

**HAZARA'S DISCRIMINATION REFLECTED IN KHALED
HOSSEINI'S *THE KITE RUNNER* NOVEL (2003):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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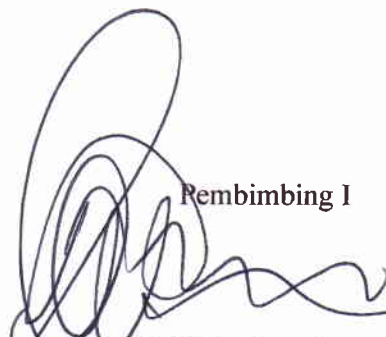
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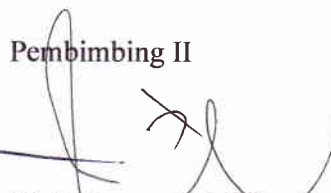
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ABSTRACT

NUR SYIFA' FUADINA, A320090131. HAZARA'S DISCRIMINATION REFLECTED IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S *THE KITE RUNNER* NOVEL (2003): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2013.

This study is about Hazara's Discrimination Reflected in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* Novel (2003) by using a sociological approach. The objectives of the study are to analyze the novel based its structural elements and describe the novel based on the sociological approach.

The researcher uses qualitative method for analyze the novel. The object of the study is *The Kite Runner* Novel that consists of twenty five chapters and 215 pages. It is analyzed through Sociological Approach. The primary data is taken from the novel itself and the secondary data sources are books or any information that are relevant to the subject matter. The techniques of the data are reading the novel repeatedly, taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data, arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category, selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis, drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion. The techniques of data analysis are as follows: the first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements, focus is paid on the structural analysis of the novel, the second step is analyzing the data based in Sociological Approach, and focus is paid on the meaning of Hazara discrimination.

The conclusions of study are, first based on structural analysis of each element, it shows that the character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme are related to each other and form the unity into good quality of novel. It conveys a message that the racial injustice must be crashed, because all people of all races are equal in the law. Second, based on Sociological Approach, the conclusion is that there is racial discrimination in *The Kite Runner* novel. Khaled Hosseini shows that Hazara get the discrimination from Pashtun or soldier of Taliban in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Keywords: sociological, discrimination

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Discrimination towards the Hazara was poignantly portrayed by Afghan-American writer Khaled Hosseini in his epic novel *The Kite Runner*. Though a comprehensive census eludes us, it is fair to say that a vast majority of Hazara are Shia (believing in twelve imams) with small Sunni and Ismaili minorities as well.

The *Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini was made in 2003. This novel tells about loyalty, forgiveness, friendship, redemption, sacrifice, and telling a little of Afghanistan 30 years ago. *The Kite Runner* describes the rich culture and beauty of a land in the process of being destroyed.

There are many aspects why the writer analyzes this novel. The first is this novel is a great story and complex story that the writer ever read. It contains about love, friendship, family, betrayal, redemption, and ethnic discrimination which exists in this story.

Second is moral responsibility shows in the relationship between the character of Amir and Hassan. It shows how Amir get jealousy with Hassan because actually Baba have other child from other woman, he is Hassan. And Amir can not be a true, honest, and loyal for Hassan.

Third, this novel is telling about betrayal and redemption which is exists in Amir's character. Amir was betray Hassan in their childhood just for to get Baba's love, without he knows that Hassan will do anything for him although Hassan have to willing his honor.

Finally, the last reason is about the discrimination of Hazara. They get the discrimination from the other ethnic group, indeed the Hazara people killed by Taliban soldier, in other words ethnic cleaning.

As a result, because the reasons above, the researcher is interested to analysis *The Kite Runner*. Considering in this proposal, the writer is

encouraged to entitled the research as following: "*Hazara's Discrimination Reflected In Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner Novel (2003): A Sociological Approach.*"

2. Previous Studies

The researcher finds several researches related to this research. They have the same topic or subject, but different in using the way and the source to apply it.

The first research belongs to Anis (UMS, 2009), her research is entitled *Social and Moral Responsibility in Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner: Sociological Approach*. In her research, she identifies the relation between the novel and the social background of the early twentieth century and early twenty first century American society.

The second research about Amir's redemption was conducted by Ahman (UMS, 2010) entitled *Amir's Redemption in The Kite Runner Movie Directed by March Foster: A Human Psychological Approach*. This research is aimed to analyze The Kite Runner movie based on the Humanistic Psychology perspective related to how redemption was represented by the major character in analyzing *The Kite Runner*.

Similarities of previous studies with this research paper are the object of the research. The object is *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. Differences are that the first previous study analyzes social and moral responsibility and the second previous study analyzes the Amir's redemption. Whereas the researcher analyzes Hazara's Discrimination of this novel by using sociological approach. That's why this research is crucial to be conducted.

3. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is “How is the reflection of Hazara’s discrimination reflected in Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner* novel (2003) by using a sociological approach?”

4. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the reflection of Hazara’s discrimination reflected in Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner* novel (2003) by using a sociological approach.

5. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To analyze the *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini’s based on the sociological approach.
- b. To describe the structural elements in Khaled Hosseini’s novel based on the sociological approach.

6. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

a. Theoretical Benefit

The study is projected to give novel contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the aspect of sociological literary study.

b. Practically Benefit

The results of the study will improve the writer’s knowledge of the Hazara’s discrimination as reflected in *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini and about sociological approach.

B. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are library data. Its purpose is to analyze using sociological approach. The steps to conduct the research are the follows: 1) determining

the type of the study, 2) determining the object of the study, 3) determining data and data source, 4) determining technique of data collection, and finally 5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini and was published in 2003 by Penguin Group.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data used in the study is text consisting of primary data source and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are taken from the text of *The Kite Runner* written by Khaled Hosseini (2003) in New York. The data are involved dialogues, character's action and the whole narration, which are relevant to the subject matter of the research.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are taken from other sources such as essay, comments, historical information, biography of Khaled Hosseini, internet and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of data collection in these researches are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Downloading the translation.
- c. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data.
- d. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- e. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
- f. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this research is descriptive analysis. In this case, the researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the novel and sociological analyzed in detail through the appropriate approach, in this case is sociological approach to show the Hazara's discrimination.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

In this research finding, the writer analysis some points in order to analyze *The Kite Runner* novel.

1. Analysis the Structural Element of *The Kite Runner* Novel

a. Characteristic and Characterization

A character is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story (Kennedy, 1983:45). The characterization is also called "the actor's character in the history" (Barnet, 1992:20). There are two kinds of in the novel, namely major and minor characters. The major character in the novel is Amir. Amir is the narrator and protagonist character in *The Kite Runner* novel. He is the son of a wealthy father in the Wazir Akbar Khan district in the northern part of Kabul. He is a Pashtun. This is described in the story as quoted as follows:

An entire chapter dedicated to Hassan's people! In it, I read that my people, the Pashtuns, had persecuted and oppressed the Hazaras. It said the Hazaras had tried to rise against the Pashtuns in the nineteenth century, but the Pashtuns had "quelled them with unspeakable violence." (TKR, 2003: 4)-

The minor character is Hassan, he is a Shi'a and also step brother of Amir.

Hassan was born in the winter, 1964 as in this quotation of the novel.

It was in the small shack that Hassan's mother, Sanaubar gave birth to him one cold winter in 1964. (TKR, 2003: 3).

b. Setting

Kennedy (1983:39) stated that setting is where and when the story takes place. It is the environment of the story.

1) Setting of place

First, the story takes place in the Wazir Akbar Khan district. Wazir Akbar Khan is the district in northern part of Kabul where Amir and Hassan lives.

2) Setting of time

The setting of time is happened since in a winter 1979 until August 2001.

c. Plot

Plot is the sequence of incidents or event through which an author constructs a story. According to Kennedy (1983:824) the plot of the novel consists of exposition, complication, climax, and resolution.

1) Exposition

The Exposition of the story begins Amir is regret and remember what he have done in twenty six years ago.

2) Complication

Assef very hate with Hassan, because Hassan is Hazara. And then Assef threaten Hassan that he will back again to avenge Hassan someday. Actually Amir has a chance to safe Hassan from Assef, but Amir choose to ran which made Amir regret in his life a long time.

3) Climax

The story has climax when Hassan is raped by Assef who help his two followers, Wali and Kamal.

4) Resolution

Amir get the call from Rahim Khan in Afghanistan, actually Rahim Khan knows everything about Amir and Hassan's problem in the past. So Rahim Khan call and hopes to Amir for save Sohrab, Hassan's child and bring Sohrab to Fremont California.

d. Style

1) Grammatical Structure

The author uses standard sentences. It is not complicated and easy to understand because he uses Standard English and grammatically correct in narration and dialogue. Meanwhile, the non-standard English is only used in the dialogue.

2) Sentence Construction

In *The Kite Runner*, sentence construction used by Khaled Hosseini is a combination between long sentences and short sentences both in narration and in dialogue.

3) Diction

According Hall (in Koesnosoebroto, 1988:129) diction refers to the writer's choice of an individual word. Diction characterized the speaker

4) Figurative Language

e. Point of View

Point of view refers to the windows though which the author decides to disclose the explicit, fact that together constitutes the story. Kennedy defined point of view as "the identification of the narrator of the story, describing any part he plays in the events and any limit placed upon his knowledge" (Kennedy, 1983: 18). The point of view of this novel is

the first person, in which case that character is a central narrator. Its character tells either her own story.

f. Theme

Theme is one of important parts in the novel which develops the story and is used by the author to express the moral message to the reader. Kennedy (1983: 103) states that the theme of a story as whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals.

The theme of *The Kite Runner* novel is “Discrimination is an action from friction between ethnic groups and causes of social gaps in society.” It means there is a difference between one of the ethnic and another which can lead to discrimination on a certain ethnic, caused by several factors such as religious and cultural factors.

2. Sociological Analysis

a. Social Aspect

In the presence of various ethnic groups in Afghanistan, the Hazara get the discrimination by Taliban and Pashtuns. Hazara always get different treatment from other ethnicities, they get mistreatment. Their homes and mosques were bombed, Hazara women raped, and every Hazara, wherever they are, Taliban will kill them instantly.

Social relation between ethnic in Afghanistan it showed clearly in this novel. Pashtun and Hazara had different treatment. In this novel, Baba as a Pashtun man is a well-respected by the people.

While Ali is a Hazara people, he gets bad treatment from the other ethnic even the children around there always mocking Ali.

b. Economic Aspect

The economic regards someone social status. In this novel, the job of Pashtun is the boss and the writer, while the job of Hazara is the servant for Pashtun. The Pashtun’s job as the carpet exporter and the writer in California.

But Hazara working in the house and they use by bus to go everywhere. Hazara is difficult to get same position as Pashtun.

Khaled Hosseini shows the economic condition through the character he creates. Baba as a Pashtun is a rich man in Kabul. Baba is the richest businessman in Kabul, and he had some very successful business. While Hazara, he is a poor man. He has not wealth or legacy from his parents.

c. Religious Aspect

This novel tells between the same religions but with different beliefs, they are Pashtun and Shi'a. Pashtun is based on the Koran and Hadith, while Hazara are adherents Syi'a that glorifies Imam Ali bin Abi Talib. They believe that Imam Ali was the successor of Prophet Muhammad SAW.

d. Cultural Aspect

One of the cultures in Afghanistan is Kite Tournament. The tournament was followed by boys and even adult men. Every winter, districts in Kabul held a kite fighting tournament and the day of the tournament was undeniably the highlight of the cold season. Although the Taliban banned the kite fighting tournament in Afghanistan, the Afghanistan boys still are playing their kite.

e. Political Aspect

In this novel tells that Invasion Russian happened in 1979. Russian is killing a lot of people in Afghanistan. The constitutional monarchy had been abolished, replaced by a republic, led by a president of the republic. And then in 1995 Kabul belonged to Massoud, Rabbani, and the Mujahedin.

f. Science and Technology Aspect

Afghanistan is the country which that is in a condition of war. But the technology is advanced technology, such as technology of transportation and communication. In *The Kite Runner* novel also shows the modern technology there. For example the technology of transportation, they use car, bus, truck and plane. Television, Internet, Magazine and Newspaper are used to get

information or news. In this novel, Amir only watches the soldier of Taliban in television, Internet, Magazine and Newspaper. Another technology which is shown is communication. In this movie, the communication technology is shown by Rahim Khan in Pakistan using telephone to call Amir. And then in this novel, there is a Cinema Park to watching movie. That cinema shows the aboard or western of movie.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

1. Conclusion

The writer presents two conclusions that relate to the result of the analysis. It draws as follow:

First, based on its structural analysis, Khaled Hosseini wants to express his idea about ethnic discrimination. He makes the elaborations of the structural elements that are good in unity. They are namely character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view that are related to build the theme of the story that discrimination is an action from friction between ethnic groups and causes of social gaps in society. It can be seen from Pashtun as a respected person by Afghanistan people but Hazara get the bad treatment or discrimination in their life.

Second, based on sociological analysis, there are many differences between Pashtun and Hazara in getting equality in many social aspects. In that time, Hazara is always viewed as second class citizens, never gets something the same as Pashtun. Based on this novel, Khaled Hosseini wants to show that the ethnic discrimination is shown by the Pashtun who become the boss and Hazara as a Pashtun's servant.

2. Educational Implication

Educational implication is the important component to motivate people in the comprehend literature work especially on education world. In this paper, the researcher analyzes Hazara Discrimination Reflected In Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* Novel (2003) by using a sociological approach with

Hazara's discrimination as the issue. The writer conceive the novel by identify how Hazara's discrimination reflected to the novel. Thus, hopefully it is useful for education world. The pretension of educational implication in this paper explains as follows:

- a. This paper gives a new reference for the reader who wants to analyze the novel. The research of *The Kite Runner* novel is the second research in the college, thus it can helps the reader or other researcher in understanding the novel.
- b. For lecturers, it helps them to add their knowledge about *The Kite Runner* novel by using sociological approach. They know a new information about the correlation of *The Kite Runner* novel with the sociological approach that once ever discussed before.
- c. The researcher wants to give new contribution especially for literature work in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Hopefully, the research will be useful for the reader as the information about this novel or the other researcher who wants to conceive the content of the story in this novel.
- d. The researcher wants to students build a better academic atmosphere. They can learn about what the true meaning of sociological, subsequently they can apply their knowledge to their life, in order to their life to be better.
- e. Students, as members of groups usually ignored and as members of institutional settings in which they are often silenced, may find, for the first time, their lives, their experiences, their feelings, and their history explored. Students may find such relevant unsettling, contentious, validating, and liberating. It is likely they will emerge untouched.

3. Suggestion

The Kite Runner novel written by Khaled Hosseini is one of the interesting literary works. Reading and analyzing *The Kite Runner* give many valuable things. It gives the reader many sociological ideas in understanding life. It can be read both of men and women. After doing the research in *The Kite*

Runner novel using a sociological approach, the researcher suggests to the other researchers to make deeper researches about *The Kite Runner* novel by using different approach, such as an individual psychological approach because there is a struggle in Amir's life to be a good man under his guilty and past, or existentialist approach to find the meaning of Amir's life in fighting his regret. The researcher hopes this study can be useful for the readers and other researchers in widening the knowledge of literary studies.

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