**Characterization of Irewa in Dorothea Rosa Herliany’s Novel Isinga a Feminism Approach**

Nur Arafah Zuhri, Johannes Jefria Gultom

aarafahzuhri@gmail.com

Johannes@unimed.ac.id

Universitas Negeri Medan

**Abstract**

This study aimed at discovering the characterization of Irewa presented in Dorothea Herliany’s Novel and describe feminism reflected in the characterization of Irewa in the novel .The data of this study were the sentences of characterization of main character found in *Isinga* novel. The data were collected by using documentation technique. The data were analyzed by using descriptive qualitative analysis. The findings of this study were Irewa’s does, says and other thinks about her character’s described toward feminism. In addition, feminism diverse area of inquiry, dealing with the history of women’s.

**Keywords: Characteization, Feminism, Novel , Isinga**

**INTRODUCTION**

Language can be fully used to express the writer’s messages and implicit philosophical values and outlooks of life that make readers attracted to read their works. Literature may be seen as a special use of language and perhaps as the highest use to which it can be put. The message on social and ethical persuasion may also emerge through a literary work. Therefore, it is more important to consider its use in literature aside from its oral form. Ramrao (2016) believes that literature is a written communication whether in poetic shape or fiction and generally always communicates through human experiences and devices of narrative. Jones (2003) says that literature is simply another way, we can experience the world around us through our imagination. It means that literature is related with art, which the author uses poetic language, inner happiness, and emotion in process of writing literary work. It is supported by the opinion from Lukens (2003) that states that literature is traditionally described as the body of writing that exists because of inherent imaginative and artistic qualities.

When the word “literature” comes in mind, most people think about novel, short story, biography, document, drama, prose, poetry, etc. Some literary works may be written in the forms play of story in a novel. It is proposed that many people can feel directly attracted or interested that the story could be happen around them and it can give a moral lesson for them. Scott (1980) defines novel as "a fictions prose narrative dealing with human beings and their actions over a period of time, and displaying varieties of human character in relation to life. Novel as a piece of literary work provide an interesting narrative featuring philosophical values, moral teaching, and also a lesson about various aspect of life.

1. **Novel**

Novel is one of literary work. Novel attracts the attention and the interest of many people regardless of their age, profession or position, everyone almost like to read a novel. Rees (2008) states that a fictitious prose narrative or novel of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of real life are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity. The distinction of prose and novel blurred by Eagleton (2005) that states that it is not only in prose but also novels are written in verse. Novel contains story which is describes human experiences or events that might happened in true life or imaginary idea.

Dineen (2002) classifies the elements of novel that can be analyzed by the reader, they are theme, plot, character, setting, point of view, and style.

* Theme : Theme has to do with what the readers read as the story’s point, message, function, or implied view of life and conduct.
* Plot : Plot is the structure of a narrative’s actions that have to do with the arrangement, sequence, and organization of events that make up a story.
* Character : Character refers to know what the reader should be preoccupied with who these characters are and how they act.
* Setting : The time, location, and social context in which the story occurs and generating the atmosphere of a novel, the aura or mood of the story.
* Point of View : Point of view refers to how the story is told. Who is telling the story and Why are they telling it.
* Style : Style includes images, the concrete representation of a sense impression, feeling, or idea.

1. **Character and Characterization in Literary Works**

With character and characterization, the story becomes more real and more alive. Gordon and Kuehner (1999) states that a character is a person created for a work of fiction. Eder (2010) states that characters are of central importance for our film experience, and they confront us with a multitude of questions concerning their production, structures, meanings, effects, etc. For the basic, Reams (2015) defines characterization as any action by the author or taking place within a work that is used to give description of a character.

The character identity and personality are derived essentially from fourthings: (1) their actions-what they do: (2) their word-what they say and how they say it; (3) their physical attributes-what they look like; (4) the responses of the other characters to them what other say or do to or about them. Of these however, our sense of characters coherence derives mainly from his or her speech and actions. From these we gain a sense of who characters are and what they are like.

The process of creating and developing character in a work fiction is called characterization. Jones (2003) states Characterization is the depicting of clear images of a person. Characterization, by this definition, means the real description of the characters participating in the story through their actions.

* Physical appearance of the main characters

It contains the physical of the appearances, related about their age, performance, describe how old they are, how they look like, about sex both men or women is like have pale skin, handsome or beautiful, long, black or brown, etc.

* Social status of the main characters

This section describes how the main character of life (rich or poor), how education and treasure dignity. And discusses the background of the main character, such as: their educational background, their life in middle, high modern classes.

* Social relationship of the main characters.

In this case, the writer wants to discuss the relationship between the main characters and others characters surrounding them (minor character or supporting character).

* Personality of the main characters

It describe the personality of the main character such as: how to create romantic situation, can see good condition to play a role, whether or not are they responsible, neat persons or discipline.

In general, it is divided into direct and indirect characterization. According to Gordon and Kuehner (1999) say that in direct characterization, the narrator or a character summarize or tells the reader what another character looks like or what kind of person he or she is. Whereas indirect characterization is narrators and characters describe, *with-out comment*, a character’s appearance or dress. In this way they suggest something about the character’s personality. A character’s repeated gesture or a facial tic, for example, may imply a character’s arrogance or nervousness.

1. **Feminism**

Feminism entails the advocacy of women’s rights on the grounds of sexual equality. Women are united with a common notion that male domination is oppressive and there is a need for liberation from all forms of women’s oppression. While feminism emphasizes the inequalities between men and women, black feminists emphasize the diversity within the concept of ‘woman’, which for much feminist analysis is construed as a unitary category.

Keyser (2000) states that feminists claim that the interests of all women should be represented, pointing to profound class differences and antagonism among women. While Humm (2002) defines feminism is an ideology of women's liberation, because that is inherent in all of its approach is the belief that women suffer injustice because of their gender. Same with Heroepoetri & Valentina (2004) that state feminism is theory on understanding the nature of gender inequality to analize gender inequality. Theme explored in feminism include discrimination, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression, patriarchy, stereotyping art history, and contemporary art and aesthetics.

Djajanegara (2003) states that feminist literary criticism as a branch of sociology of literature begins with the desires of the female feminism to analyze the works of women authors in the pastand to show the image of women in the work of the authors males that display women as repressed, misinterpreted, and trivialized by the traditions of patriarchy dominant. In a patriarchal society, women are included in the home camp is limited to the environment and life in the home, while men are included in the general camp that includes environmental and life outside the home.

Djajanegara (2000) describes some steps to study a literary work using feminist approaches include:

1. Identifying one or more female characters, and seeks the positions of the characters in society.
2. Examining other figures, especially male figures that are related to the female characters being observed.
3. Observing the attitudes of the author of the work under study.

**METHODOLOGY**

This study were conducted by using descriptive qualitative design. Bogdan and Biklen (2012) state that qualitative is descriptive, where data is in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. It meant that the research design use qualitative to verify the data by listing some facts. This study tries to describe feminism portrayed in Dorothea Rosa Herliany's novel *Isinga*.

The study also conducted under library research in getting the data from the novel and some supporting opinions from other relevant sources. Beside the novel, it was also obtained relevant information from various textbooks to support the analysis.

Data can be interpreted as the fact which are functioning as a material to construct an opinion, statement and information or material that is used for research. Data is an important element for research study. It can be the evidences and clues for the researcher to solve the research problem.

The source of data can be divide into two kinds, primary and secondary data. Ary (2010) state that if a document is written by someone who has had firsthand experience with the phenomenon under study, it is considered a primary source. Therefore, the primary data for the analysis was taken from the novel *Isinga*by Dorothea Rosa Herliany, while the secondary data was derived from other sources, such as books, internet, and other which could be fully supported the study, and will be related to the problem. Ary (2010) state that a secondary source is a secondhand description written by someone who may have heard about an event from others, but did not directly experienced it.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

In this study, characterization of Irewa which is portrayed feminism as discussed through Irewa does, Irewa says, and people say about her.

1. Characterization of Irewa Does

In the novel *Isinga*, the female character portrayed in Irewa as good attitude. It can be seen when she accepts to marry Malom even though she does not love him. As a woman of the Aitubu tribe, Irewais willing to marry Malom, a man from the Hobone tribe. Malom intentionally wants to separate Irewa from Meage. Malom wants Irewa to be his wife to redeem his family who has died from the war between Aitubu and Hobone. Irewa is a symbol of a strong woman. He is willing to be used as a guarantee to ease the animosity between the Aitubu and Hobone tribes.

1. Characterization of Irewa Says toward Feminism

In Papua, men are considered perfect so women do not get a proportional place as human. Women in Papua are likened to natural. The traditional view of the Papuan people assume that women and nature can controlled by men. However, in circle-eko-feminist, patriarchal structure that is in Papuans, Aitubu and Hobone tribes, hierarchically very strong and masculine more rational than nature irrational, passive because of its function as production media.

In this novel, it can be seen that the behavior of Irewa Ongge, Mama Kame, and women of the Aitubu tribe Hobone is passive. Women's passivity is reflected when Irewa did not want to fight when married to Malom. The passive nature is then attached to women in general, namely beings who have a reproductive system natural so that it is able to give birth, do household chores, provide food for the family, and depend on nature.

Irewa is a character who represents the will for his role against the form of tradition a blood taboo that still holds thick Papuan women. Patriarchal power over nature and an environment directly affects women through the voices of the people women living in the interior. It means that Papuan women, like Irewa, he is naturally a wife; women belong to men, and women serve your husband and family.

1. Characterization of People Say about Irewa

Irewa is a mother who has to give birth and work hard daily. She pregnant when her second son was one year old and gave birth to her third child alone because she already knew about the birth process. All her activities make her very tired. She must take care her children beside she must work in the field. Irewa fell ill because she was alone in caring for her two children and preparing food for her family. Irewa is described as strong woman in fulfilling the family's needs by gardening and fishing in the lake.

As in discussion materials, Irewa’s character can be described through her doing, her saying, and people say about her. As a young woman, Irewa accept Malom as her husband to be used as a guarantee to ease the animosity between the Aitubu and Hobone tribes. After to be a wife for Malon, who has the patriarchal system in Hobone, make Irewa as responsible woman who not only birth a child, but also produce her family’s food. She works hard in the field, fishing fish and selling something to support her family’s need. Her husband, Malon does not work.

Irewa’s character also can be described through her saying toward femism. Her role against the form of tradition a blood taboo that still holds thick Papuan women. Patriarchal power over nature and an environment directly affects women through the voices of the people women living in the interior. It means that Papuan women, like Irewa, he is naturally a wife; women belong to men, and women serve your husband and family.

Finally, Irewa’s character is described through people saying toward herself. From the novel, it can be understood that Irewa as a strong woman, responsibility, and independent woman because she is a mother who always birth child and ward hard to produced some food for her family. Caring her children herself and prepare some food is her activities as a wife and mother. She must work hard to support his family by gardening, fishing in the lake and caring for his children. She is an independent woman because she can manage her money from selling pigs for her children's school fees, for family needs, renting a small shop and saving money.

**CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

After analyzing this novel, it can be concluded that the characteristics of Irewa who portrayed the feminism is described through what she does, by what she says, by what the others say about her. And also, feminism is reflected in the characterization of Irewa by describing her as a strong woman, responsible woman, and independent woman.

There are several suggestions that the writer could offer to reader towards character and characterization of the novel. The readers must prepare a selected novel and read it accurately to get a better understanding of the story in it. A selected novel is needed to offer the reader valuable messages or lesson particularly related to literature. And for other researchers are suggested to do further researches on drama, poetry, prose, etc, as a medium of studying literature.

**REFERENCES**

Ary, Donal et al. 2002. *Introduction to Research in Education, 6th ed*. Australia: Wadsworth Thomson Learning.

Bogdan, R. C. Biklen, S.K. 2012. *Qualitative research for education: An Introduction to theory and method*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, inc.

Dinneen, Francis P. 2002. *An Introduction to General Linguitics*. New York, Chicago, San Fransisco, Toronto, London : Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Inc.

Djajanegara, S. 2000. *Kritik Sastra Feminis*. Jakarta : Gramedia.

Djajanegara, S. 2003. *Citra Wanita dalam Lima Novel Terbaik*  
*Sinclair Lewis dan Gerakan Wanita di Amerika*. Depok: Fakultas Sastra Universitas Indonesia.

Eagleton, T. 2005. *How to Read Literature*. New Heaven: Yale University Press.

Eder, J. 2010. *Understanding Characters*. Queensland: Berhahn Jounals.

Gordon, J and Kuehner, K. 1999. *Fiction. The Elements of The Short Story*. New York: NTC/ Contemporary Publishing.

Heroepoetri, and Valentina, R. 2004. *Percakapan tentang Feminisme vs Neoliberalisme*. Jakarta: debtWatch Indonesia; Bandung: Institut Perempuan.

Humm, Maggie. 2002. *Ensiklopedia Feminisme*, Terj. Mundi Rahayu, Yogyakarta: Fajar Pustaka Baru.

Jones, E. 2003. *Outlines of Literature: Short stories, Novels, and Poems*. New York: The Macmillan Company.

Keyser, H. 2000. *In Desense of Women*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Luken, J. 2003. *A Critical Handbook of Children’s Literature*. Pearson Education.

Ramrao, T. N. 2016. *Film and Literature : An Overview*. India: International Journal of Multidiciplinary Research.

Reams, J. 2015. *Characterization in Fiction*. Texas: Texas State University.

Rees, R. J. 2008. *English Literature : An Introduction for Foreign Readers*. London : Macmillan Education.

Scott, R. 1980. *Understanding the Literature*. London: Mc Milan.