

## ABSTRACT

Puji Anitasari. **The Influence of Men's Treatments to the Development of Women's Role in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and *A Man of the People*.** English Letters Department. Faculty of Letters. Sanata Dharma University. 2003.

*Things Fall Apart* and *A Man of the People* are Achebe's works that describe the life of the African both from the traditional and modern eras. The traditional era is represented by *Things Fall Apart*, which in almost all parts describes the life of the African people who live in the traditional time. In this novel, Chinua Achebe shows the life of African people who believe in superstition, priests, and goddess. *A Man of the People* represents the image of modern times. In *A Man of the People*, the image of modern times is clearly shown by the existence of cars, political parties, and modern telecommunication tools. In these two novels, Achebe also presents the life of African women both from the traditional and modern eras who are influenced by men.

Through this analysis, there are some goals wants to gain by the writer, they are (1) to see the role of women, with the similarities and differences, both in the traditional and modern times. (2) then to observe the role of men so that they can give influence on the development of women's roles.

To analyze the problems, the writer uses the feminism-literature approach. The approach is the most appropriate approach because here the writer wants to reveal the development of women's roles in their life and in their relationship with men especially in a male-dominated era.

Through this thesis can be seen that the characteristics of women influenced by men. In the traditional time, it can be seen how women depend on men. This dependency is faced by almost every woman in the novel. This is strengthened by the reality that a man can have more than one wives. The condition of women here is represented by the wives of the major character, Okonkwo. While on the modern time, it can be seen that there are some changes that happened. Although there are some women who accept the condition to be second or third wives, there are some "special women" who participate in the political field and join some parties. These women are the good friends of major character or some women who have close relationship with major character who are very wealthy. From these two novels it can be seen that men have big influence in the changes or development of women. When men let women participate, women will change and develop, but when men refuse to give permission, women will accept it and stay home. They will accept men's treatments and condition as their destiny. So from the analysis we can see that men are having big influences on women's life.

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Novel *Things Fall Apart* dan *A Man of the People* karya Chinua Achebe adalah novel yang melihat dan menjabarkan kehidupan bangsa Afrika baik di era tradisional maupun di era modern. Era tradisional, diwakili oleh *Things Fall Apart*, yang hampir di semua bagiannya menunjukkan tentang kehidupan masyarakat tradisional Afrika. Dalam novelnya Chinua Achebe menunjukkan tentang kehidupan masyarakat Afrika yang hampir semuanya percaya pada takhayul, dukun, dan dewa-dewa. Sedangkan gambaran masyarakat yang lebih modern diwakili oleh novel *A Man of the People*. gambaran jaman modern ditunjukkan dengan adanya mobil, partai politik, dan alat-alat komunikasi yang lebih maju. Di dalam kedua novel in, Achebe menunjukkan kehidupan para wanita Afrika, yang di era tradisional maupun modern selalu dipengaruhi oleh kaum laki-laki.

Ada beberapa tujuan yang ingin disampaikan oleh penulis melalui skripsi ini yaitu (1) melihat kondisi peran para wanita, berikut persamaan dan perbedaannya, baik di jaman tradisional maupun modern. (2) kemudian untuk mengamati peranan apakah yang dimiliki oleh kaum laki-laki sehingga menyebabkan berkembangnya peran kaum wanita.

Untuk menganalisa masalah, penulis menggunakan pendekatan Feminisme-literature. Pendekatan in dianggap tepat karena disini penulis ingin mengungkapkan kehidupan kaum wanita berikut perkembangan peranannya. Disini juga akan dilihat interaksi kaum wanita dengan dunia kaum pria terutama karena era yang ditunjukkan disini adalah era yang masih didominasi oleh kaum pria.

Melalui thesis in dapat diketahui bahwa karakter wanita sangat dipengaruhi oleh kaum pria. Di era tradisional dapat dilihat bahwa para wanita sangat tergantung pada kaum pria. Keadaan in dialami oleh hampir semua wanita yang ada di dalam novel. Hal ini semakin diperkuat dengan kondisi bahwa para pria dapat memiliki lebih dari satu istri. Kondisi para wanita diwakili oleh istri-istri tokoh utama, Okonkwo. Sementara itu di era modern, ada beberapa perubahan yang terjadi. Walaupun masih ada banyak wanita yang bersedia menjadi istri kedua atau ketiga, namun ada beberapa "wanita istimewa" yang diijinkan untuk ikut berpartisipasi dalam politik atau bergabung dengan beberapa partai. Wanita-wanita in adalah sahabat dari tokoh utama yang memiliki kekayaan yang cukup besar. Di dalam novel in dapat dilihat pula bahwa para pria mempengaruhi perubahan atau perkembangan kehidupan para wanita. Ketika kaum pria mengijinkan kaum wanita berpartisipasi, wanita akan berkembang, tetapi ketika tidak, kaum wanita akan menerima hal itu dan menganggapnya sebagai takdir.