

## **An Analysis of *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* Novel: Feminist Perspective**

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**Abstract.** *In the patriarchy society, women are viewed to be the second class under men. This study aims at knowing how feminism in Perempuan Berkalung Sorban novel by Abidah El Khalieqy. The purpose of this study are to: 1) describe feminism in novel Perempuan Berkalung Sorban novel, 2) know the groups of feminism in Perempuan Berkalung Sorban novel. This research was qualitative descriptive research method. The results showed: 1) the feminism in Perempuan Berkalung Sorban novel describe a woman' stuggle in getting her existence and rights as a independent human being, and 2) this novel contents liberal feminism and radical feminism.*

**Key words:** *feminism; novel; right; qualitative descriptive research*

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Literature is a form of creative art and the work that the object is a human and his life by using language as a medium (Semi: 2008). Literature as a creative art using humans and all sorts of aspects of life can be used as a medium to convey an idea, a theory, or a system of human thought. Authors of literary works used to convey his thoughts about something that exists in reality it faces. This reality is one of the factors causing the authors created a literary work, in addition to the element of imagination. To determine the author's thoughts contained in his work, literature can be discussed based on two things: content and form. In terms of content, literary talks about things contained in it, while on the side of the form, the literature discusses how its delivery.

Based on David, “Literature is an art form, like painting, sculpture, music, drama, and the dance. Literature is distinguished from other arts form by the medium in which it works; language (David, 1971:139)”. Literature is the art of written or it can assume that literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, but not every written document. Maybe that is needed here is an understanding or approach to art, the uniqueness of a literary work. Starting from the origin, causes, conditions that favour the formation of literature such as economic, social and even the concept of geography even in tracing the evolutionary biology literature.

Literature perhaps started with man discovering his ability to create. When this happened, he realized that he could not only express his emotions in writing but in the process convey messages of importance to society carefully hidden in beautiful words. He decided that he could play with words to entertain people who would read them. In the olden days, distance was of course a problem and so maintaining a history of world literature was impossible. The flip side is that we have a wide range of literature to read from. People in different parts of the world, using different languages and writing in different periods of time tackled literature differently.

Literature portrays a culture more elaborately than historical or cultural artefacts do because it deals directly with language and people. The author’s message is interpreted differently by different people. The decoding of the text varies according to use of different literary theories using a mythological, sociological, psychological, historical, or any other approach. Whatever critical standard we use for critical analysis of the literary texts, an artistic quality to the works always remains. Literature is never confined to a single culture or country. It speaks to us regardless of our race, culture or country.

Literature and writing, though obviously connected, are not synonymous. Every piece of writing is not literature. The definition of literature is mainly personal and scholars have a disagreement regarding when written record-keeping became more like "literature". Another important fact to consider is that the historical development of literature was not even-paced across the globe. The main hurdle in creating a uniform world history of literature is the disappearance of many texts over the millennia, either intentionally, by accident, or by the total vanishing of the originating culture. The earliest forms of English literature, like the earliest forms of other national literatures, have perished.

Literature includes both written and spoken material. On a broader level, 'Literature' includes anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but most commonly the term refers to works of the creative imagination, i.e. poetry, drama, prose and novel. Literature is almost similar to art, what is true in painting is true in literature. 'A novel is not an imitation or an exact copy of life as we live it; it is rather a selection of characters and events drawn from reading, observation, and experience, and woven into an entirely new story.' (Knowlson, 2006: 20)

Novel as a one of literary work plays an important role in giving a view to addressing the life artistically. This is possible, because the issues discussed in the novel are the questions of mankind and humanity. Novel development in Indonesia is quite fast. It is evidenced by the many new novels published. The novels that had a variety of themes and content, among other about social problems, which generally occurs in the community, including those related to women. The female figures are very interesting to talk about. Women in public areas tend to be used by men to satisfy their colonies. Women have been the subject of business and sexual exploitation. In other words, nowadays it has lost a proud feminist nature and lauded not only by women but also men. It is very painful when women just be a business or market segment. Many examples of

cases submitted as evidence to undermine the perceptions, among others, not all societies were discovered that they provided balanced gender roles between men and women (Bryson: 1992: 140-141)

Women with all its dynamics as a source of inspiration that will never run out. The outbreak of the form of studies focused on women's issues is a prevalence than airings problems which discusses the issue of men. The trend arises because women's lives is always considered to be unique so that has always been stressing in various aspects of life (Mubin 2008 :). For the women themselves, the uniqueness is not necessarily something fun because in many ways they feel injustice (Effendi: 2000).

At issue here is a female relative had many difficulties in finding the existence and determining the welcoming attitude of the hassle of the problems that appears in her life. Women who want to discover their existence is sometimes regarded as a form of "resistance" by some people who are still covered patriarchal thinking. Whereas women just want to find their own identity, establish and develop the awareness that there is a nonphysical potential to be developed in his existence as a human being.

Various women's issues related to gender equality issue is further sizeable sympathy from the general public, because it is closely related to social justice issues in a broader sense (Nugroho, 2008). Today, a variety of gender inequality experienced by women of the middle questioned and battered by a movement called the feminist movement. This movement seeks demolition of the ideology of oppression in the name of gender, the search for the roots of oppression of women, to attempt the creation of women's liberation. Therefore, in general it can be said that feminism is an ideology of women's liberation, because that is inherent in all of its approach is the belief that women suffer injustice because of their gender (Humm, 2002).

In the background history of oppression and injustice suffered by women. In fact the name is not recognized the right of their rights as human beings who want to align with the male. In the history of feminism movements develop gradually. The use of the theory of literary criticism of feminism has been widely used in the analysis of literary works. Feminist literary criticism as a branch of sociology of literature begins with the desires of the female feminism to analyze the works of women authors in the past and to show the image of women in the work of the authors males that display women as repressed, misinterpreted, and trivialized by the traditions of patriarchy dominant. In a patriarchal society, women are included in the home camp is limited to the environment and life in the home, while men are included in the general camp that includes environmental and life outside the home (Djajanegara, 2003: 30).

According Suroso and Suwardi (1998), the Indonesian literary views women into two categories. The first category is the role of women in terms of biological (wife, mother, and a sex object) or based on the tradition of the environment. Second, that the role gained from his position as an individual and not as a companion to her husband. A female character like the second category above, usually referred to as a feminist that women who seek independent in thinking, acting and aware of their rights. The nature of gender differences in relation of men and women are determined by biological factors, but sosial constuction. Different biological anotomy of men and women is the main factor in determining social roles of the sexes.

Developments feminists have a desire to improve the position and the degree of women to equal or parallel to the men. The reason for choosing the type of feminist approach because of the strong aspects of the life of the main character in a fair effort demanded equality between men and women. The object of this study is the dominance of patriarchy problems that befall the main character, forms of

gender awareness, and forms of struggle in order to escape from the dominance of patriarchy.

Feminist struggles and efforts to achieve this goal can be done in various ways. One way is to try to get the rights and obligations equal to men. Therefore, then the term equal right's movement (movement for equal rights). Another way is to liberate women from the bonds of the domestic environment or the family and household, called the women's liberation movement is a women's liberation movement. In the end, the woman can show figures of strong images of women and support the values of feminism.

Islam has given detailed rules concerning the roles and functions of men and women in life. Their differences and similarities in the distribution of their role is said to be "gender inequality" but the division of tasks are equally important in efforts to achieve a good life. Men and women have the same obligations to the functioning of all the potentials as human being public life. In *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel by Abidah El Khalieqy form of rebellion and repression in which the main character Anisa. Based on these descriptions, the writer wants to how feminism in *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel by Abidah El Khalieqy.

## **B. METHOD**

The method used to analyze *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel by Abidah el-Khalieqy was qualitative descriptive. Berg explained that qualitative research properly seeks answers to questions by examining various social settings and the individuals who inhabit these settings (Berg, 2001: 6)

In this study, the writer recorded and analyzed are the elements in a literary work in *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel. In this study the witer reveal data in words, phrases, and sentences form in the novel of *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* by Abidah el-Khalieqy work. The problem were analyzed using feminist theory.

### Data Collection Techniques

Data collection techniques gained through literature study . The technique used in this study was analysis technique (Subroto in Imron, 2003). Mechanical consider is to read literary works were then analyzed. While the technique of note is the technique used to collect the data contained in a literary work is then written in the form of notes. The primary source in this study was Novel of Perempuan Berkalung Sorban, and the secondary sources were books, articles, and research on feminism. The analysis of the data by using the steps: collection and classification of data, and drawing conclusions.

Results from analysing primary data sources and secondary data sources, and then recorded to be used as a source of data to be used in the preparation of the study in accordance with the aims and objectives to be achieved.

### Concept of Feminism

Feminism is an ideology of women's liberation, because that is inherent in all of its approach is the belief that women suffer injustice because of their gender (Humm, 2002). Feminism is theory on understanding the nature of [gender inequality](#) to analyze gender inequality. Theme explored in feminism include discrimination, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression, patriarchy, stereotyping art history, and contemporary art and aesthetics (Heroepetri & Valentina, 2004:34). One of causes of feminism is patriarchy, which is the origin of the concept of equality between men and women, and also the concept of woman. It examines women's social roles, experience, interest, chores, and feminist politics in a variety of fields, like : economics, literature, philosophy, and education.

Feminist literary criticism as a branch of sociology of literature begins with the desires of the female feminism to analyze the works of women authors in the past

and to show the image of women in the work of the authors males that display women as repressed, misinterpreted, and trivialized by the traditions of patriarchy dominant. In a patriarchal society, women are included in the home camp is limited to the environment and life in the home, while men are included in the general camp that includes environmental and life outside the home (Djajanegara, 2003: 30).

Feminism can be interpreted as a viewpoint or lifestyle that has different roots live and develop according to different socio-cultural. So, in general feminism is an analytical tool or movement that is historical and contextual in accordance with the new consciousness that develops in address issues concerning women's actual injustice and inequality. According to Nasaraddin, typical of Islamic feminism is an intensive dialogue between the principles of justice and equality that exists in religious texts such as the Koran, hadith, and religious traditions to the treatment of women in muslim societies. The worldview of scholars and religious leaders against any religious text sometimes in accordance with the socio-cultural, but unfortunately there is always a tendency to maintain the interpretation which has clearly subordinating women as being second only to men.

The feminism view of the differences in gender role of men and women in general can be categorized into three groups as follow:

#### 1. Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism has been one of the most visible and popular kinds of feminism, For liberal feminists, winning equality between women and men is the end goal. Liberal feminism is an individualistic form of feminist theory, which focuses on women's ability to maintain their equality through their own actions and choices. Liberal feminism is inspired by principles of enlightenment that, men and women equally have peculiarities (Mansur: 1996: 57). Liberal feminists argue that society holds the false belief that women are, by nature, less intellectually and physically



capable than men; thus it tends to discriminate against women in the academy, the forum, and the marketplace. Liberal feminists believe that "female subordination is rooted in a set of customary and legal constraints that blocks women's entrance to and success in the so-called public world". They strive for sexual equality via political and legal reform.

The goal for liberal feminists in the late 1800's and early 1900's was to gain women's suffrage under the idea that they would then gain individual liberty. They were concerned with gaining freedom through equality, putting an end to men's cruelty to women, and gaining the freedom to opportunities to become full persons (Heroepoetri & Valentina, 2004:36). They believed that no government or custom should prohibit the exercise of personal freedom. Early liberal feminists had to counter the assumption that only white men deserved to be full citizens. Feminists such as Mary Wollstonecraft, Judith Sargent Murray, and Frances Wright advocated for women's full political inclusion.

This category of feminism still considers the need for distinction between men and women, this group justifies that women work alongside men. They women to be integrated in total, in all roles, including working outside the home, thus there is no longer a gender group that is more dominant. This group assumes it is not necessarily to change to overall structures, but it is enough to involve women in various roles, such as their role in the social, economic and political life. Reproductive organ are not barriers to these role ( Bryson in Nasarudin Umar, 2014: 44). The Rationale of this perspective, all human beings, men, and women are created equal and harmonious, and it should not happen the oppression between each other. In ontogism, both are the same and the right of men naturally also become women's rights. The main point of this theory is on freedom and equality rationality. Women are rational beings, the same ability as men, so that should be given the same rights as men.

## 2. Radical Feminism

This theory appears at the beginnings of the 19th century by raising big issues, suing all the institutions which considered detrimental to women like the patriarchal institution which is considered detrimental to women, because this term clearly benefits to women (Nasarudin Umar, 2014:45). Moreover among the radical feminists, there are those who are more extreme, not only demanding equal right with men, but also equation of “sex”, in the sense that sexual satisfaction can also be obtained from other women which in turn tolerate lesbianism practices (Ramazanoglo, 1989: 12).

According to this group, women should not dependent on men, not only in term of material fulfillment but also sexual fulfillment. Women can feel the warmth, intimacy, and sexual satisfaction from other women. Sexual satisfactory of men is psychological issue. This theory is also seeking rational justification movement, by revealing the fact, men are problem for women.

## C. RESULTS

### Feminism in *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* Novel

*Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel tells of the struggle of a woman who aligns women and men in Islamic boarding social life. Through Anisa, she fights the women's rights against her family and among colleagues in Islamic boarding by doing protest toward the family and religious figure concernig women's rights. From this novel portrays Anisa’s stuggle on defending on the possession of the body and women's reproductive rights those are as the foundation of her exploration life. The purpose of the author from this novel, from Anisa’s character give the reader information that, your body is yours, nobody is allowed to dominate it, although he is your spouse. In her life, Anisa got violence in her household.

Liberal feminism contained in the novel *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* suffered by Annisa regarding the alignment of a woman with men in the field of education in her family. Annisa feels unfair treatments are done by her family. Those prohibitions suffered by Annisa which makes her restive because, Annisa's point of view and her own family are different. Annisa's point of view is obtained from outside environment the boarding schools where she lived. Liberal feminism that afflicts Annisa character can be seen in quotations of the novel below:

"Ow. . . , ow. . . , .ow. . . , Oh, I see. Has mom not told you that riding a horse is only worth studied by your brothers, Rizal or Wildan. You know why? Because you are a girl, Nisa. Inappropriate, the girl riding a horse, a lot of behavior! (Impolite), surrounding fields and down to the pond. Embarrassing!" (Abidah, 2009)

"Hi Nisa, lazy people don't need to envy. Moreover, you are woman, Nisa. Women have a duty to take care of the household. It is good for the future, Nisa." (Abidah, 2009). "But the girls do not need to study till high school. It is enough, if it had been reading and *khatam* Qur'an. They have joined yellow holly book's (*sorogan kuning/kitab kuning.*)" (Abidah, 2009)

Novel quotations above show liberal feminism that afflicts Annisa, that to receive treatment from a family that is not the same with her older brothers because she is a woman, so she is distinguished. It happened, because Annisa's family had about women in terms of the rules of Islam which says that the degree of a woman under the man. In addition, in getting education is also restricted in the family.

Radical feminism that afflicts Annisa can not be done just like that. The rights of the household's justice relating to polygamy Samsuddin misery instead give woe impact to Annisa. People who practice polygamy should get justice between one wife with the other. In this case, Annisa did not get justice, but misery is suffering was not only physical but also her minds.

Radical feminism in *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel that afflicts by main the main character Annisa who cannot resist the oppression with respect to the body in sexuality. Radical feminism that afflicts Annisa can be seen in novel of quotes below:

“In these situation Samsudin getting into, then bit his shoulder and neck like a vampire. Even he pleases choose which parts of my body to the grip. Clawed paws at will, as if I sacrifice a goat that was in the hands of a butcher.” (Abidah, 2009)

“He drew his fangs from my body, like a hungry tiger face to face with their prey middle. Then growl and pressing a pillow over my face, while spitting vile oaths and curses with a very rude word. After slapping, choking and grabbed my hair with full inhumanity. After seeing my strength helplessly limps.” (Abidah, 2009)

“After I thinking, I also speak on Samsudin. So he split the shopping money equally as Sunnah polygamy. He will show justice at a time.” (Abidah, 2009)

“And it is time. I just got home from school when I found two different creature types it was fucking above the crimson carpet.” (Abidah, 2009)

“Look, Annisa, how to play in the paradise. Look at us! How do you play on the paradise? And you can join us, if you want.” (Abidah, 2009)

The above quotations show how the main character Annisa suffering the crisis household that make by her husband. Misery is suffering was not just physical but also her minds.

“A man has an obligation, and a woman also has obligations. Liabilities man particular, it is working for a living, whether at the office, paddy fields, at sea, or anywhere as long as bring kosher sustenance. Meanwhile, a woman also has obligations, which primarily taking care of the household and educating children. So cooking, washing, mopping, ironing, sweeping and tidy up whole house are the duty of a woman. Likewise educate children, feed, and replace diaper and breastfeeding are the obligation of a woman.” (Abidah, 2009)

Novel excerpt above is feminism that illustrates the division of labour and everyday social interaction. Hidden agenda of the social system that is to give power to men exceeded women. This depiction is radical feminism The women's rights in order to tidal just as housewives Its only take care of children and clean the house so, it is considered a woman's job is seen as a skilled job tidal Its only requires a body, not rational thought.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

After analysing the data, the writer draws conclusion as follow:

1. In general feminism in *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel describe a woman' stuggle in getting her existence and rights as a independent human being, not only in education but also in society, it can be seen from Anisa's stuggle on defending on the possession of the body and women's reproductive rights those are as the foundation of her exploration life. The purpose of the author from this novel, from Anisa's character give the reader information that, your body is yours, nobody is allowed to dominate it, although he is your spouse. In her life, Anisa got violence in her household.
2. *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel contains two groups of feminism, they are Liberal feminism and Radical feminism. Liberal feminism that afflicts Annisa, that to receive treatment from a family that is not the same with her

older brothers because she is a woman, so she is distinguished. It happened, because Annisa's family had about women in terms of the rules of Islam which says that the degree of a woman under the man. In addition, in getting education is also restricted in the family. Radical feminism that afflict Annisa can not be done just like that. The rights of the household's justice relating to polygamy Samsuddin misery instead give woes impact to Annisa. People who practice polygamy should get justice between one wife with the other. In this case, Annisa did not get justice, but misery is suffering was not only physical but also her minds.

#### **E. SUGGESTION**

1. Women should be realize their existence as a human being having spiritual value and prestige appropriated with portion.
2. Women have to be show the existence of theirselves as independent human beings, irrespective of any form of oppression in the name of gender.

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