoken to reporters. Whoever in these villages is educated. That's very important. The educated are dangerous. Take them to Balagir. If there are still journalists in town, tell them that these Gondi people were arrested because they had contact with the Maoist group and were planning violent acts. Then you throw them in jail" (Sarma, 2020, p. 138).

With this practice, it can be said that it is effective in perpetuating the process of forest conversion or land grabbing by the government and companies because the indigenous peoples who own the forest no longer have the support of the wider community. In fact, if we look more deeply, radical groups take their actions because there are several big problems. This problem is based on cultural appropriation and oppression in the forest land conversion process. Then, it causes resistance which Maoist groups commonly carry out. The basis used is the Maoist resistance that sided with the oppressed people so that efforts were made against an unfair system (Sahu & Dash, 2011).

Some media reports that Maoists are a big threat to the Indian state because they carry out resistance due to injustice to indigenous peoples or the lower class (Thomas, 2014). For that reason, the radical stamp was pinned on the people of Gondi for resisting the government. This, of course, raises antipathy from the community. Whereas the wider community had previously sympathized with indigenous peoples whose lands were taken over by the government and companies.

This brutally disseminated issue can lead to civil war because of hatred. Furthermore, it will be dangerous because it will have an impact on the environment because civil wars will generally lead to massive exploitation of resources. This problem is represented in the novel by Aminatta Forna with a setting in the country of Sierra Leone, Africa, which causes the destruction of forest areas and causes prolonged trauma (Das & Routray, 2021). Another reality is intimidation and violence against communities who resist land grabbing. In some cases, intimidation and violence have reached very extreme levels, namely killings aimed at indigenous peoples who resist land grabbing to environmental activists (May Jr., 2018, p. 109).

What is told in the novel *Year of the Weeds* has become a representation of the reality in real life. This will have an impact on the reader's perspective that the practice of throwing the issue of the involvement of indigenous peoples in forest areas to be taken over by radical groups is something that is deliberately done to expedite the process of land

acquisition. Thus, readers of this novel will not easily fall into the discourse thrown by corporations to achieve their wishes.

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

The novel *Year of the Weeds* by Siddhartha Sarma not only represents the pattern of practice of land acquisition or land grabbing by the government in collaboration with companies in India but also represents similar events in several countries, for example, Indonesia, Brazil and other developing countries. The practices carried out are aimed at opening up mining areas, and similar practices are applied in clearing areas for oil palm plantations.

The pattern of practice in the process of land grabbing in Siddhartha Sarma's novel *Year of the Weeds* includes government cooperation with companies that involve corporations; survey, measurement, and stake installation to know the area of the forest to be appropriated and the soil content in the target land; offers of compensation and jobs to the community by the government and companies to facilitate the process of land acquisition; conversion the regulation of the function of the area without a clear law; involvement of the apparatus and violence to legitimize power; bring in land acquisition experts accompanied by throwing out the issue of the involvement of radical groups and arresting residents so that the wider community becomes antipathy to indigenous peoples whose land will be taken over. As a result, the practices carried out are not completely smooth but also have various problems.

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