

WOMAN'S SELF DEPENDENCE AS SEEN IN *MY ANTONIA*

BY WILLA CATHER: A FEMINIST STUDY

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Penulis dalam skripsi ini membahas kemandirian dan ketegaran seorang wanita sebagai seorang imigran yang tercermin dalam novel karya Willa Cather yang berjudul *My Antonia*. Novel ini bercerita tentang Antonia yang bersama keluarganya yang menjadi imigran datang ke Amerika. Disini penulis melihat gambaran kehidupan Antonia dan bagaimana usahanya untuk beradaptasi dan bertahan hidup dengan lingkungannya yang baru yang memiliki banyak perbedaan dengan kehidupannya yang lama.

Dalam skripsi ini penulis menganalisa novel ini menggunakan kritik sastra feminisme, sedangkan metode yang digunakan oleh penulis dalam skripsi ini adalah metode deskriptif analitik dimana penulis akan menggambarkan bagaimana kemandirian seorang wanita itu di cerminkan dalam novel *My Antonia* melalui pernyataan-pernyataan yang penulis dapatkan dari dalam novel itu sendiri.

Penulis mencermati bahwa pada masa itu jarang ada wanita yang bekerja keras layaknya kaum pria, tapi pengecualian terjadi pada diri Antonia. Dia bekerja layaknya seorang pria untuk dapat mempertahankan hidupnya. Dari analisis yang dilakukan, penulis mendapatkan bahwa kemandirian seorang wanita akan tercermin dalam cara wanita itu berfikir dan dalam cara wanita itu bersikap.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Life is colorful. Happiness and suffering cannot be separated from human being's life. There are many aspects that can cause it. Poverty is one of the aspects that cause happiness or suffering. Economic problem is a significant problem in life. Economy is an important thing in life, it can caused people fight each other. Some people will try to do easily to fulfill their needs even it is not a good way, such as doing corruption. On the other hand, some people will try another way such as work harder without depending on other person. This condition will bring someone become self dependence. Self dependence is believing in our own ability to do something without depending on other people.

First published in 1918, *My Antonia* is a modernist novel. Modernism was a literary movement that began at the end of the nineteenth century and continued until the end of the 1930s. It reached its peak during the 1920s, and it was characterized by a tone of experimentation. *My Antonia* presents a distinctly American vision of modernism.

According to the fact that Antonia's poverty and willingness to get a better life, the writer is interested to analyze or to study the character of Antonia in this literary work. As a woman Antonia has a power and self dependence to struggle in a hard life in the United States. The writer conduct this research entitled, *Woman's Self Dependence as Reflected in My Antonia by Willa Cather*.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

My Antonia consists of many characters that are completed with the phenomenon of life. Antonia is one of the main characters who really exposed in this literary work. Antonia's character is self dependence even though she suffers in her life. The phenomenon that happens in Antonia's life makes the writer wants to know the aspects that construct self dependence of a woman and also the reflection of self dependence toward a woman's life.

Willa Cather as the author makes the story becomes interesting. She presents a figure of a woman who is strong and has a power reflected in Antonia's character.

1.3 The Objective of the Research

This study is aimed to analyze the self dependence of a woman and some aspects that can cause the self dependence of a woman. The writer will conduct the research about Antonia as the main character in the novel. It

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

Many aspects can be analyzed in Willa Cather's *My Antonia*. The writer in this thesis analyzes various aspects of self dependence of a woman reflected in the novel. *My Antonia* is a novel that pictures the life of a woman in a new environment as a new person. Many phenomena are faced by the main character.

Self dependence of a woman reflected in *My Antonia* constructed by some aspects. The writer divides the aspects into two: environmental and economical aspects. Environmental aspect consists of family and society. The writer finds Antonia lives in a new society where there are many differences. The writer concludes they are different in language and cultural values.

After analyzing the environmental aspects, the writer concludes the new environment where someone lives and grows constructs the attitudes of the character in this novel. In this analysis, the writer also finds that the differences in a new society also construct self dependence of a woman.

The point that the writer can conclude from this analyzing is, Willa Cather shows that women is an independent human being, women's capabilities which are equal to men in various aspects of life, and women's rights to play the equal roles to men in facing this life. Through the character of Antonia, she tries to show her attempts to stand against the patriarchy.

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