

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AHMADIYAH IN *THE OUTCAST* NOVEL

(2014) : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH



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**DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AHMADIYAH IN THE *OUTCAST* NOVEL BY
OKKY MADASARI (2014): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

This research paper aims to know discrimination against Ahmadiyah of the major character reflected in The Outcast novel. The objective of the research is to analyze OkkyMadasari's The Outcast novel based on the structural elements of the novel and to analyze the religious conflicts by using sociological theory. The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. The data of the research is the primary data of the research is The Outcast novel by OkkyMadasari. The secondary data of the research taken from any information related to the novel such as books, other source and website that related to the study. The technique of collecting data are reading novel, taking important note from primary and secondary data, arranging the data into several part based on its classification, selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study, and drawing the conclusion. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis. Based on structural elements of the novel, the writer delivers a moral message that "The discrimination can be caused by the lack of knowledge". The result of this analysis is that the discrimination against Ahmadiyah in the novel appears in a form of direct and indirect discrimination. The first discrimination appears in the middle of Ahmadi community it self, where the Ahmadican not make relationship with outsider. Not only in her family of Ahmadi, has Alam's parent also considered their decision related with the rule of their faith.

Keywords: Discrimination, Sociological Approach, The Outcast novel

A. Introduction

The Outcast novel is written by Okky Madasari. It is appeared in 2014. This novel is the same with the reality conflict about culture and political in Indonesia. It is very interesting to be read because this novel reveals important issues which describe how Ahmadis are violently thrown away from their own home and homeland without any protection from the government. *The outcast* describes about a women named Maryam, her family, and their neighbor who be outcast from their village because the religious minority and their believe different with other. It deals explicitly with the theme of Social conflict that is considered Ahmadis be outcast from their village (<https://satyaarya.wordpress.com/2014/05/04/maryam-the-story-of-the-outcast/>).

Maryam has been accused of heresy since she was born. She has been considered deviant and must be excommunicated. On behalf of faith and love, her marriage is sacrificed. On behalf of God, she and her family were expelled, and their home was destroyed. It has been seven years now that Maryam and hundreds of others live in a refugee camp at a small and cramped government-owned building in Lombok, west Nusa Tenggara. The story of Maryam is a sad tragedy within a country full of beauty. What they need is justice.

There are some reason why the writer is interested in analyzing this novel. Firstly, *The Outcast* novel is about the realities problem of life in social conflict. Secondly, The Outcast deals explicitly with themes of Ahmadis, represent people minorities In Indonesia at the time. Thirdly, The Outcast novel about Ahmadis which doesn't give in to circumstances and who never tired of fighting for the human right. Last, Discriminations that becomes the main issue of this novel.

The first reason is *The Outcast* novel is about the realities problem of life in social conflict. The social conflict that occur in Lombok, NTB, Indonesia. differences in beliefs appear to be a problem of social conflict. A group of people in a society, could have been different attitude and stance on the issue.

The second reason is *The Outcast* deals explicitly with themes of Ahmadiyya, represent people minorities In Indonesia at the time. Ahmadiyya are groups who have different religious beliefs in society and called Ahmadiyya as heretics by the class of non-Ahmadi and their people expelled from their own homes. Group Ahmadiyya are also not accepted in society at large, for example in the love story of Maryam with a non-Ahmadi.

Thirdly reason is *The Outcast* novel about Ahmadiyya which doesn't give in to circumstances and who never tired of fighting for the human right. Ahmadiyya struggle in the face of conflict, burning of homes and expulsion from their village to refuge many years and it is not clear how long they will last in refuge. Although the circumstances are such that they do not give up and remain in its belief being an Ahmadiyya.

The fourth reason is discriminations against Ahmadiyya that becomes the main issue of this novel. There is no role of the government when the government required by the Indonesian people, especially Ahmadiyya as minorities. In discussing her novel Okky Madasari can be concluded that the government is pro-majority and conclude that the attitude of the state towards the people of Indonesia are not balanced. Ahmadiyya are violently thrown away from their own home and homeland without any protection from the government.

Relating to all the descriptions above, the writer uses sociological approach. Sociology is the study that deals with human's life in the society (Saraswati, 2003: 2). Swingewood (in Faruk, 1994: 1) also states that sociology is a study on people in society and on the social process and the institution embedded on it. Therefore the basis of the understanding is the society thus sociological theory is the appropriate approach in this research.

The problem statement of this research focused on the discrimination against Ahmadiyah of the major character. Where the problem is "How is Discrimination against Ahmadiyah of the major character reflected in *The Outcast* novel?"

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows: first to analyze Okky Madasari's *The Outcast* novel based on the structural elements of the novel, second to analyze the ahmadiyyah conflicts by using sociological theory.

There is some research that is used by the researcher as a guidance of this study, the first did by Eka Ugi Sutikno (UNS, 2013) entitled "Pluralisme dalam Novel Maryam Karya Okky Madasari" the aim of this research reveals the characters identity, politic identity, pluralism, and factors of the identity conflicts and pluralism. The difference between these researches is the first research focuses on the pluralism and this research focuses on the discriminations conflict.

The second research was conducted by by Susi Lailatul Musarrofah (PGRI Adi Buana University of Surabaya, 2013) entitled "Konflik Sosial Dalam Novel Maryam karya Okky Madasari" the aim of this research is to know the kinds of conflicts reflected in this novel and the different religion become the factor of the conflict. The difference between these researches is the second research focuses on the social conflicts while this research focuses on discrimination conflicts.

Sociology of literature is studied and analyzed based on the sociological perspective. In sociology of literature, it is clear that sociology and literature complement to each other. Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes, it seek to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists (Swingewood, 1972: 11). Sociology deals with the human beings in society. Swingewood and Laurenson state that sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social process (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972: 11). Sociology and literature have a close relationship. Sociology studies the real life, where as literature is created based on the social phenomena. Literature is a work of art which expresses of human life and the conflicts on society, especially concern with law, religion, norms, economic and politic.

Literature as the author's work is influenced by the society and social condition in which particular literary work appears, and the last sociology of the reader. It is the study about the influence of the literary works to the readers and to know their responds, opinion and idea to his/her literary work. It can be seen in the way of life and attitude of readers after reading the literary work. In addition, the researcher will focus on the sociology of society in analyzing the novel, such as; social aspect, economic aspect, politic aspect, and cultural aspect.

B. Research Method

The writer employs the descriptive qualitative research where Moleong (1983: 3) affirms that qualitative research is research which results in the descriptive data in the form observed people or behaviors. The object of the study is *The Outcast* novel by Okky Madasari which is published in 2014. It is analyzed by using sociological analysis Approach. Type of the Data and Data Source are the primary data the *Outcast* novel by Okky Madasari. The secondary data of the research taken from any information related to the novel such as books, other source and website that related to the study. The technique of collecting data are reading novel, taking important note from primary and secondary data, arranging the data into several part based on its classification, selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study, and drawing the conclusion. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis.

C. Finding and Discussion

1. Finding

a. Social Aspects

The social aspect in *The Outcast* novel appears in a form of violence against minority religion. People who feels angry with a certain religion that idolized their own prophet and worship. This minority religious is Ahmadiyah, they are a group of religious people who has their

own prophet beside Muhammad SAW. This makes the people around them very angry and considers that their religion is deviate.

b. Economic Aspect

The economic aspect of Indonesia in the 21st Centuries also relies on the tourism, where Indonesia had a lot of income from the tourist (local and foreign countries), especially in a certain place that has tourist areas. There is a lot of tourism activity where the foreign tourist enjoys their time with a certain activity in Bali. This activity shows the economic development of Indonesia in tourism side.

c. PoliticalAspect

There was a riot in 1998-1999 also told by the writer in the novel, where the riots connected with the development of Ahmadiyah. Based on a real story of riot in 1998-1999, there is no connection between the death of Ahmadi and the riot, the writer only wants to find a good plot related with the story, she wants to create a new real imagination about the riot on the past and the riot on present.

d. CulturalAspect

There is one of Muslim specialty, and it becomes its culture, where for religious people who have deep knowledge in their religion, they have a black mark on his forehead. The black spot or black mark on their forehead is become a symbol of Muslim culture, where people who gets their light from Allah, they realize that the prostration is one way to show their real faith to Allah. But sometimes for Muslim, the man with a black mark on their forehead convinced people that he was an imam and a *khatib*. Some Muslims do, but they are a minority. It is due to the many prostrations very observant Muslims makes when praying. But again, such people are a minority even if you see a lot of them.

e. Religious Aspect

There is hard rule of certain minor religious people (Ahmadi) related with the marriage with the same faith and spirituality. In a certain religion, the marriage sometimes control with their own culture. For example for Ahmadi, they only believe with the people with the same faith, means that for Ahmadi, marriage only happen when the couple coming from the same faith and spirituality, both must be Ahmadiyah.

f. The Discrimination Against Ahmadiyah

The discrimination appears in the middle of Ahmadi community it self, where the Ahmadican not make relationship with outsider. The discrimination appears within the community. Where Alam from the outsider, Maryam's mother asks him to become Ahmadi if he wants to marry Maryam. Ahmadiyah has their own rule, where the Ahmadican not marry the outsider. This is supposing they able to spread their faith and believe around the world. If there are outsiders, they must learn about Ahmadi and become one of them. Ahmadi also believes that couples with both good and bad marriages can face a genuine conflict of faith. In some cases, they begin marriage with the same faith, and then one becomes converted to another faith. In other cases, they begin marriage with conflicting religious beliefs.

2. Discussion

The sociological aspect appears in the novel showed from social aspects, there is violence against minority religion sect, where people who feels angry with a certain religion that idolized their own prophet and worship. This minority religious is Ahmadiyah, they are a group of religious people who has their own prophet beside Muhammad SAW. This makes the people around them very angry and considers that their religion is deviate.

The Discrimination against Ahmadiyah in the novel appears in a form of direct and indirect discrimination. The first discrimination appears in the

middle of Ahmadi community it self, where the Ahmadican not make relationship with outsider. In a certain situation where Alam from the outsider, Maryam's mother asks him to become Ahmadi if he wants to marry Maryam. There is also discrimination related with the compulsion within the Ahmadi, where Maryam herself, can not accept the discrimination on choosing someone she loves. Maryam feels sad about Alam's parent decision, where they always involve the rule of Ahmadi in making relationship. Not only in her family of Ahmadi, has Alam's parent also considered their decision related with the rule of their faith. This really make her sad, and she asks herself *did hew really have to tell his parents that she was an Ahmadi? Why did he regard this difference between them as so important?*

The next discrimination also appears in a certain situation, where people really hate Ahmadi because they create their own believe related with a new prophet. Islam is not deviate, but Ahmadi has their own believe about a new prophet. This really makes the people around them very angry. They expel them from their village and do not consider them as part of their neighbor. They burn the Ahmadi's house, get rid of them from the village, and burn their mosque. This kind of discrimination is direct discrimination, because of the individual or group conflict and certain people treated differently.

D. Conclusion

Maryam as a major character. Maryam is one of Ahmadis followers and she is about 24 years old. While the minor character consists of Alam the ex husband of Maryam, Mr. and MrsKhoirudin (Maryam's parent), Mr. Zul and Mrs. Zul are the new parents of Maryam that accept her as a family member in Surabaya after she graduates from senior high school, and Ghamal as an ex boyfriend of Maryam. The plot of the story consists of beginning, conflict, climax, and resolution. The point of view of the story is the message given by Okky from an excellent storyteller. They are relevant between the real conditions in social life, because

they deal with real problems the people of Indonesia had and have to cope with. The novel that tells the story of Ahmadi Muslims being thrown out of their homes and forced to move to refugee camps. Ahmadi Muslims have been subject to various forms of religious persecution and discrimination since the movement's inception in 1889. The theme of the story is that 'The discrimination of a minor religious community in a multicultural land Indonesia'.

The sociological aspect appears in the novel showed from social aspects, there is violence against minority religion sect, where people who feels angry with a certain religion that idolized their own prophet and worship. Economic aspect, Indonesia becomes tourism area that is loved by tourist. There is a lot of tourism activity where the foreign tourist enjoys their time with a certain activity in Bali. Political aspect, there was a riot in 1998-1999 also told by the writer in the novel, where the riots connected with the development of Ahmadiyah on that time. There is connection between the riot of 1998-1999 and the dies of Ahmadi. Because of that action, a lot of Ahmadi that was killed in the north area, not only ethnic Chinese. Cultural aspect, there is one of Muslim characteristic, and it becomes its culture, where for religious people who have deep knowledge in their religion, they have a black mark on his forehead. Religious aspect in the novel showed the hard rule of certain minor religious sect people (Ahmadi) related with the marriage with the same faith and spirituality. The Discrimination against Ahmadiyah in the novel appears in a form of direct and indirect discrimination. The first discrimination appears in the middle of Ahmadi community it self, where the Ahmadi can not make relationship with outsider. Not only in her family of Ahmadi, has Alam's parent also considered their decision related with the rule of their faith.

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