

**APPROVAL**

**SOCIAL LIFE OF THE MAIN CHARACTER TORU WATANABE IN  
NORWEGIAN WOOD NOVEL : A SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE**

**PUBLICATION ARTICLE**

by

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Approved to be examined by

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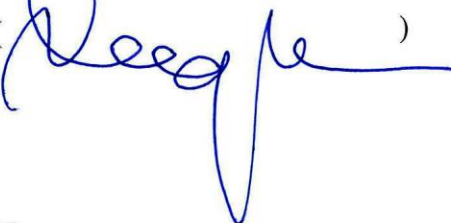
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## **SOCIAL LIFE OF THE MAIN CHARACTER TORU WATANABE IN NORWEGIAN WOOD NOVEL : A SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE**

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini adalah tentang kehidupan sosial dari karakter utama Toru Watanabe yang ada pada novel *Norwegian Wood* menggunakan analisis sosiologi sastra. Objek penelitiannya adalah novel *Norwegian Wood* karya Haruki Murakami berhalaman sebanyak 389. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis kehidupan sosial apa saja yang tercermin pada novel *Norwegian Wood*, bagaimana kehidupan sosial yang tercermin dalam novel *Norwegian Wood* melalui analisis penokohan serta alasan mengapa Haruki Murakami membuat isu kehidupan sosial dalam novelnya. Peneliti menggunakan teknik pengumpulan data dengan membaca, mencatat yang penting dan mengidentifikasi data yang sudah terkumpul. Sedangkan analisis data dilakukan dengan teknik reduksi data dan penyajian data. Keabsahan data diambil menurut Denzin (1978) dan Patton (1999), yaitu triangulasi sumber data dan triangulasi teori. Berdasarkan analisis data, hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa : (1) jenis kehidupan sosial dalam novel *Norwegian Wood* yaitu interaksi dan aksi sosial, dan penyimpangan social. Didalam interaksi dan aksi sosial meliputi proses social asosiatif dan proses sosial disosiatif (2) kehidupan social digambarkan melalui penokohan, sudut pandang, alur, setting, simbol dan imagery (3) Haruki Murakami mengangkat kehidupan sosial dalam novel *Norwegian Wood* karena terinspirasi dengan pengalaman pribadinya disaat muda.

**Kata Kunci :** kehidupan sosial, norwegian wood, sosiologi sastra

### **Abstract**

This research is about the social life of the main character Toru Watanabe in the *Norwegian Wood* novel using of sociology of literature theory. The object of this study is *Norwegian Wood* novel by Haruki Murakami as many as 389 pages. This research aims to find out what kinds of social life reflected in the *Norwegian Wood* novel, how the social life reflected in the *Norwegian Wood* novel through characterization analysis and find the reason Haruki Murakami made a social life issue in his novel. The researchers uses techniques data collection by reading, taking the important notes and identifying the data that has been collected. While data analysis is by using data reduction and data display. The data validity is taken according to Denzin (1978) and Patton (1999), namely triangulation of data sources and theory triangulation. Based on data analysis, the results of the study are: (1) the type of social life in the *Norwegian Wood novel* are social interactions and actions, and social deviations. In social interactions and actions sharing associative social processes and dissociative social processes (2) social life was described through characterizations, points of view, plot , settings, symbols and imagery (3) Haruki Murakami raised the issue social life in the *Norwegian Wood* novel because it is inspired by him personal experience while he was young.

**Keywords:** norwegian wood, social life, sociology of literature.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Literature is a form of the results of creative arts work whose objects humans and their lives use language as their medium (Semi 1988: 8). Beautiful literary work is not from the language that plays in the square but must be seen from the whole as

in the theme, message, structure and in the values contained in the literary work itself relating to aesthetic, moral and conceptual values. From a literary work we can know social life, phenomena and culture when the literary work is made.

Literary work is a medium used by authors to convey authors' ideas and experiences. As a medium for the role of literature as a medium for expressing author's ideas to be conveyed to readers. In addition, literary works can also reflect the views of the author in the form of various problems which are surrounded. The social reality conveyed through the text to the reader is an illustration of the various social phenomenon that have occurred in the community and are presented again in the form of different ways. Literature displays the picture of life and life itself as a social reality.

Literary works have a unique relationship with social and cultural systems as the basis of the life of the author, so literature always lives and is lived by society and society as the object of sociology studies confirms the relationship between literature as a discipline and sociology as other disciplines (Kurniawan, 2012: 3 ). One of the literary works that portrays the social life of the community is a novel. Nurgiyantoro (2010: 10) suggests that novels are works of fiction built by building elements, namely intrinsic and elemental elements extrinsic.

*Norwegian wood* by Haruki Murakami tells of a 37-year-old Toru Watanabe man who was on a trip to Germany using a plane again recalling his college years. When listening to instrumental Norwegian Wood, the title of the famous Beatles song in 1960. All teenagers liked the song as well as Naoko, the girl who had been a lover of Watanabe. The story took place in 1968-1970. It about 2 years.

Naoko is actually Kizuki's girlfriend who died of suicide due inhaling his own car exhaust fumes at the age pf 17 years old. Kizuki's tragic death caused psychological injuries to Watanabe and Naoko. After Watanabe graduated, he continued his studies in Tokyo. He accidentally left his village to reduce pressure after Kizuki Passed away. Naoko also did the same thing. Then they met in Tokyo. This makes them become more intimate and have sex for the first time. As experienced by ordinary teens, they also experience problems in adolescents including : promiscuity, the demands of parent to be the best students, romance,

and social deviations. This problem is experienced by many teenagers in Tokyo. Luckily Watanabe was able to survive that phase. Watanabe is introvert person, anti-social and aloof character. He has a hobby of reading novel, because the character is introvert so he only has two friends Kizuki and Nagasawa. Another case with Naoko who could not accept the death of her boyfriend. Kizuki and Naoko have been together since grade 2 in elementary school In the end Naoko experienced a psychiatric disorder because she was unable to hold back too much love for Kizuki. In the end Naoko was treated at a special treatment center for people with psychological disorders at “Ami Dormitory” even though Watanabe occasionally visited Naoko.

Watanabe continues to live as he should; he became a student at a private college and took part-time work for his living expenses. Although the relationship with Naoko is somewhat difficult and confusing. He still could drink and even have free sex with an unknown women he met at the bar with Nagasawa San. At the college, Watanabe met his classmate named Midori who offered warmth of love. Midori has cheerful, honest character and frankly, finally Watanabe feels a different feeling from Midori.

Watanabe feels hesitant at intersection. With Naoko his love runs calmly like a river without ripples while with Midori his life also feels comfortable. Then at some time, Ishida Reiko who is Naoko friend inform that Naoko had died by suicide. This made Watanabe feel even more confused. Finally Watanabe decided to wander for a month to find peace. When he returned in Tokyo and visited Ishida Reiko again. Watanabe tells about Naoko and Midori to Reiko, making Watanabe decide to express his true feelings to Midori.

Because the complexity of relationships experienced by the characters contain in this novel, especially regarding social interaction behavior and behavioral divergence such as killing self, free sex and so on. Thus caused problems in social life so it needs to be studied further. In this study, the author uses sociology of literature to study *Norwegian Wood* novel. Haruki Murakami is a great author born on January 12, 1949 in Kyoto, Japan. This *Norwegian Wood* novel has been famous novel and best Japanese book.

## **2. METHOD**

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research as a type of research. According to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is a study used to investigate, find, describe, and explain the quality or privilege of social influences that cannot be explained, measured or described through a qualitative research. The data which took through text and word in the novel. According to Denzin and Lincoln (1994) that qualitative research focus on interpretation of phenomena in their natural settings to make sense in terms of the meanings people bring to these settings. The researcher divided the data into two that is : primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data is *Norwegian Wood* novel. The secondary data source whose taken from articles, book of literature, research paper, website and all source which related to this research. The technique of collecting data uses taking notes which can as reference, reading *Norwegian Wood* novel, collecting data in accordance with sociology of literature theory and the last the data has been collected then data analyzed. The researcher used three steps of analyzing the data from Miles and Huberman (1994) there parts namely: data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing/ verification.

## **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Kinds of Social Life in *Norwegian Wood* novel**

#### **3.1.1 Interaction and Social Action**

John, J. Macionis<sup>3</sup> (2016) stated that social interaction is a process where individuals behave and talk in relationships with other individuals. Based on this resolution it can be denied that social relations are reciprocal relationships between two or more human individuals where the ideas, views and behavior of individuals are interconnected, change or improve other individuals, or vice versa.

Social interaction is the basis of social processes, this understanding refers to dynamic social relations. Or in other words, social processes are related ways in people's lives that can be seen by individuals and groups of people meeting each other and determining the systems and forms of these

relationships. Gillin (1951) stated that types of social interaction are divided into two namely: associative social processes and dissociative social processes

### 3.1.2 Associative Social Process

Murakami described the occurrence of social interaction in the form of collaboration between the main character Watanabe and Naoko to help each other in the process of healing psychological disorders. In the Sanatorium all are the same between patients, staff, including Watanabe as guests all the same to help each other in the healing process.

So everyone here is equal-patients, staff-and you. You're one of us while you're in here, so I help you and you help me." Reiko smiled, gently flexing

every wrinkle on her face. "You help Naoko and Naoko helps you."

"What should I do, then? Give me a concrete example. (NW, p.131)

From the quote above the desire to help each other heal and Watanabe is willing to work together.

### 3.1.3 Dissociative Social Process

In the middle of the week Nagasawa told me if he had passed the Foreign Affairs Public Service Personal First Class Service Examination. Watanabe was surprised when many people took the test but Nagasawa was accepted. Nagasawa mobilized all abilities and did it to its limits. He learned ten times more from Watanabe. Nagasawa not only looked up at the sky then waited for a miracle but he wanted to try.

"Maybe so, but I'm not just looking up at the sky and waiting for the fruit to drop. In any my own way, I'm working hard. I'm working ten times harder than you are."

"That's probably true," I said." (NW, p.269)

This evidence shows that competition between the two friends to be accepted in government agencies.



#### 3.1.4 Social Deviance

Social deviance is a behavior that is not in accordance with the code of conduct in the community, so that someone who violates it will be considered as a violator and must be punished in accordance with the provisions in force.

### **3.2 Social Life the Way Reflected in *Norwegian wood* Novel**

The researcher uses the sociology of literature approach in this study of literature works relates to the phenomenon of the relationship of literary work with reality. Here, four points to describe social life in literary works those are characterization, setting, symbol, and imagery.

### **3.3 The reason of the author choose this issue in his novel.**

#### 3.3.1 Based on the background of the author

The first reason the researcher saw from the background of author. At first Haruki Murakami borrowed the details of protagonist's college environment and daily life from those his on collage days. In the novel tell us more straightforwardly than any of his other novel what life was like for the young author when he first came to Tokyo from Kobe.

#### 3.3.2 Giving optimism perspective

The second reason is to give an optimistic for society that someone who has a grim past like getting drunk, free sex and soon is not the end of everything. For example Toru Watanabe even though his life in the past was a mess ranging from behavioral divergence such as free sex, getting drunk and soon. Even left by friends and girlfriends by suicide which is the hardest examination of his life. Although his life is a mess but he is optimistic that he can rearrange his life that has been destroyed.

This research shows that in the *Norwegian Wood* novel there is social life through the analysis sociology of literature. Using the theory sociology of literary, through aspects of characterization, point of view, settings, symbols, and imagery.

First, the researcher found the kinds of social life that exist in the *Norwegian Wood* novel, namely, interaction and social action, and social deviance.

interaction and social action divided into two types in the *Norwegian Wood* novel namely ; first, associative social process consists of corporation, accommodation, assimilation, acculturation. Second, dissociative social process divided into three types, namely ; competition, contravention, and conflict. Then there is social deviance are behaviors or actions taken by someone as a form of violation of existing norms in society. Social deviations are deviant behavior both consciously and unconsciously. In the *Norwegian Wood* novel by Haruki Murakami there are two type of Social deviations namely; first, primary action such as strike action. Second, secondary primary such as drunk addiction, suicide, lesbian, prostitution.

Second, the researcher found how social life was reflected in the *Norwegian Wood* novel through characterizations. With characterization analysis, the researcher knows the character of each personality. Third, researcher found the author's reason, choose the issue of social life in *Norwegian Wood* novel. Haruki Murakami was inspired based on the background of him, experience centered on meeting the love of his life, his wife, Yoko, amid of the student movement. Moreover, Haruki Murakami borrowed the details of protagonist's college environment and daily life from those his on collage days.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The researcher used Sociology of Literature to analyze the problems in the novel. There are Sociology approaches by Alan Swingewood and Diana Laurenson (1972), literary works as the reflection of social situation of the author is all data relating to the social life of the author as the main data source. including the background of the author's life, about the family of the author, about the people who surround the author and the people who come and go in the life of the author. The researcher also included the literature principle sociology by Wellek and Warren (1948): sociology of author, sociology of literature works, sociology of the readers.

The novel tells about social life of the main character. The writer used the issue of the research about social life which the novel itself could be a general

picture of Japanese society which was created by the author by being influenced by the surrounding environment. There are kinds of social life according to Gillin (1951) as follows : first, interaction and social action (associative social process and dissociative social process) second, social deviance (primary deviations and secondary deviations like drunk addiction, suicide, lesbian, and prostitution). Second, The social life was reflected in *Norwegian Wood* novel through characterization, points of view, plot and settings. Third, the reason why the author raised the issue of social life through as follows : based on the background of the author and giving optimism perspective.

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