

## **ANALYSIS OF TOMIKO CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL *NAMAKU HIROKO* OF NH DINI WORK: LITERATURE SOCIOLOGY STUDY**

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Accepted: 2020-01-13 , Approved: 2020-01-25 , Published: 2020-01-31

### **ABSTRACT**

*Hiroko in the novel Namaku Horoko ('My Name is Hiroko') is the main character that is often discussed by many people. However, not many people know that the character Tomiko in this novel has a significant influence on the storyline. The purpose of this study was to analyze the character of Tomiko whose role is not less important than the main character. This study uses the novel Namaku Hiroko as a data source. The approach in this research is the sociology of literature approach. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. The results in this study are the great influence of Tomiko in the novel on the values of life that prevailed in the 70s. In addition, Tomiko's character has a very important role to other figures. Because Tomiko's character gives a lot of help to several other figures who make their lives free from various social and economic problems told in the novel. Thus, this research shows that the role of Tomiko influences that there are social, cultural and economic gaps in people's lives and that these problems have become a habit and cannot be separated in the social life of the community.*

**Keywords:** Tomiko Characters; NH Dini; Literature Sociology Study

### **INTRODUCTION**

Literature is a work of art that has a laudable value. Literature in essence according to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian Standard Dictionary) is the language used in books that have their own style.

Literature limits it to "Masterpieces" namely books that stand out because of their literary forms and expressions (Wellek and Warren, 2016: 11). It means that literature is the basis of a science based on the value of beauty in the structure of writing so that it has

more value in the literature itself. In other words, literary is coloured by aesthetic values. Literary works cannot be separated based on the results of sentimental feelings and abstractions from a psychic form of consciousness and the human subconscious. Therefore, literary works cannot be separated from people's lives which include social, cultural, and economic aspects. In this case the author usually makes a literary work in accordance with the social life where he lives. Based on social life, of course, it cannot be separated from problems based on the reality that exists in the social life of the community. The social problems that occur in the novel *Namaku Hiroko* ('My name is Hiroko') by NH Dini.

In this research, the novel *Namaku Hiroko* was used as the object under study because the novel tells about the social life that occurs in the Japanese city. Combination between

cultural, social and phsycological aspects occurred in that work. While many researchers investigated the role of main character (Hiroko), this research offers different perspective. What will be analyzed is not the main character but the supporting character (Tomiko). However, the character of Tomiko is no less important role in the novel because it can affect the course of the story in the novel *Namaku Hiroko*. Tomiko has a big influence to help in overcoming the economic problems faced by some of the characters in the story. The issues raised in the novel *Namaku Hiroko* are social problems and economic disparities found in the character Tomiko. Novels have 35,000 words to infinity (Primasari et al, 2016: 4). According to Sehandi, it was argued that the novel can tell the whole life journey of the characters in the story and has a round in the whole novel that complete (Erlina et al, 2016: 3). The

novel is widely used as research material because it contains both of these elements so that the discussion in a study looks clear and interesting.

In this study using the study of sociological literature because literary works are linked to sociological or social boundaries. Especially the character Tomiko can be investigated with the sociology of literature because the character gives a very significant influence in helping to overcome the social problems that exist in the novel *Namaku Hiroko*. Sociology and literature have the same object of study, namely literature in society, but in essence between sociology and literature have differences, sociology only limits itself to what is happening today, not what should happen. While literature is more evaluative, subjective, and imaginative (Raharjo et al, 2017: 4). In this case the sociology of literature has a close relationship with

the community that can not be separated from each other. Sociology of literature is an aspect of social scientific studies and social institutions on how to work and society in survival (Devi, 2019: 144). It can be concluded that the sociology of literature provides a useful explanation of the background of the creation of the work of literature made by the author to the public on the social aspects of life.

## METHOD

The method used to analyze social studies in society in the novel *Namaku Hiroko* by NH Dini is descriptive qualitative methods and sociological approaches to literature. The sociological approach, in literary works is not eroded by the changing times because both past and present literature continues to develop by following the existing century. So, literary works are always interesting to

be examined both personally or in groups (Sipayung, 2016: 28).

The research subject consisted of two data, namely, primary data was a novel titled *Namaku Hiroko* by NH Dini, the first printing was published by PT Gramedia, Jakarta, with a thickness of 247 pages. Secondary data used in this study are books on sociology of literature, journals and other documents. The object of this research is the social problems found in the character Tomiko that affect the problems that occur in the novel.

Data collection techniques from the novel *Namaku Hiroko* by NH Dini used the sociology of literature, covering social, economic, and cultural aspects. Data analysis technique is to describe the problems that occur in the novel using analysis and description of a particular situation from reading the research subject and then describing the explanation from the quote.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Novel *Namaku Hiroko* by NH Dini has a main character named Hiroko. The main character is highly discussed by many people, because it has a unique character about him and his life in Japan. However, there is a supporting character who is no less important in influencing the story contained in the novel. The character named Tomiko, he has a role that is quite influential on the social life of the community in 1977. In the novel there is a polemic about the social life problems of the community described by the author as having a very close relationship with social life today. That a lot of people are competing in improving their welfare in any way.

In the novel, the writer describes Tomiko's character as having an ambitious nature in obtaining his desire to achieve a decent life. Tomiko

also plays a very important role in other figures. Because Tomiko's character gives a lot of help to several other figures who make their lives free from various social and economic problems told in the novel. The presence of the character Tomiko gives color to the novel, that supporting characters are no less important than the main character. In this novel there are several aspects of social problems that will be discussed by the author, namely social, economic, and cultural aspects. Therefore, the approach of literary sociology is suitable for analyzing aspects of the problem.

“Di sana sumber uang, karena kota besar dan pelabuhan penting. Aku mempunyai banyak hubungan. Mudah nanti,” suaranya penuh janji.” (Dini, 1977: 26)  
(“There is a source of money, because big cities and ports are important. I have many relationships. Easy later, "his voice was full of promise.”)

Based on the quote above Tomiko's character told Hiroko that he has many relationships with other people. In this case it means that Tomiko's character has a pretty good social life by interacting socially by anyone. By

### **Socio-Economics Aspect**

In the novel *Namaku Hiroko*, the character Tomiko has a very good attitude in social life. Beside, she was an open minded woman. Tomiko has many friends from several big cities in Japan. Actually Tomiko has a hidden intention to expand his network of friends with anyone. One reason that has been explained in this novel is that Tomiko has enormous ambitions to make herself successful. That made one of the main factors Tomiko chose to establish a relationship with anyone.

expanding the social interaction network relationship, it provides many benefits to Tomiko. One of the benefits is that he can get a job and can distribute work to people who need work.

“Soal pekerjaan serahkan kepadaku. Umpama kau tidak senang di suatu tempat, dapat segera berganti. Terlalu banyak orang asing memerlukan pembantu di kota besar.” (Dini, 1977: 26)  
(‘The matter of work is left to me. If you're not happy somewhere, you can change immediately. Too many foreigners need helpers in big cities.’)

The conversation above explains that well to people who needed work. He Tomiko provided Hiroko with will give work to someone through assistance if he needed work to contact some of his acquaintances. him. Tomiko in the conversation meant

“Tentu dengan lega aku menerima pekerjaan itu. Selain kupikir telah cukup lama mengganggu Tomiko, juga karena semakin menipisnya uang bekalku dari desa. Selain itu entah mengapa aku percaya penuh kepada Tomiko. Bagiku tidaklah masuk akal, bahwa seorang pendatang di kota sebesar ini tidak akan mendapat pekerjaan yang diinginkannya dan gaji yang diidamkannya.” (Dini, 1977: 35)  
(‘Of course I'm relieved to accept the job. Besides I thought I had been bothering Tomiko for a long time, also because of the depletion of my lunch money from the village. Besides that somehow I trust full trust in Tomiko. It didn't make sense to me that a visitor in a city of this size would not get the job he wanted and the salary he desired.’)

The quote above explains that there is they want to achieve. In addition, one of an economic gap that makes a person the most widespread gaps in social life willing to work anything to get the is economic inequality and disputes. In money he wants. Economic disparity this case the figure trusts Tomiko in makes some people have a very big giving a job. intention to get up and pursue the dream

“Sejak pertemuanku dengan Tomiko, segalanya berubah. Pelayaran di kapal membukakan mataku kepada dunia yang sebenarnya. Pada waktu itu, ia menganggapku mengerti apa yang telah terjadi di kapal itu. Aku lebih mengenal Tomiko sebagaimana adanya. Denga hati-hati kujalani cerita demi cerita, pertanyaan tentang berbagai hal. Itu karena aku tidak mau kelihatan terlalu bodoh menghadapi kehidupan. Semua itu kemudian termasak oleh pergaulan yang kudapat dari pemandian umu” (Dini, 1977: 49)  
(‘Since my meeting with Tomiko, everything has changed. The voyage on the ship opened my eyes to the real world. At that time, he assumed I understood what had happened on that ship. I know Tomiko better as I am. I carefully followed story after story, questions about various things. That's because I don't want to look too stupid to face life. All of that was then consumed by the association I got from the public baths.’)

Based on the above reference, explains Tomiko's role in influencing several figures. That what Tomiko has done in the quote above is because of the economic gap faced by Tomiko's figures. That makes Tomiko's character do various ways to get a money to support himself and his family. One way he did it was by selling himself to some of the men Tomiko met on a ship.

In this case what Tomiko did to deal with economic inequality was followed by several figures. One of them is the main character in the novel, Hiroko. The main character in the novel

follows Tomiko's way of dealing with the economic problems he faces. It is proven that the role of Tomiko in the novel is no less important than the main character.

### **Cultural Aspect**

Japan is famous for having a culture that is very close. One such culture requires that Japanese people bow down to respect the person they meet. Although the country of Japan there are various religious teachings. But everyone respects each other's culture and beliefs.

“Tomiko mengejutkan lamunanku. Ia mendekat, ditemani seorang lelaki. Aku belum pernah melihatnya di antara penumpang yang biasa menggrombol bersama kami. Tubuhnya kurus, agak tinggi, memakai celana dari kain tipis. Tangan kanannya tidak hentinya menghentikan kipas. Keduanya tertegun berhenti empat atau lima langkah dari tempatku. Kemudian keduanya saling mengangguk. Tomiko membungkukan badan lebih dalam, sebagaimana adatnya kaum wanita lebih menghormat.” (Dini, 1977: 32)

(‘Tomiko surprised my daydream. He approached, accompanied by a man. I've never seen him among the passengers who used to fly with us. His body was thin, rather high, wearing trousers from thin fabric. His right hand kept stopping the fan. Both of them were stunned to stop four or five steps from my place. Then the two nodded at each other. Tomiko bows deeper, as is customary for women to be more respectful.’)

The quote above explains that men are higher than women. In this case it shows that women must bend their bodies if they respect men. Although

there are so many treatments that men are not good to women. However, in Japanese culture, women must be obedient to men.

## CONCLUSION

In a number of explanations that have been explained, that literary works are a reflection of the community implemented by the author through writing to be enjoyed by the community again. So that the hidden message in the beauty of writing can be conveyed properly. Because actually, the elements of sociology can not be separated in a literary work. That the author is part of the community itself.

The Novel by N.H. Dini entitled *Namaku Hiroko* is a source of foundation in this study. Because according to the author many social problems that occur and can be encountered in everyday life. In-depth discussion in this study is not the main character but a supporting character named Tomiko. In addition to providing influence in the construction of a story, it can also provide lessons on the social value of life that occurs.

Tomiko influences the surroundings and also the main character in this story. The conflict over the main character is Hiroko who has difficulty finding work. Finally, Tomiko gives a job to Hiroko to serve men on a ship. Hiroko will do anything to meet the needs of himself and his family. Hiroko is a good girl but because of the guidance of her work she is willing to be like that. The story that dominates in the novel is not universal Japanese culture but a dark side of Japanese society itself.

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