

JANE AUSTEN'S DESCRIPTION OF FEMINISM IN *EMMA*;

WOMAN AS WRITER

A Thesis

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AFRIANA

04 185 011



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ANDALAS UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRAK

Thesis ini membahas salah satu karya pengarang terkenal, Jane Austen yaitu *Emma*. Penulis menganalisa novel *Emma* dari sudut pandang feminisme. Thesis ini menjelaskan dan memaparkan imej wanita yang terdapat pada novel *Emma* dan juga menggambarkan bagaimana wanita tidak selalu di pihak yang lemah. Penulis melihat bagaimana Jane Austen menggambarkan wanita dengan karakter berbeda pada abad ke 19 di Inggris.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif (*qualitative research method*) dengan mendeskripsikan serta menganalisa karakter wanita yang digambarkan Jane Austen in *Emma*. Penulis menerapkan metode kepustakaan dan menggunakan teori kritik sastra feminis (*Gynocriticism Theory*) oleh Elaine Showalter dan didukung teori *social-feminist* oleh Simone de Beauvoir. Penulis juga menggunakan teori ekspresif (*Expressive Theory*) oleh Abrams in the *Mirror of the Lamp*.

Hasil akhir yang penulis peroleh dari penelitian tersebut yaitu menemukan karakter wanita pada tokoh Emma Woodhouse in *Emma*. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa Jane Austen membentuk karakter wanita dalam novel ini yaitu tokoh utama wanita Emma yang memiliki karakter berpendidikan, independent, mandiri dan peduli dengan nasib perempuan seperti yang digambarkan oleh pengarang wanita (Jane Austen). Dalam novel ini Jane Austen menggambarkan posisi wanita bisa sama dengan laki-laki. Karna feminis sangat menjunjung tinggi persamaan posisi antara kaum wanita dan kaum laki-laki dalam aspek kehidupan. Dalam novel *Emma* ini penulis menyimpulkan bahwa Jane Austen telah berhasil menggambarkan karakter wanita berbeda dengan abad ke 19 di Inggris. Dimana Jane Austen menampilkan karakter wanita dalam karyanya sebagai wanita yang berpendidikan dan kreatif yang mendukung ide-ide feminis.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

According to Selden (1993: 214) "patriarchy subordinates the female to the male or treats the female as an inferior male, and this power is exerted, directly or indirectly, in civil and domestic life to constrain women." This can be inferred that women who live in patriarchal culture will be set as inferior of men in society. This culture will oppress women's lives. Since gender equality becomes the great issue nowadays, it cannot be separated from the patriarchal system. Patriarchal system is a system in a society that is dominated by male as the rule makers.

As quoted from Abram (1976: 14) "Theories in literary studies define feminism as effort understanding of character of women reflection in the novel." This means that the writer sees from the characteristics of women character in the novel. It can see the author's way in portraying women in their works. Feminist is a long established point of view which rises women who try to qualify themselves as well as men do. Feminist was firstly established at the time when women realized that they couldn't longer take inequality of gender and decide to go against all the absurdity of the men's dominations in all aspects of life.

According to Millet in Selden (1993: 214), "ranging over history, literature, psychoanalysis, sociology and other areas is that ideological indoctrination as much

as economic inequality is the cause of women's oppressions". From Millet's argument, it shows that women are getting oppressions in every aspect of social life, especially in economic aspect. If women get inequality in economy, they will get the oppressions. The economic oppressions will be the great oppressions for them because economy is fundamental in social system. Based on this statement, the writer wants to analyze a novel entitled *Emma* by Jane Austen by using feminist theory; woman as writer.

Jane Austen is regarded as one of the best woman writers of her time. Her novel is most well known for the way she makes her character that seems to be realistic, and the way she makes fun of the trends and attitudes of her era. Jane Austen was a major English novelist, whose brilliantly witty, elegantly structured satirical fiction marks the transition in English literature from 18th century neo-classicism to 19th century romanticism. Jane Austen was born on 16 December 1775, at the rectory in the village of Steventon, near Basingstoke, in Hampshire. The seventh of eight children of the Reverend George Austen and his wife, Cassandra, she was educated mainly at home and never lived apart from her family. She had a happy childhood amongst all her brothers and the other boys who lodged with the family and whom Mr. Austen tutored.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Jane Austen's *Emma*, by applying feminist theory (woman as writer) by Elaine Showalter, The writer finds that there are several things about woman's domination that reflect the image of an educated woman that is represented by a woman character of the main character in this novel *Emma*. The writer finds three images of woman that portray woman character as follows:

The first one is a woman named Emma is independent; here woman can face her life. She can fulfill her needs without man. Its mean that women are not depended on man. The woman here can get a job like a man. The second one is that woman named Emma is educated; here woman is clever. Woman is not always in the low position. Woman is not weak anymore in all aspect of life. Women can do what they want. So, man can be in lower position than woman, because the writer shows that the woman has a power. Woman can be a boss. The third one is pro feminist; here woman (Emma) cares about man who dominate woman. So, Emma's main character makes the position of woman becomes higher. Those characters of the woman are not the same as what women in that time (19th century).

The writer shows the Jane Austen's feminine. Here, Jane Austen successes to show the good images of the woman. Based on the feminist's point of view, the

writer finds that those are images of a woman which are portrayed by Jane Austen are in feminist aim.

In this novel, woman is very dominated than man. Woman is not always in weak position. Woman should increase herself in all aspect of life. However, gynocritically point of views in this novel is successful to seek the condition of woman in this novel.

The writer concludes that the main female character in *Emma* by Jane Austen is educated, independent and pro feminist woman, because in understanding a literary work by using feminist critic, a woman as writer will give her own interpretation about the perspective of the author about the images of in a literary work by female author. It can be seen from the character and characterization of a woman in literary work itself. Jane Austen shows the good images of woman through the characterization of the main character. She describes that women are not always inferior.

The writer also concludes that Jane Austen represents women in her story as positive images of women, because Jane Austen is portrayed as educated and independent woman. The writer hopes that women have the same position with the man. Women can be the same character with Jane Austen's *Emma*.

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