

**CRITICISM AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
IN C. HOPE FLINCHBAUGH'S NOVEL
DAUGHTER OF CHINA (2002)**

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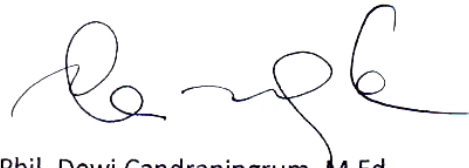
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ABSTRACT

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This research deals with the following aims: (1) describing the context of *Daughter of China*, (2) explaining the criticism of the author against violation of human rights, (3) describing the author's evangelical mission. The qualitative research is outlined by the descriptive method. The writer of the thesis collected and categorized the data obtained. The first step was exposing the context of United States of America and People's Republic of China Society at the end of the twentieth century. Then it was followed by the analysis of the author's criticism against human right violation and the author's evangelical mission. The result of this research are as follows: (1) there was correlation between author's social background and intention and the social context of People's Republic of China and United States of America, (2) author's criticism about human rights violation can be categorized into upper class intimidation, social disparity, the rigid government rules which consist of One Child Policy and loyalist communist obligation, gender inequality which consist of abandoned baby girl and attitude toward girls' education, starvation of children's orphanage, the limitation of religious freedom, and the peasants' obligation to the government, (3) The evangelical mission conveyed by the author which had been identified was based on the following principals: (1) faithful, (2) loving and confident, (3) tolerant and respectability, (4) recognizing others, (5) religious freedom, (6) peace, (7) exemplification, and (8) dialogue.

Keywords: *Criticism, human rights, violations*

I. Introduction

People's Republic of China had been a remarkable country dealt with human rights problems. Some events became the evidence of the humanity crisis existed there. Tiananmen Square bloody tragedy became the world attention since the Chinese people demonstration was attacked brutally by the troops since their claim of democracy in China (Shattuck, 2003:22). Those who was caught to act related to their political view was imprisoned and some of them were executed (Fukuyama cited by Shattuck 2003: 222). The expose to the humanity crisis to Tibetan had got serious attention from United States (Zhou 2005: 110).

Daughter of China was a novel written by C. Hope Flinchbaugh about the struggle of a young girl, Kwan Mei Lin who was in dilemmatic and daring position to defend her faith or her fate as a minority group in a Communist state, People's Republic of China. Although the exposes to human rights violation was delivered to China, this country seemed to have the lack attention about some foreign critics. China's reaction to overcome this situation was affected to their relationship toward United States and it had made Washington to have the more underlined problems about human rights problem in China (Wan: 2001: 8).

The humanity crisis in China had been exposed in some articles and sources. Drinan (1994) in his article entitled Human Rights and the Future China had outlined his special attention to human rights problem in China which came into a bog questions since the Tiananmen Square tragedy. Human rights problems which were more exposed in China include religious freedom and Tibetan's and some ethnics persecutions. Xing (1997) in an article Democracy and Human Rights: China and the West, had explained that after the World War I and II then continued by the ending of Cold War, USA still had the high passion in the campaign of human rights and democracy to the world. It also became an effective weapon to introduce the capitalist economy system because at the same time the progress of China economy sector also became a serious case for

United States. Gyatso (1999) in his article *China and Human Rights: The Struggle for Freedom* had exposed the Chinese government lack attention to the racial and discrimination problems to Tibetan. The next issue was outlined by Qi Zhou (2005) in an article entitled *Human Rights between China and US*. He asserted that the relationship between China and US was in a tension because of the intention from US government to do intervention towards China domestic problems. In the other side, there was an opportunity from US toward the leftist and some countries with the different view to have human rights abuse problems. The last reference was written by Wendy McElroy (2008) in an article entitled *China's One Child Disaster*. He had outlined that the intention of Chinese government to control the population bomb had created some critics from countries in the world since there was an indication that it had been contra to the human rights concept.

Sociology and literature had created a synergy in the production of a literary work, which in this case in a novel (Swingewood, 1972: 11) had defined sociology as essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes. An author as a member of society had been a major component who connects the literary work and society or vice versa (Wellek and Warren, 1972: 18). The social background and experience of the author can influence the content of the story. A literary work can be an effective media for the writer to express her special purposes. Swingewood (1972: 17) emphasized that literature had reflected someone's anxieties, hopes, and aspirations and response to social problems.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been released by United Nation in French on December, 10th 1948 after the draft was finished by the Human Rights Commission chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt. Human rights as a lifetime rights owned by human because as his or her nature as human (Cranston as cited by Yuliarso and Prajarto, 2005: 293). In advanced this document consist of civil rights and politic then it ratified into political and cultural rights (Berghian, 2014:

404). Then, it was developed into almost thirty components in Universal Declaration articles. The violation related to human right would be overcome by the set of law. Non-Government Organization (NGO), Amnesty International, International Court of Human Rights, and Security Council occurred to guarantee the protection of individual rights.

Regarding the author's role in the production of the novel, the social background of the author plays important part. C. Hope Flinchbaugh is the author of *Daughter of China* novel. Her social background as a writer who has the more interest and attention to the problems related to religion, state, children, and human rights had influenced *Daughter of China*.

The Evangelical mission was emerged as the other finding after the problems of human rights violation. An evangelical is a person who spread out the Christian belief. Evangelical is anyone who has a fully belief and recognition of the existence of the Bible as the God's revelation by having the deep understanding to be shared through evangelism (Balmer, 2004: 236). Then the term of evangelism is related to the action related to the spreading out of the Christian glory. Evangelism includes the sharing of commitment to certain essential theological truths and their practical implications (Mitchel, 2003: 107). The existence of evangelical and the rising of Christian right became the special notion in United States at the close of the twentieth century. President George W. Bush's religiosity is paramount since her leadership as the Governor of Texas. Under his leadership, the Texans became more religious (Philips, 2004:221). His winning on United States general election could not be alienated from the backing of some religious groups especially evangelicals.

II. Research Methodology

As this research exposes and analyses about the social problems emerged in C. Hope Flinchbaugh's novel *Daughter of China* the writer of this thesis will

employ qualitative research method. Denzin and Lincoln as cited by Creswell (1998: 15), define qualitative research as follows:

Qualitative research is multimethod in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. This means that qualitative researches study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of or interpret phenomena in terms of meanings people bring to them. Qualitative research involves the studied use and collection of a variety of empirical materials – case study, personal experience, introspective, life story, interview, observational, historical, interactional, and visual texts that describe routine and problematic moments and meaning in individuals' live.

A qualitative research method elaborates the researcher's understanding and interpretation of the case exposed. By employing this research method, there will be the description, explanation, interpretation, and assumption of some issues from the data obtained.

The objects of the research are divided into two groups, they are material and formal object objects. The material object of this research is a novel written by C. Hope Flinchbaugh entitled Daughter of China. Then, the formal object is human rights violation and the author's evangelical mission reflected in the novel.

The data sources are divided into the primary and secondary data. The primary data is the novel Daughter of China published by Bethany House Publishers in 2002. The secondary data of this research are books, articles and academic journals which relevant to the topic of Human Rights, the information or biography of C. Hope Flinchbaugh as the author, and evangelical mission.

The technique of data collection is note- taking. The steps are reading the novel more than three times, signing the important information, making a note for the important information, and the obtained information is placed into one file.

The techniques of the data analysis are by classifying the data and then it will be continued by interpreting the obtained data. The steps are summarizing the source of the data, coding the data obtained, classifying the obtained data, underlying the important information from the obtained data, organizing the

information from the obtained data, and interpreting the information from each data obtained.

III. Main Finding and Discussion

A. Voices of the Author

The author's voice of human rights violation can be divided into some points in the following explanations,

1. Upper Class Intimidation

Upper class intimidation was reflected when the PSB's cadres attacked Pastor Chen's house. They embarrassed Liko and Mrs. Chen in front of the public and announced that they were contraband (*Daughter of China*, p 67). In China, a cadre was an exclusive position. His welfare was guaranteed by the government, Wang (1985: 135). The cadres had seriously intimidated Pastor Chen's family who was a representative as a lower class in society. Having the noticeable position in the government had made the cadres had the good welfare standard of living, They were guaranteed by the exclusive facilities (Wang, 1985: 135) in his interview with one of the government cadres named Chen Yun.

2. Social Disparity

The problem of social disparity was described through contrast situation. The Nanjing Xi Lu was a luxurious Shopping mall as the mirror that Shanghai had grown excellently. It was crowded by people with modern performance and attitude among the luxurious facilities served there (*Daughter of China*, p 149 – 150). That description became so ironical when a little child named Yatou was starved because she had not eaten yet (*Daughter of China*, 169). The exclusive China economy progress could not fully cover the economy distribution to the society. The portrait of Yatou who was in starving became an ironical case

because she appeared among the luxurious life and glamorous people in Nanjing Xi Lu. The description of the glamour city in a block of Shanghai's posh shopping had described as a wealthy reflection with a dynamic and modern lifestyle, but in the same block it's emerged the inequality as small children with the poverty written on their faces and on their clothes (Guthrie, 2006: 196)

3. The Rigid Government Rules

a. One Child Policy

The China government had launched policy that had forced and tied the society. It was One Child Policy that had forced the society to have only one child and the women who were in their second pregnancy was caught. The One Child Policy became a solution but in the implementation it had been a scary policy that intimidated the society (Guthrie, 2006: 85). Liu An was a representative portrait of this condition. She ran away in the dark night in order to avoid the Women Federation that finally knew her pregnancy. She was in her scary and looked so exhausted after having on foot from Du Yan village (*Daughter of China*, p 55).

b. Loyalist Communist Obligation

China had employed the system of single party. It had forced the whole society to agree with the party. No one was excused to cross it. There would be a bad consequence for this. In the novel, Mei Lin had been a representative description whether Communist was not fully loved by the society. Mei Lin had pretended to be a loyalist Communist when she met Cadre Fang (*Daughter of China*, p 69). Mei Lin also argued that she also hate to Communism in her country (*Daughter of China*, p 252). The doctrine of Communist have to be trusted and comprehend the

Communist thought whatever the profession or the background of the China society (Williams, 1960: 9). It is a must for all of China without exception to obey and follow the Communism view without concerning they actually agree or not.

4. Gender Inequality

a. Abandoned Baby Girl

China's society still employed the view of the more powerful man than woman. Their old tradition had a view that the boy would be more powerful to keep his family and he could continue the family name. As the result, many baby born girls was abandoned. In the novel, *Amah*, Mei Lin's grandma reflected a regretless that she should have a grandson, not a granddaughter so that he could help Kwan So, her son to keep the farm (*Daughter of China*, p 65). The other problem was happened to Mei Lin's aunt. Her sinless baby girl was incidentally killed after few times she could breathe the air. The doctor was left her away without concerning the treatment that should be got after the baby born. Then, the baby girl was finally died (*Daughter of China*, p 65). The admiration to the baby boy birth in China had affected the avoidance of the b baby girl birth in a family. As the result, there were some cases of gender inequality and the killing of baby girl in China society. In this case the government appeared to support One Child Policy by driving the sterilization for millions of women and men and giving the consequence for couples who was caught to have the second baby. The abandoned baby girl became a common thing. Those who were born would be killed or aborted. It has been in common since there were 200,000 female babies have been killed each year. In addition, in the era of

sophisticated technology, the advanced control of female baby can easily detected (Guthrie, 2008: 85)

b. Attitude toward girls' education

The China old tradition also recognized that the women should not get the proper education. Amah was so astonished why Mei Lin was so enthusiastic to study. How English could change someone's life. It's more appropriate to a girl to prepare to be a wife who fully takes care of her family without career (*Daughter of China*, p 23).

The gender inequality in China had given the impact of the educational system which still differentiated the man and woman. As the result, the female had got some limitations. Many of them were unregistered and caused loss the opportunity in the cases of education and social welfare (Guthrie, 2008:85)

5. Starvation in Children's Orphanage Life

The bad situation about the bad condition in children's orphanage in the story was happened to Yatou's friend and the other children in the orphanage could be the evidence of the careless attention to children's orphanage life. Kent as cited by Wan (2001: 20) stated that children in some Chinese orphanage have died of neglect and starvation.

6. The Violation of Religious Freedom

There were some actions that indicated violation. One day Mei Lin was tortured and injured after her gesture of worshipping was caught by Professor Jiang her political teacher at school. Some cadres followed her to her house. Then, she was tortured and sent to prison (*Daughter of China*, p 113 – 117). The documents of the Christian worshipping also attacked the Bible and scriptures (*Daughter of China*, p 32). The

unnecessary action toward religious meeting was emerged in the situation when the house church meeting had been astonished by the cadres (*Daughter of China*, p 9). Being Christian had made Liko and Mei Lin was anxious. It could give many risks especially to their future education (*Daughter of China*, p 44).

People's Republic of China under Mao Tse Tung regime was concerned as the dark era , because the Communist view didn't belief in the existence of God. The rigid system of the Communist forced every element of the society to obey every regulation released by the government. The leaders of religious group who violated it would be imprisoned, executed, or forced to make public confessions of the crimes they had done (Williams, 1960: 12).

7. The Peasants' Obligation to the Government

This poor condition was also added by the special regulation dedicated to the peasants. There was an obligation to give their harvest to the government (*Daughter of China*, p 161). Some Chinese government regulation had made pressure especially for the peasants. The peasants still had to deliver a minimum quota of grain to the government usually to collective from which the land was leased.. (Guthrie, 2008: 42).

B. Evangelical Mission

Evangelicalism reflected in the novel was practiced in the following principals:

1. Faithfull

The faithful of being Christian were represented when they're willing to attend house church meeting in the dark cold night, passed the wide rice fields and the high hills. They had to face dirty mud and the itchy mosquitos' bitching (*Daughter of China*, p 14). As the religious people, it's

emerged the belief that what happened to their life cannot be separated from the God's hands or intervention. There was the external power that they don't owe it. Their beliefs should be come from their deeply heart without forcing (Smith 2000:38)

2. Loving and Confident

In the novel, Mei Lin's grandmother was described as a faithful Buddhist. She was hate to Christian belief. Amah always attacked Mei Lin with her words when they had their arguments. But Mei Lin always overcomes it with the polite attitude and she was still in her faithful as Christian (*Daughter of China*, p 25). Smith asserted an interview with a Presbyterian woman from North Carolina. She explained that explained that the great weapons for Christians were love and forgiving way for those who had the opposed thought.

3. Tolerant and Respectability

Liu An was a stranger who was helped by Mei Lin. An stayed at Mei Lin's house. She wasn't a Christian. But Mei Lin and her father welcomed and served her as their relative (*Daughter of China*, p 63). The Christians should keep the positive atmosphere by expressing their respect and tolerance to others with different religion and view (Smith, 2000: 41).

4. Recognizing Others

Although the Christians was humiliated they accepted such kind of intimidation and pressure for those who opposed them. They allowed the antagonist to have their own opinion but they were still in her faithful Christian belief This situation was happened to Pastor Chen's family who was being humiliated by the Public Security cadres in front of the public.(*Daughter of China*). The other case was described when Mei Lin and Ping having the different argument about Christian's belief. Mei Lin

was persuaded her to follow her religious faith but Ping responded it carelessly. This situation didn't make Mei Ling was angry or having a quarrel with her best friend, Ping. (*Daughter of China*, p 72). In Christian evangelical, there is the view of accepting whatever the antagonist or adversaries' views. It concerned as someone's right to deliver their idea. So, it's free for them to explain their mind (Smith, 2000:41).

5. Religious freedom

Liu An was willing to be a Christian without pressure or intimidation. It based on her consciousness. She often heard about the beautiful and amazing feeling from Mei Lin. Then, she concluded it herself (*Daughter of China*, p 88). The evangelical has the view that a belief is something that cannot be forced and it such kind of willingness of being the faithful Christian (Smith 2000: 48).

6. Peace

The other case was emerged when Mei Lin was caught by Professor Jiang it the case of her worshipping gesture at school. In order to avoid the hostility, she was willing to confess her fault, asked forgiving and promised not to do that action anymore (*Daughter of China*, p 89). Christian belief loves the peaceful and positive atmosphere among the society. The power of Christian faith is more important than everything. So, they prefer to avoid the way that may burn the tension to others. (Smith, 2000: 44)

7. Exemplification

An individual experience was viewed as the effective way to strengthen their Christians belief. Individual experience was viewed as the effective way in conducting evangelism. Through this way, an

individual could share their faith by having the personal relationships to others. It was a woman from Jiazen who shared her experience of being humiliated by the opposed people. She was caught by the principals and distinguished by the ringing cap in her head so everyone would know her coming (*Daughter of China*, p 85).

The experiences of those Christians became the effective examples to be shared in order to influence the non- Christians. It also became the more spirit for the Christians to be more faithful. Smith (2000: 45) stated, "Their aim is not to gain control of the reins of politics, take over school boards, or hound those who differ from them in the public square. It is, rather, to build personal relationships with people, impress them with lives that are good examples, and share with them their own beliefs and concerns."

Those Christian refer to implement the strategic approach to the other beliefs in spreading out the spirit of Christian. It would be the good effective way to make the good impression and examples to others. It was concerned to be the effective way to give a good approach to the non- Christians. The content of the shared experienced would be a reflection that they could keep their Christians faith although they had to face the jeopardy situation.

8. Dialogue

Having persuasion was the next distinguished point of evangelism. Some Christians often emerged in having the activity through the positive dialogue and communication. This description was reflected when Mei Lin ensured Liu An God would keep her and her lovely baby (*Daughter of China*, p 59). A woman from Pennsylvania in Smith's interview (2000: 48) stated, "I think we should be vocal, be ready to explain God's point of view as shown in the Bible. And then work individual by individual." The

working of individual to individual will be the right way to influence others. In the novel, Mei Lin emerged as the major volunteer of having the positive dialogue and communication. She did it in the possible situation. As the result, she could do it well. She successfully brought some people to be persuaded then they became Christians.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the analyses, this study comes to the following conclusions. First, the relationship between People's Republic of China and United States of America came into the high tension since the appearance of problems related to human rights violations at the late of the twentieth century. The Tiananmen Square bloody tragedy became the real evidence of the humanity crisis in that country. This case was crossed to United States because at that time that Liberal country had been in a great campaign of Democracy and the respect to human rights for individual. Approach and investigation could not make China confessing the humanity problem in that country. China had overcome this problem through the propaganda which concerned United States had been too intervened their domestic business and increasing the relationship with some countries in Asia in order to have the support against United States. The great development of China's economy sector became an effective weapon to camouflage United States' aim especially to avoid the distinguished problems of human rights violation.

Second, there are some portraits of human rights violations in the novel. They are Violation of religious freedom which consist of the church persecution, worshipping anxiety, and imprisonment Christian, Violation of the right to live which consist of abandoned babies and legalized abortion, and poor children's orphanage life; violation of expression freedom, violation of political rights, violation of the right for proper education, and violation of economic freedom. Through Daughter of China, the author had voiced her critics about human rights

violation. It can be categorized into some points. They are upper class intimidation, social disparity, the rigid government rules which consist of One Child Policy and loyalist Communist obligation, Gender Inequality which consist of abandoned baby girl and attitude toward girls' education, starvation in children's orphanage, the limitation of religious freedom, and the peasants obligation to the government.

Evangelical Mission which conveyed by the author consists of eight principals. They are faithful, loving and confident, tolerant and respectability, recognizing others, religious freedom, peace, exemplification, and dialogue.

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