

**THE REFLECTION OF NARCISSUS CHARACTER IN OSCAR
WILDE'S DORIAN GRAY OF THE PICTURE OF DORIAN
GRAY: AN INTERTEXTUAL CRITICISM**

A thesis

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment to the Requirement for the Degree of Sarjana

Sastra

TABITA DWI PARWATI

06185095



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS - ANDALAS UNIVERSITY
PADANG
2011**

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang hubungan 'interteks' antara novel The Picture of Dorian Gray karya Oscar Wilde dengan legenda Narcissus yang merupakan salah satu dari legenda Yunani kuno. Novel yang ditulis pada tahun 1890 ini menceritakan kisah Dorian Gray seorang laki-laki yang memiliki ketampanan luar biasa. Setelah menyadari kelebihan dari lukisan dirinya dan mendapat pengaruh negatif dari temannya, Lord Henry, dia menjadi seorang yang sombong Gray, terlalu mencintai dirinya dan ingin tetap muda serta tampan. Hal yang sama juga dialami tokoh Narcissus dalam Legenda Narcissus. Dia adalah seorang laki-laki muda yang sangat tampan yang jatuh cinta pada banyangan wajahnya sendiri di pantulan air kolam.

Untuk menganalisa novel ini digunakan kajian intertekstual sastra. Teori sastra yang diperkenalkan oleh Julia Kristeva ini dapat diartikan secara luas bahwa tidak ada yang namanya 'keaslian' sastra. Maksudnya adalah bahwa ada jaringan hubungan antara satu teks dengan teks yang lain, seperti dongeng dengan puisi, novel dan sebagainya. Data-data dianalisis dengan metode kualitatif dan dijabarkan secara deskriptif. Adapun data diperoleh dari unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik karya tersebut.

Setelah melalui tahapan analisa, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa karakter Narcissus dalam legenda muncul dalam karakter Dorian Gray dalam novel The Picture of Dorian Gray. Hal itu dapat dilihat dari jalan cerita dan konflik-konflik yang dialami oleh tokoh utama dalam cerita. Dari tahapan analisa diperoleh kesimpulan bahwa dongeng Narcissus ini sebagai hipogram dari novel The Picture of Dorian Gray dengan beberapa modifikasi dalam unsur-unsur intrinsiknya.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Research

In creating a literary work or a text, an author can not separate him self from other texts. Author's role is not only as a producer but also as a consumer of literary work or text. Endraswara in his book *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra* writes intertextual criticism assumes that text is not alone; it is built by another text (2003: 131). It means that a literary work is developed by other works and in expressing his work an author has received the previous work.

The Picture of Dorian Gray is a novel written by Oscar Wilde in 1890 which reveal the real meaning of life. Jyzhouzhou writes in essay entitled *Analysis of The Picture Of Dorian Gray* that "In my opinion, it's a story about people's trying to find the real essence of life... In his latter part of life, he became a completely hedonist. The stipulation he had made with his picture caused his life vein. Everyone will grow old and his beauty gradually fades, that is a necessary part without which our life will be incomplete. So, eternal beauty and youth is just meaningless. In tracing for sensations, Dorian still didn't completely disregard the morality of society". From that quotation it can be assumed that The Picture of Dorian Gray is a novel that reveals something different in human life. Gates writes that by The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde tells a condition of splintered society that everyone is destined to death earlier than they expect. (2006)

The Picture of Dorian Gray tells about an Englishman who is extraordinarily handsome. The character of Dorian Gray as the main character in this novel is unique. It is interesting to investigate how this novel was created with such idea. Gray does not realize his handsomeness until his picture that has been painted by Basil Hallward shows it and Lord Henry tells him directly about his handsome. Since that time, Dorian Gray falls in love with himself and he does everything to keep his youth and beautiful appearance.

The writer finds similar story in the Greek mythology of Narcissus. Narcissus tells about a very handsome man who falls in love with his own image when he sees his face reflection on the lake surface. The writer, thus, assumes that this mythology give contribution in building the character of Dorian Gray in Wilde's novel The Picture of Dorian Gray. Therefore, she conducts a research entitled "The Reflection of Narcissus Character in Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray: an Intertextual Criticism" in order to find evidence of direct relation between the two text.

1.2. The Identification of the Problem

In the novel The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde, the writer sees that the character of Dorian Gray as the main character has similarities to the Narcissus character in Narcissus myth. Dorian Gray is described as a handsome young lad who loves himself too much so is Narcissus. The writer is convinced that there is interconnectedness between the novel The Picture of Dorian Gray and Narcissus myth. This can be explained by the intertextual literary criticism proposed by Julia Kristeva.

Tabita D.P | 4

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray by conducting intertextuality criticism proposed by Julia Kristeva about existence of other work in a literary work, the writer concludes that Narcissus character is reflected in Wilde's Dorian Gray in this novel. The Picture of Dorian Gray is a transformation of narcissus myth. There are some modifications in that novel from the Narcissus myth as the hypogram.

Intertextual relations of those two different works can be seen on the composition of them but there are some modifications. The modifications that are found from this research are modification of setting, modification of the conflicts in the story, modification of the characters and modification of theme. It shows that it is not a plagiarism, although conflicts of thus two works are rather same they are served in different way.

In the novel The Picture of Dorian Gray, it portrays story about London society in nineteenth century with their social condition and conflicts. While Narcissus myth is a myth, Greek mythology. The setting of Narcissus myth exactly it is taking place in the forest and all the nature over there. It is about how something is created in this universe, in this term how narcissus flower come out in Greek.

The conflict in Narcissus myth rises in the Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray, Narcissus falls in love with his reflection in the surface of a pool.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abrams, M.H. The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and Critical Tradition. London: Oxford, 1979.
- Amir, Adriyetti. Sengsara Membawa Nikmat dan Kaba Sutan Lembak Tuah Pembicaraan REsepsi Sastra dan Hubungan Intertekstual. Yogyakarta: Universitas Gadjah Mada, 1987.
- Barnet, Sylvan, Morton Berman, and William Burto. An Introduction to Literature Tenth Edition: Fiction/Poetry/Drama. New York: Harper Collins College Publisher, 1993.
- Cardin, Bertrand. Intertextual Re-creation in Jamie O'Neill's *At Swim, Two Boys*. *Estudios Irlandeses*, Number 1, pp. 23-31. Université de Caen, Basse-Normandie, France, 2006.
- Dusferiani. The Struggle of American Pioneers as Seen on *Lusty Wind for Carolina*. Padang: Andalas University, 2003.
- Eagleton, Terry. Sebuah Pengantar Komprehensif. Trans. Harfiah Widyawati dan Evi Setiarini. Yogyakarta dan Bandung: Anggota IKAPI, 2006.
- Endraswara, Suwardi. Metodologi Penelitian Sastra: Epistemologi, Model, Teori dan Aplikasi. Yogyakarta: FBS Universitas Yogyakarta, 2003.
- Gates, Barbara T. Oscar Wilde's *Picture of Dorian Gray*. 10 April 2001. The Victorian Web. 11 March 2010. <http://www. /dorian%20gray%20.html>
- Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers Of Research Paper. 4th Edition. New York: MLA, 1955.