

ABSTRACT

Liny Riantini: **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SULA'S FAMILY IN SHAPING HER ANTISOCIAL PERSONALITY IN MORRISON'S *SULA***

A child's personality development is greatly influenced by his family and society. The relationship a child has with his family is the most important factor in his personality development. Since the child early experiences are mainly with his parents, it makes parents play the dominant role in shaping the personality pattern of the child. It is from these early experiences the child acquires his/her attitudes, values, and patterns of social behaviour.

Toni Morrison through her novel *Sula* (1973) reveals her concerns about family relationships. She shows it through the problem in a black family where the child, Sula, grows up without a mother's love. This condition makes her develop an antisocial personality. There are three problems discussed here: 1) What is Hannah's family contribution for Sula's personality development? 2) What is the real cause of Sula's antisocial personality? 3) What are the effects of Sula's antisocial personality toward herself, her family, and her society?

This study is analytical one, relying mostly on library research. The moral philosophical approach has been applied to find out what roles should be played by parents and what values in the society should be followed by its members. To support the previous one, that is to see Sula's personality development, the psychological approach has been applied as well. By those approaches, it has been discovered that: 1. The role of parents is absolutely important for a child's personality development, in this case Sula's. As Sula's parent, Hannah gives bad influences and examples which leads her to become an antisocial person. Hannah never tells her what is acceptable or unacceptable, what is appropriate or inappropriate, she can do whatever she wants. 2. There are many causes that make Sula develop an antisocial personality, but the top of all events which makes her feel like being dragged from her own family is when she hears Hannah say that she does not like Sula. Since that time Sula becomes hostile to Hannah and Eva. 3. Because of her antisocial personality, Sula is not accepted in her society. Since

she realizes that Hannah and Eva do not care about her she becomes insolent to them. To the people in her society, she causes suffering especially to the women and children by being promiscuous and by taking the husbands and fathers. Her actions break others' family relationships.

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Perkembangan kepribadian seorang anak sangat dipengaruhi oleh keluarga dan lingkungan masyarakat. Hubungan seorang anak dengan keluarganya adalah faktor yang sangat menentukan bagi perkembangan pribadinya. Karena kebanyakan pengalaman yang didapat berasal dari orangtuanya, maka orang tua memegang peranan utama dalam membentuk kepribadian si anak. Dari pengalaman-pengalaman awal inilah sang anak memperoleh pengetahuannya tentang nilai-nilai, perilaku, dan cara bertingkah laku dalam lingkungan masyarakat.

Melalui novelnya *Sula* (1973) Toni Morrison mengungkapkan keprihatinannya tentang hubungan keluarga. Ada tiga permasalahan yang dibahas di sini: 1) Apa saja kontribusi keluarga Hannah bagi perkembangan pribadi Sula? 2) Sebenarnya apa penyebab Sula berkepribadian antisosial? 3) Apa saja akibat dari kepribadian antisosial Sula bagi dirinya, keluarga, dan masyarakatnya? Novel ini dianalisa menurut elemen-elemennya. Pendekatan moral filosofi diterapkan untuk mengetahui apa saja peranan orang tua dan apa saja nilai-nilai dalam masyarakat yang harus dipatuhi oleh anggotanya. Untuk melihat perkembangan pribadi Sula, pendekatan psikologi juga diterapkan. Dengan pendekatan-pendekatan itu didapatkan jawaban bahwa: 1. Peranan orang tua sangat menentukan dalam pembentukan kepribadian seorang anak dalam hal ini Sula. Sebagai orang tua, Hannah telah memberikan pengaruh buruk yang akhirnya membuat Sula menjadi seorang yang berkepribadian antisosial. Hannah tidak pernah memperhatikan sula, dan Sula dapat melakukan apa saja yang dia inginkan. 2. Ada banyak faktor yang menyebabkan Sula menjadi antisosial, akan tetapi di antara semua faktor itu ada satu yang membuatnya merasa seperti ditolak oleh keluarganya sendiri. Itu adalah ketika dia mendengar Hannah mengatakan bahwa dia tidak menyukai Sula. Sejak mengetahui hal itu Sula mulai memusuhi Hannah dan Eva. 3. Karena

kepribadiannya yang antisosial, Sula tidak diterima di masyarakatnya. Sejak dia sadar bahwa Hannah dan Eva tidak menyukainya, dia menampakkan sikap permusuhan kepada mereka. Dan kepada masyarakat di lingkungannya terutama kepada para wanita dan anak-anak, Sula menyebabkan mereka menjadi lebih menderita dengan berhubungan dengan para suami dan ayah mereka. Tindakannya menyebabkan kehancuran terhadap keluarga lain.