

ABSTRACT

Deesis Edith Mesiani. 2001. *The Struggle of an Independent Woman against a Conservative Patriarchal Society in Mitchell's Gone with The Wind (A Gender Study)*. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

Gone with the Wind is a best seller American novel which was written by Margaret Mitchell. The setting of the story is in Southern America during the Civil War and Reconstruction era. From the novel, I can see that the society of Southern America has certain structure and values. This is a patriarchal society which considers men superior to women. There is only one woman, Scarlett O'Hara, who challenges the superiority of men.

In this thesis, I will analyze gender issues in the society in *Gone With The Wind*. This thesis aims to show the gender differences and inequalities in the society of the novel, to know the characterization of Scarlett O'Hara and her struggle as an independent woman in patriarchal society, and to know the novel's attitude toward gender issues.

In doing the research on the subject matter, I used gender as an approach. It is a new approach in literature. However, this is the most appropriate approach to answer the questions above. It is like viewing literature with 'gender on the agenda'. This is the process of research with a concern on gender issues that affect the reading and the writing of texts. A few themes surface repeatedly: motherhood, domestic responsibility, conflicts in women's lives, power relationship between the sexes, and conflicts between private and public roles and responsibility.

There are several results of this study. First, there are some gender differences of woman and men. Women should be "ladylike". They have to be sweet, gentle, beautiful, ornamental, helpless, kind, gracious, and forgiving. Men should be "gentlemen". They have to be strong, smart, and protective. The social consequences of these differences are: women must obey their husbands, follow many rules of manner, and do domestic jobs. Men should protect the ladies, work for the family, and to be smart in masculine matters. Gender inequalities toward women happen in the negative stereotypes of women, many rules of manner, field of work, and "gender-related violence". Secondly, The author characterizes Scarlett O'Hara as an attractive woman who is self-willed, vain, obstinate, rebellious, but strong and independent. She rebels against the social norms, and prove that men are not always superior to women. Both of the results above conclude that the novel has a negative response toward gender issues. It means that the novel proves that gender differences of men and women are not always right, as shown in the character of Scarlett O'Hara. Besides, gender inequalities inflict a great loss toward women. Further, although there is society's resistance, women should fight for their own right. It is the root of feminism as a commitment to gain equal rights and opportunities for women.

ABSTRAK

Deesis Edith Mesiani. 2001. *The Struggle of an Independent Woman against a Conservative Patriarchal Society in Mitchell's Gone with The Wind (A Gender Study)*. Yogyakarta: Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Gone with the Wind adalah novel Amerika laris karangan Margaret Mitchell. Latar belakang dari novel ini adalah Amerika Selatan pada saat Perang Saudara dan era Rekonstruksi. Dalam novel ini terlihat bahwa masyarakat Amerika Selatan memiliki suatu struktur dan nilai tersendiri. Masyarakat ini merupakan masyarakat patriarki yang memandang pria lebih tinggi derajatnya dibandingkan wanita. Hanya ada seorang wanita yaitu Scarlett O'Hara yang menolak superioritas pria.

Melalui penulisan skripsi ini, peneliti akan menganalisa isu gender dalam masyarakat di novel *Gone With The Wind*. Tujuan dari skripsi ini adalah menunjukkan perbedaan dan ketidakadilan gender dalam masyarakat di novel, mengetahui penokohan Scarlett O'Hara dan perlawanannya sebagai wanita mandiri dalam masyarakat patriarki, serta untuk mengetahui sikap novel terhadap isu gender.

Dalam meneliti masalah pokok, digunakan pendekatan gender. Meskipun pendekatan ini termasuk baru dalam kesusasteraan, namun sangat tepat untuk menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan di atas. Pendekatan ini seperti memandang karya sastra dengan "gender sebagai agenda". Proses penelitian ini memperhatikan isu gender yang mempengaruhi pembacaan dan penulisan teks. Beberapa tema berulang kali tampak ke permukaan: sifat keibuan, tanggung jawab rumah tangga, konflik dalam kehidupan wanita, hubungan kekuasaan antar jenis kelamin, konflik antara peran serta tanggung jawab individu dan umum.

Hasil dari studi ini sebagai berikut: pertama, adanya perbedaan gender antara wanita dan pria dalam novel. Wanita harus seperti seorang "lady": manis, lembut, cantik, penuh dengan hiasan, tidak berdaya, baik, murah hati, dan pemaaf. Pria harus menjadi "pria sejati": kuat, pintar, dan suka melindungi. Ketidakadilan gender terhadap wanita terjadi dalam stereotip negatif terhadap wanita, berbagai tata krama, dunia kerja, dan dalam "kekerasan yang berhubungan dengan gender". Kedua, tokoh Scarlett O'Hara digambarkan sebagai sosok wanita menarik yang berkemauan keras, sombong, keras kepala, pemberontak, tapi kuat dan mandiri. Ia memberontak terhadap norma sosial dan membuktikan bahwa pria tidak selalu superior terhadap wanita. Dari kedua hasil diatas dapat disimpulkan bahwa novel ini merespon isu gender secara negatif. Perbedaan gender antara pria dan wanita tidak selamanya benar, seperti yang terlihat pada karakter Scarlett O'Hara. Di samping itu, ketidakadilan gender sangat merugikan kaum wanita. Kaum wanita seharusnya memperjuangkan hak mereka meskipun ada hambatan dari masyarakat. Ini adalah akar dari feminism yaitu komitmen untuk mendapatkan hak dan perlakuan yang sama bagi wanita.