

Helena Fransisca Nababan, 2001: The Representation of Jazz Music As The Symbol of Freedom And Dignity of The Black Americans As Seen Through The Main Characters' Development in James Baldwin's *Sonny's Blues*, Yogyakarta, Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

ABSTRACT

This thesis is talking about the representation of jazz music as the result of black creative production to symbolize the freedom and dignity of the Black Americans through the struggle of life presented by two black men. The object of the analysis is a short story entitled *Sonny's Blues*, which is written by James Baldwin. The writer is interested in the short story since in it the writer finds an interesting idea about the symbol of the freedom and dignity which are revealed through the representation of jazz music. Interestingly, it seems that the representation of jazz music through its style and characteristics is used by the author as a bridge to grasp an idea that every human being has his own freedom and dignity to live his own life. Another reason for choosing the symbol of jazz music is that the writer finds this idea may open other's understanding about people and their culture so that there would be an appreciation between one to another.

There are two questions that emerge as the problems of this thesis. The two questions are : 1. How are the characters and character development of Sonny and Sonny's brother depicted in the story, and 2. How is the values of freedom and dignity reflected through the relationship between black music and the character development of Sonny and Sonny's brother in the story.

The theories used in the thesis are Taylor's theory of social – psychology. Hollander and Hunt's theory together with Baron and Byrne's theory of social psychology also support this thesis. This theory is used since it is able to figure out how human creative behavior can symbolize the freedom and dignity of the characters in the light of a race, Black Americans, through the character development. The second is Murphy's theory of presenting character combined with Abram's theory of presenting character that is Telling Method, and the third is the theory of symbol from Jung and Merriam. These theories are used and combined to solve the problems of this thesis.

The writer used library research method to collect the data since most of the data were found in the library. To analyze the problems, the writer uses Psychological Approach in the light of Social Psychological Study from Rohrberger and Wood's approach together with Wellek and Warren's approach.

The character development of the main characters figure out the behavior development of human being in the case of searching and finding freedom and dignity. Therefore, in each development, the writer finds a change in the way they think and behave. At the end of the thesis, black music as the symbol of freedom and dignity of the Black Americans may unify the understanding of life of the main characters in one side, and to open the perspective of the readers on the other side

presented by the changing view of one main character. The understanding is presented by a composition titled *Am I Blue* played by Sonny and his friends. Through his observation toward the composition, the symbol message that every human being may have his freedom and dignity to live his own life can be grasped by Sonny's brother. The observation gives a changing upon his understandings about their life. Finally, Sonny's brother can accept Sonny's life as a musician and his own life.

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membicarakan tentang penggunaan musik sebagai hasil proses kreatif manusia untuk menyimbolkan adanya nilai kebebasan dan harga diri masyarakat kulit hitam di Amerika Serikat yang dihadirkan lewat pergumulan hidup kedua tokoh utama cerita. Adapun yang menjadi obyek analisa skripsi ini adalah suatu cerita pendek berjudul *Sonny's Blues* karya James Baldwin. Penyusun tertarik pada cerita pendek ini karena didalamnya terkandung ide yang menarik tentang simbol kebebasan dan harga diri yang dimunculkan lewat musik jazz. Menariknya, sang penulis cerita memanfaatkan musik ini untuk mengungkapkan ide / konsep bahwa setiap manusia itu mempunyai kebebasan dan harga diri / martabatnya sendiri sehingga ia mampu memiliki hidupnya sendiri. Alasan lain kenapa penyusun tertarik pada pemilihan ide simbol musik ini adalah agar hasil penulisan ini bisa membuka dan memperluas cakrawala pandang pembaca karya sastra agar bisa lebih menghargai orang lain dan menyikapi kebudayaan yang berbeda.

Dalam penulisan ini ada dua masalah yang timbul yaitu : 1. Bagaimanakah karakter dan perkembangan karakter tokoh Sonny dan saudara laki-laki Sonny diceritakan, dan 2. Bagaimanakah hubungan antara musik kaum kulit hitam ini dengan perkembangan karakter kedua tokoh tersebut dinyatakan.

Adapun teori yang dipakai penulis dalam menyusun adalah teori psikologi sosial dari Taylor, Baron dan Byrne serta dari Hollander dan Hunt. Teori ini dipakai karena penulis menganggap teori ini mampu mendukung ide bahwa kegiatan kreatif manusia bisa menyimbolkan adanya identitas suatu suku bangsa, terutama kaum kulit hitam Amerika Serikat. Lebih khusus lagi, ide ini bisa dilihat lewat perkembangan karakter tokohnya. Teori yang kedua yaitu teori penokohan dari Murphy dan Abrams. Sementara teori ketiga adalah teori simbol dari Jung dan Merriam. Semua teori tersebut digabung dan dipakai untuk menjawab permasalahan yang ada.

Penyusun memakai studi pustaka dalam mengumpulkan data. Dan untuk menganalisa masalah, penyusun mempergunakan pendekatan psikologi terutama psikologi sosial dari Rohrberger dan Wood, Jr. Serta teori dari Wellek dan Waren.

Perkembangan karakter kedua tokoh utama dalam cerita ini menampilkan perkembangan diri manusia. Oleh karena itu, penyusun mampu mengidentifikasi perkembangan mereka. Di akhir cerita, musik jazz ini bisa menghadirkan pemahaman tentang kehidupan dari kedua tokoh utama dan bisa membuka pandangan orang lain tentang kehidupan lewat perubahan karakter salah satu tokoh utama cerita. Pemahaman ini dihadirkan lewat suatu komposisi musik berjudul *Am I Blue* yang didalamnya sang penulis mempertanyakan eksistensi diri seorang negro di tengah-tengah masyarakat kaum kulit putih di Amerika Serikat. Lewat komposisi ini pula

pemahaman tentang nilai kebebasan dan harga diri manusia diungkapkan oleh pemahaman akhir seorang tokoh utama, dimana diceritakan bahwa ia mampu untuk menerima kehidupan sang adik sebagai musisi dan hidupnya sendiri sebagai seorang negro.