PROTEST AGAINST THE DOMINATION OF TRIBAL CUSTOMS IN NUJOOD ALI’S AND DELPHINE MINOU’S *I AM NUJOOD, AGE 10 AND DIVORCED* (2010): A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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PROTEST AGAINST THE DOMINATION OF TRIBAL CUSTOMS IN NUJOOD ALI’S AND DELPHINE MINUOI’S I AM NUJOOD, AGE 10 AND DIVORCED MEMOIR (2010): A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT


The major problem of this study is to reveal the dominant ideology reflected in the Njoood Ali’s and Delphine Minuoi’s I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced Memoir. The objectives of the study are; to analyse the structural elements of the memoir and to reveal the dominant ideology reflected in the memoir by using Critical Discourse Analysis approach.

In conducting the study, the researcher uses qualitative research in which the data are based on primary data source, the memoir of Nujood Ali’s and Delphine Minuoi’s I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced. The secondary data are other data such as, biography of the author, some books related to the study, and website from the internet. In analysing the data, she applies two analysis, firstsly, structural approach of CDA which is uses to analyze the elements of the memoir. It consists of Macrostructure, Superstructure, and Microstructure. Secondly, the writer discussed the social cognition of the memoir which due to the historical background of the memoir.

The finding of the research shows as follows: firstly, based in the structural analysis, it is evident in I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced, Minuo protest against the domination of tribal customs as western toward patriarchal culture. Secondly, based on the social cognition analysis, it is apparent that the values underlying the part, includes human freedom, marriage, women’s right, women’s role, responsibility, and childcare. The values implies that the dominant ideology is liberal feminism.

Key words: dominant ideology, memoir, Critical discourse analysis, I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced, Delphine Minuo.

INTRODUCTION

I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced is written by Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui. The original language of the memoir was French, published in 2009 and it was translated into 20 languages. The English version was translated by Linda Coverdale and published by Three River Press on March. It consists of 11 chapters, 64 pages. It is a true story of a girl named Nujood whereas Delphine Minoui is a reporter from France who arranged the story.

Nujood Ali was born on Yemen in 1998. She is the first figure of Yemen who fight against forced marriage underage. At the age of 10, in April 2008 she obtained a divorce. November 2008, Glamour American magazine choosed her as “women of the year” because of her courages tells her full story for the first time honored by Hillary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice.
Delphine is France’s Journalist, 39 years old. She gets an appreciated’s *Albert Loudress* for her reports Iran and Middle East since 1997. Besides her book that written with Nujood, the other work is *Les Pintades a Teheran* tell about women’s oppression in Iran. She lived in Beriut after finishing her works from Iran.

It is the true story about Nujood who is courageous to fight against the culture of the city and family law. At the age of 10, she had experienced as a wife who got violence from her husband and her mother in law. She lived in the small village in Yemen, a place where the customary law and patriarchy system exists. Yemen is one of small country in the Middle East like Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan etc. Like the other girls, Nujood is a child who had dreams, but when her father forced her to marry a man at the age of more than 30 years old, it was lose at all. To make a choice is not taught for all women includes children and adults so Nujood had to obey what her father’s says or wants and also her brothers.

In the memoir, Minuoi describes the three important aspects of Yemen. First, social life that exist is dominated by tribal customs. Second, women are person who has no authority. Third, it is hard living in the city. All of the aspects is clearly explained in every chapter of the memoir. Besides, the writer has three reasons when selects the memoir to be analyses.

First, controversial topic about women and child brides that frequently debated. The memoir totally shows how women is oppressed and a little bride who want to live normally as a children not a wife like Nujood in this context.

Second, this book gives some views about the domination of tribal customs in Yemeni social life. There are some limitations appear in many ways, both for men and women. Limitations for women that appears, such as they are not going to school, so they are learned from nature education, made choices is not taught for women, all married women should cover her bodies with black long cloth and niqab, then women are prohibited to show their self to unknown men, etc. Although, men have privilege in the family, they also have to obey on the decision of the customs.

The last, as the style of the language, the book supports with everyday language. The researcher does not find difficult words too much when reading the book. In addition, the speaker of the book is a child. Then, a Journalist, Delphine Minuoi, writes
the memoir. We had known that while writing a journalist inserts her/his ideology implicitly.

The researcher realizes that this research is not the first research. To prove the originality of the research, the researcher will show the previous studies that deals with the research.

The first research is entitled Nujood Ali and the Fight against Child Brides in Yemen (Liefa, 2011, Tavaana Case Study). In her study, she analyzes Nujood Ali and her fight against child bride. She describes Nujood cases through leadership aspect and civil aspect. She finds up that Nujood focused on escaping her abusive marriage. She was also eager to return to her younger sister in order to protect her from the same fate. In the leadership aspects, she realizes that Nujood’s courageous decision to end her marriage was a historic event for Yemen.

Moreover, the issue about tribal customs or patriarchic culture was taken before by the other researcher but in different data analysis. The second research is conducted by Destian Aviana (UMS, 2011) entitled Revolt Against The domination of Patriarchic Culture: A Critical Discourse Analysis on Carmen Bin Laden’s Inside of the Kingdom. The purposes of the research are to describe the revolt against the domination of patriarchic culture reflected in Inside of the Kingdom based on its structural elements and to reveal the dominant ideology reflected. The finding of the research shows that the structural elements of Inside of the Kingdom are evidence that there is revolt from Carmen as western woman toward patriarchic culture in Saudi Arabia and the dominant ideology in Inside of the Kingdom is feminist ideology.

Considering the two previous studies above, the researcher wants to conduct the close and almost similar research. The similar with the first researches is about the object (data) of the study and the issue will be analyzed with second research. The difference between the first studies is about the type of the study and between the second is about the object (data) will be analyzed.

The problem of the study is “how is the protest against the domination of the tribal customs reflected in Nujood Ali’s and Delphine Minoui’s I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced memoir (2010)?” whether this study is limited to analyze the memoir by using Critical Discourse Analysis approach.
The goal of this study are to analyze the memoir based on its structural components and to reveal the dominant ideology reflected in the memoir. by this study, the researcher hopes that the research will gives contribution to the other researcher who wants to get the broader body of knowledge in understanding critical discourse analysis approach and to other researcher who interested in analyzing I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorce by using other approaches.

This is qualitative study which is data taken from Nujood Ali’s and Delphine Minouzi’s memoir entitled I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced (2010) consisting 11 chapters and 64 pages. The another data which is appropriate for this research is also needed such as, some biography of the author, some books related to the study, website from the internet and other relevant informations.

The method used in this study is library research which is conducted by collecting and recording both of the primary data and secondary data source. Moreover, the data will be analyzed through descriptive analysis.

UNDERLYING THEORY

A. Notion of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

Critical discourse analysis or CDA in short, is a type of method that is used in analyzing discourse includes the meaning, the language devices, the style of the language and the sentence constructions. The focuses of the discourse that analyze are power, dominant, and inequality appears in the social or political ways. Sometimes, they told explicitly but sometimes they need many devices to reach the inside meaning of certain discourse.

One of prominent figure of Critical discourse analysis is Teun A Van Dijk. In his book entitled Discourse and Power (2008: 85), he states that “CDA is the way social power abuse; dominance and inequality are enacted, reproduced and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context”. These theory beliefs that certain discourse has relationships with some aspects of life such as social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, and religious aspect etc, as the power of an ideology of a discourse. In other words, CDA is very useful to explain the 5W + 1H (what, why, when, who, which and how) questions and to
criticize the discourse production about its meaning showed in the use of language.

CDA, moreover, has specific role in the society because of its complex analysis. Something controversial or taboo is permitted in the discourse production. It is as the reflection of the interaction in the social life in the part of social structure and social produce. Thus, it emphasizes on the dominant categories or groups in the society look on their cooperation and their social interaction by one and another.

Ideology is closely related to the CDA defined as “the ideas or beliefs of collectivities of people” (Van Djik, 2008: 11). Ideology in a discourse has both narrower and broader function in the society. Afterward, the power and dominance is known as the broader purpose of an ideology that usually describes due to the social groups relations. The other one that related to CDA is Racism, which is system differentiation of social class based on color of leather (Van Djik, 2008: 35-38). Moreover, Van Djik argued that,

Racism is a system of ethnic inequality, reproduced by discriminatory social practices, including discourse, at the local (micro) level, and by institutions, organizations and overall group relations on the global (macro) level, and cognitively (2008: 41).

As an interdisciplinary approach, critical discourse analysis is close with discourse analysis in general, that it focuses on analyzing language used in communication and analyzing the meaning of the texts and talks based on not only its historical background but also why and how it is produced. The intention of a discourse is used to describe how to interact well and to solve the problem appears in communication.

CDA is also close to Marxism; it is looking to analyze the power of discourses that determine in the historical meaning of the text. It reveals the ideological oppression of a dominant economic class over subordinate classes. In doing the analysis, they look at the condition of the text production includes where the discourse production will be published and who is the audience of the discourse. Marxist criticism usually shares with feminist criticism in the purpose that is to against the structures of power in the society at present time. In the feminist view, the issue is marginalized gender; for Marxist criticism, commonly
the issue is economic power and the leading to political power. The last, critical
discourse analysis covered both Feminist and Marxist issues that are power,
dominance, and social inequality in the forms of text and talk or discourse
production.

B. Basic Assumptions of CDA

Critical discourse analysis is a discipline analysis assumed as a method
analysis of discourse. It uses any method that is appropriate with the goals of
research project and generally, the method is largely those used in discourse
studies. Thus, we may call CDA as a domain of scholarly practice, complex
discipline that distributed over all the humanities and social sciences (Van Djik,
2008: 2).

In addition, CDA talks about discourse that is shaped by the society and
by using power and dominance that it has function to influence the society. The
language used in discourse as reflection of such condition (in the spoken or
written form) that has function to influence the society. Simply, merely certain
discourse gives impact or not to the reader or hearer, it depends on the power of
the discourse production.

C. Structural Elements of Critical Discourse Analysis

1. Macrostructure

Macrostructures discuss about the global meaning of a discourse
involves topic, theme, or gist (Van Djik, 1980: 19). Usually, it explicitly
describes in a discourse and it use to find the important thing of the
discourses. Macrostructure is the important thing in comprehesion of certain
discourse. Van Dijk argued that, “Power, dominance, and inequality between
social groups are typically terms that belongs to the macro analysis” (2008:
87).

2. Superstructure

According to Van Dijk (1980: 108)”superstructure is the schematic
form that organizes the global meaning of a text”. Superstructure consists of
functional categories. Schemata delivered the topic and the sequences of the
sentence of a discourse. It provides some kinds of information; they are
background knowledge, time and place, major participants, the actual state of affairs or problem, and the topic, global plan of the text.

3. **Microstructure**

Microstructure is the structure of language or language construction used in discourse whether verbal or non-verbal communications. According to Van Dijk (1980: 29) “microstructures are the actually and directly expressed structures of the discourse”. The structure of the discourse is described in the level of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and connections between sentences or coherence between one to the other sentences.

a. **Semantic**

Semantic studies about meaning. In the text, talk or a discourse, the author uses category of words, phrases, clauses, and sentence that has certain meaning. Van Dijk (1980:30) argued that sentential semantic dominated by semantic textual sequences of sentences which is assigned meaning in the form respective expressions (words, phrases, clauses etc) and the categorical structures.

b. **Syntactic**

The syntactic rules at least explain sentences, word order, structural ambiguity, and grammatical relations whether different structures have different meaning or the same meaning and also the aspect of language grammatically. Structurally, syntax is analyzed in a categorical manner and the ways to analyze sentences is hierarchically. It may call from the larger to the smaller categories or from the smaller categories to the larger one (Van Dijik, 1980: 39).

c. **Stylistic**

Stylistic is one of the important parts of a discourse. Stylistic may be defined as the choice of words or diction used of the author or speaker to produce a discourse. According to Van Dijk (1988: 27) “style is the results of the choices made by the speaker among optional variations in discourse forms that may used to express more or less the same meaning (or denote the same references)”. 
d. **Rhetoric**

The rhetorical device includes metaphors, hyperbole, personification, allegory, etc. Commonly, the rhetorical devices used by the author or speaker to increase the attention, the storage and the retrieval of textual information of the hearer or reader. Rhetoric is commonly understood as the discipline that involves all aspects of persuasive speaking or writing aspects (Van Dijk, 1988: 28).

4. **Social Cognition**

Social cognition involves the discourse and the dominance. It is about the production of the discourse and the way to understand and influence the text and talk. Social cognition is formed among special thought such as opinion, attitudes, ideologies, norms and values of the author as the characteristics shared by the social groups and cultures. Social cognitions are defining socially structured organizations of social member and not distributed arbitrarily over groups of individuals but define socially structured organizations of social members (Van Dijk, 1988: 108).

5. **Historical Context**

Historical context involves the social, religious, culture and education takes place of the specific idea or event. Some events in past is needed to analyze in order to get the information of that event clearly. The important things usually discussed are the context of the discourse production includes the time and the place. Means, certain discourse has certain time and context explained by the author to influence of the reader or hearer.

**ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

A. **Discussion**

Based on the complex analysis, the researcher finally finds some categories. According to Macrostructure analysis that analyzes the global theme of the memoir. In arranging the memoir, the writer uses creative ways to deliver the story. In the first chapter, the reader are given with the story about the Court, on the contrary, in the second chapter she talks about Khardji, her native village, and third chapter was talk about the Judge. Next, in the fourth chapter she describes about her
Wedding, then fifth chapter tells about Shada (Nujood’s lawyer) and its continues in a series of chapter Running away, The divorce, the Birthday, Mona, the Return of Fares, and When I become a Lawyer. From the form of story like this memoir, the reader will confuse when they read the memoir from the first time because in the beginning of the story the writer shows the complication of the story with her tells about the Court. Then, the reader was shocking again with the second chapter that was very different with the first chapter that it talks about Khardji. Actually, Khardji is the introduction chapter, later it is related to the fourth chapter then sixth chapter. The researcher finds the right sequences of the story by putting the chapter in the right order as shown in the table below.

Table 1
Chaptering order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The original sequence of chapter/story</th>
<th>The sequence of chapter/story after read &amp; analyzed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The Court</td>
<td>1. Khardji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Khardji</td>
<td>2. The Wedding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Judge</td>
<td>3. Running Away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Wedding</td>
<td>4. The Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Shada</td>
<td>5. The Judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The Divorce</td>
<td>7. The Divorce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. The Birthday</td>
<td>8. The Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. The return of Fares</td>
<td>10. The Return of Fares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. When I become a lawyer</td>
<td>11. When I become a Lawyer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table above it can be seen the differences of the sequences before and after the memoir was read and analyzed by the researcher. The different sequences of the chapter are apparent in the chapter one to six. Nevertheless, every writer has different ways in telling or describing the story. Perhaps, she wants to attract the curiosity of the reader when reading this memoir so that the reader want to know what is the story talking about deeply and what does the writer means by arranging the story like the memoir that is using flash back plot structure so that the reader will influenced by the story. As our prior knowledge that the discourse production brings fact that is shaped by the society consists of power and dominance has function to influence the society. The language used in discourse as a reflection of such condition (in the spoken or written form) that has function to
take the reader into the story. Simply, certain discourse gives impact or not to the reader or hearer, it depends on the power of the discourse production.

The researcher finds that the theme of the memoir is a dynamic development of human mind. The protest against the domination of the tribal customs dealt by Nujood as the evidence that her minds is developing. Naturally, when the human mind develops, everything will be possible to do. Then, Nujood’s protest against her marriage is because she got domestic violence by her husband. Later, Nujood’s story is clearly related to the Feminism which is she try for seeking a justice and rights.

Based on Superstructure analysis which has purpose to find the form of schemata of the memoir. The researcher finds that the general topic is effort for seeking equality. There are six general substance related to general topic can be found. Those are choice is human rights, life is courageous to take a plunge, dream is part of human being, all man are created equal, the mindset of the villager opposed to the urban and the children are capable f doing what adults do.

In the Superstructure, the researcher also finds the coherence of the memoir because in arranging the story the author applied some keys for coherences such as using adverb of time, using adverb of place, using adjective phrase, using transition word and phrase, description of place and people, and using modification or specific detail. Although, the writer uses flash back plot but she tried to tell her story clearly in every chapter. Therefore, the reader will understand when reading the text. The memoir is the mirror of life of the little girl called Nujood as Yemeni people at the certain time and place. In the country, women are restricted by the customs, family law and the dogma.

Then, in the Microstructure analysis the researcher analyzes four aspects, there are semantic, syntactic, stylistic and rhetoric. Based on semantic analysis, she finds the intentions and presumptions of the writer such as contrast, effort, empathy, evidence and fact, savagely; cruel, and complain. Generally, Minuoi uses semantic that is related to the positive-self representative and negative-other representative.

The syntactic analysis derives into three elements. Those are sentence construction, coherence and pronoun. In the sentence construction analysis, the
writer usually uses appositive active voice to emphasize the agent such as, *Shoya, my mother, married my father without words of protest*. The agent is Shoya then the pronoun my mother is also relates to the Shoya. Sometimes, she used appositive active voice to emphasize the topic discuss as told in the “*Khardji, the village where I was born, women are not thought how to make a choices*”. The clause *the village where I was born* emphasize the object discuss *Khardji*. Nujood frequently used the first person and pronoun *I* represented herself as positive self-representative (in-group). She also uses pronoun *he, she, us, our, them, they* as positive and negative self-representation to point out the differences between in-group and out-group that appear in some ways.

The rhetorical analysis shows hyperbole, personification, simile, metaphor, repetition, imagery and symbol, climax and anti climax. Hyperbole, in the memoir is marked by *human flood, hell, and laughter, and amazing*. Personification is marked by the news *come out, sunlight flooded, oranges soda tickled*, and *says my little innate voice*. The words used often to indicate simile are *as…as, like, than, and as if*. Then, metaphor analysis shown in the “*Khardji, my native village, was become my prison (p. 31)*”, from the data we know that Nujood compares with her life in the world with the other which is known that prison is a place for people who break the law. Merely, the fact she was trapped there and could not leave her home because her status at the time. Later, the important thing here that we know is about her environment, what she felt and she behaved. From the sentence, *prison* is a metaphor. Repetition is showed by something *burning, a burning, backward and forward, backward and forward, and more and more*. Imagery and symbol marks a gap between man and woman. Their daily clothes show it, *nigab* indicates woman and *zanna* indicates man. The *jambia* is also a symbol of prestige, authority, and manhood. Only men wear a *jambia*, the highest position of a man in the society will used prettiest ones. More, Yemeni society used *Jambia* as equipment to resolve conflicts and was a symbol of tribal justice. Thus, *henna* and *white gown* as a symbol of marriage and to shape her felling to be free she uses word *ocean*. The last, climax and anti climax is pointed out in *water- rivers-ocean* and *smaller-smaller-tiny little dot*.
Based on the rhetorical finding used in the memoir, Minuoi wants to show about Nujood’s life clearly, so that the reader can remind and give responses after reading it. Besides, she uses simple language to deliver for the reader it just because she plays as a girl 10 years old. In her story, she opened the controversial and taboo thing but it was enlightening. Then, she delivers certain ideas in the various ways. It shows significantly with the differentiation between in-group and out-group followed by positive self-representative and negative self-representative. More, this is more representing of the perspective of Minuoi toward a girl named Nujood who arise movements for all women.

B. Social Cognition

This elements tries to find what are the writer going to share by writing the memoir. From the analysis, the social cognition are as follows:

1. Human freedom

Since human freedom is a nature of life. By the memoir Minuoi tries to give us a values that is since a people born, they are taken their own rights which is used to determine their own choices, life, happiness, sadness, adventures, etc. One will be truly responsible with their choices, So that the other people should be respected for the others choice. They should not restraint others. On the contrary, if one and other respects each other, they will build social life equally with harmony.

2. Marriage

Marriage is one of human’s rights. As a human freedom, everyone free to choose with whom to marry, when do marry, what is kind of party will choose, whose are the invitee and where do marry. So, if there is a problem in the life after marriage, the couple will be fully responsible with all consequences.

3. Responsibility

Responsibilities are thing that everyone’s have and it should be fulfilled for the goodness of life especially in the social life. All responsibilities above no matter, which one is, needed to be done. Because everyone includes man and women, young or adult has their own responsibilities, it will be better if they
did of what their own responsibility is. Parents should complete all responsibilities to their children as well as possible. They have to complete the children’s material and immaterial needs. As a wife, a woman should play their right and responsibility equally and try to give a better service to her husband. As a husband, a man should complete their duties, treated his wife with kindness, and act as a good partner in the family who will not pretend himself superior than his wife. The last, he also runs his rights and responsibilities equally.

4. **Womens right**

   Women’s right needs to struggle. Rights are something owned by everybody since born. By writing the memoir, Minuoi tries to share about her thought about women’s right that is they are should be an enormous person. Human with an enormous right is free to express her desire life in order to make their life better.

5. **Womens role**

   Finally, what are describing is about the similar and the differences of women condition of Middle East culture and western culture in the case of women’s role. There are always differences representing. Middle East is a conservative country that forbidding women shows their ability into public areas. Whereas, Western is modern country which permit women to show their ability, both in the domestic area and public area. Women and men ought to played together to build a beautiful life. Based on her perspective, women’s role is not only for filling her traditional duties of wife and mother. However, it is expanded to the independence person who allows participating in the public roles.

6. **Child care**

   By Nujood’s story Minuoi is able to show her thought and comment on both to the custom and the power of a father. The children should play their role and rights correctly. Whose are need to be free to expresses their self with playing and learning from what they saw, hear, write, and read around the milieu.
CONCLUSION AND PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATION

A. Conclusion

1. Based on the structural analysis of the memoir, it can be said that it is evident there is protest against the domination of the tribal customs in *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* of Minuoi as western toward Patriarchal culture. By arranging the real story of a girl named Nujood, the writer wants to show their movements through her background knowledge. The memoir shows ideologically controlled and presumptions between in-group and out-group by positive self-representation and negative other-representation.

2. The dominant ideology of the memoir is liberal feminism that appears to human freedom. It seems on the values underlying on the memoir that clearly related to the ideology. Based on the values reflected in the memoir, those are human freedom, marriage, responsibility, women’s right, women’s role and childcare which is related to liberal feminist. The memoir is written as mirror of her protest fight against the tribal customs implemented in Middle East, Yemen in this context.

B. Pedagogical Implication

Everyone has his or her own role, parents, husbands, wives, and children. As a parent, deliver it with the best roles; fulfill the children’s needs in the material and immaterial. As husband and wife, fulfill all the needs of the family, be kind to be wives, husbands and children, do not claiming the right of prior obligations, and make your wife / husband as a life partner that you always need. As a child, in fact they still require care and guidance of both parents, let them learn and play appropriately kids, do not try to act out what they are not their job actually. Until they grow up and understand, what is or what should and should not he played.

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