

ABSTRACT

DESY PRAMUSIWI. **Revealing Consequences of Practicing Liberal Feminist Ideas as Experienced by the Main Character Noe Ito in Harumi Setouchi's *Beauty in Disarray***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2009.

The Taisho era (1912 - 1926) in Japan was a period of the socio-liberal turbulence and radical change. Almost all of radical movements were done by the socialists, anarchists, and feminists. They demanded changes in governance system, from feudal into democratic one, and also changes in the social order of the society. They got much opposition from the government. Many of them ended up being murdered because of their actions. Based on this background, this research tries to reveal the life of one of the feminists living in that era, Noe Ito, in Harumi Setouchi's *Beauty in Disarray*. The complex life of Noe Ito – beginning from the development of her way of thinking and her characterization, the liberal feminism ideology she practiced, her involvement in the huge movements in Japan, and the consequences as the result of her actions – are very interesting to be discussed.

There are four problems formulated in this research. The first problem is how Noe's characteristics are described in the novel. The second one is how Noe Ito got the idea of feminism and the background of her learning feminist thoughts perceived from her experiences and the education she got from her closed influential people. The result of the analysis of the second problem will be used to answer the third problem: how the ideology of liberal feminism was practiced in Noe Ito's everyday life through her way of thinking and her attitude. The fourth problem is revealing what kind of consequences Noe experienced and her family as the result of practicing the ideology of liberal feminism.

The writer used feminism approach to surge those problems above. In addition, the theory of character and characterization, theory of liberal feminism, background patriarchal society in Taisho era, and review on women movement in Japan were needed in this research. Meanwhile, the method used was library research.

The result of all the analyses after answering those four formulated problems above showed that Noe's intellectuality, one of her characteristics, made her easier in comprehending feminist ideas as well as being responsive about women's problem in her society. Noe's critical attitude was shown through her attitudes, for examples, her criticism toward the arranged marriage system, subordination of women, and the old-fashioned idea which positioned women just in the whirlpool of domestic jobs. Her courageous characteristic, supported by feminism thought, was reflected in her actions: balking the arranged marriage, declaring herself as *New Woman*, and influencing women's liberation. The culmination of Noe's life, after the sequence of the consequences – humiliation, poverty, and disharmonious relationship – was that she was murdered. All those were the consequences that Noe and her family had to bear.

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Era Taisho (1912-1926) merupakan suatu masa terjadinya pergolakan sosial liberal serta perubahan radikal di Jepang. Hampir seluruh dari pergerakan radikal ini dilakukan oleh kaum sosialis, anarkis, dan feminis. Mereka menuntut perubahan sistem pemerintahan, yang feodal, menuju yang demokratis dan juga perubahan dalam tatanan masyarakatnya. Tidak sedikit dari tindakan mereka ini yang mendapat perlawanan dari pemerintah. Banyak dari mereka yang mati dibunuh karena aksi mereka. Berdasarkan latar belakang tersebut, penelitian ini mencoba mengungkapkan kisah salah seorang tokoh feminis yang hidup di masa itu, Noe Ito, dalam novel *Beauty in Disarray* karya Harumi Setouchi. Hidup Noe Ito yang sangat kompleks – mulai dari perkembangan pola pikir dan karakternya, ideologi feminisme liberal yang dipraktikkannya, keterlibatannya dalam pergerakan-pergerakan besar di Jepang, dan konsekuensi dari tindakan-tindakannya itu – sangat menarik untuk dikaji.

Terdapat empat rumusan masalah dalam skripsi ini. Pertama, bagaimana karakter Noe Ito dideskripsikan dalam cerita. Kedua, bagaimana Noe Ito mendapatkan pemikiran feminisme, serta latar belakang Noe mempelajari pemikiran feminisme itu ditinjau dari pengalaman-pengalaman serta didikan dari orang-orang terdekatnya. Hasil dari analisis kedua ini digunakan untuk menjawab masalah ketiga, yaitu: bagaimana ideologi feminisme liberal dipraktikkan dalam kehidupan Noe sehari-hari lewat pemikiran dan tindak-tanduknya. Keempat, menguak konsekuensi apa saja yang dialami oleh Noe dan keluarganya, sebagai akibat dari praktik ideologi feminisme liberal itu.

Penulis menggunakan pendekatan feminis liberal untuk membedah permasalahan-permasalahan di atas. Selain itu, teori tokoh dan penokohan, teori feminisme liberal, latar belakang masyarakat patriarki di era Taisho, serta tinjauan mengenai pergerakan wanita di Jepang dibutuhkan dalam analisis ini. Sementara itu, metode yang digunakan adalah studi pustaka.

Hasil dari analisis di atas menunjukkan bahwa kecerdasan Noe, yang merupakan salah satu karakteristiknya, membuat ia dengan mudah mendalami ideologi feminisme serta tanggap dalam permasalahan perempuan di masyarakatnya. Sifat kritis Noe ditunjukkan dalam tindakan-tindakannya, seperti kritiknya terhadap sistem perjodohan, pelecehan perempuan, dan pemahaman kuno bahwa perempuan ditakdirkan untuk berkubang dalam pekerjaan rumah tangga. Sifatnya yang pemberani, ditempa oleh pemikiran feminis, tercermin dalam tindakannya menolak perjodohan, menyatakan diri sebagai *Perempuan Baru*, dan ikut serta dalam pergerakan perempuan. Puncak dari rangkaian hidup Noe, setelah rentetan konsekuensi berupa penghinaan, kemiskinan, dan ketidak-harmonisan dalam

hubungan, adalah pembunuhan atas dirinya. Semua itu merupakan konsekuensi yang harus ia dan keluarganya tanggung.