

ABSTRACT

Afro-American people in general have experienced great hardship throughout an extended period of their history. The situation for black women, however, was far more difficult. In addition to being oppressed by whites, they were also oppressed by men within their own society. They had to live under double discrimination. In the development of the struggles of women against slavery, black women's voice was rarely heard. When they joined women's organization alongside white women, their struggles were considered struggles against whites, rarely seen as struggles against male's oppression. When they participated in black organizations alongside men, they were relegated to silent participation because they were women. Due to the ignorance of both men and white women, black women developed their own movement known as the black feminism movement.

This study took two works of literature that expressed the protest for equality and liberation. The specified works, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *The Color Purple*, were written by two Afro-American women authors. Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker described the lives of Afro-American women in a womanist perspective. In the novels, Afro-American women were described as physically and mentally strong shaped by the experiences they underwent. Both novels described the positions of Afro-American women within white and black societies during and after the period of slavery which reflected how they were treated within white and black societies. The primary concerns of the authors, however, were on describing the positions of women within Afro-American society. Within their own society, Afro-American women were described as being positioned as subordinates. The subordination of women derived from the patriarchal ideas that men should have higher status, possess greater power, and should control their women. Although on most occasions the men in the two novels showed their control over their women, some men were described as more tolerant and treating women more as their partners, their equals.

With the oppressive situations, women struggled to achieve equality and liberation. These women were fighting against the oppressive conditions for self-actualization. Janie in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* was described as knowing what she wanted. She struggled to achieve what she had dreamed of, and with her understanding of equality between men and women, she knew what she demanded from men. On the other hand, Celie, in *The Color Purple*, was described as not knowing what fighting was for and how to fight; therefore, she fought harder than Janie for equality and liberation. The women in both novels were described as successfully achieving equality and liberation. Therefore, the novels succeeded in voicing black feminism to protest against male oppression so that they could actualize themselves.

Keywords: double discrimination, black feminism, subordination

INTISARI

Orang kulit hitam Amerika secara umum telah mengalami masa-masa sulit sepanjang sejarah mereka di Amerika. Akan tetapi situasi yang dialami oleh wanita kulit hitam jauh lebih sulit. Selain ditindas oleh kaum kulit putih, wanita kulit hitam juga ditindas di dalam masyarakat mereka sendiri dan hidup di bawah diskriminasi ganda. Dalam pergerakan melawan perbudakan, suara wanita kulit hitam sering diabaikan. Ketika mereka bergabung dalam pergerakan wanita bersama wanita kulit putih, perjuangan mereka dianggap sebagai perjuangan melawan kaum kulit putih dan bukan perjuangan melawan penindasan dari kaum pria. Ketika mereka bergabung dalam organisasi kulit hitam bersama dengan kaum pria, mereka dipaksa untuk berpartisipasi secara pasif karena mereka wanita. Dengan ketidakpedulian kaum pria dan kaum wanita kulit putih atas perjuangan wanita kulit hitam tersebut, wanita kulit hitam membentuk pergerakan mereka yang dikenal sebagai feminisme kulit hitam.

Dua karya sastra yang diteliti, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* dan *The Color Purple*, yang mengekspresikan protes untuk persamaan dan kebebasan, ditulis oleh penulis wanita kulit hitam, Zora Neale Hurston dan Alice Walker dengan cara pandang wanita. Kedua novel tersebut menggambarkan posisi wanita kulit hitam dalam masyarakat kulit putih dan hitam selama dan sesudah masa perbudakan yang mencerminkan bagaimana mereka diperlakukan dalam masyarakat kulit putih dan kulit hitam. Tetapi, fokus utama kedua novel ini adalah penggambaran posisi wanita dalam masyarakat kulit hitam. Dalam masyarakat mereka, wanita kulit hitam ditempatkan dalam posisi yang lebih rendah. Perlakuan ini berasal dari pemikiran patriarkal yang setuju bahwa pria harus mempunyai status lebih tinggi, mempunyai kekuasaan yang lebih besar, dan harus menguasai wanita. Meskipun seringkali para pria dalam dua novel tersebut digambarkan sebagai orang-orang yang mau menguasai wanita, beberapa pria digambarkan sebagai orang yang lebih toleran dan memperlakukan wanita lebih sebagai orang dalam kedudukan sama.

Dalam situasi yang menekan, para wanita berjuang untuk mencapai perasaan dan kebebasan. Wanita-wanita ini melawan keadaan yang menekan untuk mencapai aktualisasi diri. Janie dalam *Their Eyes Were Watching God* digambarkan sebagai wanita yang tahu "apa yang diinginkan. Dia berjuang untuk mencapai apa yang diimpikannya, dan dengan pemahamannya tentang persamaan kedudukan antara pria dan wanita, dia tahu apa yang dia inginkan dari pria. Di pihak lain, Celie, dalam *The Color Purple*, digambarkan sebagai wanita yang tidak tahu perlunya dan cara berjuang sehingga dia harus berjuang lebih keras daripada Janie untuk mencapai persamaan dan kebebasan. Pam wanita dalam kedua novel ini digambarkan telah berhasil mencapai persamaan dan kebebasan. Oleh sebab itu, kedua novel tersebut berhasil menyuarakan feminisme kulit hitam untuk melawan penindasan dari kaum laki-laki sehingga mereka mampu mengaktualisasikan diri mereka.

Kata-kata diskriminasi ganda, feminisme kulit hitam, posisi yang lebih rendah