

**THE RISE OF WOMEN'S SOUL IN THE MERIDIAN CHARACTER TO
OBTAIN CIVIL RIGHTS IN NOVEL: A FEMINIST APPROACH**



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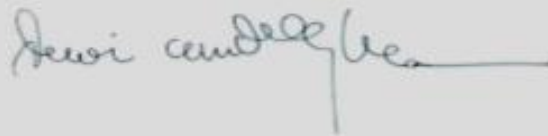
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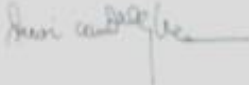
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini dibuat secara artistik. Studi ini lebih jauh mengeksplorasi transformasi pribadi Meridian dan taktik, serta strategi yang dia ambil yang berbeda dari teman-temannya di kelompok pekerja hak-hak sipil. Penelitian ini juga mengungkapkan alasan dan maksud perjuangannya tanpa kekerasan serta tujuan perjuangannya. Konsep dan praktik seperti komunitas tercinta dan perlawanan tanpa kekerasan mengintervensi oposisi antara politik (sosialisme) dan spiritual. Penderitaan historis kaum perempuan dan anak-anak bukan kulit putih memberikan landasan moral dalam pengakuan bahwa perubahan tidak dapat dicapai dengan melakukan apa yang telah mereka lakukan terhadap mereka. Selain itu, dengan jerih payahnya diharapkan tercipta komunitas yang dicintai yaitu perdamaian. Secara keseluruhan ilustrasi yang telah dibahas dapat membuktikan bahwa tindakan kekerasan tidak akan berjalan sempurna untuk mencapai keinginan seseorang atau kelompok. Inti dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menunjukkan kebangkitan perjuangan damai yang tidak bermaksud mendiskriminasi pihak tertentu tetapi untuk memenangkan perdamaian untuk menciptakan masyarakat yang harmonis, damai, dan penuh kasih.

Kata kunci: Hak Sipil, Perjuangan, Kebangkitan, Karakter Meridian, Pendekatan Feminis

Abstract

This research is made artistically. The study further explores Meridian's personal transformation and the tactic, and the strategy she has adopted which are different from her friends in the civil rights worker group. This research also discloses her reasons and intension of her nonviolent struggle and the objective of her struggle. Concepts and practices like beloved community and nonviolent resistance intervene in the opposition between the political (socialism) and spiritual. The historical suffering of non white peoples of women and of children provides that moral grounding in a recognition that change cannot be achieved by doing what they have done to them. In addition, with his efforts, it is hoped that a beloved community is created, namely peace. Overall the illustrations that have been discussed can prove that acts of violence will not work perfectly to achieve the desires of a person or group. The essence of this research is to show the rise of a peaceful struggle that does not intend to discriminate against certain parties but to win peace to create a harmoniuos, peaceful, and loving community.

Key words: Civil Rights, Struggle, The Rise, Meridian's character, feminist approach

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is an expression of human being in the form of written or oral work based on thought, opinion, experience, to feeling in imaginative forms, reflection of realities or original data wrapped in aesthetic packaging through language media. Literature is a work of beautiful writing (belle

letters) which record something in the form of language that is compressed, inside, twisted, shortened and twisted, made into odd or other aesthetic ways composing through language tools (Eagleton, 2010, p. 4). In imaginative literature there is a fictional prose and novels are one type of fictional prose. The African-American wonder is said to have acquired similar rights as regular people. Prejudicial treatment of white residents is progressively diminished. Many individuals of color prevail in their professions. Obviously, to accomplish this isn't simple, numerous deterrents should be confronted. And then, look at this novel, the author additionally analyzes: the state of society, customs, and propensities; history of the battle for harmony; women and families in dark society. America at that point relates it to this novel. in the Meridian tale, Walker makes history, social issues and fiction. Therefore, different points of view are required in this examination. To clarify Alice Walker's perspective on the quiet battle, which expects endeavors to keep up women autonomy, and to protect and keep up fellowship and family. The Meridian character represents a female warrior in the 1960s when the struggle for nonviolence was at its peak. Autobiographically to some extent (Meridian and Walker share an approximate age, deep love for the South, education at the women's college in Atlanta and the Civil Rights Movement), the novel is artistically made. This study further explores Meridian's personal transformation and tactics, as well as strategies she has adopted that differ from those of her peers in the civil rights group. This research also reveals the reasons and spirit of his non-violent struggle and the goals of his struggle. This research is a literature study and applies a genetic structuralism approach. socio-historical methods and dialectical analysis. The purpose of this study are: first, To identify the kinds of women's struggle in the Meridian Novel by Alice Walker. Second, To describe the main character struggles to get her love and justice. Based on the illustration above, the researcher wants to analyze the efforts made by the Meridian character to achieve his goals by using a Feminist Theory entitled: ***"The Rise of Women's Soul in The Meridian Character to Obtain Civil Rights in Novel: A Feminist Approach"***.

Previous research, some analysis of the Meridian novel has helped strengthen the study in this research. One of them is an article in the New York Times Book Review composed by Marge Piercy. All of the previous studies above are the problems and theories used by the researchers. The first research In the American language, literature, and study article, UNS volume 5 no 6, September 2001, Fitria Prinasita, The article focuses on the aspects of sexualism, feminism and gender from a psychological perspective. The last research by Usman (2009) In his

investigation, Usman contended image of life and the picture of women, women capacity to show its reality sought after threefold. The similarity of several previous findings from the researchers above is a theoretical study that uses feminist theory which puts women first to get their rights and level gender between the rights of men and women. Meanwhile, the difference between the previous research above and this research is the existence of women. This research focuses on the type of women's struggle as a description of the research in the Meridian novel and the way the characters in the novel fight for love and justice.

In conducting this study, researchers used several theories about feminism theory which Feminists, especially issues related to emancipation, women's movements demand their rights to be equalized as men. According to Salden (1986: 130-131), there are five problems that commonly arise in relation to feminist theory, namely a) biological problems, b) experience, c) discourse, d) the unconscious, and e) socioeconomic problems (*Teori Feminisme Dalam Penelitian Sastra - Kompasiana.Com*, n.d.). In addition, women have little or no access to education and barred from most professions. In some parts of the world, such restrictions on women continue (Fetters, 2013). In *Sex, Gender, and Society* according to Ann Oakley (1985, p. 16), sex is a word that refers to the biological differences between men and women: visible differences in genes, related differences in procreative function. But gender is culture: referring to the social classifications of 'masculine' and 'feminine'.

2. METHOD

This research is a media text analysis that discusses the analysis of the feminism model, this feminism as a social science model, and understands the world as a system of relationships that can have basic units which can also be called signs. In interpreting the mark of a researcher using feminism analysis. This research uses genetic structuralism approach. In accordance with the qualitative method, research is focused on the origins of the novels studied. Data analysis techniques used in this study were used in this study using a type of feminism analysis. The type of analysis used is a feminism approach which states that the triangle theory of meaning consists of three main elements, namely as signs, objects and interpretants. The object of this research is a portrait of women as fighters for truth in the novel "Women Fighting for Civil Rights Peace". Basically, women are synonymous with tenderness, politeness, and humility. In this study there were two data collected, Primary data, in the form of a novel written in the form of a part of a

female character named Meridian who was the first pioneer of peace women who got rights. Secondary data, in the form of writing such as a reference to meridian novels that are relevant for research and support the study literature.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researcher found the answer of the research question about the kinds of women's struggle and the main character struggle to get her love and justice in the Meridian Novel by Alice Walker.

3.1 The kinds of Women's Struggle in the Meridian Novel

This study aims to find out the struggle that Meridian did as a depiction of a woman at that time, when racism discrimination was very strong against black women in the United States of America. Initially, the difference between skin color in America, which was more dominant in the South, caused a lot of slavery to be carried out, causing a civil war for approximately 4 years between the south and the north. In this case the researcher analyzes 3 kinds of struggles that are included which will be discussed below. Based on the fact that absolutely related things happen in real life and one accepts that life doesn't always go the way one wants, there must be struggles that are carried out according to their respective limits. These limitations require struggle as well to be able to accept the impact and patience that proves.

3.1.1 The Struggle to Accept the Facts of Life

The very hard thing to accept is trying to accept the fact that life is not as easy as it seems. In terms of struggle, there needs to be an attitude of acceptance, this is shown by what happened to Meridian, she is a strong woman, accepts what happens, but remains focused on her desires. She had strong reasons for realizing her goal idea that slavery is not eternal. This is evidence that Meridian had to accept the impact of her struggle to accept the reality she had experienced, *The Last Return*.

3.1.2 The struggle to achieve a dream

In achieving a decent and real life, a person must have ideals and dreams to be realized in material and non-material terms. However, it takes struggle and hard work in accordance with the capacity of the ability to achieve the desired goal because it can be realized with a sincere sense and a strong stance.

3.1.3 The struggle in the form of affection

The struggle that arises in this section is love, many ways can convey affection that arises from the sincerest feelings to appreciate, give happiness, love that is intended or expressed not only for lovers but love for God, parents, family, and friends. This is related to Meridian in going through phases in his life when he accidentally finds a lesson, especially in his religion in a church.

3.2 Main Character Struggle to get her Love and Justice in the Meridian Novel

Love that is obtained by someone is a matter of sincerity or feelings that arise in the heart to love, appreciate mutual tolerance, and give happiness to others or those who love them, in other cases getting what she gives. While justice is a person's eligibility to get what is in accordance with his rights without exception.

The justice to be obtained from Meridian is not far from the provision of appropriate civil rights, there is no racism between racial differences that are always debated to cause confusion and feel like dominion. Therefore, Meridian made a plan to mediate this long-standing problem into racial harmony in the form of a peaceful struggle. However, it was not as smooth as the one she passed, there were many obstacles and a journey that was not easy, she felt down and finally got back up with his enthusiasm for fighting for justice.

In this section, the researcher discusses the analysis of the novel using the theory of feminism which includes 3 types of struggle according to Luh Ketut Suryani (2014: 195). The researcher identifies various women's struggles and describes the struggles of the main characters to get love and justice in Alice Walker's Meridian Novel. Through 3 types of struggle including: the struggle to accept the reality of life, the struggle for dreams, the struggle in the form of love.

Slavery will always exist or not want to end between the area of South America, and the white people in that area (who controlled the land). Until there are regions in the South who want to break away from America and start their own government. Therefore, the Meridian novel contains the idea of caring for the injustice of rights. This novel tells the story of the rise of female characters who struggle to demand civil rights, especially women's rights. She has experienced the bitterness of life through her own experiences of black women. Meridian has succeeded in making black people aware of the importance of the peaceful struggle by providing real work examples to them, she is willing to suffer for the sake of achieving the goals of the struggle. She walked all the

way to the interior of the South, because of the importance of their voting rights. This proves that acts of violence will not work perfectly to achieve the wishes of a particular person or group.

4. CLOSING

Based on the research, the researcher has answered research questions regarding the author's research problem about the kinds of women's struggles and the struggles of the main characters to get justice and love. The following is the same conclusion: (1) struggle to accept the reality of life (2) struggle for dreams (3) struggle for love. On the analysis and discussion of the struggles of the main characters in Alice Walker Meridian's novel, the most prominent struggle is the struggle to achieve a dream because there are so many obstacles and trials that continue to be endured. Survive by meeting people from different cultures and characters. The researcher concludes several conclusions from the discussion of the previous chapter, as follows: First, in the Meridian novel as the main character Meridian is continuous with the various struggles she goes through. There are 3 types, namely the struggle to accept the reality of life, the struggle for dreams, and the last is the struggle for love. of the three had already been experienced by Meridian. In her life experience as a child, Meridian has thought about changing her fate so that black women are not always oppressed, in other words there is a slavery system, discrimination that does not base humanity on white people. Secondly, besides from this story we find that Meridian goes through a lot of struggles to get something she wants to achieve then it has an impact on herself and circle of people, which makes her feel loved and fair. Research into Meridian novels is relatively few and generally uses the point of view or approach of feminism. Considering the limited research that focuses on the historical social background and biography of the author as well as the struggles of the main figures meridians that are always reviewed by researchers. So, the results of the research that is expected to increase the number and complete this type of research that has been done, can further research other things that have not been covered in this study or research using approaches other than feminism. By analyzing the problem of Alice Walker's Meridian novel. Researchers found many benefits from the reader's point of view, including this novel discusses the motives of struggle played by women. Providing an understanding of the right to life that is obtained between women and men is not always differentiated so as to provide a realistic, safe, peaceful and tolerant view of life.

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