

**VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DELINEATED IN SIDNEY SHELDON'S
ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK? NOVEL (2004):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department
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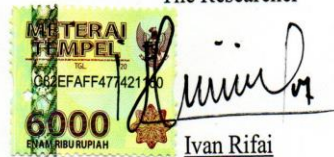

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini fokus pada isu pelanggaran hak asasi manusia yang terdapat pada novel berjudul *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* karya Sidney Sheldon (2004). Teori sosiologi digunakan untuk menganalisis novel ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode pengumpulan data secara dokumentasi. Penelitian ini ditujukan untuk menganalisis indikator pelanggaran hak asasi manusia yang terdapat pada novel, bagaimana isu pelanggaran hak asasi manusia digambarkan oleh penulis, dan alasan penulis memilih tema pelanggaran hak asasi manusia. Peneliti menggunakan dua sumber data dalam penelitian yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Novel *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* sebagai data primer. Buku lain yang berkaitan dengan isu, jurnal, dan website yang terkait dengan pelanggaran hak asasi manusia sebagai data sekunder. Terdapat tiga hasil penelitian terhadap novel ini. Pertama, terdapat lima indikator pelanggaran hak asasi manusia yang ditemukan di dalam novel yaitu pelanggaran HAM untuk hidup, pelanggaran HAM untuk terbebas dari penyiksaan, pelanggaran HAM untuk memperoleh pendidikan, pelanggaran HAM untuk bekerja, dan pelanggaran HAM untuk mendapat kebebasan. Kedua, pengarang menyampaikan ide tentang pelanggaran HAM melalui karakter, kejadian, setting, dan style yang terdapat pada novel. Ketiga, pengarang memilih tema pelanggaran HAM berdasarkan pada kondisi kehidupan sosial di mana pengarang tumbuh saat kondisi perang dan terjadi pelanggaran HAM di setiap tempat.

Kata kunci: pelanggaran HAM, Sidney Sheldon, sosiologi sastra

Abstract

This research focuses on the human rights violation issue delineated in *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel (2004) by Sidney Sheldon. The perspective that is used in analyzing this novel is theory of sociology. This research uses documentation method to collect the data. This research is conducted to analyze the indicators of human rights violations in the novel, how the human rights violation is delineated in the work, and the reason of the author in addressing human rights violations issue. The researcher uses primary and secondary data source. *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel is the primary data source. Other book, journal, and website that relate the issue of human rights violations are the secondary data source. There are three main findings in this research. First, there are found five indicators of human rights violations in the novel such as violation of human rights to life, violation of human rights to free from torture, violation of human rights to get education, violation of human rights to work, and violation of human rights to get liberty. Second, the author delivers the idea of human rights violations through character, event, setting, and style in the novel. Third, the author addresses human rights violation issue based on the social situation where he lives in which war happens and human rights violations occur everywhere.

Keyword: human rights violations, Sidney Sheldon, sociology of literature

1. INTRODUCTION

The major issue of this research is about the violation of human rights delineated in *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel. According to oxford dictionary the definition of violation is the action of violating someone or something. Definition of human right is rights that all people have since they were born and must be respected by all human being without seeing the sex, nationality, religion, race, and other status of the people (United Nations). From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the human rights violations is the action that destroys and despoils the rights inherent to all human beings. Sidney Sheldon writes a novel named *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* which full of human rights violations issue. This novel has also been observed by some researchers with different focus. The researcher finds three researches that use this novel as the object of the study. The first research is “An Analysis of Figurative Language Translation in Sidney Sheldon’s Novel: *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*” conducted by Riki Nuryadin, the second is “Defense Mechanism In Sidney Sheldon’S *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*: A Psychoanalytic Approach” by Deni Aprilina, and the third research is “Translation Methods of Personifications and Methapors in *Are You Afraid of the Dark* by Sidney Sheldon into *Apakah Kau Takut Gelap*” by Junita VR Sitinjak.

Riki Nuryadin conducted a research to *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel with the main purpose is to identify the kinds of figurative language in the novel and the method that is used in translating the figurative language in the work. The finding of this research shows that there are twelve figurative languages found in the novel and the method mostly used in translating the figurative language is communicative translation method. Other researcher who observed this work is Deni Aprilina. Deni Aprilina’s research is focused to observe the defense mechanism of Kelly. The objective of this study is to analyze the novel based on the perspective of psychoanalytic. The result of this study shows that almost all of people are afraid to face the fact that happens in their life because they think that it can hurt them. Then they do

some defense mechanism to cover the fact that they do not want. The last researcher who observed this novel is Junita VR Sitinjak with the focus of the research is to analyze the translation methods used in translating metaphor and personifications in the work. The result of this research shows that the most dominant method used is communicative translation method.

Based on the three previous studies above, it is known that there is no one researcher observes *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel based on the human rights violations issue. Then the researcher decides to conduct a research to this novel that focuses on the human rights violations. The researcher has two main reasons of choosing this novel as the object of the study. The first reason is because the researcher learns that many violations of human rights cases are unresolved in people's society. Then the researcher assumes that violation of human rights case is not a simple case. Based on those phenomena, the researcher is interested to study more about this issue. The second reason is that the violation of human rights issue is delineated in this novel. Then the researcher tries to analyze this aspect and find out the message that the author tries to deliver through this novel.

The perspective that the researcher uses in conducting this study is sociological approach. This perspective will be used to analyze the relationship of the work of literature with the sociology of the author, sociology of the society, and sociology of the reader. It becomes an important point because the literary work cannot be separated with its author and social background. In a literary work, there is a link between the text and the background of its writing (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972, p. 13). It can be concluded that the existence of work of literature has relationship with the aspect of social life.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researcher conducts a study of qualitative research. Qualitative research is concerned in explaining social phenomena and concerned with the social aspect which purposed to help people to understand

the world of society (Hancock, 2009, p. 7). The main issue that is discussed in this research is about violation of human rights. The primary data source of this research is *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel written by Sidney Sheldon and published in 2004. Then the secondary data sources are other sources which have relation to the study such as some journals, dictionaries, and websites that support the analysis. The step of collecting data that is done by the researcher are classified into five steps those are reading the *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel for several times, deciding the topic that will be observed, taking notes of important things in the primary and secondary sources, classifying and determining the relevant data, and the last is browsing on the internet to find out the information that has relationship with the novel. Then the data that have been collected are analyzed by using sociological perspective with the three main steps of technique in analyzing the data from Miles and Huberman including data reduction, data display, and verification (Miles & Huberman, 1994).

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Indicators of Violation of Human Rights

Based on the data that the researcher finds in the novel, the indicators of human rights violation in this novel are classified into five categories. They are violation of human rights to life, violation of human rights to free from torture, violation of human rights to get education, violation of human rights to work, and the last is violation of human rights to get liberty.

3.1.1 Violation of Human Rights to Life

Violation of human rights to life is the action that is done by someone or group who kill or make some action that causes death of another people. The example of this violation is shown in the dialogue between Tanner and Van Luven. Tanner leaves Andrew, his brother to be killed with the explosion of PRIMA machine. Tanner moves to another island because people know the existence of PRIMA. Then he decides to explode PRIMA1 and move to operate PRIMA 2 in a secret place in an island. Tanner does

not persuade his brother to go with him. But he just goes with Senator Van Luven and leaves Andrew with the explosion of PRIMA 1.

3.1.2 Violation of Human Rights to Free From Torture

Human right violation to free from torture is the action that causes wound or trauma for its victims. This violation is depicted when Tanner slaps his brother, Andrew. Tanner tells something to Andrew, but Andrew feels sleepy. It is because Andrew's disease that makes him looks very different than before.

3.1.3 Violation of Human Rights to Get Education

Human right violation to get education is the action that forbids someone to get education. It is shown in a moment when Mark's parents do not permit him to get his scholarship. They want Mark to work at the garage. It will more make him gets a lot of money.

3.1.4 Violation of Human Rights to Work

Human right violation to work is the action that impedes someone to develop his/her career. It is shown when Mark says to Kelly that his parents forbid him to be a scientist. They want Mark to work at the garage.

3.1.5 Violation of Human Rights to Get Liberty

Human right violation to get liberty is the action that despoils someone's freedom. It is shown in a moment when Tanner tries to grab Kelly and Diane by holding a ceremony at KIG. It is expected can make the women come to KIG then they are grabbed by Tanner's men.

3.2 Depiction of Human Rights Violation

Human rights violations in the novel are depicted through character, event, setting, and style.

3.2.1 Character

Characters that support the issue of human rights violation in this novel are classified into three categories they are the violating characters, the violated characters, and the opponents of violation of human rights.

3.2.1.1 The Violating Character

The violating character is the characters who do the violation of human rights. This violation is shown when Altieri and his three members tie up a man on a chair in a room. Altieri looks like interrogate the man and suddenly Altieri takes a gun and shoots the head of the man.

3.2.1.2 The Violated Character

The violated character is the characters who become the object of the violation of human rights. It is shown when Tanner asks his employees to kill Verbrugge to keep his secret about "PRIMA". They inject poison to Verbrugge by using injection then she dies. They kill Verbrugge in an ambulance.

3.2.1.3 The Opponents of Human Rights Violation

The opponent of human rights violations is the characters who reject and try to handle the violation of human rights. This role is depicted in a character named Detective Belmondo. He is a man who analyzes Mark Harris' death. He gives an analysis to Pascal, the owner of apartment where Mark Harris is found died.

3.2.2 Event

The events that the researcher finds as the moment of the occurrence of human rights violations are bombing, shooting, beating, abortion, trapping, sabotaging, poisoning, rape, colonializing, and arresting.

3.2.2.1 Bombing

Bombing is the action that causes an explosion then makes other people are died or injured. This tragedy happens to Diane and Kelly in a room of hotel. A room service employee at that hotel brings towels to the women's room. But actually, the employee is Tanner's person. She brings towels with the bomb in it. But Kelly realizes that there is something up normal then she persuades Diane to leave the room. At the outside of the hotel, they see that windows being blown out of the room they had been occupying, with debris flying through the air.

3.2.2.2 Shooting

Shooting is the action that causes other people are died or injured by using gun. The one example is in a murder case done by Mr. Altieri. He shoots a man in the back of his head. His motivation is unknown because the author does not explain it more. This action is the violation of human rights to life.

3.2.2.3 Beating

Beating is violence in the form of hitting that is done by someone to another people. One example of this tragedy occurs to Mark Harris, a scientist who works in Kingsley International Group. Mark has a plan to tell the government about the existence of “PRIMA”, then Tanner as the owner of KIG asks two men to kill Mark Harris by beating the back of his head.

3.2.2.4 Abortion

Abortion is murder that is done to a fetus when it still in the womb. The case of the abortion in the novel occurs to Kelly Harris. Her mother does not want her then she tries to do an abortion to Kelly but her struggle is failed. Kelly is born to the world safely.

3.2.2.5 Trapping

Trapping is the way that is used by the violating character to grab someone whom he wants. It is delineated in a moment of KIG ceremony. The memorial ceremony is planned by Tanner as the owner of KIG company to trap Diane and Kelly. Tanner and his employees feel difficult to capture the women then they plan another way to get them. Tanner informs in a newspaper that KIG wants to hold a ceremony to honour all of the scientists who are died. The women’s husbands include in the list of the scientists who work in KIG and die mysteriously. Tanner hopes this ceremony will make the women come then he will be easy to get them.

3.2.2.6 Sabotaging

Sabotaging action that is found in the novel is the action of destroying something to kill someone. This human right violation event occurs to Kelly. When she enters into lift, someone tries to kill her by cutting the elevator’s safety brakes. But she leaves the lift before the lift’s door is

closed because of hearing a bell ring from her room. She is safe but that accident kills a woman called Lapointe who still in the broken lift.

3.2.2.7 Poisoning

Poisoning is murder action that is done to someone by giving poison to the targets. It occurs to Sonja Verbrugge. She is Franz's wife, a scientist that is killed by Tanner kingsley. Tanner asks his employees to kill Verbrugge to keep his secret about "PRIMA". They inject poison to Verbrugge by using injection then she died.

3.2.2.8 Rape

Rape is a sexual violation to someone. It occurs to Kelly when she was eight years old. The rape is done one night by a guest who stays at Kelly's house. Kelly is not brave to tell his mother because the man threatens to kill Kelly's mother if Kelly talked to her.

3.2.2.9 Colonializing

Colonializing is an action that tries to get some benefit from a country by forcing and tends to harm the country. It is like what Tanner did to the President of Portugal. Tanner wants to use PRIMA to make terrible storms in Portugal. Tanner asks the President to send him two billion dollars in gold if the President wants his country stays safe.

3.2.2.10 Arresting

Arresting is an action of capturing someone. One example of this violation is depicted when Flint try to capture Kelly in a hotel. He wants to get her and bring her to Tanner. What Flint did is actually violating the human rights to get liberty.

3.2.3 Setting

The researcher separates the setting into two categories they are the place where the violating character is doing the violation, and the places which are destroyed by the violating character.

3.2.3.1 Place of The Violating Character

The place where the violating character is doing his action is identified at KIG central office in Manhattan.

3.2.3.2 Places Which Are Destroyed by The Violating Character

Places which are destroyed by the violating character are identified in Portugal, Japan, Florida, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, and Italy.

3.2.4 Style

3.2.4.1 Figurative Language

The figurative language that is found is sarcasm. Based on the meaning from English dictionary, sarcasm is the use of irony to mock or convey contempt. The two words of sarcasm they are tubby and porky.

3.2.4.2 Sentence Construction

Based on the sentence construction, the researcher finds that in this novel the violating characters often use the sentence that shows a sadist action without caring humanity aspect.

3.2.4.3 Diction

The violation of human rights also depicted through the diction spoken by the character in the novel. One clause that is categorized as special expression is “Take care of” that means “kill”.

3.2.4.4 Imagery

Tanner destroys Portugal with making storm in that country. In the previous, Portugal’s condition is very beautiful with a good environment and green garden. But because the President of Portugal does not send Tanner gold, then he makes terrible storm that destroys the country.

3.2.4.5 Symbol

3.2.4.5.1 Gift

Tanner wants to send “gift” to some scientists that means he sends an assassin to kill the scientists.

3.2.4.5.2 Appetite

Sam Meadows wants to rape Kelly by inviting her to get an appetite in bed.

3.2.4.5.3 Hole

Flint asks Kelly to keep silent by threatening her to make an extra hole in Kelly’s body that means hurting her.

3.3 Reason for Addressing Human Rights Violations

There are messages that Sidney Sheldon wants to address related to violation of human rights that happens massively in society. Actually, Sidney Sheldon grows in a war time (Sheldon, 2005). When he was young, he had ever been a pilot in U.S. Army Air Corps in Utah. He wrote a book named “Librettos” and in this book Sheldon writes that he cannot control his mood and emotions. His emotion always changes every time and unpredictable. At the age 17, he ever tried to suicide. Later, at 31 he observed that he felt suicidal on what should have been the happiest day of his life when he won an Academy Award. He went to a psychiatrist to check his condition then he was diagnosed has a manic depressive disease (Sheldon, 2005). Based on the life experience of the author that ever grows in war condition and also experiences hard life when he was young that causes him try to suicide, then the researcher concludes that those are some reasons of why Sheldon addresses violation of human rights in one of his works named *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel. The author’s seriousness in addressing violation of human rights is depicted through many indicators of violation of human rights found by the researcher. Sidney Sheldon uses characters to support and deliver his idea about violation of human rights that can be classified into three groups they are the violating characters, the violated characters, and the opponents of violation of human rights. Sheldon wants to show the readers that the case of violation of human rights mostly done based on the motivation of group interest, economic interest, and psychic disorder of the perpetrators of violation of human rights. The violation of human rights mostly done by someone or group who feel that they have higher level or more strong than the victims, so that they feel that they have authority to oppress other people whom they consider as weak people. Violation of human rights also done when someone or group consider that there is a threat for them that should be put away to make them safe and make what they plan run well. However, the violation of human rights is an illegal action that breaks the rules of world peace universal

declaration and it will never defeat the truth. It can be known from the problem solving part in the ending of the novel that all of the perpetrators of violation are described suffering destruction, die, and disappear.

3.4 Discussion

After analyzing the findings in *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel, the researcher finds that there is strong relationship between this novel and the social environment where the author lives. From the perspective of literature that is stated by Laurenson and Swingewood, it is explained that novel can be a reflection of the social problems or phenomena which occur in social life. Related to the social phenomena, this novel has an issue about human rights violations. The author gets inspiration to write violation of human rights based on the society where he lives. The first, Sidney Sheldon grows when war happens. He also had ever been a pilot in U.S. Army Air Corps in Utah at the war time. Sheldon also had ever tried to suicide when he was 17. Then, at 31 he had been diagnosed as manic depressive that caused him never felt comfort in running his life. Then, the issue of human rights violation is not a something new for the author because he always faced hard condition almost every day when he was young. The second, Sheldon wants to show the readers that the case of violation of human rights mostly done based on the motivation of group interest, economic interest, and psychic disorder of the perpetrators of violation of human rights. The violation of human rights mostly done by someone or group who feel that they have higher level or more strong than the victims, so that they feel that they have authority to oppress other people whom they consider as weak people. The third, violation of human rights also done when someone or group consider that there is a threat for them that should be put away to make them safe and make what they plan run well. From the perspective of sociological theory, the researcher focuses on the sociology of the society. When writing his/her novel, an author directly or indirectly is influenced by the situation where the work is written and there is link between the text and the background of its writing (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972, p. 13).

Related to this novel, Sidney Sheldon writes *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* novel which is full of the content of human rights violation. This work may be influenced by the author's life environment. The novel tells the story of how the violation of human rights occurs in society. Social problems such as murder, torture, and conflict are reflected in the novel and those are common things that can occur in social life.

4 CONCLUSION

This part elaborates the conclusion of the analysis in this research. First, from many kinds of human rights violations those are published by United Nations, the researcher finds five kinds of human rights violations delineated in the novel. Those are violation of human rights to life that means the action that is done by someone or group who kill or make some action that causes death of another people, violation of human rights to free from torture that means the action that causes wound or trauma for its victims, violation of human rights to get education that means the action that forbids someone to get education, violation of human rights to work that means the action that impedes someone to develop his/her career, and violation of human rights to get liberty that means the action that despoils someone's freedom.

The second is four things that support the violation of human rights in this novel they are characters, event, setting, and style. The characters that support the issue of violation of human rights are classified into three categories they are the violating characters mean the characters who do the violation of human rights, the violated characters mean the characters who become the object of the violation of human rights, and the opponents mean the characters who reject and try to handle the violation of human rights. The events that the researcher finds as the moment of the occurrence of human rights violations are bombing, shooting, beating, abortion, trapping, sabotaging, poisoning, rape, colonializing, and arresting. The occurrence of human rights violations based on the settings are classified into two categories they are the place where the violating character is doing the

violation, and the places which are destroyed by the violating character. The place of the violating character is identified in the central office of KIG company in Manhattan, and the places which are destroyed by the violating character is identified occur in Portugal, Japan, Florida, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, and Italy. The style that is found to support the human rights violations issue in this novel are identified as figurative language named sarcasm means the use of irony to mock or convey contempt, diction, imagery, and symbol as the researcher has elaborated in this research.

The third is the reason of why Sidney Sheldon as the author of this novel addressing the violation of human rights in this work. The author writes this novel that contains full of human rights violations based on his life environment. Sheldon grows when war happens and when he was young, Sheldon often experiencing hard condition in life and should live against manic depressive disease. That is why human rights violation is not something strange for him. In addition, he wants to deliver a message to the readers about the harmful of human rights violations.

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