

## ABSTRACT

PAULINA DIAN M. **The Changing of Aboriginal Women's Role in Australia as Represented by the Five Main Characters in Maris' and Borg's *Women of the Sun***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2008.

*Women of the Sun*, a novel written by Hyllus Maris and Sonia Borg, is the object of this study. In this novel consisting of 175 pages, Maris and Borg try to reach the Australian people and tell the story of the Aborigines, especially about the Aboriginal women and what they have to experience and fight for during and after the British colonialism in Australia.

The study is about the changing of the Aboriginal women's role in Australia. The problems to be solved in this study are: 1) How does each of the five main characters in Maris' and Borg's *Women of the Sun* that are Towradgi, Alinta, Maydina, Nerida and Lo-Arna reflect the Australian Aboriginal women's role? 2) What kind of changing happens to the Aboriginal women's role in Australia, as represented in the five main characters in Maris' and Borg's *Women of the Sun*?

To solve those two problems, the writer conducted a literary research by gathering some information about the novel and Australian Aboriginal socio-cultural history. The thesis employs Feminist Approach in its analysis. This thesis also applies some theories on feminism, theories on character and characterization, theories on post-colonial study and theories on culture and society in literature. Those theories are applied in this thesis in order to aid the author understand about Aboriginal women's role in Australia from each of the main characters and what happened towards the role through three different times of pre-colonialism, colonialism and post-colonialism in Australia.

The answer to the first problem is that each of the five main characters represents different Australian Aboriginal women's role in social, economic, religious and marriage life and in parenting. The second is that within the white colonialism, which provokes cultural infiltration towards the Aboriginal culture and changes the Aboriginal society, the Aboriginal women's role in Australia has experienced changing; they have lost many of their individual and social rights as a woman and as a human being and their role in every aspect of life has mostly degraded.

This study finds out that the Aboriginal women have their role changed rapidly and significantly during the white men colonialism, and, unfortunately, most of the changing is negative and degrading.

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*Women of the Sun*, novel yang ditulis oleh Hyllus Maris dan Sonia Borg, adalah obyek dari studi ini. Di dalam novel yang terdiri dari 175 halaman ini, Maris and Borg mencoba untuk meraih masyarakat Australia dan memaparkan kisah kaum Aborigin, terutama tentang para perempuan Aborigin dan tentang hal yang harus mereka alami dan perjuangi selama dan setelah masa kolonial Inggris di Australia.

Studi ini mengupas tentang perubahan yang terjadi pada peranan perempuan Aborigin di Australia. Permasalahan yang harus diselesaikan dalam studi ini adalah: 1) Bagaimana masing-masing dari lima tokoh utama dari *Women of the Sun* karya Maris dan Borg, yaitu Towradgi, Alinta, Maydina, Nerida dan Lo-Arna mencerminkan peranan para perempuan Aborigin Australia? 2) Perubahan apa yang terjadi pada peranan para perempuan Aborigin di Australia, seperti yang telah direpresentasikan dalam lima tokoh utama dari *Women of the Sun* karya Maris dan Borg?

Untuk menyelesaikan kedua permasalahan tersebut, penulis mengadakan penelitian literatur dengan cara mengumpulkan informasi mengenai novel tersebut dan mengenai sejarah sosial budaya masyarakat Aborigin. Studi ini menerapkan pendekatan feminis dalam analisisnya. Selain itu, studi ini juga menerapkan teori feminisme, teori karakter dan karakterisasi, teori studi post-kolonial, serta teori mengenai masyarakat dan budaya dalam literatur. Penggunaan teori tersebut pada studi ini bertujuan untuk membantu penulis dalam memahami peranan perempuan Aborigin di Australia dari tiap-tiap karakter utama dan apa yang terjadi terhadap peranan tersebut selama masa pre-kolonial, kolonial, dan post-kolonial di Australia.

Jawaban untuk permasalahan pertama adalah bahwa setiap karakter utama mencerminkan berbagai peranan perempuan Aborigin yang berbeda dalam kehidupan sosial, ekonomi, agama, dan keluarga. Jawaban untuk permasalahan kedua adalah bahwa di dalam era kolonial bangsa kulit putih, yang memicu infiltrasi budaya dalam kebudayaan Aborigin dan mengubah masyarakat Aborigin, peranan perempuan Aborigin Australia telah mengalami perubahan; mereka kehilangan sebagian besar dari hak sosial dan individual mereka dan peranan mereka mengalami penurunan nilai.

Studi ini menemukan bahwa perempuan Aborigin mendapati peranan mereka berubah dengan cepat dan signifikan selama masa kolonial bangsa kulit putih dan, sayangnya, sebagian besar dari perubahan tersebut adalah perubahan yang buruk.