EQUALITY REFLECTED AT THIS EARTH OF MANKIND NOVEL BY PRAMOEDEYA ANANTA TOER (1975): A MARXIST APPROACH

ARTICLE

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department.

by

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2015
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SUMMARY


This research paper is proposed to analyze the equality in novel entitled This Earth of Mankind using Marxist Approach. It is done by establishing an objective analyzing the novel based on the marxist approach. This research is descriptive qualitative research. There are two kinds of Data sources in this research, namely the primary and the secondary data sources. The primary data source is This Earth of Mankind novel written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer and translated by Max Lane. Meanwhile the secondary data sources are materials other sources such as books, dictionary, internet and journal which is related to the study. The techniques of data collection in this research are summarizing, paraphrasing, and documenting the data and this study is analyzed using descriptive analysis.

Based on the analysis, the researcher draws the following conclusions. Based on marxist analysis, the author reflects the social reality of Indonesian society during Dutch colonialism period. Trough this novel, the author presents the inequality and equality which is achieved by Natives in Dutch colonialism.

Keywords: Equality, This Earth of Mankind, Marxist Approach
A. Introduction

Equality is essential in every people’s life. Equality refers to the state of being equal in opportunities, status or right. It may also refer to the condition of being equal in amount or number or it may be a symbolic expression of the fact that two quantities in an equation are equal. Christiano (2008: 13) says that once equality is properly understood it can be shown to be the basis of a constitutional order in which each person has an equal say over the world she shares with others and which respects fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. Equality basically means access or provision of equal opportunities, where individuals are protected from being discriminated against.

*This Earth of Mankind* novel published in 1975 and within 12 days this novel become a popular novel not only in Indonesia, but it is also popular in another country. It is interesting to be read because this novel reveals the political and social condition of Indonesia between colonial and independent government. It deals with themes of power that makes people respected and have authority in controlling the society. This novel has been translated in 33 languages and ever banned in 1981 by the government. In September 2005, this novel was published again in Indonesia by Lantern Dipantara.

*This Earth of Mankind* novel is written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, a famous of the prolific authors in the history of Indonesian literature. Pramoedya Ananta Toer was born in Blora, Central Java on February 6th 1925. He was studied at Radio Vocational School in Surabaya, then worked as a typist for the Japanese newspaper in Jakarta during the Japanese occupation of Indonesia. And he died on April 30th 2006 in Jakarta.

*This Earth of Mankind* novel tells about Minke, a native boy who has a mindset like an European, he was not the ordinary indigenous breeds, his blood still flows the blood of the kings of Java and so, he could get an education at HBS. In Mellema’s family he meets Annelies, a girl who is so beautiful, her beauty was mentioned more than the beauty of the Queen of the Netherlands at the time, Queen Wilhelma. She was the daughter of a wonderful mother, a mother who is so capable of taking care of a lot of work.
including *Boerderij Boeitzenzorg* after Mr Mellema, his master, his husband who is not valid, turned into a crazy people who have no care about anything around him. Minke and *Nyai* are both proud, highly educated, strong-willed individuals, who refuse to accept the hierarchy that parcels out freedom and power according to the amount of European blood running through one's veins. They fight back European laws firmly as they could. They fight for their justice, even they know that they will lose. In the end, Annelies was brought into Netherland and *Nyai* has no right for her daughter and wealth anymore.

There are some reasons the researcher analyzes this novel. Firstly, because the popularity of this novel which has been translated in 33 languages. Secondly, this novel shows the condition of Indonesian people which is not treated equally. Thirdly, because the courage of Indonesian people to get their right and equality in front of European and the last because this novel is a realistic historical novel, which gives us the real condition and situation of Indonesian people during Dutch Colonialism.

Dealing with all of the description above, the researcher uses Marxist approach. According to Suseno (2001: 5) Marxism is the term for ideology about the relation between economic, social and political concept. Marxist is an ideology that studies the social, economical, historical, revolutionary problem based on the social conflict in the society. So, the researcher gives the title: **EQUALITY REFLECTED AT THIS EARTH OF MANKIND NOVEL BY PRAMOEDYA ANANTA TOER (1975): A MARXIST APPROACH.**

The problem statement of this research is How is equality reflected at *This Earth of Mankind* novel based on its structural elements and based on marxist analysis. The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows: a) To analyze equality reflected at *This Earth of Mankind* novel based on its structural elements, b) To analyze equality reflected at *This Earth of Mankind* novel using a marxist approach.
The research on *This Earth of Mankind* novel has been conducted by some students. The first study is conducted by Rere Azizah, an Airlangga University student, in her research paper published on May 25, 2011, entitled *Complex oppression Towards Sanikem as Depicted in Toer’s ‘Earth of Mankind’*. This study discusses the existence of the oppression toward the Javanese women during the Dutch’s colonialism in Indonesia. The second study is conducted by Panji Aryo entitled *Analisis Struktural Roman Bumi Manusia Karya Pramodya Ananta Toer*. This study focuses on the structural elements of the novel which is analyzed deeply. This study is suitable for every age of education who wants to read *Bumi Manusia*’s novel. Another study entitled *Analisis Novel “Bumi Manusia” Karya Pramoedya Ananta Toer (Ditinjau dari Segi Sosiologi Historis)* which is conducted by Nur Hayati and published in UNS Digital Library. This study focuses on historical facts and sociocultural values which exist inside the novel.

B. Research Method

In this research method, the researcher analyzes Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s *This Earth of Mankind* novel (1975). The researcher applies the descriptive qualitative research in this study. The steps in conducting this research are: a) determining the object of the study, b) determining the data sources, c) determining technique of the data collection, and d) determining the technique of data analysis. The object of the study is *This Earth of Mankind* novel (1975) by Pramoedya Ananta Toer which is analyzed using Marxist approach. There are two types of data namely primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is *This Earth of Mankind* novel by Pramoedya Ananta Toer and the secondary data sources are from other sources related to the study, such as: website, dictionary, journals and some books that support the analysis.

In conducting the study, the researcher uses the technique of collecting data as follows: 1) Reading the novel to understand the novel deeply, 2) Determining the character that will be analyzed, 3) Reading some related books to find out the theory and information which is required, 4) Taking a
note of the necessary part in both the primary and secondary data sources. 5) Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis, 6) Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion. The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the novel and marxist criticism

C. Finding and Discussion

*This Earth of Mankind* novel is written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer and it is translated by Max Lane in 1982. It is interesting to be read because this novel reveals the political and social condition of Indonesia between colonial and independent government. It deals with themes of power that makes people respected and have authority in controlling the society. This novel tells about the condition of Indonesian society in Dutch Colonialism Period. This novel describes the cultures between Indonesia and Dutch and also the law which makes Natives powerless.

The theme of *This Earth of Mankind* novel is human’s power and authority win against human’s effort and desire. This novel shows rules and law in Indonesia during Dutch Colonialism Period. Natives do not have power to fight against the law of White Court. The authority belongs to European though the land belongs to Indonesian people. The author describes how unfair *Nyai* Ontosoroh’s life is. She raises Annelies and controls her company by herself but she can not own both of them or one of them, because of the law which is made by White Court.

The major characters in this novel are Minke, *Nyai* Ontosoroh and Annelies. Minke is a Native who studies at H.B.S. school. He is clever and has talent in writing. Though he is a Native, he dislikes javanese rules which makes him as a weak person. He is against the tradition of Java which everyone must walk bare foot on his knees in front of Bupati. He loves science and literature. Annelies reflects an indo beautiful girl who is dependent on her mother and loves Minke. While *Nyai* Ontosoroh is native woman who is clever and has a maindset like an European woman.
There are fifteen minor characters who help the major character in building the story to be more interested. They are Herman Mellema, Robert Mellema, Robert Suurhof, Jean marais, May Marais, Magda Peters, Darsam, Babah Ah Tjong, Doctor Martinet, Minke’s Father, Minke’s Mother, sarah and Miriam de la Croix, Mr. Assistant Resident B de la Croix, Maurits Mellema and Maiko. Each character has their own characters, such as protagonist and antagonist which can complete the story.

The author creates settings of time in the novel in Dutch colonialism period in Indonesia. It can be seen when women become concubine. Concubine is illegitimate wife which is had by European. Almost of the story happens in Wonokromo at Nyai Ontosoroh’s house, the other event happens in Minke’s boarding house which is located at Kranggan, Jean Marais’s house, Minke’s family house in B city, Ah Tjong’s house, and H.B.S. school.

The plot of the novel begins with the introducing of Minke. When he visits Nyai Ontosoroh’s house in Wonokromo with Robert Suurhof, some problems come to his life. There Minke meets with Annelies and Nyai Ontosoroh at the first time. Annelies feels comfort besides Minke and asks him to visit her again. When Minke decides to stay in Nyai Ontosoroh’s house, a lot of conflicts occur. He becomes a gossip in society, he also gets some problem in his school. He is almost expelled from his school because he has stayed in Nyai Ontosoroh’s house and has a relationship with Annelies. Minke also quarrels with his father. His father disagrees if Minke stays at Nyai’s house and has a deep relationship with her family. Besides, Annelies also gets some problem in herself. Annelies has a deep feeling and she loves Minke too much. She entrusts her fate and life to Minke. It makes her can not live apart from Minke. In the middle of the story, Herman Mellema is found died by poison. He is murdered by Babah Ah Tjong. Then, Maurits Mellema asks Herman Mellema’s inheritance and he has the guardian of Annelies. This story ends with the departure of Annelies to Netherlands. Minke and Nyai Ontosoroh can not defend and they must realize that they lost against the law of White Court.
Minke is used as the first person participant point of view in this novel who tells the story himself. Max Lane as the translator uses standard Australian English so the reader can understand the story easily. While Pramoedya Ananta Toer uses some figurative language such as simile, hyperbole, metaphor and personification to make the story more interesting.

The analysis above shows all of the structural elements of *This Earth of Mankind* novel such as character and characterization, plot, setting, style, point of view and theme as the unity which are connected each other. The characters of the novel make the story alive. It makes this novel become very interesting to be read.

Marxist analysis is represented by the author by creating the major and minor characters reflect the condition of Indonesian society which treated injustice and inegal by Europeans during Dutch colonialism. Pramoedya also uses them to describe dialectical materialism, historical materialism, class struggle, alienation, revolution and also the equality which is achieved by Natives in that time.

Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s *This Earth of Mankind* novel sets in 1975, in which Indonesia is still colonized by Dutch. In that time, Natives are inferior to Europeans. They are hated by Europeans because they are Natives. Natives have to bent down to Europeans because Dutch controls and applies rules which make disadvantage for Natives. But, there are some intelligent Natives who disagree with that condition. They think that they are as able as Europeans and want to get equal treatments with Europeans. By showing their ability in front of Europeans, Natives are knowledged able to stand beside Europeans. Natives have capability which same and equal with Europeans.

The society in that time are dividing into two groups, namely The white group and Natives groups. The white groups are considered as the highest social class who have power and authority in controlling Indonesia. Meanwhile, Natives are oppressed by Europeans and has the lower social
class. Natives are powerless in their own country. It makes Natives are always treated injustice and inequal in society by Europeans.

To make Natives’s life better, they struggle to get equality and power in their environment. Pramoedya presented the class struggle between Natives toward Europeans in getting their right and treated Equal by Europeans. The struggle between Natives toward Europeans makes Natives are treated equally by Europeans in several aspects such as civil, political and social aspects. Civil equality is depicted by Minke and Nyai Ontosoroh. They are treated equal by Europeans and get their right such as right for getting education, controlling and owning the company and also right for declaring their opinion freely.

Political equality is gained when Natives are trusted to join and participate in European’s government to become a Bupati or Patih. Meanwhile the social equality is Natives are treated equal by Europeans in social life. In the end of the story, Native’s existence, ability and capability are acknowledged and respected by Europeans.

Finally, the conclusion of the discussion in This Earth of Mankind novel reflects the inequality which is gained by Natives and their effort to be treated equal by Europeans and finally Natives show to Europeans that their ability and their power are as same as with Europeans in every aspects of life.

D. Conclusion

After analyzing This Earth of Mankind novel by using marxist approach, the researcher draws the following conclusion. The structural elements of the novel creates unity which are connected each other and makes this novel interested to be read.

Based on Marxist analysis, this research shows that This Earth of Mankind has a close relationship with the social reality of Indonesian society during Dutch colonialism which is indicated by grouping class into European and Native. In this novel, Europeans are described as Dutch people who have power and authority to control the life of Natives. They take everything which are beneficial to them. Meanwhile, Natives are the original of
Indonesian people who are inferior to Europeans. They are powerless besides Europeans and their existence are not acknowledged by Europeans. They struggle to get equality in any aspects of life to change their life into a better life and equal with the Europeans as a human being.

Based on equality analysis, the author shows that although Natives are powerless toward Europeans, but they are also achieved equality by Europeans, such as civil equality, political equality and social equality. Civil equality is depicted by Minke and Nyai Ontosoroh. They are treated equal by Europeans and get their right such as right for getting education, controlling and owning the company and also right for declaring their opinion freely. Political equality is gained when Natives are trusted to join and participate in European’s government to become a Bupati or Patih, to control their own districts. Meanwhile the social equality is reflected when Natives are treated equal by Europeans in social life. Their existence, ability and capability are acknowledged and respected by Europeans.
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