

KHALED HOSSEINI NOVEL'S DOMINANT LEADERSHIP IN THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

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Abstract

This study aims to reveal kinds of abusive behavior that indicate as a dominant leadership in the novel entitled A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. This novel depicted the social culture of Afghanistan that they have such a rules, norms, principle and belief within the society that it is the best way to rule the Afghanistan society. In attempting the question, the researchers use descriptive qualitative method as the research methodology. The result shows that the way Afghanistan men treat Afghanistan women is indicate as one kinds of leadership in hegemony which is Dominant leadership. There are two kinds of abusive behavior in this novel which are verbal and physical abuse..

Key words: Afghanistan culture, Dominant Leadership, Hegemony, Physic, and Verbal

INTRODUCTION

Literature is one of a media that human used to express human's creative thinking [1]. Most authors used literature to express their feelings [2]. Moreover, Literary works aims to entertain and educate the reader [3], [4]. Each literary works are not only discussed about an expressions but also the author's feeling in several views such as historical, biographical, sociological and many more [5], [6]. It is indicate that literary work is not only pure of the author's imagination but also it can be from the real event that happened in the society [7]. So, we can conclude that literature also describes as a reflection of the real even either it happened to the author or not.

There are many kinds of literature such as poem, drama and fiction prose [8]. Novel is one of the fiction prose [9]. Jones stated that he characteristic of novel is it has two theme which are main theme and secondary theme [10], [11]. Novel also has several plots which are from romantic until tragic [12]. From the statement above, the content of novel usually will record the human's lives [13], [14]. Moreover, human's lives is always change from time to time depends on the era [15].

As a recorder of human's life, that is why several author chose to write a novel based on the real event in the past either happened in their life or to someone else [16]. Those novels

that talked about universal issue known as serious novel [17], [18]. Serious novel is different from the author fiction prose because of the story inspired by something real that happened in the world [19], [20]. [21] stated that a serious novel is a novel about the issue of humanity and it is usually related to the social life. Meanwhile, a novel that influenced by the real event is very interesting to be analyze [22], [23] because through this novel we will get an information about human's civilization such as their culture or event their daily activities [24], [25].

A Thousand Splendid Suns (ATSS) is include as a serious novel because the novel written by the real condition in Afghanistan [26], [27]. It is interesting to be analyzed because the novel talked about Afghanistan culture until the social conflict of Afghanistan [28], [29]. Moreover, this novel discussed about the main characters is named Mariam and Laila [30], [31]. This novel depicted that there is a class struggle in Afghanistan between women and men [32], [33]. One class has a full power and one class with no right power for their own life.

Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns was released in 2007 by Penguin Group USA. This novel has published in more than 50 countries and translated into more than 10 languages [34], [35]. All of Hosseini's novel took a place in Afghanistan because he believes that the social issue of Afghanistan is very important to be raised up [36]. Through fiction prose, especially novel, he depicted what is actually happen in Afghanistan [37], [38]. That is why, A Thousand Splendid Suns novel is very interesting to be analyzed [39], [40]. Khaled Hosseini captures the conflict of Afghanistan social issue that Afghanistan women's life is the main conflict of this novel [41]. However, conflict is the important thing in fictional prose to build up the plot story [42], [43]. As [44] stated that a conflict is an unpleasant issue or problem that faced by the character in the story. The conflict of this story is about Mariam and Laila as the main characters in the story [45]. This novel depicted clearly that Mariam's and Laila's life was full of conflicts.

An article by Azharri Hilman Suhada, Elfopndri and Femmy Dahlan entitled *Study on Women in Perspective of Marxist Feminism as Reflected in A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini*, depicted that by using Eagleton and Milne's Marxist Feminism [46], the finding is there are two class of women in Afghanistan which are Bourgeois and Proletariat [47], [48]. Moreover, Both Mariam and Laila faced those abusive behaviors since they were young [49]. They were represented the women oppressed in Afghanistan and it is

clearly seen by Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel [50]. The plot story of this novel is all about the struggle of women in finding their freedom from the men's abusive behavior in their society and how can they deal with the oppression [51], [52]. Two men characters named Rasheed and Jalil often did abusive behaviors to the women [53]. The readers can see clearly how the worst of this matter by looking at women characters [54]. The men characters as the aggressor often insulted, yelled and physical acts which injure women's body [55]. Their tradition makes women in the second class on the society [56]. Because of that, men never treat women well. They often do abusive things to women like hit them, bullied them even forced them to marry with someone that they didn't even know [57], [58]. They treat women like a thing that has no value and women couldn't do anything, even to defend themselves.

Considering this, the author interested in analyzing what kinds of abusive behaviors of Afghanistan Men to women as depicted in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini using hegemony theory by Antonio Gramsci. The Afghanistan's men will be represented by the character named Rasheed and the Afghanistan's women will be represented by the characters named Mariam and Laila [59], [60]. The objective of this study is to reveal the behavior of Afghanistan men to women as depicted in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. The author hopes that this research will give an understanding and became a warning to the society as a human being about sociological issue. Not only that but also this research will be useful for the other researcher to criticize a literary work using sociology criticism, especially Hegemony theory by Antonio Gramsci.

Sociology of Literature is about an interdisciplinary science between sociology and literature [61], [62]. The literary sociology is thought to help us to understand about human life [63]. Saraswati recognized that there are two foundation to built up human social life which are; (i) by marking or symbolic system and practice, and (ii) by a series of fictional actions and interaction [64]. Thus, by looking at the symbol or mark and also fictional action, we can identify the behavior of the individu and individu, individu and group of people, and group of people and the other group of people because human as social beings has a close relation with the social life and it will also affect human's behavior [65].

Sociology of art and literature is a formless, not well defined, consist of empirical studies and various experiments [66]. Each of sociology of art and literature has similarity in all

matters dealing with art or literature and the society [67]. Within a literary work, usually will consist of some paradigms and it will related one to another but each other will competing for achieving a hegemony in the field of sociology [68].

[69] stated that the origin term of hegemony is 'eugemonia' that means 'leadership' from Greek that Greek used this terms to indicate the one who dominance and has power over another. Hegemony also dealing with rules, norms or even belief that agreed and accepted in the society. The starting point of Gramsci's concept of hegemony is that a class has power over the lower class done by oppression, compulsion, violence and persuasion.

Hegemony has a dominant ideological meaning. The dominant ideology used as a policy rules for development. In this phenomenon, it shows that the terms of 'public interest' or 'national development' usually used as a justification for the one who has power to force person or group of citizens to be willing to obey the rules of the state [70].

According to Antonio Gramsci, there are two kinds of group supremacy which are 'Domination' leadership and 'Intellectual and Moral' leadership. Domination leadership is a leadership that is approved to destroy or subdue the lower class. However, Intellectual and moral leadership is a leadership that lead based on the agreement and usually the leadership occurs because of the contribution from the lower class toward the upper class that lead the rules. Domination hegemony terms makes the society believe that with those principles, norms and rules able to prosper the society even though in fact it is not because it is all full of violence. Moreover, According to Faruk, violence is a way to dominate over another. The ruling class will force the lower class to do something based on the rules, norms or belief on the society. But the lower class patiently accept it because of their beliefs that this things able to prosper the society.

A theory from Gramsci which is interpretation of hegemony are able to analyze the novel by Khaled Hosseini entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. A conflict that happened in Afghanistan society is indicate to be the factors that give big impact to the society. Domination of the men over the women give a limitation movement to the women that makes they have no any freedom in their society. Mariam and Laila as the main characters in the novel experienced all of it. Therefore, some narration found in the novel are also relevant with the Hegemony domination by Antonio Gramsci.

METHOD

The subject matter of this study was taken from a novel entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. By Mariam and Laila as the main characters in this novel, it is clearly seen that their husband named Rasheed often do an abusive thing to both of them. The explanation of Rasheed aggression against his wives is the main point on this study. Through *Dominant Leadership* by Antonio Gramsci, the researchers had been revealed it. Moreover, the method of this study is descriptive qualitative research method. According to Shank, Qualitative research as a form of sistematic empirical inquiry into meaning. The meaning of sistematic is about planed, orderd, and public. By emipircal is about grounded in the world of experienced. Inquiry was about to understand how others make sense of their experienced. So, the researchers analyzed the novel by using words instead of number. The first step was the researchers try to broaden the information about the hegemony theory and leadership domination by Antonio Gramsci. Not only that but also the researcher try to collect more information about Afghanistan society's condition from some sources. The second step was the writer read the novel in depth. After that, the last was the researchers highlighted the point that indicate as leadership domination that appear in the novel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the theory of Antonio Gramsci, there are two kinds of leadership which are Intellectual and moral leadership, and Dominant leadership. In the novel entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, Dominant leadership are clearly depicted in the whole of the novel, especially between men and women. This study discussed about the hegemony that have been happened by men over the women. It will be about how the abusive behavior of Afganistan's men is indicated as hegemony which is dominant leadership. There are two kinds of abusive which are verbal abuse and physical abuse.

A. VERBAL ABUSE

Verbal abuse is the way of criticizing, assaulting by words which can make the people who got this abusive feel not confidence and the former is going to exhibit Rasheed's abusive behavior that give the effect on Mariam and Laila's mental condition. In the novel, within the plot story we can see clearly the way Rasheed talk or response to his wives which are Mariam and Laila. In chapter 14 of the novel depicted the abusive behaviors of Rasheed toward Mariam that indicated as dominant leadership. The problem begins when Mariam miscarried her baby then she could not give a birth anymore then Rasheed always got mad

at her, even talked in the bad way. He always answered Mariam's questions with an intimidation words.

Mariam asked "These communist, what is it that they believed?". Rasheed chortled and shook his head, but Mariam thought she saw uncertainty in the way he crossed his arms, the way his eyes shifted. He kept silent but Mariam keep asking him with the same question, then he said "You know nothing, do you? You're like a child. Your brain is empty. There is no information in it."

This kind of words usually used by Rasheed for responding Mariam's questions. Rasheed does not care of every questions that Mariam ask but then he could not stand and says something with his anger through a bad word when Mariam keep asking him. Not only that but also there is another proof shows the abusive behaviors of Rasheed when he judged Mariam's cooking.

The qurma were always too salty or too bland for his taste. The rice was judged either too greasy or too dry, the bread declared too doughy or too crispy. Rasheed's faultfinding left her stricken in the kitchen with self-doubt.

Through this word, it is indirectly will turn down the mental of Mariam in preparing food for her husband. Because, it is really hurt when a husband never appreciate the food that the wife cook for him. It is also make Mariam consider herself as the one who always make a mistake. Besides that, the abusive behaviors of Rasheed also happen to Laila as the second wife of his.

"You duped me. You lied to me," Laila said, gritting her teeth. "You had that man sit across from me and... You knew I would leave if I thought he was alive."
"AND YOU DIDN'T LIE TO ME?" Rasheed roared. "You think I didn't figure it out? About your haramil You take me for a fool, you whore?"

This statement came out from Rasheed mouth because he knew that Tariq came to his house since what they both know is Tariq died in the war that happen in Afghanistan, the fact that makes Rasheed mad is that not only Laila let him came in to Rasheed's house but also the worse thing is when Laila opened her burqa in front Tariq which that burqa it is a must for women that already got married to wear burqa to protect themselves from the other men of their sexuality.

B. PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse it is more related to the way of suspect doing the bad things to the victims through action or physic, it is also when a person uses a physical force against another person. Typically of Physical abuse is shaking, slapping, and pushing using something to hit the victims and others. However in this novel, Rasheed's abusive behaviors not only depicted by verbal abuse but also physical abuse as well, as seen in the novel when Rasheed did not satisfy with Mariam's cooking. Rasheed insult the food while he also did physical abuse to Mariam.

His powerful hands clasped her jaw. He shoved two fingers into her mouth and pried it open, then forced the cold, hard pebbles into it. Mariam struggled against him, mumbling, but he kept pushing the pebbles in, his upper lip curled in a sneer. "Now chew," he said. Through the mouthful of grit and pebbles, Mariam mumbled a plea. Tears were leaking out of the corners of her eyes. "CHEW!" he bellowed. A gust of his smoky breath slammed against her face. Mariam chewed. Something in the back of her mouth cracked.

Through this action it indicated as physical abuse that Rasheed did to Mariam, because of this action Mariam suffered her first physical deformity which is crush down her teeth. The physical abuse also happen to Laila as well when Laila make a mistake by let her ex-boyfriend come to Rasheed's house.

She went to stop him, but he shoved her back and blew by her. Without saying a word, he swung the belt at Laila. He did it with such speed that she had no time to retreat or duck, or even raise a protective arm. Laila touched her fingers to her temple, looked at the blood, looked at Rasheed, with astonishment. It lasted only a moment or two, this look of disbelief, before it was replaced by something hateful. Rasheed swung the belt again. This time, Laila shielded herself with a forearm and made a grab at the belt. She missed, and Rasheed brought the belt down again. Laila caught it briefly before Rasheed yanked it free and lashed at her again. Then Laila was dashing around the room, and Mariam was screaming words that ran together and imploring Rasheed, as he chased Laila, as he blocked her way and cracked his belt at her. At one point, Laila ducked and managed to land a punch across his ear, which made him spit a curse and pursue her even more relentlessly. He caught her, threw her up against the wall, and struck her with the belt again and again, the buckle

slamming against her chest, her shoulder, her raised arms, her fingers, drawing blood wherever it struck.

By seeing the way Rasheed response when he found out that Laila met Tariq it is indicate as the physical abuse. How the way he torture Laila which started when he swung the belt at Laila and became more intense over time. Rasheed uses a thing which is belt to attack Laila and it is called physical abuse. However in that page Mariam also become a victim of Rasheed's abusive behavior, because she tried to help Laila. Even though Rasheed's love Laila more than Mariam but only with one mistake that Laila did it makes Rasheed forget about love in his heart to Laila and now it turns into hatred.

Laila rocked Aziza until the sounds stopped, and, when she heard the screen door creak open and slam shut, she lowered Aziza to the ground and peeked out the window. She saw Rasheed leading Mariam across the yard by the nape of her neck. Mariam was barefoot and double over. There was blood on his hand, blood on Mariam's face, her hair, down her neck and back. Her shirt had been ripped down the front.

This portrayals happen when Mariam break the rules because she went out from the house without any permission from her husband, Rasheed. This prove is the punishment given by Rasheed to Mariam whne she bravely to go outside the house. By treat Mariam in a bad way even torture her and makes her bloody everywhere. The worst thing is Rasheed bravely to torture Mariam in the yard which can make many people can see them clearly, this indicate that the society in the novel did not care about what happened to Mariam because of the social culture in Afghanistan.

From those explanations above, It indicate that Afghanistan men that represented by Rasheed has full power over the Afghanistan women that represented by Mariam and Laila. As Dominant Leadership known as the rules, principle, norms or even the belief of the society that they believe it is the best way to rule both the upper and the lower class but in fact it is not. Just like what happened in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini that Afghanistan women has such a limitation for them to do something. Further, the Afghanistan men has full power over Afghanistan women. They even allowed to attack Afghanistan women both in Verbal and physical abuse. Even the abusive behavior that have done by the Afghanistan men is not only happen in the house but also they bravely enough to do it outside of their house. It indicate that they are not that scared to get any

judgement from the society. The worst is even the Afghanistan women has no any right to defend themselves both in verbal or physical way just because of the norms and their belief that stick on Afghanistan society.

As depicted in the explanation above that, both of Mariam and Laila accepted all the abusive things that have done by their husband, Rasheed. They still give as best as they can just like Mariam still cooked for her husband even her husband never appreciate it, because in their culture it is such a common thing that happened in a household that a husband do such an abusive thing to their wife both verbal and physical way. They even didn't care about all the pain that they carry about. It is like they both carry such a huge stone on their body just because their husband treat them in a bad way. There is no any place for women like both of them to speak up. Speak up about the pain that they faced, the pain that they feel, the pain that they even did not want it to happen to them. But they have to keep it by themselves just because in Afghanistan women is placed in the second placed in the hierarchy. Further, the domination that makes the Afghanistan men has full power over the Afghanistan women make it worst. The society even agreed with all the culture or belief or the rules that have been happened in Afghanistan because the thing it is something normal that women and men are not equal but then all the rules and all the culture that happened it makes the Afghanistan's women have a bad condition especially in the household when they are not free to speak, they are not free to express their feeling and need to followed all the rules by their husbands as well. The important thing to have a baby boy also appears in this novel and it prove by the way Rasheed feel that he got a baby boy from Laila and ignored her first wife, Mariam, but then the desire of human are never enough when only by one mistake it can change everything from love into hatred.

CONCLUSION

Hegemony is all about a leadership, even it has two kinds of leadership which are Intellectual and moral leadership, and Dominant leadership. In the novel of A Thousand

Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini, the dominant leadership are clearly seen. Through this novel, Khaled Hosseini tried to depict that in Afghanistan has their own rules toward the women, especially the dominant leadership of men to the women which is represented by Mariam and Laila, but how the dominant here is too over to overcome that gives such a limitation to the Afghanistan women. The rules, norms, principle and also the belief of this is always stick to all the citizens in Afghanistan. For them, this is such a common thing that happened in the society and nothing to worry for. The abusive both in verbal and physical way are often happened to the Afghanistan women.

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