

**PROTEST AGAINST ETHNIC CLEANSING
IN ANNE FRANK'S *THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL* (1991):
A MARXIST PERSPECTIVE**



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'ILMI NAFI'AH PANCARANI

A 320100016

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
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UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

Jl. A. Yani Tromol Pos I – Pabelan, Kartasura Telp (0272) 717417, Fax : 715448 Surakarta 57102

Website: <http://www.ums.ac.id>

Email: ums@ums.ac.id

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Yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini pembimbing skripsi/tugas akhir:

Nama : Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S. (Pembimbing I)

NIP/NIK : 410

Nama : Mauliy Halwat Hikmat, Ph.D. (Pembimbing II)

NIP/NIK : 727

Telah membaca dan mencermati naskah artikel publikasi ilmiah, yang merupakan ringkasan skripsi/tugas akhir dari mahasiswa:

Nama : 'ILMI NAFI'AH PANCARANI

NIM : A 320 100 016

Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

Judul Skripsi : **PROTEST AGAINST ETHNIC CLEANSING IN ANNE FRANK'S *THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL* (1991): MARXIST PERSPECTIVE**

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Pembimbing I

Pembimbing II

Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S.

410

Mauliy Halwat Hikmat, Ph.D.

727

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'ILMI NAFF'AH PANCARANI

A 320 100 016

Advisor I : Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S.

Advisor II : Mauly Halwat Hikmat, Ph.D.

Department of English Education

Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

pancarani12@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The study focuses on the protest against ethnic cleansing in the Netherlands. Protest against ethnic cleansing here means the effort of the Jews to protest the conditions that require them away from their own countries, the Netherlands. The objectives of this study are to analyze the diary based on the structural elements and to analyze the diary based on the Marxist perspective. This study belongs to qualitative method. In this method, the data source consists of two categories, they are primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is the diary itself. Then, the secondary data source is about marxist theory and all relevant materials in the diary. Both of data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. Based on the analysis, the researcher draws the following conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis of each element, 'The Diary of a Young Girl' shows that Anne Frank delivers a moral message that ethnic cleansing is against human rights and human nature. The theme is supported by the style from choice of words to sentence construction that they compose a good unity. Second, based on Marxist analysis, it is clear that Anne Frank in the diary is protesting against the oppression of the German Nazi over the Jews. This diary represents the statement of the author's own class, being oppressed by the ruling Nazis.

Keywords: Ethnic cleansing, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, Marxist Perspective.

A. Introduction

The Diary of a Young Girl is a diary by Anne Frank published in 1991. It is a translation of a diary from Dutch. It is translated by Susan Massotty, and edited by Otto Frank and Mirjam Pressler. It consists of 182 pages. Firstly, this diary came out in 1947 in the Netherlands by Contact publisher, Amsterdam, entitled *Het Achterhuis* (Dutch). This diary is also translated from Dutch to 67 languages in the world.

The Diary of a Young Girl tells about the Frank family, the Van Daan family, and a dentist who went into hiding in a secret place in Achterhuis, Amsterdam, when Nazi occupation in the Netherlands during World War II. After hiding for two years, they were betrayed by someone and brought to a concentration camp where all of the citizens of Achterhuis died, except Anne's father, Otto Frank. After the war ended, Otto Frank, who was still alive, returned to Amsterdam, and his assistant, Miep Gies, gave Anne's diary that she found. Anne's father tried to make his daughter's diary into a book and publish it because he knew that his daughter wanted to be a writer.

There are some reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this diary. Firstly, this diary tells about the history of World War II. Secondly, *The Diary of a Young Girl* tells about the fact story and the major character of this diary is the own writer, Anne Frank. Thirdly, the writer of this diary is still young, thirteen years, and it is interesting. Fourth, this diary tells the story of life in a small room on the limitations of deprivation due to terrible

conditions out there because of the war and it can teach us to be able to survive in any difficult situation.

The researcher uses the Marxist perspective as an approach to analyze this diary, because the story of this diary is about protest against ethnic cleansing. So, the researcher conducts a research entitled: **PROTEST AGAINST ETHNIC CLEANSING IN ANNE FRANK'S *THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL* (1991): MARXIST PERSPECTIVE.**

After analysis *The Diary of a Young Girl*, the study will focus on the protest against ethnic cleansing in the Netherlands. Protest against ethnic cleansing here means the effort of the Jews to protest the conditions that require them away from their own countries, the Netherlands. The researcher will analyze the diary based on the structural elements and Anne's protest against ethnic cleansing when she and her family try to save themselves by hiding in a secret place as the main character in Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* using a Marxist Perspective.

The researcher gets two the previous study. The first from Jumia Prihatiwi (Sebelas Maret University). She wrote a thesis entitled "**A TRANSLATION ANALYSIS ON ENGLISH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION IN *'THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL (THE DEFINITIVE EDITION)'* TRANSLATED INTO *'CATATAN HARIAN ANNE FRANK (EDISI PALING LENGKAP)'***".

http://dglib.uns.ac.id/pengguna.php?mn=detail&d_id=22646.

The second previous study is by Judith Hayn from Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, USA. The title of her thesis is “***SHADOW LIFE: A PORTRAIT OF ANNE FRANK AND HER FAMILY***”.

From the analysis above, the researcher tries to make a different analysis. The researcher uses the Marxist perspective to analyze the data and using *The Diary of a Young Girl* as the object. The researcher analyzes Protest against Ethnic Cleansing in Anne Frank’s *The Diary of a Young Girl* (1991): Marxist Perspective.

Underlying theory, Wellek and Warren (1962: 54), said that literature is social institution using as its medium language, a social creation. It means that literature is constructed from the interactional which happen in human being life.

Marxism, or Scientific Socialism, is the name given to the body of ideas first worked out by Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895). In their totality, these ideas provide a fully worked-out theoretical basis for the struggle of the working class to attain a higher form of human society – socialism (Sewell, 2002: 1). Marxism is theory by Karl Marx which is based on the basic thought of him. He is as the first pioneer of Marxism. The next pioneer of Marxism is Friedrich Engels who support this idea and the person who continued Marx’s aspiration of the revolution. On the other hand, Suseno (2001: 5) said that “Marxism is the term for ideology about the relation between economic, social, and political concept.

B. Research Method

Type of data in this research is textual data. It consists of word, phrase and sentences. The data source consists of two categories, they are primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is the diary itself. The secondary data source is about marxist and all relevant materials in the diary. The researcher uses note-taking technique to collect the data. The technique of analyzing data is descriptive analysis that analyzes structural elements of the diary and the Marxist perspective of work.

C. Research, Findings and Discussion

It deals with the Marxist analysis. It will elaborate the Marxist criticism proposed by Karl Marx. Those are Dialectical Materialism, Historical Materialism, Class Struggle, Alienation, and Revolution. This chapter divided into two parts, namely Marxist Analysis and Discussion.

1. Findings

a. Dialectical Materialism

In dialectical materialism, the history of society consists of thesis, antithesis and synthesis. Thesis is the first idea, concept or argument deals with problem. Sometimes, people accept or maybe denying a thesis. They accept them as an argument, in the contrary, they denying them maybe as confirmation (the righting as supplement). Thesis and antithesis will formulate synthesis, which

becomes the solution of the contradiction between thesis and antithesis.

The thesis in Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* is when the arrival of the German to the Netherlands which is the beginning of suffering for the Jews. It makes all the Dutch people should be subject to Germany. Due to Hitler's anti-Jewish regulations, Jews must wear a yellow star as a sign and to distinguish them from the others. This makes the Jews is very limited in doing anything.

That is the example of how miserable the Jews who feel marginalized in social community. The problem above formulates the thesis of dialectical materialism.

Antithesis is the situation or the fact that it should not happen. The antithesis in Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* is that the Dutch people did not want the German arrivals to their country, which then colonize and do as they please, including getting rid of the Jews from the country where they live.

This example shows that there are differences that are very stark contrast between the rulers and the common people. It really does not want that to happen, and the Jews cannot do anything.

The synthesis comes to formulate thesis and antithesis. It represents a compromise between the situation that happen and the situation that should not happen. The synthesis in *The Diary of a Young Girl* is that Germany must exit from the colonized countries and

one of them is the Netherlands. In order that the Jews can live freely as usual without any pressure or fear will be removed.

b. Historical Materialism

The definition of historical materialism can be reflected in the story of *The Diary of a Young Girl*. It can be inflected in character and characterization. The character in *The Diary of a Young Girl* is divided into two groups, they are oppressor and oppressed. They come from the ruler and have a power. Most of them use their power and authority to exploit an ethnic group. While the oppressed is has not power and authority. They have no choice. They can only obey. If they do not want the oppressed, they have to do something to get out of the situation, one way is by hiding.

Position can changes a person's attitude. A person who has become a ruler will definitely act in accordance with his own will regardless of the positions of others, even just ordinary people.

Historical materialism happens when Hitler made anti-Jewish regulations. This makes the Jews be limited in doing anything, because they have to wear a yellow stars a sign and to distinguish them from the others.

Ruler can arbitrarily claimed the freedom of the Jews, and the Jews cannot do anything as a rebel. When the Dutch invaded, the Nazis get the most benefit. one of them is they can at will use the Jews

as forced labor without pay a penny, even they will be destroyed slowly by gas.

c. Class Struggle

If a person or group feels self-harmed or restrained, they must take the fight and in this case, it means like a class struggle, because they want to get out of the limitations that have claimed their independence. According to the statement, class struggle happens between two classes, there are high class and lower class.

Class struggle in *The Diary of a Young Girl* mostly dominated by Anne Frank and her family who Jews, want to hide a secret place in order that they are not caught by the Nazis, because if they are caught, they will be separated and will be slaves and be killed.

Although Anne and her family had successful to move to the place of hiding, they do not necessarily relieved, because of their secret place is a warehouse in an office, so they had to struggle to silent during the day, in order that their whereabouts are not known by others.

The phenomena shows how the struggle of Anne Frank and her family to save their life from the Nazis were very brutal and without mercy. Although they live in their own country, but after the Nazis came they like intruders.

The acts shows that someone should not give up and surrender to the circumstances, if there is still a gap to save themselves, it should and must do to save themselves from the cruel ruler.

d. Alienation

In general, Alienation means separation or separated from the environment or society. In other word, Alienation is the process whereby people become foreign to the world they are living in.

In *The Diary of a Young Girl*, this condition happens when Anne and her family had successful to move to the place of hiding. In this place, they feel alien and remote from the outside world. Although the secret place not far from their home, but because they moved to hide, they must to try to make other people do not know about their whereabouts.

Finally, in order that others or neighbors do not know of their existence, they have to talk in whispers, and must not engage in activities that create noise during the day.

e. Revolution

Revolution is final result fromdialectical materialism, historical materialism, class struggle and alienation. This is the best result to make better social condition. Revolution is an indication to the society which survived from crisis. On the other hand, revolution is complete change of condition where a group or some groups have finished their struggle, especially about struggle of class. Marx is

Stalin (1938), states that The proletariat contest with the bourgeoisie is compelled, by the force of circumstances, to organize itself as a class. So, it means that the proletariats become the ruling class, and there is a revolution that forced an effort to against it.

In *The Diary of a Young Girl*, revolution happens when Anne and her family, the Van Daan family, and Alfred Dussel began to habitual to living in the “Secret Annex”. Although the place was very small and cramped, but slowly they could enjoy the place like a home, not a hiding place. This is done so that they feel at home and still feel safe.

The revolution is occurred because the struggle of Anne and her family, the Van Daan family, and Alfred Dussel to survive in the “Secret Annex”.

2. Discussion

After the researcher has analyzed *The Diary of a Young Girl* by using Marxist perspective, it is clear that this diary reflects atrocities against the ruler of the Jews. In addition, Anne Frank would like to explain a particular view of the issues Marxist, dialectical materialism, historical materialism, alienation, class struggle, and revolution. Anne Frank emphasizes the suffering of the Jews after the arrival of the Nazis to the Netherlands.

In the diary, Anne Frank put her position in the position of the Jews, the people whose lives were restricted after the arrival of the Nazis and must try to hide from the Nazis. It means that the writer is in a position of ordinary people, and the Nazis is in a position of power. The story in the diary ends with a sad ending, because at the end, Anne Frank and her family who had been trying to hide were eventually caught by the Nazis, and they were all sent to a death camp. In the end, only Anne's father survived.

Anne Frank expressed most of the criticisms about the socio-economic and political by creating a character that is central to the plot builds. It can be seen from the plot, the story was originally built with the introduction of each character, and the arrival of the Nazis to the Netherlands. After that, the story develop towards a plan that would hide the Frank family to the "Secret Annex".

Based Anne Frank's perspective, politics is like a power game at that time. For anyone who had the power, they were able to do anything. Political aspects is a major source of conflict in society at that time. So, protest against ethnic cleansing is a key issue in *The Diary of a Young Girl*. It is reinforced by the writer who is Jews, so she wanted to express the overflow of her heart in the diary.

Andreopoulos (2001), he states that:

Ethnic cleansing, the attempt to create ethnically homogeneous geographic areas through the deportation or forcible displacement of persons belonging to particular ethnic groups. Ethnic cleansing sometimes involves the removal of all physical vestiges of the targeted group through the destruction of monuments, cemeteries, and houses of worship (<http://global.britannica.com/ethnic-cleansing>).

In the result of the analysis above, the conclusion of the discussion in *The Diary of a Young Girl* reflects the tension and fear of the Jews who had to live in the shadow of death, who actually wanted to protest existing ethnic cleansing in their own country.

D. Conclusion and Implication

1. Conclusion

After analyzing *The Diary of a Young Girl*, the researcher draw some conclusions. First is based on the structural analysis. It is evident that in *The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank delivers a moral message that ethnic cleansing is against human rights and human nature. The theme is supported by the life style from choice of words to sentence construction that they compose a good unity.

Second is based on the Marxist analysis. It is clear that Anne Frank in *The Diary of a Young Girl* is protesting against the oppression of the German Nazi over the Jews. *The Diary of a Young Girl* represents the statement of the author's own class, being oppressed by the ruling Nazis.

After analyzing *The Diary of a Young Girl*, the writer concludes that it is a great diary, because this diary tells about some Jews who want to save their life from Nazi pursuit, and the content of the diary is real. The researcher suggests the other researchers to make deeper research about the diary from another perspective, such as an Individual Psychology perspective. The other researcher can analyze the diary viewed from individual psychology aspects of Anne Frank.

Finally, the researcher hopes that the reader can take the lesson from this study and it can be useful to the readers as comparison to the other research in widening the knowledge of literary studies.

2. Pedagogical Implication

The Diary of a Young Girl is recommended to read because the diary records the sequence of World War II. The story will make the readers feel admiration, because Frank family, Van Daan family and Alfred Dussel that live in a secret place on the limitations of deprivation due to terrible conditions because of the war can teach us to be able to survive in any difficult condition, and the readers can know much deeper about what happened long time ago when Adolf Hitler was an administrator in the Netherlands, and how he eliminated Jews and killed them. For readers, it can become additional knowledge about World War II, and for education world, it can be used as a reference for other researcher in doing research.

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