BEING MUSLIM IN LONDON REFLECTED IN HANIF KUREISHI’S THE BLACK ALBUM NOVEL (1995): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The problem of this study is how being muslim in London in The Black Album novel. England at the end of the twentieth century reflected in Hanif Kureishi's seen with sociological approach. The purpose of this study was to analyze the structural elements of the novel and analyze the novel based on sociological approach.

This study is qualitative research, in this method the authors use two data source, namely primary and secondary data sources. Primary source use the data of the novel, secondary source is a sociological is book and includes materials related to the study. Method of data collection is library research and descriptive analysis techniques.

Based on the analysis, the researcher draws some conclusions as follows. First, in the novel, Hanif Kureishi shows the importance of religion in the society. Second, based on the Sociological analysis againts in social reality in the late twentieth century in England. Third, the social realities of England contribute the creation of characters and characterization, setting, plot, and theme of the story.

Keywords : Being Muslim in London and Sociological Approach
A. INTRODUCTION

1. Background of the Study

Every human being must have a religion, one of which is the religion of Islam. We live in the world must have a religion, because religion is a belief that us. One kind of religion is Muslims. Muslims living in different countries and cultures, both western culture and eastern culture. As in The Black Album novel tells about the story of Islamic fundamentalism, which a person trapped in a western life. Long before Islamic fundamentalism a household phrase, author Hanif Kureishi began visiting mosques in London and saw a herd of Asian youth. Hanif Kureishi is one of the best known British-Asian writers working for the stage and more recently, for the screen. Hanif Kureishi was born in London on 5 December 1954 and raised in Bromley, Kent. The Black Album novel by Hanif Kureishi is an interesting novel. There are four reasons that make this novel interesting to analyze. The first reason is the researcher interest with all of the contents of this novel either from character figures, setting, theme, style and plot. The second reason is the researcher chooses this novel to study because the researcher want to know the live of muslim and the different of religion. In here can inspired by the story of Shahid, Deedee Osgood and Riaz, etc. This story can teach us every person has right for muslim and different of religion. The third reason is the researcher chooses this novel to know about live muslim in london. In here the
figures Shahid from a Pakistani immigrant family. The last reasons is
the researcher would like to analyze the being muslim in sociological
theory. The researcher would like apply the sociological theory in the
issues what the researcher get. Therefore, the writer will analyze The
Black Album novel with the title: BEING MUSLIM IN LONDON
REFLECTED IN HANIF KUREISHI'S THE BLACK ALBUM
NOVEL (1995) : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

2. Literature Review

There are some researchers who conducted the research study
different from Hanif kureishi discussion. The first "Urban Experience
in the Fiction of Hanif Kureishi's" studied by Stephen Paul Hardy. The
second “A Funny Kind of English man Hanif Kureishi’s representation
of South Asians in British Cinema”. The last "A Question of Black or
White: Returning to Hanif Kureishi's The Black Album". This research
will be focus on sociological approach to observe being muslim here in
The Black Album novel. In this study the research give the tittle:
“Being Muslim in London Reflected in Hanif Kureishi’s The Black

3. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing being muslim in
London in Hanif Kureishi’s in The Black Album (1995) novel based on
sociological approach.

4. Problem Statement
In this research, the problem of the study is “How is being muslim in London reflected in *The Black Album* (1995) novel?

5. **Objective of the Study**

Based on the research problems, the researcher formulates the objective of the study are to analyze Hanif Kureishi’s *The Black Album* (1995) novel based on the structural elements of the novel and to describe being muslim in london in *The Black Album* (1995) novel based on sociological approach.

6. **Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are:

a. **Theoretical Benefit**

    This study the researcher hoped to give some information to the other researcher and new contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies in *The Black Album* (1995) novel.

b. **Practical Benefit**

    This study the researcher hoped to give deeper understanding in literary field in analyzing this novel and enrich both knowledge and experince of the writer, generally for other students especially on Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta interested in literary studies.

7. **Underlying Theory**

    In the underlying theory is divided into three parts, there are:
a. Notion of Sociology of Literature

   Sociology is a study which deals with society. Sociology studies the real life of the human beings in relation to their social, whereas literature is created based on phenomena as social life, as Laurenson and Swingewood (1972:12) states:

   As which sociology, literature is pre-eminently concerned with man’s social word, his adoption to it, and his desire to change it. Thus the novel, as the major literary genre of industrial society, can be seen as a faithful attempt to recreate the social world of man’s relation with his family and other institutions, the conflict and tension between groups and social classes.

b. Types of Sociology of Literature

   According to Laurenson and Swingewood (1972: 17-21), there are three types of sociology of literature: sociology of the writer, sociology of the reader, and sociology of society. The types are as follows:

1. Sociology of the Writer

   Sociology of the author discusses the writer’s position in the society, writer’s ideology, and responses toward his or her society and other things that deal with the writer as the creator of literary work (Damono, 1984: 3).

2. Sociology of the Reader

   Lowenthal (in Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 17) state that literature as a reflection of values and feeling, point of both to degree of change occurring in different societies as well as to
the manner in which individual become socialized into the social structure and their response, to this experience.

3. Sociology of Society

Sociology of society is the major that study of the subject is linkage between the text and its background. Sociology of society deals with the documentary aspects of literature provides a mirror to the certain age (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 13).

c. Theory of Muslim

According to Shobron (1997: 206) asserts that Islam is a perfect religion which can claim to be for the welfare of mankind. In Islam we are a Muslim should abide by the gods. According to Supriyadi (2008: 306) says that the euro became the center of a cold war between the forces of communist and non-communist.

1. Muslim Penetration

Historically, the spread of Muslim immigrants in Europe reflects the area of influence of past colonialism (Supriyadi, 2008: 309). In addition, immigrant communities which arrived in Britain from colonies and ex-colonies in Asia (Edmund Cusick, 1997: 290).

2. The Presence of Muslims in Europe

Counting the existence of Muslims in the West can be seen from the composition of the Muslim population in European
countries and religious facilities are available (Supriyadi, 2008: 308). After the Muslim immigrants are concentrated in certain areas of western European countries, they begin to feel important because you can socialize to other religions.

3. Religious Differences, Age and Sex

The decline of Christianity in British in not due to individuals losing their religion, but rather to process of generational change. A generation which was very religious, at least in terms of church attendance and social attitudes and which has been the main stay of church stay of church life in England (Edmund Cusick, 1997: 304).

B. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Type of the Study

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a research in which result of the descriptive data in the form of written and oral forms the observed object.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is The Black Album novel by Hanif Kureishi’s, published on 1996 by Scribner. It is analyzed by using siciological approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two type of data source namely primary and secondary data source, as follows:
a. **Primary Data**

   The primary data source of this study are *The Black Album* (1989) novel by Hanif Kureishi’s.

b. **Secondary Data**

   The secondary data source of this study are Synopsis of *The Black Album* novel, biography of Hanif Kureishi’s, and all information about this novel from internet.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   The technique of the data collection is done through library research. Some steps of collecting the data are:

   a. Reads the novel repeatedly

   b. Searching the Indonesian version novel from internet.

   c. Reading the novel to get more understanding.

5. **Technique of Data Analysis**

   The technique of the data analysis used in analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural element of the novel and sociological approach. Focus will be paid on the being moeslim.

C. **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

1. **Structural Elements of *The Black Album* Novel**

   a. **Character and Characterization**

      1) **Major Character**

         a) Shahid Hasan
Shahid Hassan is one of the most important characters that exist in *The Black Album* novel. He is a Pakistani immigrant, *Physically*, he has dark skin. *Mentally*, he is an independent and confident boy. It can be seen when he had to live alone distance from family after his father dead. He wants become more independent and find identity because he wanted a new start with new people in a new place.

*Socially*, He is a low feel. It can be seen when Shahid and his friend talk about rasis, then his friend provokes him to become fundamentalist moslem.

> “Everywhere I went I was the only dark-skinned person.” (TBA, 1995: 10)
> “After Papa ill and finally nine months ago he died of a heart attack. Without him the family had seemed to fly apart. Shahid had left his girlfriend acrimoniously.” (TBA, 1995: 16)

b) **Riaz**

Riaz is the leader of a fundamentalist group of moslems which is the meaning of his life. *Physically*, he looked fortiess years but he was at most ten years older. *Mentally*, he is a silent type. He has the gift to be eloquent in the right situation for instance when he holds his convincing speeches at the mosque. *Morally*, he is polite. He showing them people their right’s in a muslim community near Leeds.

> “Shahid’s initial impression had been that Riaz was in his fortiess, but when the sallow, balding man spoke, he could see that Riaz was at most ten years older, with a fastidious manner and weak, bookwormy eyes.” (TBA, 1995:2)
“This was a road he was becoming familiar with so far most of his notions about London were based on it during the day it was well known for its second hand shops and lined with rotten furniture.” (TBA, 1995: 2)

2) Minor Character

a) Zulma

Zulma is Chili’s wife. Her family is a really popular family in Karachi. Zulma is absolutely clever. She has talent, humor and intelligence and seems to be not a typical Pakistani woman. While she was living in Chili’s house she worked in the tourist agency moreover she controlled the administration.

“She is a wife from Chili, brother of Shahid Hasan. She is a popular family in Karachi.” (TBA, 1995: 7).

b) Hat

He have a soft voice and his face was as smoot. He which explain to Shahid ‘Atheism only a tiny minority thing anyway’.

“Hat had a soft voice and his face was as smooth as a young woman’s. Shahid remembered seeing him in a Class with his elbows on the desk, head in his hand, writing furiously.” (TBA, 1995: 31)

c) Dr. Brownlow

He is a history teacher at Shahid’s college in London. He also the husband from Deedee Osgood. His students call him a Marxist Communist Lenist, because he believes strongly on anti-racism and hates white domination.
“I think I’ve see Dr Andrew around.’ Shahid said. ‘But I don’t know who he is. Teaches history here. A couple of decades back he was at the cambridge University ‘The top student of his year. He hated them all, his own class, his parents-everything. He come to this college to help us, the underprivileged niggers adv wogs an’ margin people. He’s not a bad guy-for Marxist-Communist.” (TBA, 1995: 32)

b. Setting

Setting is the place of happen or incident. According to Nurgiyantoro (1995: 227) setting can be classified into three parts: setting of place, setting of time, and social setting.

1) Setting of Place

a) London

The place where the story began. He came to the London after the father dead (TBA, 1995: 7), and he wanted a new start with new people in a new place (TBA, 1995: 16).

b) Victorian

There is place where Shahid lecture. In the next morning on his way to Deedee Osgood’s he looked forward to her lectures. The college was a cramped Victorian building, an old secondary school, and just twenty minutes walk away.

c) Flat

The place where Shahid and Chad have a conversation about faith in God, which he must make a decision to option the group's mission fundamentalism or choose to go with Deedee who do not learn much about their religion.

2) Setting of Time
The setting of time The Black Album is not mentioned in detail. The writer considers this novel is set approximately in 1989 until 1995 years. What is so fantastic about that novel is that it captures the moment, the real era-changing moment, that was 1989.

3) Social Setting

Social life in *The Black Album* reflects the social conditions of the poor environment, which is filled with faith issues and cultural life of freedom. Where immigrants founded the Muslim community, and the London poor life style habits and free.

c. Point of View

The point of view of *The Black Album* (1995) novel that was directed by Hanif Kureishi’s use the first person narrator's in point of view. In the story he participated in his novel that inspired him about Muslim fundamentalism. He visited the mosque in London, where many young immigrants raised choose a strict religious code that denied them the pleasure of the society in which they live.

d. Plot

1) Exposition

*The Black Album* (1995) novel tells about a young Pakistani student the name is Shahid Hasan, he continue their education in college London to meet with neighbors Riaz, who was a leader of
Muslim fundamentalist groups. He lived in the difference in beliefs, which makes life become damaged. He's trapped in a London night life that is free and unaffected in drug, sex, and even a party tonight, and she was not concerned with belief.

2) **Complication**

There are two conflicts in this part, external conflict and internal conflict. External conflict occurs in Shahid Hasan with Chad. On a conversation Shahid said that he wanted to be a racist, but Chad did not like the words spoken by Shahid. He confuse, he is in a spiritual battle between liberalism and fundamentalism. This raises the conflict.

3) **Climax**

The climax of this novel is arises when he must decide whether to continue with the mission fundamentalism Muslim or a woman with different beliefs. But Shahid still want to find the nightlife in London, which is full of life freely.

4) **Resolution**

After Shahid know about the life of Deedee Osgood he decided to stay with him, and visited Shahid mother home to live with his mother. Shahid and Deedee are planning to spend the weekend in Kent with Shahids mother to get away from it all.

e. **Style**
There are three parts which have in style, namely: first, Sentence construction, which is used by Shahid Hasan in The Black Album is uses long and short sentences. Second, Grammatical Structure The grammatical structure in The Black Album uses standard grammatical structure in dialogue and narration. Last, Figurative Language can be classified as follows:

1) **Simile**

Simile compares two things that absolutely different (Perrine, 1977: 61). This similes used in The Black Album are as follows:

“And at the same time they despise their own work and laugh at their customers for boiling their ugly bodies on foreign beaches.” (TBA, 1995: 8)

2) **Personification**

Personification is the figurative language that is giving the attribute of human beings to an object or concept. There are as follows:

“He laid out his jacket and sat down under a muddy light. He would note down whatever took his interest, as if making a record could keep at bay the excesses of reality, like a talisman.” (TBA, 1995: 16)

3) **Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is exaggerated statements make for effect and not intend to be taken literally. (Perrine, 1977: 63)

“For a moment passion flared beneath Riaz’s cool persistence, and he slapped his hand on the table.” (TBA, 1995: 7)

4) **Repetition**
“People yearned for romance, desire, feeling. They wanted to be kissed, stroke, sucked, held and penetrated more than they could say. The platform of Baker Street Station was Arcadia itself.” (TBA, 1995: 124)

5) Theme

Theme in *The Black Album* is “The Difference of religion and the freedom of life”. In this theme suitable with the approach used in the discussion. Where a religion is a belief that we are closer to the creator. While the freedom of life related to moral values as a human being should be able to maintain themselves and are able to maintain the trust. Religion is important in the life every people. Without religion society is impossible.

2. Sociological Analysis

a. Social Aspect

In *The Black Album* shows the social environment of London varies. This is shown on the lives of British people who live around the luxurious surroundings were nice. Those of the rich environment that can do anything they want.

“The many rooms in the six-floor building were filled with Africans, Irish people, Pakistanis and even a group of English students. The various tenants played music, smoked dope and filled the dingy corridors with the smell of bargain aftershave and boiled goat, which odour, amongst others, caused the wallpaper to droop from the walls like ancient scrolls.” (TBA, 1995: 1)

b. Economic Aspect

In *The Black Album* did not indicate the specific economic conditions, but further demonstrate the impact and economic life of the community. In this case it can be shown when Shahid was in a
London neighborhood life. Before coming to London, he was thinking about the rough life of London with a low economy.

“On his first day he had seen a poor woman, wearing only plastic sandals on her feet, drag three children across the street and, there on the other side, remove her shoes and beat them across the arms.” (TBA, 1995: 3)

c. Religion Aspect

In Britain, Christianity remains the dominant religion and most practiced in the twentieth century. In The Black Album shows it in a story that happened to Shahid Hasan and Deedee Osgood. Where they are different people and different countries united against religion but want the difference.

“Shahid said, I wanted to be a racist.” (TBA, 1995: 10)

“Without religion society is impossible. And without God people think they can sin with impunity. There’s no morality. There’s only extremity and ingratitude and hard-heartedness, like beneath this Thatcherism.” (TBA, 1995: 33)

d. Cultural Aspect

Pluralism in this case is an aspect of culture that supports the religious differences. Where every race there are different religions and beliefs in accordance with the environmental community. In The Black Album shows that two countries with different between cultural aspects and dominant beliefs. In this case the London society is more concerned with free lifestyle without targeting a specific religion

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

1. Conclusion
After analyzing the structural elements of *The Black Album* by using sociological approach, it can be seen the some conclusion. First, the writer will be respond to the meaning of the content in novel to the social reality of the life of the author of the literary work. Secondly, *The Black Album* describing differences in beliefs that has been happening in the community. This can damage the relationship between Muslim and non Moe slim. Third, sociological analysis how differences in beliefs to words follow human being. Hanif Kureishi in creating this novel took a picture of the lives of people those who live in London.

Then based on sociological in this novel, the problem occurs when Shahid Hasan has different lifestyle and religion. Meanwhile the novelist interesting to analyze. In this Research, researchers to analyze this novel by using sociological approach that happens in their communities.

2. **Suggestion**

*The Black Album* is a famous novel, because the story that appropiate with the real life in the world. This novel is able to give a picture of life, it can be terms of education. In this novel to accordance with the social realities of public life, where we have to be tolerant of people with different beliefs and be able to work together in adversity. We can appreciate and be tolerant towards fellow human beings with different beliefs. Therefore this novel is very interesting to be analyze
with sociological approach because direct to social life in environment life.

After the reading and learning *The Black Album* novel, we can conclude that the religion just one, that is Islam. Because of there are many different from people we must tolerant to other people in this live between Islam or non islam.
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