Gender Inequality Representation in Novels Air Mata Maharani Vennia Lestari's Work

Serlina Lubis; Minto A Sayuti; Hartono; Anwar Efendi

Yogyakarta State University, Indonesia

Abstract

The background of this research is because there is gender inequality experienced by women in a story, they often become objects that are cornered and are always considered to be wrong. The purpose of this study is to find out how gender equality is represented through critical discourse analysis by Sara Mills on the stories contained in the novel Air Mata Maharani; the position of the subject-object and the position of the reader, then analyzed based on the form of gender equality. There are five forms of gender equality, namely; subordination, gender stereotypes, double burden, marginalization, and violence. The object of this research is the novel Air Mata Maharani by Vennia Lestari. The data were analyzed using critical discourse analysis by Sara Mills. The research results show that the representation of gender equality includes; Subordination, gender stereotypes, double burden, marginalization, and violence. In addition, this study shows that the text that becomes the data positions men as subjects and women as objects. Readers are directed to position themselves as men.

Keywords: *Representation, Gender Equality, Novels; Sara Mills*

Introduction

Reading literary works can enrich intellectual knowledge. Everyone who reads literary works will certainly find life values in the stories presented by the author through various problems, cultural, social, and even psychological issues. Stories in literary works usually contain stories that happened in real life. Stories in literary works can be used as entertainment for connoisseurs of literature and can provide lessons for their readers.

Literary works are divided into three types, namely; prose, drama, and poetry. Literary works in the form of prose are usually presented in the form of stories that are conveyed using narration because the author will of course put his thoughts into the minds of the characters. Meanwhile, drama literary works are stories that describe the reality of the character's life and the human behavior that is played. It is different from literary works of poetry whose language style is determined by rhyme, rhythm, lines, and stanzas.

The novel is one type of prose literary work. Stories containing dreams, hopes, aspirations, and cultural roots are usually written in novel form. In addition to reading novels to provide entertainment,

through novels the author can convey messages to readers through dialogues between characters in a paragraph.

The issue of gender contained in the main theme of the novel is a very interesting novel to read. One of the novels that tell about women is the novel Air Mata Maharani by Vennia Lestari. This novel describes the struggle of women in achieving gender equality. The role of female characters in this story is not only a struggle against equality but can be used as a representation of women.

Gender inequality can be worrying if you don't know the position and position of women from various perspectives. The position of women is seen from the perspective of religion, economics, culture, and politics. From a religious perspective, every religion certainly teaches equality between men and women. This is because men and women certainly have their respective social responsibilities regarding their status. The relationship between men and women is a complementary pair.

At the economic level, it can be seen in social life with a certain culture, if a woman has a dominant economy over men, then she can hold a high position over men. When viewed from a cultural perspective, women can occupy according to the local culture they adhere to. Meanwhile, from a political perspective, women do not have economic freedom because their economy depends on their husbands, therefore they do not have political freedom. Talking about the position of women is endless. Apart from the fact that women's rights must be lost for some reason, it cannot be denied that natural law can speak and affect the position of women in the social structure of the society they adhere to.

Methods

The research used in this study uses a qualitative descriptive approach related to the study and objects of literary works. Descriptive research is an approach intended to investigate circumstances (Arikunto, 2013: 3). This type of descriptive research is used as an approach to describe how the description of the situation when the research is based on facts.

The data source in this study is a novel entitled Air Mata Maharani by Vennia Lestari. This novel by Vennia Lestari is a fiction genre. Story This novel was first published on an online reading site (dream) in 2020. This novel has not yet gone to print, the author deliberately took it in ebook form because the writer was interested in the storyline. This novel was published in Dreame with a black cover and there is a picture of a woman who only shows part of her eyes, looking like she is wearing a veil. On the cover of the novel, there is an author's name in the top center, followed by the title of the novel in the lower left corner.

The data collection method is how the data was obtained in this study. In this study, the data were obtained using the method of listening to documentation techniques. The listening method in this study is the data collection method which is carried out by listening or observing the use of the language under study. The term listening is not only related to the use of spoken language such as speech and dialogue between speakers of languages but to written language, namely observing, reading, then understanding the written language in texts such as story scripts and so on. It is also different with documentation used as a means of finding written sources from the source of the research book. In this study, the researcher read the entire text to gain an understanding of the story contained in the novel Air Mata Maharani, then the researcher identified the texts in the novel that contained the idea of gender equality. The collected data is then classified based on the position of the subject-object and the author.

Sudaryanto argues that data analysis in linguistic studies can be carried out after data relevant to the research problem is collected. Data analysis is an effort made by researchers to directly observe the problems contained in the data. Observations can be seen from the actions of researchers in observing data, analyzing, classifying, testing the results of the analysis, and finding linguistic rules. This study uses the Sara Mills model of critical discourse analysis.

In using the Sara Mills analysis method, it is necessary to pay attention to the following two things, namely; first, how the social actors in the news are positioned in the news. Who are the parties who are positioned as interpreters in the text to interpret events, and what are the consequences? Second, how the reader is positioned in the text. The text was obtained from the results of negotiations between writers and readers. Thus, if an analysis of the position of the subject, object, and reader has been carried out, then the next analysis is an analysis that represents gender equality in the discourse in the novel entitled Air Mata Maharani.

Results and Discussion

Based on the research that the researchers conducted, the research on gender equality representation in this study focuses on 5 forms of gender equality, namely 1) subordination, 2) gender stereotypes, 3) double burden, 4) marginalization, and 5) violence. This study uses Sara Mills' discourse analysis and the representation of gender inequality according to M. Fakih. In Sara Mills' analysis, she sees gender inequality through the position of the subject toward the object and the position of the reader toward the writer. Furthermore, the representation of gender inequality will be presented in its entirety through M. Fakih's theory with its classification. In the following, the researcher will present the discussion and results of his research.

Table 1. Findings of gender representation and the Novel Air Mata Maharani Vennia Lestari's work (Sara Mills' Discourse Analysis)

No	Findings	Amount
1.	Position of the object to the subject	28
2.	Position of the reader towards the writer	16
3.	Representation of gender inequality	
	Subordination	60
	Gender stereotypes	25
	Double load	9
	Marginalization	5
	Violence	41

Position of Object to Subject

In the novel Air Mata Maharani, there is a subject position towards the object position found in several findings which state that there will be a discourse of gender injustice in several findings in the form of quotations. the data is based on research data classification guidelines on research instruments.

(1) This morning was like the previous days, two weeks after he found out about Susan as Alvian's second wife. Maharani was busy in the kitchen, assisted by mbok Minah preparing breakfast. "Ma'am, sorry if I'm sharp. Have you asked father directly? Minah asked softly. Afraid if Alvian hears it." (Air Mata Maharani: 38)

Maharani stops her activity slicing the chilies. "Not yet, Mom. I'm afraid we'll fight if I ask." (Air Mata Maharani: 38)

The data above is a finding in the novel Air Mata Maharani. In these findings, the character who is positioned as the narrator (subject) is me. I in this story Maharani. My character becomes the object being told. In contrast to the character Susan in the findings above which is described as passive. Susan is Alvian's second wife. Meanwhile, Mbok Minah is Maharani's housemaid. Alvian married Susan a second time, without Maharani's knowledge. So that makes Maharani a gloomy person and finally has a personality that always keeps sad. Besides that, Alvian is also a passive figure. This causes gender inequality. This causes Maharani to have a good nature at keeping sadness because of Alvian who married without permission.

Position of the Reader towards the Author

From the point of view of the influence of the reader on the text, or the position of the reader on the writer, it is known that several categories lead to discourses of gender inequality in some of the findings in the form of quotations. The author writes literary texts of the novel type, placing the reader in a certain specific subject in the entire fabric of the literary text.

(2) Once again, I will break the chain of sorrow in his life. If living alone, without a husband and children makes her happier, then I'll be happy to do it. (Tears of Maharani:42)

The findings above by the writer through the text in the novel place the reader in a certain subject in all stories of literary texts through the events experienced by the characters. My character in the text places the reader as if he is also experiencing the events experienced by the character, this relates to women who do not run away from problems and have courage and have to get up after various trials that come, women have no reason to be weak, we have to be strong in various trials, facing trials sincerely with the effort to rise and not give up easily.

Representation of Gender Inequality

There are representations of gender inequality that arise such as subordination, gender stereotypes, double burden, marginalization, and violence. In the following, the researcher describes the findings of the study.

1. Subordination

Data findings relating to subordination to women are found in findings in the form of quotations contained in Vennia Lestari's novel Air Mata Maharani. This can be seen in the following quotation.

(3) The woman was worried that her husband had suddenly left. Alvian had promised to stay at his house for a week. Ignoring Susan, Alvian immediately looked for Maharani's condition (Maharani's Tears: 90).

The findings above show that there is subordination of women seen from women not being allowed to make decisions, women only accept decisions made by men.

2. Gender Stereotypes

Data findings relating to gender stereotypes against women are found in quotations contained in Vennia Lestari's novel Air Mata Maharani. Seen in the following findings.

(4) Be prepared, don't be too pretty, all the men there will see you, I'm not willing to share (Maharani's Tears: 36).

The findings above show that there is a stereotype by judging women who dress up or beautify themselves only aim to attract men's attention.

3. Double Load

Data findings related to the double burden on women are found in quotations contained in Vennia Lestari's novel Air Mata Maharani. Seen in the following findings.

(5) Even though she is lying weak now, she has to take care of her husband and work on projects for her boutique, because it's Eid, of course, the latest models will be of interest to customers (Tear Maharani: 70).

The findings above show a double burden besides she has to provide for all her husband's needs including the needs of her husband's lust, but work that is valued by her husband is work that helps the family economy.

4. Marginalization

Data findings relating to the marginalization of women are found in quotations contained in Vennia Lestari's novel Air Mata Maharani. Seen in the following findings.

(6) Women with bachelor's degrees in management spend more time in boutiques. Leaving early in the morning and returning late at night, her heart was frozen, as frozen as her love for Alvian which caused her to be indifferent to this man (Maharani's Tears: 105).

The findings above show the marginalization of women where Maharni was silent, but Alvian still ignored it.

5. Violence

Data findings relating to violence against women are found in quotations contained in Vennia Lestari's novel Air Mata Maharani. Seen in the following findings.

(7) The young Empress was pregnant. He complied with Alvian's family's request to have an abortion. Because if not, Alvian's parents would not approve of their marriage. They were allowed to marry as long as they postponed having children, and Maharani was willing to do so even though her life was threatened (Maharani's Tears: 66).

In the above findings, there is clear violence against women who are required to have an abortion even though it is their seed, avoiding insults from neighbors and the shame of Alvian's parents asking Maharani to abort her pregnancy. This request made it difficult for the woman to have children until in the end for dozens of years they were not blessed with children.

Conclusion

Overall, the results of data analysis and discussion at the conclusion there are 184 findings in the form of quotations regarding the representation of gender inequality contained in the novel Air Mata Maharani by Vennia Lestari Gender inequality that appears subordinated there are 60 findings, gender stereotypes with 25 findings, double burden 9 findings, marginalization 5 findings, and hardness 41 findings. In addition, the text also shows the position of the subject and object related to the actor in the story, there are 28 findings, and the position of the reader in a story, there are 16 findings. Representation of gender equality, subordination, gender stereotypes, double burden, marginalization, and violence about Maharani who is described as a woman who is willing to abort her womb only for the blessing of her in-laws, after all her struggles it turns out that she is double-crossed just because she has no children, all her life she is seen as a woman who is not being able to have children, it turns out that all of this was proven when he divorced and remarried he could have children. It turned out that his ex-husband was deceived by his second wife and the child born from the second wife was the child produced by his second ex-wife. Labeling that harms women causes gender inequality.

References

Althusser, Louis. 2015. *Ideologi dan Aparatuss Ideologi Negara (catatan-catatan Investigasi)*. Yogyakarta: IndoProgress.

Arikunto, S. 2019. *Prosedur Penelitiaan*. Jakarta: Rineka cipta.

Barker, Chirs. 2004. *Thee age Dictionary of Cultural Studies.* Londoon: Sage Pub.

Corteau, David dan William Hoynes. 2000. *Media/Society: Industries, Images, and Audiences*. London: Pine Forge Press.

Denesi, Marcel. 2010. *Pesan, Tanda, dan Makna, Buku Teks Dasar Mengenai Semiotika dan Teori Komunikasi.* Yogykarta: Jalasutra.

Fakih, Mansour. 2013. *Analisis Gender & Transformasi Sosial*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Belajar.

Lestari, Vennia. 2020. *Air Mata Maharani*. Dreame.

Siswantoro. 2014. *Metode Penelitian Sastra*. Yogykarta: Pustaka Pelajar.

Tarigan, Hendry Guntur. 2011. *Prinsip-Prinsip Dasar Sastra*. Bandung: Angkasa Bandung.

Wicaksono, Andri. 2017. *Pengkajian Prosa Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Garudhawaca.

Copyrights