

## ABSTRACT

Wiadji, Stephani Kurniawan. (2020). The Meaning of the Women's Suffering as Seen through Sumarni Character in Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless*. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education. Sanata Dharma University.

This research analyzes Okky Madasari's first novel *The Years of the Voiceless*. *The Years of the Voiceless* is a translated novel about an illiterate Javanese woman, Sumarni, who is oppressed by those in power. This research focuses on analyzing the women's suffering as seen through Sumarni character in the novel. This research aims to seek for the meaning of the women's suffering as seen through Sumarni character.

Hence, the research formulated two research problems: (1) "How is Sumarni, the main character, portrayed?" and (2) "What is the meaning of Sumarni's suffering as a woman in the novel?"

The research employed library research by applying feminist approach in analyzing the data. Theory of character, theory of characterization, theory of suffering, theory of patriarchy, theory of feminism, and theory of meaning were used to analyze the novel.

The research had two research findings. First, Sumarni was portrayed as a character who was illiterate, persistence, animist, and poor. Second, the meaning of Sumarni's suffering as a woman was divided into surface meaning and deeper meaning. The surface meaning of Sumarni's suffering as a woman was to represent the suffering of Javanese women for having them treated unfairly for more than four decades. There were two deeper meanings in this research. The deeper meanings were (1) to criticize the patriarchal society in real life and (2) to encourage the women who live in patriarchal society to be strong.

**Keywords:** woman, suffering, *The Years of the Voiceless*, meaning

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Penelitian ini menganalisis novel pertama Okky Madasari yang berjudul *The Years of the Voiceless*. *The Years of the Voiceless* adalah sebuah novel terjemahan tentang seorang wanita Jawa yang tuna aksara, Sumarni, yang ditindas oleh mereka yang memiliki kekuasaan. Penelitian ini fokus pada menganalisis penderitaan wanita yang dilihat melalui karakter Sumarni di dalam novel. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mencari makna dari penderitaan wanita yang dilihat melalui karakter Sumarni.

Oleh sebab itu, penelitian ini merumuskan dua rumusan masalah: (1) “Bagaimana Sumarni, karakter utama, digambarkan?” dan (2) “Apa makna dari penderitaan Sumarni sebagai wanita di dalam novel?”

Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian studi pustaka dengan mengaplikasikan pendekatan feminis dalam menganalisis data. Teori karakter, teori karakterisasi, teori penderitaan, teori patriarki, teori feminisme, dan teori makna digunakan untuk menganalisis novel.

Penelitian ini memiliki dua kesimpulan. Pertama, Sumarni digambarkan sebagai sebuah karakter yang tuna aksara, gigih, animis, dan miskin. Kedua, makna dari penderitaan Sumarni sebagai wanita dibagi menjadi makna permukaan dan makna mendalam. Makna permukaan dari penderitaan Sumarni sebagai wanita adalah untuk merepresentasikan penderitaan wanita Jawa karena mereka diperlakukan tidak adil selama lebih dari empat dekade. Terdapat dua makna mendalam di penelitian ini. Makna mendalam tersebut adalah (1) untuk mengkritisi masyarakat patriarki di dunia nyata dan (2) untuk memotivasi perempuan yang hidup di masyarakat patriarki untuk menjadi kuat.

**Kata kunci:** wanita, penderitaan, *The Years of the Voiceless*, makna