



THE IMAGE OF THE TOUGH WOMAN IN THE NOVEL *ABOUT YOU* BY TERE LIYE: ANALYSIS OF LIBERAL FEMINISM

NAOMI WOLF

by

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the image of women through the main character in the novel *About You* by Tere Liye.

The collection of data used in this study with a literature review. The data set is data on the image of women in the novel *About You*. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method, because the data in this study are in the form of words. This study uses Naomi Wolf's liberal feminist analysis.

Based on the results of research that has been carried out on the Novel *About You* by Tere Liye, the main character Sri Ningsih displays the image of a tough woman. Through the strength and power displayed by the main character in the novel. The main character shows the power that creates freedom through the strength and power of women, namely intelligence, charm, courage and courage. And, the function of women's power is leadership. All of these things are described by Sri Ningsih who is a tough woman in the novel *About You*.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Women and their existence are very interesting things to talk about. In society, both in the world of work and social life, women and men seem to have different roles. There are some opinions which state that women cannot be compared with men. Women have the same potential as men, and on various occasions women do not only take part in the domestic sphere, but also in the public sphere (Yangsen: 2021). Indonesia's Human Development Index has increased by 1.57 percent over eight years. This is very slow progress. Likewise, the Gender Empowerment Index in 2010 was 68.15 percent and in 2018 it was at 72.10 percent (Merdeka.com). These various data show the current reality in the field. Women are still lagging behind men, both in the fields of education, health, economy, and representation in politics. Negative perceptions of women or the definition of women by using the qualities possessed by men are closely related to the concept of gender (YULIASTUTI: 2005).

All of these things directly affect the achievement of equality for women and men. This also causes women are still considered unequal to men. Image is a picture that a person has of a person's personal, mental, visual impression as a meaning of a word, phrase, or sentence and is the basic element of the concept of a woman's image (Sugihastuti and Suharto, 2000: 45). The image of women is a description of the role of women in social life.

The lives of women in stories are usually described clearly how their behavior is in living social life in society (HERIANTI: 2019). Women have an active role in the social, political and economic world on the same level as men. However, in the political sphere, sometimes there is a gender bias between women and men. This is evidenced by affirmative action regarding the position of government seats that can be occupied by women. Law No. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties which regulates the conditions for the establishment of political parties in article 2 states: "The establishment and formation of political parties as referred to in paragraph (1) includes 30% female representatives". This can also be an illustration that there is no gender equality between men and women.

The novel *About You* by Tere Liye tells the story of the struggle of a tough woman who must try to face the hardships of life and rise from adversity. This novel presents a very interesting story. The main character named Sri

Ningsih. His life story is full of obstacles. Story The life of this main character began to be known when he died. During his lifetime, Sri Ningsih had written a letter. He then sent the letter to a law firm in London. A lawyer in charge of this case, uncovers and retells Sri Ningsih's wonderful life. The story of the main character Sri Ningsih is very inspiring. His story began when he was a child. His mother died and his father remarried. His father died due to an incident. As a result, Sri Ningsih had to step out of her comfort zone and start a very inspiring life story.

The image of a strong woman who is able to face various life problems is very clear which is retold by a man in this novel. The tough personality type (Hardiness) is a constellation of personality characteristics that make individuals stronger, more resilient, and optimistic in dealing with stress and reducing the negative effects they face (Bayu, 2009)

. shows the "face" and characteristics of women (Sugihastuti 2000: 7). Liberal feminism is a type of feminism that was born out of political thought. Humm (2002) states that Liberal Feminism is a movement that is reflected in every struggle carried out by women to demand their rights to freedom. Liberal feminism emerged in the 18th century formulated by Mary (1759-1799) and 19th century by John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mills, then in the 20th century Betty Friedan. Liberal feminism flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries with pioneer Mary Wollstonecraft laying the foundations for later feminism principles. Liberal feminism is a feminist movement based on the liberal concept, namely that men and women have the same rights and opportunities (Arivia, 2003: 99). This means that liberal feminism is a study of the view of freedom where women have the same rights as men both in education and work. Women are almost always characters who are defended, victims who are always encouraged to get attention (Faruk in Sugihastuti, 2016: 67).

Feminist literary criticism, according to Sugihastuti, (2016: 8) starts from the main problem, namely the notion of sexual differences in the interpretation and action of the meaning of literary works. Feminist literary criticism is considered as a new life in criticism based on the feelings, thoughts, and responses that come out of the "readers as women" based on the vision of the role and position of women in the world of literature. Gender inequality is a position when the position between women and men is not equal in social life. However, basically it is women who often experience gender injustice (Rohtama: 2018).

The purpose of the study of feminism is to increase the position and degree of women to be equal or equal to the position and degree of men. The feminist movement is a movement to break the social order as a whole against the values of women in order to get the same position and degree in the socio-political, economic and legal fields as that obtained by men. According to Wolf (1997:205) all women must have the word 'feminism' as a theory that tells the story of personal self-esteem and the dignity of all women.

Phenimism elevates the image of a woman. In literary works, the image of women can be lifted from stories such as novels. The novel About You tells the story of the main character who is a woman named Sri Ningsih. Sri Ningsih is a tough woman who is able to embrace all the pains in her life. The study of liberal feminism becomes a scalpel to see the image depicted in the female character Sri Ningsih. This becomes a guideline for readers, especially female readers, to struggle and gain freedom of opinion and choose their own way of life.

Theory of Fenimism

Feminist literary criticism puts the theory of feminism as the basic foundation of thought. Feminism emerged as a result of gender prejudice. This gender prejudice views women as second-class beings or views women as not more important than men. This kind of thinking is based on the assumption that men are different from women. Men are considered to be more involved in various activities, and have greater interests than women in several aspects. This difference is not only visible outwardly, but also in the socio-cultural structure of society, literary criticism is a literary study that deals directly with literary works and reads literary works with an emphasis on their assessment (Pradopo, 1995:92). Therefore, literary criticism, more specifically feminist literary criticism, gives a clear emphasis on the description of the characterizations in novels or literary works in general.

In the study of literary analysis in feminism, according to Syuropati and Soebachman (2012: 116 - 117), the focus is:

The position and role of women in literature.

Women are left behind in all aspects of life including education and community activities.

Taking into account the factors of literary readers, how do readers respond to the emancipation of women in literature?

In the third part, the researcher acts as a reader and a woman who gives responses to the emancipation of women in literature. While one of the goals of feminist literary criticism is:

With feminist literary criticism we are able to reinterpret and reassess all literary works produced in the past century.



Reading as a woman means reading with an awareness of dismantling the presumptions and ideologies of endocentric or patriarchal male power, which until now still dominates literary writing and reading. Gender differences are factors that affect the situation of the literary communication system.

Sugihastuti, (2016: 5) states that feminist literary criticism is a critic who views literature with a special awareness, the awareness that there is a gender that has a lot to do with our culture, literature and life. It is this gender that makes the difference between all of them which also makes a difference to the author, reader, character, and external factors that influence the situation of making up. Women in literary works are presented in terms of equivalence relations with a set of marginal and subordinated values, namely sentimentality, feelings, and spirituality. Women are almost always characters who are defended, victims who are always encouraged to get attention (Faruk in Sugihastuti, 2016: 67).

Feminist literary criticism, according to Sugihastuti, (2016: 8) starts from the main problem, namely the notion of sexual differences in the interpretation and action of the meaning of literary works. Feminist literary criticism is considered as a new life in criticism based on the feelings, thoughts, and responses that come out of the "readers as women" based on the vision of the role and position of women in the world of literature. Kuiper (in Sugihastuti, 2016:68) shows that there are many approaches to literary works that are based on gender issues.

Gender is a socio-cultural construction which is basically a cultural interpretation of gender differences (Fakih, 2020:5). This approach to literary works based on gender, which was later called feminist literary criticism, was founded with several objectives, including (1) to criticize the canons of Western literature and to highlight things that are standard based on patriarchy; (2) to display forgotten and belittled texts composed by women; (3) to strengthen gynocriticism, the study of writings focused on women, and to strengthen the women's canon; and (4) to explore the cultural constructs of gender and identity.

Meanwhile, according to Geofe (1986: 837) Feminism is a theory about equality between men and women in the political, economic, and social fields; or organized activities that fight for the rights and interests of women. Feminist theory elevates the status of women not only as male companions but also as competitors in the economic, political and social fields. The emancipation of a woman is also very important in life in any field. A man can also be a supporter of women as long as he has a sense of concern for women.

The purpose of the study of feminism is to increase the position and degree of women to be equal or equal to the position and degree of men. The main objective of feminist literary criticism is to analyze gender relations, the socially constructed relationship between women and men, which among other things describes the situation when women are in the domination of men (Flax in Nicholson, ed., 1990:40). The feminist movement is a movement to break the social order as a whole against the values of women in order to get the same position and degree in the socio-political, economic and legal fields as that obtained by men. Feminism in this study does not mean the resistance of women to men in terms of their gender differences.

Gender differences often afflict women, both within the family and in the community. The fact is that many men support the theory of feminism. Men can be said to be feminists as long as they participate in fighting for women's rights. The thing that underlies this concept is because feminist theory is more concerned with the value of awareness about equal rights between women and men in all fields. The term feminism is often confused with the term gender. Gender issues are problems of the relationship between men and women and vice versa, are analyzed using feminism theory.

The important goals in the theory of feminism in literature are as far as possible related to the following matters, namely (1) revealing the literary works of past and present female writers so that the image of women who feel pressured by tradition is clear, the dominance of patriarchal culture must be revealed. clearly in the analysis, (2) revealing the pressure on female characters in literary works written by male authors, (3) revealing the ideologies of female and male authors, how they view themselves in real life, (4) examining from the gynocritical aspect, namely understanding how the creative process of feminists, whether female authors will have specificity in style and expression or not, and (5) revealing aspects of feminist psychoanalysis, namely why women, both female characters and female authors prefer things that must be emotional, full of affection, and so on. However, this study does not discuss all of the things listed above but focuses on the image of women. Endraswara (2008: 146)

The development of Feminism gave rise to various streams with their respective goals. But in essence the goal of the feminist movement is to demand the right to gender equality between women and men. Tong (2006) suggests that there are eight types of feminist thought, namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist and socialist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism and gender, existentialist feminism, postmodern feminism, multicultural and global feminism, and ecofeminism.

Liberal Feminism Naomi Wolf

Liberal feminism is a type of feminism that was born out of political thought. Humm (2002) states that Liberal Feminism is a movement that is reflected in every struggle carried out by women to demand their rights to freedom. Liberal feminism emerged in the 18th century formulated by Mary (1759-1799) and 19th century by John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mills, then in the 20th century Betty Friedan. Liberal feminism believes that gender equality and justice can be achieved by removing regulatory barriers (related to the rule of law), which distinguish the rights of men and women (Soetjito: 2013). Tong (2006:18) states that the general goal of liberal feminism is to create "a just and caring society in which freedom thrives". Only in such a society, women as well as men can develop themselves. Liberal Femininity's view of equality has at least an impact on the development and equality of women and men.

The figure of this school is Naomi Wolf, who carries "Strength Feminism" as a solution to the view of women's freedom. In today's era, it can be said that women have had the power in terms of education and work, but women still do not get the rights and freedom of opinion in some circles of society. Therefore, women continue to demand equal rights and freedom of thought, activity, and career without depending on men. Wolf places men and women as equals as complete human beings with inherent values. Wolf insists that either gender cannot be incubated.

In "Feminist Thought", Rosemarie Putnam Tong (2006) argues that feminism is not a single thought, but has various forms whose emergence and development often support, correct, and refute previous feminist thought.

Liberal feminism flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries with pioneer Mary Wollstonecraft laying the foundations for later feminism principles. Liberal feminism is a feminist movement based on the liberal concept, namely that men and women have the same rights and opportunities (Arivia, 2003: 99). This means that liberal feminism is a study of the view of freedom where women have the same rights as men both in education and work.

Naomi Wolf is one of the figures who voiced that women need strength and invited women to have an education. If women have education, women have the freedom to work and enter politics. Women must continue to struggle to have equal rights with men.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method, Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2011: 4) define qualitative methods as research procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior. The data generated are in the form of words, pictures and human behavior. The form of research used is qualitative research, because this form of research will produce data in the form of words and sentences and not in the form of numbers or carry out calculations. This research uses Naomi Wolf's liberal feminist analysis.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The image of a tough woman in the novel about you by Tere Liye

The novel about you tells the story of a woman named Sri Ningsih. The main character that has a life struggle inspires many readers, especially female readers. This makes women have the motivation to continue to move forward against the existing gaps in society by raising the image of women.

Liberal Feminism is a tool to be able to analyze the image of women, especially in novels. Liberal feminism theory offers to get social, economic, and freedom of self-determination and achieve equality because of the power within oneself. The novel about you gives a view that women can rise up, find freedom in a career and determine the path of a woman's life.

Women have power that comes from intelligence, self-charm, toughness and courage. This strength is an image in women that gives an image of a tough woman. This power is used by women to be equal to men.

1. The power and power of women

The power and power of women is reflected in the image in themselves. *Inner beauty* of a woman is one of the strengths of men. These strengths and powers are intelligence, charm, toughness and courage. These things are the image of women who are seen from a physical and psychological perspective with all the advantages that women have. This image can give a picture of women's freedom to determine their life path. The researcher analyzes the image of the main character Sri Ningsih through the views of the omniscient narrator and also the narrator who is a character in the story.

a. Intelligence

Wolf (1997: 204) states that women deserve the same space as men in terms of equality in education. Education is an important thing in one's life, with education one can more easily achieve success. Men and women have equal rights in education. This is also the hope of every parent so that their children get a good education. The



.....
first education will be obtained in the family. The data section below is a snippet of the story on the character of Ode's little friend Sri Ningsih.

"How's the little one?" Nugroho touched his wife's big belly. "The more often you kick, Mas. Once Agile." "That means he can't wait to go out to sea." His wife shook her head firmly "The little one will not be a fisherman, Mas, he will go to school. He will see the wide world with school. We've talked about it many times." (*About You* Page : 72)

The intelligence of the main character begins at a young age. Sri Ningsih studied at one of the schools in Sumbawa. Sri loved language lessons when she was in school. Being a parent's hope to be successful and see the world is something Sri Ningsih has realized.

Sri Ningsih becoming successful is the dream of her family, especially her mother. Rahayu's wish for Sri to become a smart woman was realized by Sri Ningsih's zeal for learning. Sri is an example of a woman who is willing to learn. Even though Sri Ningsih's school was far from where he lived, this did not make Sri despair and continued to study.

"Fulfilling his promise to his wife, Nugroho sent Sri Ningsih to school. In the evening he studied the Koran at the Bungin island mosque. In the afternoon he learned to read and count at a school across the island. In those years Indonesia had just become independent, not many schools were available, but the presence of branches of religious organizations such as NU or Muhammadiyah on Sumbawa Island, made many activists establish public schools." (*About You* page: 82-23)

From the text fragment above, we can see that the main character has the intention to learn. The main character shows that a woman can do things that are difficult to get to education, for example, although being hindered by access does not discourage Sri Ningsih School, who is diligent in studying the Koran and counting, is a good example for today's girls. make Sri Ningsih a strong woman for the future.

"Wait a minute Sri!" Mr. Anwar kept holding him. "I want to take a deep breath, Pak Ki'ai is too open-minded, girls shouldn't be able to learn to drive, boys still rarely learn. Hey don't turn it on just yet." Mr. Anwar's anxiety is excessive. Sri talented. Look at the moment after the car's engine started, with a steady movement, Sri Mukai stepped on the gas. The car advanced smoothly. (*About You* page: 164)

"Teacher Bujang is true Sri is very talented in language, she passed well in those subjects, apart from driving a car, but that one was not included in the curriculum." (*About You* page 165)

The data above is part of the story conveyed by the omniscient narrator in the story section of the Nur Aini character. The data above is a direct quote from the Nur Aini family driver character. This section explains that Sri Ningsih is a capable and fast learner. The comparison shown in the text above is in the 1970s that women still cannot learn to drive, perhaps for several reasons. The main character depicts a woman who is capable and can prove that women can do things that are usually only done by men. This can prove that women and men have the same position.

Sri's ability to be responsive and easy to understand makes Sri Ningsih easy to adapt and easy to follow the existing learning. Sri's ability to speak the language will enable her to be successful in the business world in the future and become a means of communication when Sri Ningsih moves to London.

"So where did the term street vendors actually come from?" "That's because of the Dutch colonial regulations." Sueb replied casually. "In the past, the VOC made a rule that every road must have a sidewalk of at least five feet, or about 1.5 meters so that pedestrians don't touch the Dutch, they use the unit of 'foot' or feet instead of 'meter'. Now, because our language is reversed with the 'five feet' Caucasian language, it becomes 'five feet'... I don't know who started trading with wheelbarrows in Jakarta only in the 1979's, the inventor must have had a thin brain because it was much easier to sell his merchandise. (*About you pages : 229-230*)

"I thought, If you can make tools that are easy to carry around, then you can trade without having a shop. A tool that is large enough to carry necessities, because if it is carried or carried with bamboo blades, it is impossible. I thought about it for months, then began to draft the rough drawings on paper. I met a

carpenter and a mechanic for a motorcycle repair shop to show me the design. After a week, the craftsmen made it and it became a wheelbarrow (About you letter page 230).

"The era of folding stationery, thinking about hypotheses. Referring to the story of Sueb and reading this sixth letter, it may be Sri who revolutionized the way street vendors in Jakarta" (*About you* page: 231)

The data above shows that the intelligence of the main character who designed a place to trade that is a wheelbarrow. From the data above, it can be seen that the depiction of the Age figures' views on Sri Ningsih through Sri Ningsih's letters. Sri Ningsih's ability to think so that it can be facilitated in trading is a testament to Sri Ningsih's intelligence. The intelligence of women who are able to make one of the tools to facilitate business is evidence of intelligence and ability to have the same position as men. This emphasizes that women who believe in themselves to enter a higher level are independent and strong women.

The main character shows that women can be independent from small things. The intelligence of the main character is shown even more when Sri Ningsih is able to create business opportunities from car rental to building a bath soap factory.

"Two weeks ago I decided to make a big decision, Nur, I sold the whole cart, as well as the two houses in the alley. Then added to the existing savings, I decided to buy six Toyota Corolla cars, rented one of the figures at Pasar Senen facing the main road. I officially started a new car rental business. The name is "Rahayu Car Rental", I purposely used a foreign language because their target market was them. (*About You* page: 244)

"I also sent this letter with a large cardboard package. Not only contains bath soap, there is also toothpaste, detergent, and floor cleaner. I continue to diversify products. Following the success of the soap product 'Rahayu'. (page: 268)

"Don't underestimate Ibu Sri's knowledge in many ways." (*About You* page 276) "For us she is a mother, sister, leader, mentor of everything." (*About You* page 278)

The data above is part of Sri Ningsih's letter. Sri Ningsih has a strong business sense. Sri Ningsih is a tough woman with a great leadership spirit. The leadership of a woman is something that is sometimes underestimated by society. The main character proves that women can also lead a company and have great employees. If you look at it, there are currently many women who are ready to become leaders. The leadership of a woman has been proven a lot by the advancement of women into the world of politics and so on. This power of women can be proof that women have the same position as men.

b. Charm

Women have a charm that attracts men. The charm of women can be seen from the physical and also the inner beauty or personality. A woman who has a beautiful face with each characteristic is unique and a gift from God. A woman's personality is also a beauty that is not seen by the physical eye but is felt by those around her. Sri Ningsih's charm in the novel *About You* is the image and characteristic of Sri Ningsih.

(Mrs. Nur Aini)

"What are you doing, sis? Kiyai Ma'sum's wife (commonly called Nyai Kiai) who was walking around looked at her in amazement. While wiping the sweat on her forehead, Sri answered with her head down, "Let the toilet be clean, Nyai." "Ouch, you even made this whole outhouse shine so clean." Kiai Ma'sum's wife laughed, joking. "Nyai isn't angry? Sri asked timidly "of course not. I'm really happy." (*About You* Page: 157)

(Chatrine)

I'm sure she chose to use SPV just so she wouldn't stand out, Ibu Sri Ningsih is always a down-to-earth person. I've seen him brushing his office latrine himself, even though he's the owner of this factory. (*About You* page: 276)

"Because we like you, Sri. Rent a room, not always for money reasons, but also to have neighbors, a nice family." Rajendra's mother nodded reassuringly. (*About You* Page, 2016:326)

The data above is a picture of the beauty of Sri Ningsih's personality conveyed by Mrs. Nur Aini and Chatrine. Sri has an inner charm that creates a good image in the eyes of the people around her. A good and polite female personality is something that every woman should have. Sri Ningsih sets an example for women to be friends,



humble leaders who are tenacious, humble and willing to fight. From her physical appearance, Sri Ningsih describes a female character of Javanese blood who was born and settled in Sumbawa. Sri Ningsih has a physical beauty with her own characteristics. The depiction of a real character's body shape is depicted through dialogue between the characters. Sri Ningsih character has a short body, stocky and black.

The terminal supervisor nodded "I have a little secret about that young Turk named Hakan." "Confidential?" "Yep, you want to hear it?" Sri was silent, *what secret?* "That kid, actually doesn't work at the British Telecom office near Victoria. His office is at British Telecom Watford."....

"If his office is there, why does he take bus route 16 every morning to the south? It was the complete opposite of the route to his office. One on the top one on the bottom via the subway."....

"That easy boy seems to really like you Sri. He sacrificed at least an hour to rotate each day south. Forced to get on your bus as scheduled just to chat for five minutes, then sprinted onto the train, headed for his office up north. I don't know if he arrived on time or not. A whole year I witnessed this madness." (*About You* page: 369)

The quote above is a description of the power and power of women's charms against men. Hakan's interest in Sri was able to make Hakan sacrifice for a year just to share 5 minutes with Sri Ningsih. The power of female charm is able to make men do things like sacrifices to get the woman he likes.

The charm of a woman is reflected in the personality she shows. Physical beauty from a human perspective cannot provide a standard for a woman's worth. The image of women is reflected in the behavior and abilities of women when socializing. The uniqueness of the characteristics of women is the most beautiful gift given by the Almighty.

c. Stubbornness

Women have a strong character to face problems in life. Crying sometimes makes women considered weak. Strength is the condition of a person being able to deal with problems strongly. Sri Ningsih is described as a character who has a strong psychic state. So, Sri Ningsih's character deserves to be used as an example because Sri Ningsih's example does not end with time. The toughness of Sri Ningsih's character can be seen from the narrator's point of view. Both the narrator is omniscient and the narrator is a character in the story.

Sri was running down the path, past the meeting houses, not knowing where she was going. He didn't want anyone to see him cry. Since childhood, since Nugroho raised him to be a strong and patient child, he has never cried in front of other people. Heavy drizzle covered the whole island. Sri sobbed, she couldn't help but cry anymore. (*About You* page: 101)

The above data is one proof of Sri Ningsih's stubbornness described by the omniscient narrator. Trying to hold back tears and not whine to other people is Sri's choice not to make other people worry. Losing a father who is Sri Ningsih's role model is painful. The resilience described above is the resilience of a small child who does not want to appear weak and must become a strong and patient child because of his parents' upbringing. The toughness of the main character is an example that women can face problems and crying is not an excuse to make women not tough.

"I have exciting news, Nur.

After a year of saving my money enough to start a business. I'm ready to move to the next stage. I'm trading fried rice, Nur" (*About You* page: 230)

"I'm sorry I didn't write the good news, Nur. I don't know, I also don't know whether all the things I'm facing are problems, or challenges to make me stronger, resilient. As far as I know, if you stand strong, then the people who work for me will also be strong." (*About You* Letter page: 239)

"Two weeks ago I decided to make a big decision, Nur, I sold the entire cart, as well as the two houses in the alley. Then added to the existing savings, I decided to buy six Toyota Corella cars, rented one of the shops at Pasar Senen facing the main road" (*About You* page: 244)

You may have seen the news on TVRI broadcast, Nur, A big mess is happening in Jakarta a week ago, when a student protest turned into a tantrum. Pasar Senen is burned, thick smoke billows in Jakarta. Riots happen everywhere. Nur, I have to accept the fact that the entire business I built four years ago from selling fried rice, plus a year and a half of the car rental business was destroyed in one day. (*About You* Page: 249)

"I never let my heart once have bad thoughts and hate other people, but this time, I'm ashamed to admit it, Nur, I actually started to have bad thoughts and hate God. Astaghfirullah. You have to get rid of this bad thought. I don't want to be controlled by negative thoughts. It's okay, God. It doesn't really matter, I also didn't have anything when I left Bungin Island, starting from scratch might make me understand many things better, be more grateful." (*About You* page: 250)

The text excerpt above is the view and fragment of the letter left by Sri Ningsih. The text fragment above explains how Sri Ningsih tried to start a business and rose from the failure she experienced. The way to understand every process that occurs is the success of Sri Ningsih's persistence.

Being grateful and willing to rise again is an example that women can take in Sri Ningsih's character. Sri Ningsih illustrates that the image of a strong woman can be seen from the attitude of dealing with problems that come in life. Sri gives an example of being grateful and getting up again is a way to get out of adversity

d. Courage

Is one of the toughest traits that every individual has. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, dare to have a steady heart and great self-confidence in the face of dangers, difficulties, and so on; unafraid (trepidation, wry). A strong woman is a brave woman. Dare to make decisions, dare to get out of your comfort zone, and dare to fight evil. In the novel *About You*, the character Sri Ningsih is brave in making decisions, dares to go out of her comfort zone and dares to try new things. Sri Ningsih is not afraid of losing to split the truth. The character of Sri Ningsih gives a picture of a woman who dares to go forward is a woman who is ready to succeed.

Sri Ningsih's character shows her bravery from a young age, Sri Ningsih's courage not to fight her stepmother to Sri Ningsih's courage when she helped her stepmother and sister. Sri Ningsih's other talents when she was growing up lived in Surakarta, Jakarta, London and Paris. The researcher describes Sri Ningsih's courage from the point of view of the characters in the story as follows.

Aimee was silent for a moment. His eyes glazed over.

"We didn't know at all if Sri Ningsih's mother had just traveled hundreds of kilometers from London all night.... He didn't have a penny, hitchhiking from one car to another. Including when crossing the English Channel, he took a fishing boat, because the ferry did not want to take passengers without a ticket. Arriving in mainland France, he returned, riding car after car, until finally arriving at our outskirts of Paris." (*About You* page : 34)

"It is unimaginable for an old woman to travel alone in the cold, starving, across the English Channel among fish boxes, just like a poor refugee..." (*About You* page : 35)

The data above is a description of Aimee's point of view about the character Sri Ningsih. From the data above, the researcher analyzes that Aimee's character thinks that Sri Ningsih is a brave woman. Sri Ningsih's figure dared to cross the English Channel, riding a car without a penny in hand. The character Sri Ningsih depicts a woman who is not afraid to take risks to get something.

Morning in 1961. A Chevrolet brand bus, with a roof filled with goods, wood and crate piled up, stopped in front of a gravel road. On the windshield of the bus, the route "Soerabaja-Soerakarta" is written, the driver shouts loudly telling the passengers. ...

"any baggage?" Kernet Ask. Sri Ningsih shook her head. He only carried a cloth bag which he never left him. There were no clothes left after the house caught fire. "Just follow this road, go in there, you will arrive at the Kiai Ma'sum madrasa."

(Page 153)

In the text fragment above, the character of Sri Ningsih who arrived to Surakarta is described. After the death of his mother Sri Ningsih and his sister moved to Surakarta to study at the Madrasah. The thank you section above describes the courage of Sri Ningsih's character who wants to leave Bungin Island and look for a new atmosphere. In this section, the omniscient narrator tells of the courage of Sri Ningsih, who at that time was about 15 years old, left the area with her sister. The character of Sri Ningsih depicts a tough woman who dares to leave the area to start a new life.

When the judge asked whether Sulastri was involved in the murder of Kiai Ma'sum, Sri was silent for a long time. Sri looked at Mbak Lastri's face. Sri Crying. Will he speak the truth? Or will he not choose friendship? "Witness brother. Please answer the question." Her share until whenever Mbak Lastri is her best friend.



Regardless of political choices, envy, whatever it may be, Mbak Lastri is her best friend. But Sri has never lied in her life, and she will not be tempted to start lying. I'm sorry, Mbak Lastri, Sri shouted, I'm sorry if I betrayed you in this court. Sri nodded. Hakim tapped his hammer. (About you page : 199)

The quote above describes a person's courage to fight crime even though the person being opposed is his own friend. The courage of the main character Sri Ningsih gives a picture of women who are not only concerned with friendship but also care about the truth. The figure of Sri Ningsih dared to give true testimony even though Sri knew that she would lose a friend of hers. Being firm with yourself not to lie is one of the strengths to stay in your position. Liberal Feminism assumes that women are able to think rationally and are able to realize this part.

Sri Ningsih's letter

"Jakarta, December 5, 1976

How are you, Nur? I hope that you, your husband, mas Arifin, fellow teachers, and students at Madrasas are always healthy and well. I arrived in Jakarta two weeks ago. Sorry if I'm late in sending a letter. A new place, everything is new, I'm still adjusting, including finding the nearest post office. (Sri Ningsih's Letter About You Page: 215)

In the data above, it can be seen that Sri Ningsih moved to Jakarta. Sri Ningsih dared to leave Surakarta and start a new life from scratch in Jakarta, this can be seen from the contents of Sri Ningsih's letters in the appendix. The letters from Sri Ningsih illustrate Sri Ningsih's courage to break into success with a new atmosphere. From the data on the ballots in the appendix, it is shown that Sri Ningsih dared to make decisions to start a new business. There have been several times Sri Ningsih failed, however, it did not make Sri Ningsih's character slump.

"Simple. Sri Ningsih's mother suddenly sold this factory." "Selling factory? Isn't the factory growing rapidly?" "You are right. It was indeed a very surprising decision." (about you page: 274)

The data above illustrates Sri Ningsih's courage from the view of Chatrine, the head of Sri Ningsih's factory. Chatrine thought that Sri Ningsih had made a very surprising decision. Sri Ningsih's courage to take the decision to sell the factory which is currently growing rapidly is one of the things that surprises Sri Ningsih's character. The character of Sri Ningsih has a brave image in her. The depiction of the image of women who have the courage to do something and make decisions. Sri Ningsih's Kbranian can be a guide for other women to dare to learn new things and get out of their comfort zone. The views of the characters in the story illustrate that Sri Ningsih has the image of a tough woman with charm, intelligence, toughness and courage.

2. Function of Women's Power

What is the function of power for women themselves. This is often a question for women and society in general. Power for women is to find the freedom to determine the way of life. Freedom of opinion, education, politics that makes women a leader. The leadership of a woman does not make women dominate men but is equal to men. Women's leadership is not only to lead a group but also to lead themselves.

Wolf argues that pursuing power and using it responsibly, both in the interests of women as individuals and to make the world more just for others (Wolf, 1997, p.202). Women's power exists to contribute to society and the family with the efforts that women want to realize. Namely, there is no tendency to dominate through the power gained by women.

The main character in the novel about you, Sri Ningsih, portrays a woman as a leader both for a company and for the family

. "A year after that incident, early 1976, Sri decided to say goodbye to Nur'aini and Arifin. He went to the capital city, Jakarta. Start a new life." (About You page: 199)

"That night, the train that took me arrived in Jakarta. This city is very big, much bigger than Surakarta. Frankly, the closer I got to Jakarta, the more nervous I was, confused about where to go. The good news was, there was a kind-hearted fellow passenger of the same carriage. Mothers in their fifties with their husbands. He seemed to know that it was my first time going to Jakarta. He offered to take me to his house in Tanah Abang. I initially refused his help.... But I have no choice, Nur, the train is late, it's almost ten o'clock. I couldn't have spent the night at a more dangerous station. After convincing myself I ended up going with that mother-in-law." (About You pages 216-217)

The quote above shows the power of Sri Ningsih. He was able to make the choice to once again step out of his comfort zone. The ability to fight fear and become a leader of one's own will. Progress to make your own choices and not depend on others is a form of power within yourself.

"When I was almost at the last point, almost giving up, the help came, Nur. Imagine three months I went around Jakarta looking for work, until I memorized the streets the same as an oplet driver who memorized the rhythm, it's a long way to find a job, Harmoni glodok, Kemayoran, do you know where I finally got a job? Only fifty meters from where I rented. There is a public school there... When I said I was a language teacher at a Madrasah, he offered to be a teacher at his school—because the language teacher position was vacant" (*About You* page 221)

The text quote above explains that Sri Ningsih was once a language teacher in one of the public schools in Jakarta. The teacher is the leader of the group in the classroom, where the teacher becomes the teacher and also the direction for the students. Sri Ningsih's character as a leader was also shaped when she became a teacher both from Surakarta and also in Jakarta. Pretentious leadership has started to emerge when Sri became a teacher.

"I now have twenty wheelbarrows, starting from selling fried rice, meatballs, chicken noodles. Until trying to sell vegetables around with a cart...."

The business of selling with wheelbarrows has progressed in the last year but the problems are also getting more and more...."

"This situation made me think a lot about whether I will continue in this business or it's time to change the wheel to find another business. I'm sorry I didn't write good news, Nur. I don't know, I also don't know whether all the things you are facing are problems or challenges so that I can become stronger, resilient. What I do know is that if you stand strong then the people who work for me will also be strong. Looks like I have to find new ideas, different opportunities to keep the business going." (*About You* page: 239)

The excerpt above is the outpouring of Sri Ningsih's heart. Sri is a woman with an open and great way of thinking. Sri's ability to adapt to the surrounding environment and be able to take advantage of existing opportunities is proof of a reliable businessman. The ability of the main character to provide a good image for women where Sri is able to use her power to be able to invest through business opportunities that exist in the surrounding environment.

Sri Ningsih is also a good leader because she thinks not only about herself but her employees as well. Sri Ningsih's nature is able to make her adapt and dominate the place where she lives. This is one of the functions of power in women.

"Two weeks ago I decided to make a big decision, Nur. I sold the whole wagon, as well as the two houses down the aisle. Then in addition to the existing savings, I decided to buy a Toyota Corolla by renting one of the figures at Pasar Senen which faces the main road. I officially started a new business Car rental. The name is "Rahayu Car rental." (*About you* page 244)

"My condition is not too bad, Nur, one of the car customers offered me a job, a Caucasian from England. He is the head of a factory that has only been established for two years in Pulogadung. At least my English is good so I can communicate with foreign engineers there." (*About you* page ; 255)

"Since yesterday, I saw the journalist reading old letters. What letter was that actually?"

"This is a letter from the person we are tracing his past, Mr. Sueb." Answering Time. "He's a national hero?" "He is indeed important but in a different sense, Mr. Sueb. There are many great things that appear simple. In fact, many precious moments in life come from the little things that we don't pay attention to, because we are too busy taking care of the other way around" (*About You* pages 256-257)

Sri Ningsih who started working in a soap factory after her business was destroyed due to the big incident in 1974 Sri Ningsih's experience, knowledge and work ethic make it easy for her to blend into a new job. Sri Ningsih's ability to lead was proven again when Sri was able to study at the Soap Factory where she worked so that she got a good position until Sri was able to build her own factory.

The form of power in Sri Ningsih is the ability to grow and not give up when faced with difficulties. Being able to rise and develop is something that is difficult for women to do so that it weakens the image of women in society.



“I was nervous the first time I got on a plane. My hands are sweating cold, my heart is beating faster. I never imagined getting on a plane, not even in my dreams. But when I arrived in Singapore, witnessing their developed country, I forgot my previous fears. I learned a lot here. The industry in Singapore is different from that in Indonesia, consumers need better and multifunctional products. This completes my knowledge, after knowing how to produce soap.” (*About You* Page : 258)

The quote above explains how Sri Ningsih was able to learn from the experiences she had. The power in Sri Ningsih that is able to make her grow into an independent woman so that she is able to compete with those around her.

“I'm going to make a soap factory. I'm not going to compete with the factory where I work, I'm going to focus on bath soap instead of laundry soap. I know what consumers need. The Indonesian middle market wants a higher quality, premium bath soap. The market has grown, in five or six years it will be bigger than the Singapore market. I've done some research, including studying the pattern of future sales.” (*About you* page: 260)

“Hard work never betrays, Nur. Three months since its first release, Soap rahayu is selling well. The characters who used to refuse to sell it are now sending orders. Supermarkets, shopping centers that used to be reluctant to display these products, now put them on the front shelf. I am now busy thinking about increasing factory capacity, because soap production is chasing sales turnover.” (*About You* Page: 262)

"I am nothing to Mrs. Sri Ningsih, just a teenager who was picked up from the street but to me she is an angel" (*About you* page: 277)

The quotes above are a strong illustration of how the function of women's power is. A strong desire to learn can make women have good power and do not compete with men but have the same position. The power of women's leadership is evidence of women's development. The ability to be able to adapt to the times and technology is able to make women more advanced.

The main character provides a good image of women as well as role models for women to be independent. Wolf argues that women's power feminism recognizes that the choices made by women can affect the lives of those around them and can change the world (Wolf 1997: 202). The choice made by Sri Ningsih changed her life. Making the right decision to get out of her comfort zone and willing to start the adventure of living alone made Sri Ningsih a stronger person.

Thus, it can be concluded that the success of a person is to try as hard as possible. Learning to get out of your comfort zone, willing to learn, and willing to process in every situation is the key to finding power over yourself. As described in the novel *About You*, the main character never gives up when faced with any difficulties. Being a strong woman, able to be independent and a guide for others. If, from the start, the main character gave up on the situation, then he could not fulfill his dream and that of his parents.

4. CONCLUSION

Analysis of Liberal feminism by Naomi Wolf in order to see the power of the image displayed by the main character in the novel. The main character shows the power that creates freedom through the strength and power of women, namely intelligence, charm, courage, and courage. And, the function of women's power is leadership. All of these things are described by Sri Ningsih who is a tough woman in the novel *About You*.

Sri Ningsih provides a role model for women to be tough and have power that makes women have the power to be equal to men. Thus, women have a share in themselves to find freedom in opinion and make life choices.

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