

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Many novels, for example “Perempuan Jogja” by Achmad Munif, “Kunjungan Nyonya Tua” by Friedrich Durrendatt (translated by N.Riantiarno), and “Perempuan di Titik Nol” by Nawal el Saadawi, talked about women’s resistance against men’s power exercised on them. Women resist men’s ill treatment in order to get their rights.

What is more interesting is the fact that most of the novels used Middle East society, as their main background. Gender inequality often appears as the result of how Middle East society, which also can be appointed as Asia society, treats women. Gender inequality happened in Asia society derives from gender stereotype, which exists in Asia society including in Middle East society. Asia society often discriminates women in many aspects of life. The event is often illustrated in literary works such as novel.

Middle East society also treats women as Asia society does in general. Middle East society often discriminates women in many aspects of life. Women in Middle East society is often discriminated such as by being double burned and stereotyped. Women in Middle East often perform resistance in order to resist ill treatment exercised on them. Such women’s life in Middle East society is often illustrated in literary works.

One of the novels that tell about women's resistance is *Ayat-Ayat Cinta*. The novel was a bestseller in Indonesia, and the writer of this novel is an Indonesian that had studied in Cairo for his scholarship. In specific, the novel among others discusses discrimination towards women, and women resistance against men's power exercised on them. The novel shows discrimination issues happened in Egypt society, a country that is so close to the growth of Moslem historical background.

There has been study investigating some issues in novel, for examples Sayyid Madany Syani analized novel *Bumi Manusia* by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, he found the character Nyai Ontosoroh who lives in the age of colonialism in Indonesia, is discriminated in the education and sexuality. Nyai Ontosoroh resists the power exercised on her performed by the colonial government. Another study has been conducted by Suwarti. She analized novel *Perempuan Kembang Jepun Perempuan Kembang Jepun* By Lan Fang, she found female characters in the novel are often discriminated, for example women are viewed only as sexual object.

This study investigates how men's power is manifested upon women and how women resist men's power exercised on them in Egypt society as depicted in novel *Ayat-Ayat Cinta*.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The novel has been selected as the subject of the investigation because it contains the issues of how men exercise their power and how women resist men's power exercised on them as depicted in the novel. The writer finds that the issue, women resistance towards men power in the novel *Ayat-Ayat Cinta*, in particular is interesting to investigate.

1.3 Research Question

This study is conducted to answer these research questions:

1. In what ways are men power manifested upon women?
2. How do women resist the power exercised on them as evidence on the novel?

1.4 Aims of the Study

This study tries to find how men manifest their power upon women depicted in the novel. The novel tells about how men and women interact in Egypt society. This study will also discuss how women perform their resistance against men's power exercised on them as depicted in the novel.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

The study is focused on investigating ways men exercise their power upon women and the kind of resistance performed by women as evidenced in the novel.

There are 21 male characters and 15 female characters in the novel. However, for the purpose of the study, some characters have been selected to be investigated based on the intensity of their relation. Four male characters investigated are Fahri, Bahadur, Robin, and Rudolf Greimas, and five female characters investigated are Noura, Nurul, Maria, Aisha, and Syaima. They have been selected as the source of the data on how male characters investigated manifest their power upon women and how female characters investigated resist men's power exercised on them as depicted in the novel.

1.6 Method of Analysis

This study is qualitative in nature. The study describes phenomena in the form of words, phrase, or sentence, which indicates ways men exercise their power upon women and how women resist the power exercised as evidenced in the novel. This study also employs textual analysis, the method of analysis that explore the content of the novel by classifying text that raise the issue related to the study.

The data are collected by reading and classifying evidence that raise the issue of power manifestation. The data are in the form of word, phrase, or sentence, which indicate ways men exercise their power toward women and the

kind of resistance performed by women against men's power as evidenced in the novel.

The writer also tries to get information about the author of the novel, such as his educational background and environment that may influence his work.

1.7 Clarification of The Terms

- Resistance is the act or power of opposing, or withstanding.
- When power is connected to gender, it discusses about the connection of power differential between men and women in the scope of male and female gender roles.
- Gender is the social differences between men and women in the society.
- Gender discrimination is the practice of letting a person's sex unfairly become a factor when deciding something.
- Power relation is the capability of a person to determine over one's environment and take a role in making decision.
- Mental disorder is a condition someone who experience highly depression until he or she can be categorized as a lunatic or crazy.
- Harem is a group of woman in Egypt kingdom environment who become king's wives in addition to the queen.

1.8 Organization of Paper

The writer divides this paper into five chapters.

CHAPTER I (Introduction)

This section contains an introduction, which focuses on background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, research question, aims of the study, the scope of the study, method of the analysis, clarification of the terms, and organization of the paper.

CHAPTER II (Theoretical Foundation)

This section contains theoretical foundation that focuses on the analysis of the theories that is relevant to the study; power relation, gender discrimination, women's resistance towards men's power, and women in Asia and Middle East society. Synopsis of the novel, also presents in this chapter to highlight the story of the novel, and brief review of the author.

CHAPTER III (Methodology)

This section contains research procedure that explains how the study is conducted. This chapter focuses on research method, subject of the research, data collection, data analysis, and data presentation.

CHAPTER IV (Findings and Discussions)

This section contains findings and discussions, which are the result of the analysis, and the discussion of research findings as the answer of statements of problem.

CHAPTER V (Conclusions and Recommendations)

This section contains conclusions of the research and recommendation for further study.

