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THE STRUGGLE OF ANNISA AS A FEMALE CHARACTER IN A MALE-DOMINATED SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

This thesis discusses a woman's struggle in the novel Annisa by John Michaelson. The analysis focuses on the struggle of women in a male-dominated environment. The discussion covered in this analysis includes women's struggles and types of discrimination. The method used in this thesis is a descriptive qualitative method because this thesis aims to explain the struggle of women in a male-dominated environment. In addition, this research uses a women's struggle approach from the perspective of feminist theory. The analysis results show that women's struggle from discrimination obtained by the main character is an unresolved conflict with her father and the environment. Annisa had rebelled against the existing situation but wanted to get equal status because she realized that living in an Islamic environment with Javanese culture made her aware of the limited space for movement. From several discrimination this study uses three types of discrimination. Discrimination is a form of unfair treatment, including stereotypes, which is a perspective view of a group. Marginalization is a space limitation for movement; subordination distinguishes women from men. Javanese culture is a culture that organizes all aspects.

Key⁹ords: *feminist, Islam, Javanese culture, discrimination.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Women are seen as weak and are often underestimated by men, especially if you live in a country that puts men as the main throne, even though in life, women are no less important in having roles, from conceiving, giving birth, to educating and caring for children and husbands. In our culture, women are often disrespected. In existing cultures, such as in Indonesia, women are constantly told that their lives will be in the kitchen and at home if they go to high school. However, being a woman is not easy as there are many demands from a young age as women are taught by their parents to understand household chores, excel in academics, and have good manners and morals. In Eastern culture, there are several role models regarding women's curfews, how to play outside the home, and how to dress and look. Why should women who are more dominant get more pressure than men if logically, the leader in the household will be a man. The social system in Javanese culture is patriarchal, but not absolute. This means that in this social system, women have a position³ according to their nature. Women become partners with men to build a harmonious household. Events that exist in a woman's mind can be used as a problem raised by the author through female characters in a literary work. Women are often used as characters highlighted in a literary work because they have a role or are more inclined to the situation because women³ are considered to be more steeped in roles and more quickly adapt to the environment. Events in a woman's mind can be used as a problem raised by an author through female characters in a literary work. Women are sensitive creatures, especially in feelings. The novel discusses that Annisa's character lives in a male-dominated environment, starting from a family that has a religious family background because her father is a preacher and Javanese culture because she lives on the island of Java, eastern culture. After all, it

tells about women's lives in Indonesia and Western culture because she has a lecturer named Peter from England. religious understanding is one of the root causes of gender injustice. Women in Java are defined as wani ditata, always following what is regulated in Javanese culture, the karma that will make girls good at being mothers. Because in Javanese culture women must be asah, asih, asuh. Asah means the mother must have broad insight into her family (Perdana, 2021). Hence, in most instances, they are not expected to be in societal meetings, even when such meetings are meant to decide their affairs. The reason for using Annisa's John Michaelson is because it tells the story of a girl's struggle when she lives alongside a system that prioritizes men. This impacts her life, which is consistently underestimated, starting from her father underestimating her mother to the main character in Annisa's John Michaelson. The approach used is **women's struggle related to liberal feminism, a movement of women** who want to be equal to men in various fields. The conclusion is that women have equal rights in life in terms of economics, education, politics, and others. The same rights as women are always seen as number two by various existing perceptions. Through the use of a liberal feminist approach and the theory of women's struggle in the literary work of Annisa's John Michaelson, it is hoped that readers can understand how a woman fights for her rights in a male-dominated environment.

2. METHOD

The feminist approach can be seen from the angle of women's struggle, reflected in a story as a novel. It was taking a research design using qualitative descriptive because qualitative is a method that uses sentences, quotations, and words. Qualitative methods are appropriate because this research uses literary works, while descriptive is the depiction of characterization in literary works subject to research (Kim, 2017). Data is information or facts used to discuss or answer research questions. **The data source in this research is the novel** Annisa, written by British author John Michaelson and published by Gramedia in 2015. The novel has 224 pages which are divided into 23 chapters. **The data of this research are in the form of sentences and dialogues taken from the data source that contains from the data source which contains information about a girl's struggle in her life that is dominated by men and used by the main character, Annisa, in the novel.** In collecting data, first, the writer reads the novel Annisa by John Michaelson repeatedly and analyzes women's struggle in male-dominated. Then, the writer underlines and highlights the related data through the novel's character actions, statements, thoughts, and dialogues. Third, the author classifies the data in the appropriate classification: the types, causes, and research problems of women's struggle. Finally, the writer takes a conclusion.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Depiction of Annisa Character

The depiction of character and characterization will discuss the introduction of character and characterization from literary works. In novels, character and characterization are depicted through statements, sentences, and dialogue between characters. **The central character is called a protagonist whose conflict with an antagonist may spark the story's conflict. The protagonist is the central character with whom we generally sympathize. The antagonist is the character or force against which the protagonist struggles.**

A dynamic character changes significantly during the story. Changes considered to qualify a character as dynamic include changes in sight or understanding, commitment, and values. It is said to be dynamic because the nature of the character changes, especially Annisa. Annisa is an obedient girl and does not act much when difficult; she prioritizes her parents over her education, so she has

to struggle to get up to complete her education. However, she hears news related to her father's second marriage, which makes her rebel by living outside the rules made by her father. An example in the snippet is, "She could put her headscarf back on before she went home, and her parents need not be any the wiser," namely by rebelling by not wearing a headscarf and going with people who are not her mahram.

3.1.1 The Physical Character of Annisa

character portrayal is depicted in writing. This is literature. We relate to characters based on what they say and do (or think and feel if we have access to their inner monologue), not what they look like (Oyeranti, 2023). "Annisa sighed and adjusted her hijab. She was tall and slim like her mother, dark-skinned and serious like her father, with the same sharp nose as her father." (Michaelson, 2015:10). The above quote is a description of Annisa's physical condition, in the novel her physique is half similar to her father and mother. From these physical characteristics, women often cause discrimination, one of which is stereotyping, which is seeing from one point of view, one of which is the shape of the body or physical character.

3.1.2 Annisa's Character Traits

Character traits are literary terms for adjectives, and descriptions that authors use to add personality and depth to characters. In fiction, character traits serve several purposes, namely helping readers to connect and identify with the characters. In a sub-chapter of the novel, Annisa narrates how her character is portrayed. The portrayal can be through dialogue or explanation. One of them is the explanation, "Even though they said it was God's will, Annisa still blamed her father for her mother's cancer" (Michaelson, 2015: 9). The quote from the explanation of the first sub-chapter, namely Annisa's disappointment with her father for prioritising work over the health of her mother and wife.

3.2 Depiction of Discrimination Experience

Discrimination against women is common. Society often attaches differences, denials, and restrictions to gender reasons.

3.2.1 Stereotyping Annisa Character

Stereotyping involves representing and evaluating others in ways that ratify and endorse unequal social relations. In John Michaelson's Annisa, "Annisa had spent the whole weekend cooped up in her bedroom" (Michaelson, 2015:48). Annisa takes her time with this statement as she processes her father's second marriage and her mother's blindness to all of this. The fact that it was covered up so neatly without regard for the future effects, especially for Annisa, in this incident can be a discrimination of women regarding stereotypes of Annisa. Annisa can only do what is soothing because her life in male domination is enough to make her depressed because, in terms of male perspectives, women are easy to melt, so according to Mr. Ghazali, his obedient son can understand and understand the decision about the second marriage that exists.

3.2.2 Marginalization Annisa Character

In gender inequality, marginalisation is defined as the marginalisation of a group, making it seem as if it does not exist. The process of marginalisation is the same as the process of impoverishment. This is because there is no opportunity for marginalised parties to develop themselves "He gathered

his notes and made a beeline for the doorway, where an attractive young woman in a pale green haedscraf had just appread. A spark of recognition set the lights of his memory banks blinking. Singapore. The Botanic Gardens. She had been walking around the Cool House with her mother her aunt."(Michaelson,2015:27)

The quote above describes Annisa wearing a hood outside the house and Peter the lecturer's memory of Annisa accidentally meeting at the Botanic Garden. Marginalisation is where a group is put second, in the novel there is a quote where Annisa's father prioritises ratings on television rather than accompanying Annisa's mother for treatment, because Annisa's father or Pak Ghozali prioritises career.

3.2.3 Subordination Annisa Character

Mary Wollstonecraft suggested that women and men should be treated as rational beings and form a social order that competes based on reason, not material. Subordination is gender inequality where one gender has a higher position than the other. Usually, it is women who are in the number two position. Women have delicate feelings, as in the statement, "Annisa sat through the next ten minutes with a smile concealing her shame and disappointment." (Michaelson, 2015:37). This explains how sensitive women are, which can lead to discrimination such as subordination, because of women's position in male domination and the gentle nature of women. Women's subordination occurs because of gender differences rooted in the men's idea of viewing women as incapable intellectually and physically than men.

3.3 Depiction of Struggle Experience

Women's struggle is an effort against the oppression of men as influential individuals. Women's struggle against oppression experienced by women is an attempt to demand equal rights between women and men in all fields of life. Women's struggle is related to the feminist movement, which also wishes for gender equality between women and men. The condition of women who often face oppression always brings women to fight against the gender inequality they experience, and the movement is called the feminist movement. The feminist movement is the beginning of women's awareness to fight the gender inequality they experience.

"Annisa tried not to feel sidheartened. Ever since her first day at school, she had been given far too much to do, but she had almost always managed to cope with it. So, why should this year be any different? Besides, her mother was better now and there were no other obtascles standing in her path."(Michaelson, 2015:19)

Annisa is trying to fight against herself for her education. She knows it is hard but understands that she has always struggled to complete her education. Knowledge regarding the relationship between culture and management continues to be discovered, presented, and discussed. D'Iribarne (2012) distinguishes three groups of work in this area. Culture is seen as a set of stereotypical behaviors. Culture is a habit in daily behavior. Differences in the views of Eastern and Western cultures also affect daily life, for example, women in the East at nine o'clock at night must have gone home, but in the Western view, the age of seventeen is the age of freedom of a child.

4. CONCLUSION

Women's struggle occurs because of Annisa's struggle when her father married while she was struggling to accompany her mother with cancer. Annisa's rebellious attitude begins by finishing her studies faster to pursue further education abroad, removing her headscarf, and walking with the opposite sex. Poor Annisa begins the change from a static to a dynamic life because of the

disappointment of what her father did. It can affect how she respects her mother and father, and she grew up in a family full of rules because of the dominance of Islamic background, Javanese, and Eastern culture, which limits her movement.

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