

ABSTRACT

HELENA YONATALIA (2004). **Scott O'Dell's View towards Women's Position in Nineteenth Century Indian's Society as Reflected in O'Dell's *Streams to the River, River to the Sea*.** Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

Scott O'Dell's *Streams to the River, River to the Sea* was written in the twentieth century although the story is a reflection of the nineteenth century social condition in Indian society, especially women's position in the society. Women in the Indian society were destined to be inferior. They never had a good position in the society. Almost all of the laws in the society were unfair to women. It gave them the lowest position in the society. Since this is a historical fiction novel, O'Dell through Sacagawea, the character in his novel *Streams to the River, River to the Sea* tried to give a new perspective about women. He also tried to show the reader that unconsciously, in fact, women are superior, by giving his opinion and criticism about women's position in Indian society.

There are three problems for this thesis namely the description of the characters, the explanation about the aspects of women's position through Sacagawea's characteristics, and the description of O'Dell's view towards women's position in 19th century Indian society.

This thesis is a library research. Therefore, the first data were taken from the novel *Streams to the River, River to the Sea* written by Scott O'Dell. Other data were taken from some supporting books, such as critical books, reviews or essays from Internet, and theoretical books. The writer used sociocultural-historical approach to show that the novel is a reflection of the situation in the nineteenth century Indian society during the expedition of Lewis and Clark, seen from Sacagawea's point of view as a woman who was described to be inferior than man.

The writer's conclusion after analysing the novel is first of all, Charbonneau is described as a rough and rude husband. Captain Clark is described as a very nice helpful person. Black Moccassin is described as an unwise chieftain. Blue Sky is described as a kind person. Red Hawk is described as an arrogant shy person and Tall Rock is described as a coward man. All of these characterizations give big influences toward Sacagawea, so that she is characterized as a helpful, strong, and rigid woman who never complains and never gives up in doing anything she has never done yet. By analysing Sacagawea's characteristics, the writer finds the aspects of women's position such as losing freedom by getting married, unfair rules toward women, and relationship between a husband and a wife in the family. Through Sacagawea, O'Dell also gives his opinions and criticisms toward women's position in nineteenth century Indian society. The views are about some unfair social conditions happen to Sacagawea as a woman, men's superiority that places a woman in a very bad condition, the inferiority of women's position toward the husband and the losing of status by getting married to red people.

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Novel *Streams to the River, River to the Sea* di tulis pada abad dua puluh, tetapi merupakan gambaran kondisi sosial masyarakat Indian pada abad sembilan belas, terutama kondisi wanita di dalam masyarakat. Di abad ini wanita ditakdirkan berada pada posisi yang rendah. Mereka tidak pernah mendapat posisi yang baik di masyarakat. Hampir semua peraturan di masyarakat berdampak tidak adil bagi wanita dan mereka ditempatkan pada posisi yang paling rendah di dalam masyarakat. Scott O'Dell, melalui karakter Sacagawea di dalam novelnya, memberikan cara pandang baru tentang posisi wanita dalam masyarakat.

Ada tiga rumusan masalah dalam skripsi ini. Pertama, gambaran tentang karakter-karakter di dalam novel. Kedua, penjelasan tentang aspek posisi wanita melalui karakter Sacagawea. Terakhir, gambaran mengenai pendapat Scott O'Dell tentang posisi wanita di abad kesembilan belas masyarakat Indian.

Karena skripsi ini merupakan penelitian pustaka, maka data utama diambil dari novel *Streams to the River, River to the Sea*. Data-data yang lain diambil dari buku-buku penunjang seperti buku-buku kritik, esai dari Internet dan buku-buku teori. Penulis menggunakan pendekatan sejarah sosial budaya untuk menunjukkan bahwa novel ini merupakan cerminan dari kondisi masyarakat Indian pada abad sembilan belas selama ekspedisi Lewis dan Clark, dilihat dari Sacagawea sebagai karakter utama yang diposisikan lebih rendah dari pada laki-laki dalam semua aspek-aspek hidup.

Setelah menganalisa novel ini penulis menyimpulkan bahwa Charbonneau digambarkan sebagai seorang suami yang kasar, Clark sebagai orang yang baik dan suka menolong orang sakit. Black Moccassin sebagai kepala suku yang tidak bijaksana, Blue Sky sebagai wanita yang baik hati, Red Hawk sebagai orang pemalu dan aragan, Tall Rock sebagai pengecut. Seluruh karakterisasi tersebut memberi pengaruh besar pada tokoh Sacagawea sehingga ia menjadi orang yang suka menolong, tabah, berpendirian keras, tidak pernah mengeluh dan menyerah dalam melakukan hal yang belum pernah ia kerjakan. Dengan menganalisa karakter Sacagawea, penulis menemukan aspek-aspek posisi wanita di masyarakat seperti hilangnya kebebasan sebagai seorang wanita setelah menikah, peraturan yang tidak adil untuk wanita, dan hubungan antara suami dan istri. Melalui Sacagawea, O'Dell juga memberikan pendapat dan kritiknya terhadap posisi wanita di abad sembilan belas masyarakat Indian. Pandangan-pandangannya tersebut adalah tentang beberapa kondisi sosial yang tidak adil yang menimpa Sacagawea sebagai wanita, kekuatan pria yang menempatkan wanita pada kondisi yang sulit, rendahnya posisi wanita terhadap suami, dan hilangnya status sosial dengan menikahi orang kulit merah.