

**THE IMAGES OF AFGHAN WOMEN IN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY AS
REFLECTED IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S A THOUSANDS SPLENDID SUNS**

A Thesis

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
Of the Degree of Sarjana Sastra*

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PADANG

2010

ABSTRAK

Skripsi yang berjudul "The Images of Afghan Women in Patriarchal Society as Reflected in Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns" ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana citra wanita digambarkan terperangkap dalam dominasi patriarki di Afghanistan dan menemukan ideology dari Khaled Hosseini sebagai pengarang laki-laki.

Penulis menganalisis novel ini berdasarkan sudut pandang feminis. Penulis menerapkan teori kritik sastra feminis yang dikemukakan oleh Toril Moi. Penulis menelaah bagaimana seorang penulis laki-laki menggambarkan ketertindasan wanita dalam budaya patriarki yang mencerminkan ideology dari penulis itu sendiri. Kemudian penulis menggunakan teori mimetic Abrams, yang mana teori ini digunakan untuk membandingkan kejadian kejadian sebenarnya dengan yang terjadi dalam novel. Sementara itu, metode kualitatif yang dijabarkan secara deskriptif digunakan penulis dalam menganalisis data karena data yang dianalisis dan hasil analisisnya berbentuk kata-kata yang berisi kutipan-kutipan untuk mengisi materi analisis.

Dari penelitian ini penulis menyimpulkan bahwa dalam novel A Thousand Splendid Suns dua karakter utama wanita dalam novel ini yaitu Laila dan Mariam merupakan gambaran apa yang terjadi terhadap wanita pada saat itu di Afghanistan. Kerasifan dan ketidakberdayaan merupakan pencitraan wanita Afghan melalui karakter Mariam, sedangkan perlawanan dan terdidik merupakan pencitraan masa depan wanita Afghan oleh karakter Laila. Pada penelitian ini terlihat bahwa wanita digambarkan seolah-olah bisa keluar dari sistem patriarki. Ada salah pencitraan atau dengan kata lain ada ideology tersembunyi dibalik novel ini. Khaled Hosseini terlihat seolah-olah mendukung ide feminis di novelnya namun secara terselubung dia menyatakan bahwa laki-laki adalah pemberi solusi dalam setiap permasalahan wanita.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Novel is one of the most popular literary genres rather than poetry and drama. It is proven by the fact that there are million books/novels are published every year in the entire world. Hudson, in his book An Introduction to the study of Literature, states that “Novel concern directly with life, men and women and their relationship. With thought and feelings, the passion and motivation, their joys and sorrows, their struggle, success, their failure are reflected” (1963:77). It can be concluded that novel is a kind of writing that reflects the human being in facing their lives.

Feminism is women’s movement to struggle in getting equal rights and position with man. The movement of feminism comes from an assumption that women are exploited. In other side, feminist criticism in literature appears from the fact that position of observers or critics are dominated by men. Barry in his book entitled Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory states that “In the literary works present men’s domination” (121). Therefore, feminist critics want to define their own field through literary works which are talks about woman’s exploitation where it is based on their own perspective.

The writer chooses Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns as the object of this research because this novel implies the other sides of Afghan woman live, gives a unique and real perspective on Afghan condition, therefore this novel is very appropriate for this research. The story also brings up many issues that are present in Afghanistan such as gender discrimination. During three decades of armed conflicts in Afghan such as Soviet period, Mujahedeen period, and Taliban period and after the fall of Taliban women is a major victim at the time. As stated by U.N "Afghanistan is world's worst place to be born" <http://www.rawa.org.afghan/Stephany-Nebehay.htm>. Women's rights have been denied either by government or by their own husbands, fathers, and brothers. During the rule of the Taliban, women were treated worse than in any other time or by any other society. They were forbidden to work, leave the house without a male escort, not allowed to seek medical help from a male doctor, and forced to cover themselves from head to toe, even covering their eyes.

A Thousand Splendid Suns publish by Hosseini in May 2007. It is his second novel. A Thousand Splendid Suns is story about the women abuse before and after Taliban regime through two women character Mariam and Laila. Furthermore, the writer also has reasons why the writer chooses the topic the images of Afghan women. The writer finds many researches that analyze about feminist, but most of them talk about the women's movement and how they break the rule to get the equality between man and woman. In other hand, in this research the writer finds

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS

A Thousand Splendid Suns is a novel which written by Khaleed hosseini in 2007. This novel tells about experiences of two Afghan women during armed conflict that happen in Afghanistan. The story is in three parts. It begins with the story of Mariam. She grows up in a small house outside of Kabul. Her status as illegitimate girl changes her live dramatically. She forces to marry Rasheed the old man that she never knows before. The story then run to another girl named Laila. She, unlike Mariam, grows up with loving and caring parents. She goes to school, lives in the city, and has lots of friends. Laila's new perspective shows a different side of life in Afghanistan, but there are also similarities in both of their lives. This book illustrates many problems in Afghanistan. The main issue presented is gender discrimination. Mariam's life is totally shaped by this discrimination.

In analyzing this research, the writer focuses on three points. Patriarchal society in Afghanistan, the images of Afghan women describe by two characters Laila and Mariam and also the ideology of author. As the result, women that live under patriarchal society still inferior than man. People who Taliban beliefs with the traditional rules still regard as men as a superior being God that makes the women position as second sex.

The submissive of Mariam and the educated of Laila is two different portray of Afghan women which live in male domination. The

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