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A STUDY OF FEMINISM IN IHAN SUNRISE'S RIHON SHORT STORY BOOK

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Abstract

This research focuses on the influence of feminism in the stories contained in the book collection of short stories by Ihan Sunrise. This study aims to describe the forms of discrimination against Acehese women and gender equality in Ihan Sunrise's works through a collection of short stories by Rihon. The research method used is a qualitative descriptive method with a literature study approach. Based on data analysis, the results of this study show that the works in the collection of Rihon short stories contain elements of feminism. Discrimination of women in Aceh that occurred for years in social strata. The different treatment of women from men in community life has given birth of the Acehese women's feminist movement.

Keywords: Feminism, Short Stories, Acehese Women

A. Introduction

When talking about feminism, it cannot be separated from women's problems. The issue of feminism was sticking out in the Middle Ages. Different forms of treatment for women towards men, discrimination and injustice have strengthened the issue of gender equality for women in this world. Until feminism was born. Feminism as a form of awareness of the equal rights of women both in the family and society. Feminism is a way for women to fight for and demand equal rights as a human being. Because the goal of feminism itself is to increase the degree and equalize the position of women and men. Actually, the issue of feminism did not appear in the Middle Ages. It was during Rasulullah's time. In the era of ignorance, evil was rampant. Women have no value in the eyes of the polytheists. Prophet Muhammad saw. Sent to improve human morals, including glorifying and elevating women from the humiliation of the jahiliyah. This is proof that Islam has glorified women first.

Efforts to struggle for women in equalizing equality of rights can be carried out in various ways, including in the field of literature. Literature as a mouthpiece of the struggle for feminism. Even though literature is a fictional medium, the power of storytelling and the language used can influence readers to sympathize with the feminism movement. Many novels work on the issue of struggle to raise women's rights. The works raised have changed the face of the world and the public has begun to pay attention to the fate of women. This empathy arises because the work raised is fictional story but originates from the author's life background who directly experiences the discriminatory atmosphere as a woman.

Not only literary works of international or national writers. In Aceh, there are also literary works written by female writers with background and stories about the lives of Acehnese women. One of them is a collection of short stories by Ihan Sunrise Rihon. This woman writer who works as a journalist is very good at processing words for fictional writing. Most of the works written focus on issues of love women. Of course, with an interesting and touching language style.

Raising women's problems in a story is a new idea for Aceh writers after the conflict and tsunami issues that developed in the 2000s. After a period of peaceful journalism, conflict and the tsunami were no longer interesting issues. Therefore, writers must be creative in looking for new issues that are developing and interesting to discuss. Ihan Sunrise is capable of doing that. He is one of the Acehnese writers who survived his time because the work he wrote was able to keep up with the times. One of the interesting

issues raised in her work is the problem of women. In Aceh, women's issues are in the media spotlight because of the many discriminatory cases that befell women. Acehese women also struggle to promote their equal rights because of this discriminatory treatment. The issue of feminism is also growing among the people of Aceh in the midst of culture and complaints about the application of Islamic law which are said to be blunt upward. Ihan is one of the fighters for feminism in Aceh through his works. She is able to mix it well so that it is not just entertainment for readers but there is a persuasive element that invites the mind to empathize with feminism.

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), feminism is a women's movement that fully demands rights between men and women. June Hannam (2007:22) defines feminism as (1) recognition of the balance of power between the two sexes, with the role of women being under men; (2) the belief that the condition of women is socially constructed and therefore changeable; (3) emphasis on women's autonomy. Wolf (2004:139) states that feminism is a concept that describes the dignity of women. A woman will believe in themselves. Emancipation tends to focus more on the role of women without questioning gender injustice, while feminism has questioned the rights and interests of women, which have so far been considered unfair. From the above opinion, it can be concluded that feminism is related to focusing attention on equal rights for women or efforts to equalize women and men. Feminism cannot be separated from the implementation of human rights values in the life of the global community.

The struggle for equality of women's rights through various fields, including in the field of literature. Many literary works talk about feminism, this is proof that feminism and literature are closely related. This can be seen in many literary works such as novels and short stories that reveal feminism. The style of storytelling in the short story is, of course, very different. According to Sayuti (2017: p. 10) novels are often contrasted with short stories. The difference is that short stories focus more on one problem while novels tend to be more complex. A good novel tends to focus on the ability to fully convey complex problems. This is different from short stories which tend to tell a matter in a more focused and brief manner.

Nurhayati (2009: p. 17) states that short stories focus more on storytelling which gives a single impression and focuses on the problem of the characters, in one place, experience, and situation. The same thing is the same as the opinion of Semi (in Nurhayati) which states that a short story is a literary work telling a main event. From the

above opinion, it is very clear that a short story is a work that focuses on the problem of storytelling on one topic, ideas, characters, storyline, and conflicts.

B. Research Method

The research uses a descriptive research method, problem solving that is investigated by describing the condition of the research object based on the latest facts. The descriptive method is used because this study aims to describe feminism in the short story RIHON by Ihan Sunrise. This study describes the data in the form of citations in the short story RIHON Karya Ihan Sunrise objectively.

According to Moleong (2012: p. 11), descriptive methods are used to collect data in words, pictures, and not numbers. Thus, the research report will contain data citations to provide an overview of the presentation of the report. Data was obtained from interview transcripts, field notes, photographs, personal documents, notes or memos, and other admission documents. Data in the form of quotes need to be described or explained so that in the end it will be known about Feminism contained in the short story RIHON Karya Ihan Sunrise.

C. Result and Discussion

The book, a collection of short stories from Rihon, tells a lot about the romance of Acehese women. Besides that, the strorytelling also does not escape the problem of feminism. The short stories by Ihan Sunrise in the collection of Rihon short stories consist of 28 short stories, several short stories containing feminist values, namely *My Soul*, *Perempuan Broken Heart*, *Lentera*, *Don't Cry in This City*, *Arini Datang Sendiri*. The following is an excerpt from the short strory *My Souol* which contains elements of Feminism.

Rania froze when people applauded when her name was read as the best author of the year through her novel *My Soul*. His heart screamed, people congratulated him and applauded him. (Sunrise, 2020: p. 104).

The short story fragment describes the character Rania who struggles in the world of literary writing. He produces many of the best works. His persistence in writing has led him to become a great writer and get the best achievements. This illustrates the reality that Acehese women have started to take part in the world of literature. So far, the writers of Aceh novels have been dominated by men, rarely the writers of women. This of course can change the paradigm that Acehese novels can also be written by women.

This is part of feminism that fight for women's rights. Furthermore, the element of feminism is also found in the short stories of *Perempuan Patah Hati*. Here's an excerpt.

The women laughed broadly. Wherever may he remember everything. But i was amazed, amazed, and amazed at the same time, what was he made of? I looked around. All men, yes men. Male activists, male politicians, male entrepreneurs. All men. Even though there are women one on one, they are seen with their partners or friends. But he? The woman named that woman. (Sunrise, 2020: p. 117).

In the short story, the character depicts me who expresses a feeling of amazement and admiration for great women among men. The greatness of a woman who is able and equal to men in various professions, positions and positions. This proves that the greatness of Acehnese women is not inferior to that of men. A great woman whose name is a woman who is described by Ihan Sunrise in her short story is part of the reflection of the reality of the great Acehnese women of this era. The next short story that contains elements of Feminism is Lentera. The following is a fragment of the short story.

Her name is Weni. A mixed Aceh-Java girl with a beautiful olive skin. Weni is a smart and enthusiastic woman activist. Arguing with him was fun. Two months ago, we got married. My life feels perfect. (Sunrise, 2020: p. 136).

The short story quotation describes the character Weni, a woman activist. Talking about activist issues is inseparable from all organizational activities and humanitarian struggles. Usually, activists are born from campus organizational and humanitarian organizations NGOs. All forms of activities are carried out for the benefit of many people and ignore personal interests. Activists are usually dominated by men, but it is not uncommon for women to be involved in this activist's world. Even now, women's activities are more influential than male activist. This is as described by the author in the short story. The figure depicted is inseparable from the life of the writer himself, a journalist who is also a humanitarian activist.

Other quotes in Lentera short stories that contain elements of feminism are as follows.

"He graduated from the Master of Catering at a well-known university in Jakarta there. Just returned to Aceh five years ago and immediately took over the management of his parents' restaurant, which had been running in place. Culinary and bussines are his passions. Amazing!" Weni continued to talk. (Sunrise, 2020: p. 137).

In the short short story above, a prominent female figure who graduated from higher education is depicted in the capital city. This illustrates thereality that many Acehnese women also undertake higher education abroad and domestically, both at the

doctoral and postgraduate levels. Not infrequently, after taking higher education, many of them hold government positions and some become entrepreneurs. This illustrates that the education they took was not in vain and was able to build Aceh. The success that Aceh women have in the world of education defies the paradigm that Acehnese woman cannot be separated from kitchens, mattresses and wells. In fact, many Acehnese women today have successfully received education.

The next short story is entitled *Don't Cry in This City*. Here's an excerpt.

This is not the first time Cut Arafah has traveled out of town. At the age of 32, he has even explored five continents. Almost all the wonders in this world he had ever visited. In fact, he once traveled to Alaska by using the most luxurious can get it. (Sunrise, 2020: p. 142).

Almost the same as the *Lentera* short story, the character depicted in this short story also contains feminist values. Cut Arafah as an Acehnese woman who has traveled all over the world. This also changes the paradigm so far that depict Acehnese women as inseparable from wells, mattresses, and kitchen. Along with the times, many Acehnese women have taken higher education and their intelligence has been able to make them explore all over the world. Finally, the element of feminism is found in the short story fragment of *Arini Datang Sendiri*. Here's an excerpt.

As a VVIP invitation, Arini sat in the front row of chairs with other special invited guests. His name is included in the list of one of the recipients of cultural awards held by the government. (Sunrise, 2020: p. 200).

The short story quote contains elements of feminism. They can be seen from the figure of Arini, a woman who received a cultural gift, in which a similar area tends to be dominated by women. It is very rare, let alone Aceh women who receive cultural gifts. The short story is a description of real events.

D. Conclusion

The short stories in Rihon's short story collection contain feminist values. The feminist values contained in the short story reflect the reality of the life of Acehnese women. Discrimination of women in Aceh that occurred for years in social sastra. The different treatment of women from men in community life has given birth to a feminist movement for a handful of Acehnese women to confiscate women's rights in various dimension of life. One medium of struggle is through Acehnese women's literary works.

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