

ABSTRACT

SETYARINI, PETRA ADVENTIA DWI. (2025). **Tish's Resistance towards the Oppression as a Black Woman in James Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Literature mirrors human life, including the thoughts, feelings, and societal issues expressed through literary works such as novels. As a long fictional narrative written in prose, a novel represents real or imagined experiences through characters that play a role in depicting human experiences with a process of development as a result of the events or actions. James Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk* (1974) reflects the social issues of race, gender, and class by narrating Tish's life as a young Black woman who struggles to prove her fiancé, Fonny's innocence. As Tish struggles with the discrimination and injustice in her journey to free her fiancé from wrongful imprisonment, she remains resilient and resists. This study aims to see how Tish resists the oppression she experiences, which is also manifested and supported by her characteristics throughout Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk* (1974).

Three research questions are formulated in this study. The first analyzes Tish's characteristics, the second examines the forms of oppression Tish and the last one is Tish's resistance as her way to fight against the forms of oppression.

The researcher applies a library research method to gather the information and sources relevant to this study, such as theories, to answer the three research questions. The intersectional literary criticism is applied and used in this study since this study discusses Tish as a Black working-class woman who struggles against oppression. There are two kinds of sources to conduct this study. James Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk* is the primary source, and the secondary sources are theories such as the theory of Characterization by Pickering and Hooper, the theory of Matrix of Domination, and the theory of Self-definition by Patricia Hill Collins.

The result of this research shows that Tish is depicted as a brave, critical, strong, persistent, and optimistic person. Tish also experiences various forms of oppression through the four domains of power in Matrix of Domination by Patricia Hill Collins: structural (injustice in law, economic, and housing), disciplinary (racial profiling and judicial control), hegemonic domain (sexual objectification and racial othering), and interpersonal (stigma of Black womanhood). Tish shows her resistance toward these oppressions through Self-definition that is reflected in her self-valuation and respect, self-reliance and independence, and personal empowerment. These acts of resistance demonstrate her agency and challenge the systems that control and oppress her, and her actions of resistance are manifested in her characteristics.

Keywords: *Oppression, resistance, matrix of domination, self-definition, Tish,*

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Sastra mencerminkan kehidupan manusia, termasuk pikiran, perasaan, dan persoalan sosial yang diekspresikan melalui karya sastra seperti novel. Sebagai narasi fiksi panjang yang ditulis dalam bentuk prosa, novel merepresentasikan pengalaman nyata atau imajinatif melalui tokoh-tokoh yang menggambarkan pengalaman manusia dengan proses perkembangan akibat peristiwa atau tindakan. Novel *If Beale Street Could Talk* (1974) karya James Baldwin merefleksikan isu sosial mengenai ras, gender, dan kelas melalui kisah hidup Tish, seorang perempuan muda kulit hitam yang berjuang untuk membuktikan bahwa tunangannya, Fonny, tidak bersalah. Dalam perjuangannya menghadapi diskriminasi dan ketidakadilan demi membebaskan Fonny dari tuduhan yang keliru, Tish tetap tangguh dan melakukan perlawanan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat bagaimana bentuk perlawanan yang dilakukan oleh Tish terhadap penindasan yang dialaminya, yang juga dimanifestasikan dan didukung oleh karakteristik dirinya sepanjang novel *If Beale Street Could Talk* (1974) karya Baldwin.

Terdapat tiga rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini. Pertama, menganalisis karakteristik Tish; kedua, mengkaji bentuk-bentuk penindasan yang dialaminya; dan yang ketiga, menganalisis bentuk perlawanan Tish sebagai usahanya untuk melawan penindasan tersebut.

Peneliti menggunakan metode penelitian kepustakaan untuk mengumpulkan informasi dan sumber-sumber yang relevan dengan penelitian ini, termasuk teori-teori yang digunakan untuk menjawab ketiga rumusan masalah tersebut. Pendekatan *Intersectional literary criticism* diterapkan dalam penelitian ini karena fokusnya adalah pada perjuangan wanita kelas pekerja kulit hitam melawan penindasan. Sumber data terdiri dari dua jenis. Sumber primer adalah novel *If Beale Street Could Talk* karya James Baldwin, sedangkan sumber sekunder berupa teori-teori seperti teori Karakterisasi oleh Pickering dan Hoeper, teori *Matrix of Domination*, dan teori *Self-definition* oleh Patricia Hill Collins.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan Tish digambarkan sebagai sosok yang berani, kritis, kuat, gigih, dan optimis. Tish juga mengalami berbagai bentuk penindasan melalui empat domain kekuasaan dalam teori *Matrix of Domination* oleh Patricia Hill Collins: struktural (ketidakadilan dalam hukum, ekonomi, dan perumahan), disipliner (profil rasial dan kontrol yudisial), hegemonik (objektifikasi seksual dan pelabelan rasial), dan interpersonal (stigma terhadap perempuan kulit hitam). Tish menunjukkan bentuk perlawanan terhadap penindasan tersebut melalui *Self-definition* yang tercermin dalam penghargaan dan rasa hormat terhadap diri sendiri, kemandirian dan ketergantungan pada diri sendiri, serta pemberdayaan pribadi. Tindakan-tindakan perlawanan ini menunjukkan agensi Tish serta menjadi bentuk penolakan terhadap sistem yang mengontrol dan menindasnya, dan seluruh bentuk perlawanan tersebut juga termanifestasi dalam karakteristik yang dimilikinya.

Kata kunci: *Oppression, resistance, matrix of domination, self-definition, Tish,*