



The Struggle of Annisa as a Female Character in a Male-Dominated Society

Perjuangan Annisa Sebagai Karakter Perempuan Dalam Lingkungan Didominasi Laki-laki

AMAYDA EKA RAHMAWATI

Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya

Email: amayeka901@gmail.com

MUIZZU NURHADI, S.S., M.Hum.

Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya

Email: muizzunurhadi@untag-sby.ac.id

Abstract. This journal 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.

Keywords: feminist, Islam, Javanese culture, discrimination.

INTRODUCTION

Women are seen as weak and are often underestimated by men, especially if you live in a country that puts men on the central throne, even though in life, women are no less critical 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 Indonesia, women are constantly told that their lives will be in the kitchen and at home if they attend 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, playing

outside the home, and dressing and looking. 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 position according to their nature. Women become partners with men to build a harmonious household. Events 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 women 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. Geofe (2005:61) Feminism is an organized activity that fights for the rights and interests of women. If women have equal rights with men, they are free to determine themselves as men have. 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.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Several previous studies are related to this research. The first is research conducted by Ali Romadani in 2022. The research title is "Gender Intervention Through Toxic Masculinity in Hashimi's *The Pearl That Broke Its Shell*." The theory used is the patriarchal approach, about a toxic life in a male environment. The methodology in the study is qualitative, and qualitative research is the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual data to gain insight into a particular phenomenon of interest. The writer focuses on the written data in the form of language from the novel

The Pearl That Broke Its Shell by Nadia Hashimi, which is related to the kinds of toxic masculinity traits in a society that adopts patriarchal systems. The findings in the previous study were violence and subordination of women in the novel. The previous research was on toxic masculinity in the novel. While this research uses women's struggle, the similarity in this research is to look at the women's side of the novel and the impact of the previous research, which is toxic masculinity, and the current research is women's struggle in male-dominated. In addition, this research's and previous data sources are different.

Secondly the second previous research was Luqvi Nurul Setiawan's work in 2016. The research title is "Parenting Reflected In The Annisa Novel by John Michaelson (2015): A Psychoanalytic Approach" The theory used is the psychoanalytic approach because it discusses the parenting system in the literary work used. The research methodology is qualitative, library research, while data sources need library data. The object of the study research is Annisa's (2015) novel, written by John Michaelson. From the results of previous findings, namely the analysis of structural elements of the novel. In previous and current research. The previous and current studies have similarities in using literary data but different theories and findings.

Third the third previous research is the work of Naili Syiva Fauzia in 2019, with the title "Women's Struggle against Patriarchy: An Analysis of Radical Feminism Through Nadia Hashimi's A House Without Windows," the theory used in the study is radical feminism because it discusses protecting approval that inequality and lack of opportunities for women still happen. The method used is qualitative because it takes data from literary works without using numerals. The object used is the female character Roberts (2003) through the written data in the form of words from A House Without Windows novel. The findings in the novel are Building Self-Consciousness, Demanding Autonomy in Decision Making, Declaring Resistance to Being Controlled by Men, Getting Their Right to Speak, the Right to Get an Education, and the Right to Work to Earn Money. The third study and the current research have similarities in the theory of women's struggle but differ in the approach and data taken. The previous research concludes that the three studies have similarities in novels and theories. This can add to the author's reference in completing the research. It is based on the first study using the theory of toxic patriarchy, namely the effects of a system that prioritizes men. The second research is the similarity of novels, or literary works used because, in writing, the work is the perspective of Western writers who judge women from Eastern culture. At the same time, the third previous research has the same theory, namely about women's struggle in literary work.

METHOD/METODE

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 appropriately: the types, causes, and research problems of women's struggle. Finally, the writer takes a conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

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 that 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*.

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 is stereotyping, which is seeing from one point of view, one of which is the shape of the body or physical character.

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: helping readers 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.

2. Depiction of Discrimination Experience

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

2.1 Stereotyping Annisa Character

Stereotyping is a form of gender inequality that discriminates against something or restricts movement. However, stereotypes developed in society require women to look elegant and maintain a demeanour.

Stereotypes persist and are propagated through media and social socialisation, education and recreation that promote gender prejudice and discrimination. This does not change the existing stereotypical practices with the theories of women in management, women and management, gender and management. The emergence of stereotypes can be understood as a way to simplify demands and recipients by relying on stored knowledge and responding to environmental factors and social roles (Tabassum, 2021). 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.

2.2 Marginalization Annisa Character

There is an assumption that men have an essential role in all aspects because women do not have an important role. Women only get poverty and marginalization. The suppression of women's natural abilities through an education that emphasizes the qualities necessary to glorify and serve men rather than enhancing their natural abilities as human beings.

In gender inequality, marginalization is defined as the marginalization of a group, making it seem as if it does not exist. The process of marginalization is the same as the process of impoverishment. This is because there is no opportunity for marginalized parties to develop themselves "*He gathered his notes and made a beeline for the doorway, where an attractive young woman in a pale green headscarf had just appeared. 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 and 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. Marginalization is where a group is put second. In the novel, there is a quote where Annisa's father prioritizes ratings on television rather than accompanying Annisa's mother for treatment because Annisa's father or Pak Ghazali prioritizes career.

2.3 Subordination Annisa Character

On the other hand, treating women as weak encourages them to be cunning and clever, and undermining their natural talents can lead to marital rifts that will adversely affect those closest to them, as events such as divorce are usually reflected and

perpetuated in children (Awin, 2021). Subordination is gender inequality in which one gender has a higher position than another gender.

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 disheartened. Ever since her first day at school, she had been given far too much to do, but she had almost always managed to cope. So, why should this year be any different? Besides, her mother was better now, and no other obstacles stood 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.

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.

The body articles must be written in Times New Roman, font size 12, 0 pt before spacing, and 0 pt after spacing.

REFERENCES

- Kim. (2017). Characteristics of Quality Descriptive Studies. Pubmed Central.
- Michaelson, J. (2015). Annisa. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- Perdana. (2021). Anak perempuan dalam budaya jawa. suarasurabaya.
- Wollstonecraft. (1792). A vindication of the rights of women. London.
- Wollstonecraft. (1787). Thoughts on the Education of Daughters: With Reflections on Female Conduct. in the More Important Duties of Life.London.