

ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER “DASIYAH” AS A FEMINIST IN CIGARETTE GIRL NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

The aims of this research to describe: 1) The personality of Dasiyah in Cigarette Girl Novel, 2) The struggle of gender equality in Cigarette Girl Novel, 3) The social condition in Cigarette Girl Novel.

This research used qualitative method. Qualitative method is a research procedure that results in description data in form of words. The data of this research is Cigarette Girl Novel by Ratih Kumala. This research used extrinsic approach. Technique of collecting data is used by reading novel and analyzing document. The technique of analyzing data is using content analysis of three elements, which are reducing data, data presenting data, drawing conclusion.

Based on the result of the research can be concluded: 1) Dasiyah's personality which are diligence, initiative, responsible, it was a proactive personality. 2) The struggle of gender equality in Cigarette Girl Novel is a fight against all forms of gender injustice such as stereotype, women marginalization, jobs subordination, and household violence. 3) Social conditions which were described in Cigarette Girl Novel were divided into three eras, which was social condition in 1945, social condition in 1965, and social condition in 2000.

Keywords: *Feminist, Novel, cigarette girl Novel, Dasiyah.*

INTRODUCTION

Cigarette girl is a novel published in 2012 by a feminist author, Ratih Kumala. This novel tells about a woman struggle, cigarette, love, gender relations, and conflict. The story of this novel is so interesting to be read.

Cigarette girl novel is a work of literature that presents ideas about women to be equaled in economic. In this case, women are the superior in making and determining policy of work strategic especially in leadership and managerial the policies of companies. It is illustrated by Dasiyah as the main character that contributed to the company that ended up becoming dominance clove cigarette companies control.

The researcher wants to explore what she reads of literature. Barry (2002:15) states that ‘Literary theory, for something we can use, not something which will use us’. It means that literary theory is used for understanding more the literary work itself. One of literary theory is feminism. As stated by Speer (2015:11) that Feminism is politics which rests on the belief that woman as a group are oppressed by men as group. Women are believed that they are a group that is being oppressed by men. It is because gender position. According to Madsen, Gender is not a biological given but a theoretical position. The position of men and

women is not only influence by gender but also theoretical that existed in the time.

Cigarette girl novel is interested to be analyzed because it was a quite famous novel. Actually it was write in Indonesian version-Gadis Kretek (Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2012) was in the top 5 of the Kusala Sastra Khatulistiwa literary awards. And had been translated into English version-Cigarette Girl (Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2015) and had been translated into Deutsch version-Das Zigaretten Madchen (Cultural Books Publishing, 2015). The stories of this novel were not only show the conflict, but also raised history and include it as a breath in a story.

Dasiyah's character in this story is diligent, ductile, loyal and obedient to her parents. Dasiyah was a famous girl then. She became an enigma in the story of three brothers' search, Lebas, Tegar, and Karim.

As we know Javanese people assume that man is more powerful than woman and woman is just an object. But she could show that woman could have power to develop her cigarette business. She was role in trade policy of cigarette in the colonial era. If there is no Dasiyah, there will be no cigarette which has a high taste. Because of that her character is suitable to be analyzed by using feminism.

1) Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the statements of the problem of this study are:

1. How is Dasiyah's personality in cigarette girl novel?
2. How is the view of gender equality woman in cigarette girl novel?
3. How is people's social state in cigarette girl novel?

2) Objective of the Study

Based on the statements of the problem, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To describe Dasiyah's personality in cigarette girl novel.

2. To describe the view of gender equality woman in cigarette girl novel.
3. To describe people's social in cigarette girl novel.

3) Scope and Limitation

In order to make the discussion in this study more focuses on the problem, the scope of this study covers darsiyah's personality and social state and this research is limited to identifying, finding out and explaining how the view of gender equality woman.

RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used qualitative method in this research. The data collected were analyzed directly and related to this research are taken from the novel cigarette girl. In qualitative research is focused in obtaining a truthful description. The truthful description is from the problem or situation in the novel cigarette girl. The researcher will describe the problem in the novel beside the experiences from the author itself.

1. Data

The data of this novel entitled Cigarette girl by Ratih Kumala. The source of data is all the text in the novel. And the other source is the books that support this research.

2. Data Collection Technique

The main data of the research were taken from a text in the novel cigarette girl. In conducting the research has several step were taken:

- 1) Reading repeatedly in whole or in part of novel.
- 2) Collecting and learning some theories which relevant with research theme.
- 3) Identifying the text which has connecting with feminism.

3. Data Analysis Technique

After collecting the data which have connected with feminism, the author starts to analyze the data. The techniques of data analysis are:

- 1) Analyzing the data which has connecting with feminism.
- 2) interpreting the result based on they analyzed.
- 3) Drawing the conclusion.

ANALYSIS

In Javanese culture, there are many terms which deemed the position of women is lower than men. And those terms were already embedded in society, so it was acceptable and understandable as such. The terms of Javanese culture that were addressed to women:

1. The assumption that wife is *Kanca Wingking* (backfriend) as a friend in managing household affairs, especially the affairs of children, cooking, cleaning, washing, and so on.
2. *Suargo nunut Neroko katut*, it means that the husband is the decisive wive in heaven or hell
3. The term which more degrading to women is *manak, macak, masak*. It means that wife must able to birth, dress, and cook.
4. And other term that inherent in women is *Dapur, Pupur, Kasur, Sumur* (kitchen, flour, mattresses, wells) it means that the job of wife is not far from it.

Image, role, and status of women have been created by the culture. Image of women which is idealized by Javanese culture are submissive, dislike conflict, concerned with harmony, upholding the values of the family, able to understand others, polite, loyal, and so on.

In the role of idealized Javanese culture that is managing the household as supporter of husband, other than that, this is a manifestation of the view that women expression of *Wani* and *Ditata* (brave and be styled). It means that women let her selves be styled in a rule that has to determine where the position is and what their responsible is.

Dasiyah's personality

Personality is asset of individual differences that are affected by the socio-cultural development of an individual: values, attitudes, personal, memories, social relationship, habits and skill.

In cigarette girl novel, Dasiyah was a woman figure who steals the show. She was

Roemaisa and Idroes moeria's daughter. She was described as base of the struggle for gender equality. She was agile, nimble, and smart. She had inherited her smarts from her mother and her work ethic from her father. She had power and ability to lead a cigarette company. No wonder, she was very well known. It can be seen in the following quote:

Who didn't know Dasiyah, the flower of M town, the beautiful daughter of the popular clove cigarette businessman? She was a cheerful girl who was friendly to everyone she met. Her smile never vanished from her lovely face, as if it had been placed there on purpose as decoration, like a necklace or a pair of earrings.

Idroes moeria no longer worried that his wife, Roemaisa hadn't given birth to any sons. It was enough for him that he had Dasiyah. The girl was not tomboy at all, but she had the energy of a first-born son who could take responsibility for the family. He could see that his daughter had wisdom and a good instinct that was useful when applied to their family cigarette business. (Ratih Kumala, 2015:154)

Dasiyah was a woman figure that was different with women in general. Since Dasiyah was childhood, she helps her father, collecting some former klobot for rolled by herself. This view was very rarely seen in the other women then. It can be seen in the following quote:

By the time Dasiyah was ten years old, that adorable little girl was already an expert at rolling cigarettes. She had spending time with the rollers ever since she was learning how to walk. Now Dasiyah had become a clever and agile little girl. (Ratih Kumala, 2015:111)

Dasiyah was able to give her opinion to her father about business. She was very wise in making every decision. This was quite unique for women at that time. Because of Dasiyah's rolled (tingwe), her father gets a big loan to expand his business. It can be seen in the following quote:

Dasiyah agreed, as long as her face wasn't on the label.

Dasiyah's second stipulation was that she wanted to be involved in the making of the sauce.

"So of course, those cigarettes were destined to fail," Dasiyah said. She added that, starting now, her father couldn't just half-heartedly make new cigarettes whenever he wanted and sell them just to watch them die, because this time someone else's money was involved, a loaned investment. (Ratih Kumala, 2015:131)

Dasiyah was a brave woman. When she knew that her boyfriend, Soejagad had left her and married with another woman. She didn't feel broken heart and depressed for long time. She returned to manage her company. However, her attitude was different when she knew that Soejagad had stolen her secret formula. Directly, she grew from her seat and went to Kudus town at that time. She whacked Soeraja's head with kerosene lamp. It can be seen in the following quote:

"Maybe, Jeng Yah didn't whack father's head with that kerosene lamp because she was jealous. Don't you remember, Jeng Yah the second said that Jeng Yah the first wanted to go to kudu straightaway after smoking a Djagad Raja cigarette? I think Jeng Yah the first didn't come to the wedding because she wanted to get revenge on father for marrying another woman. I think she had the same reaction we did when we smoked this Lady Cigarette. She was surprised, just like us, because the two cigarettes taste exactly the same. And she knew there could only be one explanation: Jeng

Yah knew that Father had stolen the secret formula and given it to grandfather Djagad!" (Ratih Kumala, 2015:237)

The view of gender equality woman

Gender analysis is process of analyzing the data and information systematically about women and men. It for identification and reveal the functions, roles, responsibilities of women and men. And the factors that influence. There are some factors that cause gender inequality. Those are:

1. Myths that lasted for generations in society. Women are back friend, this reason is used by their parents to forbid them for study higher.
2. Men are always considered to be acting rationally, while women always put the feelings.
3. Patriarchal cultural which is always concerned men. They are always dominant in all aspects of life.
4. Capitalist system was applied. The winner is who has big capital. Men are physically stronger than women so that men have a greater role and function in all aspects of life.

Oppression of women is happened because there is a restriction on individual freedom. Basis of this thinking is that men and women are created equal, so it has become the necessity of equality between men and women, as well as their equal opportunity to develop themselves. A demand of gender equality is a demand for women to be given the opportunity in all aspects of life in order to align with men.

From the beginning until now, the state of society often abuse the concept of gender. So, it often happen gender inequality. Doctrine that women are week and helpless still thrive in some society. There are some societies in Indonesia didn't want having a daughter. According to them, having a daughter just brought a disgrace for family. Having a son was a pride for them, because they would able to continue the family tree. Otherwise, a daughter was not too proud. Because they think that a daughter would leave her family.

Even, they would force a couple whom couldn't have son to marry again.

In cigarette girl novel, we get that view how a baby boy was highly desirable. They believe that a boy would be stronger, reliable, and would become the head of the family. It can be seen from this quote:

"Here is your baby girl."

A girl. Idroes Moeria felt a stab of disappointment that he didn't want to acknowledge, but the feeling quickly passed when he told himself that he should give thanks that he blessed with any child, remembering how he lost his first.

Three years ago, when Roem was pregnant for the first time, Idroes Moeria hadn't especially wanted a boy or a girl. But after he had been imprisoned in koblen for two years, he had hoped for a son. Like many people at that time, Idroes Moeria believed that a son would be stronger, more reliable, and would become the head of family, growing into a tougher leader than a woman could ever be. (Ratih Kumala, 2015:91)

In cigarette girl novel, equality men and women can be seen from Dasiyah and Roemaisa (Dasiyah's mother). They are base of struggle for gender equality.

Roemaisa was described as strong and authoritative woman, when her husband Idroes Moeria disappears she was down, but after that she could rise from adversity. She continued her husband business, which was making cigarette.

According to the Javanese, gather in the house of someone who recently gets a baby for seven nights was a good habit. But according to Roemaisa, it was a bad habit. Because it was disturb her and her child. She was against that habit. She could promote gender equality through freedom of giving argument.

In cigarette girl novel, Dasiyah was a woman figure who steals the show. She was the struggle for gender equality. She was agile, nimble, and smart. Although she was a woman

but she had power and ability to lead a cigarette company. That usually led by men.

People's social condition in cigarette girl novel

Social conditions in cigarette girl novel by Ratih Kumala are divided in three eras: 1) People in 1945's (before independence), 2) People in 1946's (crushing the PKI), 3) People in 2000's.

a) Social condition in 1945's

In 1945 before independence in M and Kudus town are still traditional, believe in shamanism, and believe in myths. It can be seen when Idroes Moeria went to Gunung Kawi for praying before he launch his new cigarette. And when his wife Roemaisa born a daughter, he should stay up all night to watch over the placenta of his baby. Unfortunately, the placenta belonging to Roemaisa and Idroes Moeria's new baby was missing. And then Mak iti who help childbirth, guard until the seventh nights was through and asked for a glass of bitter tea and a pack of cigarettes that called Mendak. The one with the picture of a dancer in front of the pack. Every maghrib until subuh Mak Iti lit a Mendak cigarette and then placed it on lip of the tray with the bitter tea and other offerings on it. And after the seventh night was over did Mak Iti speak to Idroes Moeria. "Your child placenta was stolen by an enemy. This enemy plans to defeat you someday in the future, and he will do so through this new daughter of yours".

b) Social condition in 1965's

In 1965 was so gripping. This year was the time of crushing the PKI. TNI were no longer just secretly slaughtering those involved with the PKI and throwing them into the Pepe River before dawn. Instead, they were banging on doors of people who had been involved with the PKI. No exception, Dasiyah was arrested because of her romantic relationship with Soeraja and Idroes Moeria was arrested for giving his blessing to the romance between his daughter and a communist. M town was dark, with dead people still being found floating in the Pepe

River, as if that river was no longer filled with fish and crawfish, only human remains.

c) Social condition in 2000's

Social condition at that time was illustrated by three siblings that were Tegar, Karim, and Lebas. They were the sons of Soeraja the owner of familiar cigarette company.

1. Tegar was the first son of Soeraja and Purwanti, he was emphatic, and obeys the rules. He became his father's successor cigarette business.

"as someone who knows the most about this business, and especially as your older brother, I also have the right to advise you that it is better not to liquidate your assets, especially for a new business that has no clear basis."(Ratih Kumala. 2015:11)

2. Karim was the second son, he was mature and always arbitrate when Tegar and Lebas be at odds.

"Enough! Enough! Always making a fuss. You two are all grown up but you still fight like a pair of little kids. It blows my mind" he has the duty to mediate between Tegar and Lebas. (Ratih Kumala. 2015:164)

3. Lebas was the youngest son. He was kind, care, and unyielding.

"Yeah I am! But it isn't going to be a horror film project, it's going to be a really awesome film. I have the screenplay with me," he said enthusiastically,(Ratih Kumala, 2015:41)

"How much does Mira owe him? Wait here! Lebas said. He quickly goes to the office and taking the check. And write a check out for five million rupiah and sign it. (Ratih Kumala. 2015:149-150)

CONCLUSION

From the analysis mentioned, there are three conclusions of this study:

1. Personality of dasiyah was described as woman who brave in action, initiative, persevering, responsible and so on. Based on that character, it can be concluded that Dasiyah has a proactive personality.
2. Gender equality woman was described by the author from Dasiyah and Roemaisa. They were woman figure that were important in clove business development. There were four kinds of gender inequality, stereotype, marginalization of women, the subordination of employment, and domestic violence.
3. Social conditions that were described in cigarette girl novel by Ratih Kumala were divided into three eras. Those were: Social condition in 1945's before Independence Day, social condition in 1946's slaughtering PKI, social condition in 2000's modern era.

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