

SEXISM IN OKKY MADASARI'S *THE YEARS OF THE VOICELESS* (2013)



PUBLICATION ARTICLES

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Master Degree of Education
in Magister of Language Study**

Written by

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POST GRADUATE

MAGISTER OF LANGUAGE STUDY

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA

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It has been declared eligible

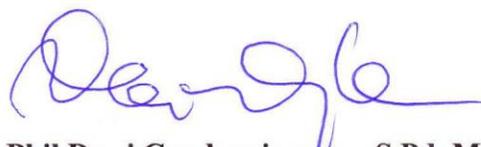
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SEXISM IN OKKY MADASARI'S *THE YEARS OF THE VOICELESS* (2013)

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ABSTRACT

OCTRIA TIRAFIAH. S 200 130 015. SEXISM IN OKKY MADASARI'S *THE YEARS OF THE VOICELESS* (2013). THESIS. MAGISTER OF LANGUAGE STUDY. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2015.

This study is aimed to show how sexism is depicted in *The Years of the Voiceless* novel by using feminist approach. It is done by determining two objectives: the first is analyzing the novel based on feminist analysis and the second is analyzing the novel based on the issue raised by the writer. This research is descriptive qualitative research. Type of data of the study is text taken from two data sources: primary and secondary. The primary data source is *The Years of the Voiceless* novel written by Okky Madasari released in 2013. Whereas the secondary data sources are other materials taken from books or e-books, journals, internet related to the study. They are collected through library study and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The study draws the following conclusions. Firstly, based on the feminist analysis of *The Years of the Voiceless* novel written by Okky Madasari conveys the message through the major character. The major character of this novel is Marni. Marni struggles to be able to take part in domestic activity and a wider range makes her fall up to face men and rulers. In *The Years of the Voiceless* novel, equality between women and men is still sorely lacking. It can be viewed in terms of economic, political, security, and social activities especially for Marni. Secondly, the analysis divides into two based on sexism types; hostile sexism and benevolent sexism. Hostile sexism regards as an attitude inferior towards women as reflected in the novel. Research findings on this section are divided into three terms: taking control in arguing participation, inappropriate in wielding over economic, and lack of regard in women's dignity and self-esteem. While in benevolent sexism the writer classifies it into two, justifying women in chivalrous attitude and complementary of men's lack. Both hostile sexism and benevolent sexism are different. Hostile sexism shows an attitudes in dominating society by men. Benevolent sexism involves subjectively favorable, chivalrous attitudes towards women whom need an affection and support.

***Keywords:* Feminism, Sexism, Hostile Sexism, Benevolent Sexism.**

A. INTRODUCTION

The role of women in daily life is important who have maternal instinct for giving such contribution to the around the world. Their role cannot be underestimated because every human is created in same way so they also have the same opportunity in developing themselves such as have a freedom in developing their own talent, choosing household, public relationship or social communication, and profession. Nowadays, women's role has such good place and acceptable, they do have contribution in various institutions. On the other hand, viewed from other perspectives women are still abused for example; the persistence of women trafficking, domestic violence to women, and even sexual abuse.

In Webster dictionary sexism is defined as prejudice or discrimination against women. Thomas (1980: 240) "sexism is readily lends itself to a morally unobjectionable description and it is the positive self-concept of men has been more centrally tied to their being racists". According to Milis (2008:10-11), the term of sexism is also used to categorize a set of stereotypical beliefs about women who cannot be directly related to the use of language or a particular set of features. According to Mills (2008:10-11), the term of sexism is also used to categorize a set of stereotypical beliefs about women who cannot be directly related to the use of language or a particular set of features. Overt or direct sexism is the type of use that can be identified in a straightforward through the use of linguistic markers, or through the analysis of the presumption, which has historically been associated with the expression of a discriminatory opinion about the woman, who gave the signal to listeners that women are seen as low in relation to the group of men.

There are some previous studies that become consideration for the researcher in doing this study. The researcher choose an issue that has not been used in analyzing this novel. She wants to show the differences of her study and the previous study ad follows: the study about *The Years of the Voiceless* novel in Indonesian version entitled *Entrok* is conducted by Ayuni Gamas (2012) from

UNPAD. She entitled her research; *Perlawanan Perempuan Akibat Ketidakadilan Gender dalam Novel Entrok Karya Okky Madasari*. She uses radical feminism theory to elaborate her issues. Results of the study show the form of gender inequality experienced by women in various field, including in the areas of a division of labor, wage distribution, and also abuses committed by government officials. Injustice makes women's resistance, those women actors use independency and sexuality of women as the media of their fights.

Then, the study of *Entrok* is found in State University of Semarang by Prihatiningsih (2012) entitled *Uang dan Kekuasaan pada Masa Orde Baru dalam Novel Entrok Karya Okky Madasari: Kajian Hegemoni Gramsci*. The results of research in the novel *Entrok* Okky Madasari works: (1) conducted by the hegemonic practices of the New Order to the public relating to the issue a success of government programs as well as racial discrimination received by Chinese citizens. (2) The role of money and power in the New Order that has a reciprocal relationship between the two. Based on the results of the study, researcher gives suggestions of this research is expected to be a reference for the development of subsequent research to be reviewing on *Entrok* novel by Okky Madasari.

The differences between the previous studies with this research is the theory of the study used in analyzing the novel and the theory being applied related to the issues. The similarities are the last two of previous studies used same object to be analyzed, some issues used by the previous researcher is also about gender. From previous studies, it can be concluded that none are investigating sexism in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013). This study will be elaborating as well as examining the meaning of sexism happening upon women's existence.

The reason why I study this novel is as follows: *first*, Indonesia is the house of democratic transition in which the life of minority, women, and disabled groups are often reprimanded. *Second*, as teacher, this novel is valuable to be studied because it can be the media for teaching about how citizen lives in late of 60s and history of Indonesia in the past. This novel can be one of the examples of tragedy

happened in Indonesia. *Third*, I prefer to employ feminist approach since it helps me seeing problems from women's eyes in analyzing this novel. *Fourth*, this study has important and interesting issue, it is sexism. That's why the writer entitled Sexism in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013). The first is analyzing the data based on feminist approach. Focus will be paid on the sexism reflected in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013).

B. THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

Smuts in Fischer (1999: 15) observes that feminist theory focuses on the issues of power: who has it, how they get it, how it is used, and the consequences. Feminist analysis has problematical the generic use of masculine nouns and pronouns, on the grounds that such linguistic practices both reverse and devote against the marginalization of women and the status symbol in public. (Philcer and Whelehan, 2004:1)

Major principles of Feminism are divided into four; women's role, women's position, women's right, and women's participation. Women are expected to be the moral guardians of both their children and husband. Husbands and sons would return from the competitive marketplace and the contentious political arena to rearrange their moral scopes under the gentle figure of wives and mothers. In the previous gender dispensation, women are viewed as weaker person, even sexually suspect, in need of control by husbands and sons. In the new separate spheres, women are visualized as the angels of the home, sexually vulnerable and in need of protection by man. This new role empowered women with moral authority at the same time that it protected them in the domestic sphere.

The term sexism implied a model of the relation between the sexes which is necessarily antagonistic: all women pitted against all men in the 'battle of the sexes'. Women were presented as the victims of male aggression, fear and hatred. Sexism was seen to be determined by patriarchy – a social system which privileged men at the expense of women. Whilst being keenly aware of the persistence of

structural inequalities between men and women and emphasizing the notion of institutional sexism, the notion of a global homogeneous patriarchy is simplistic. (Mills, 2008:21)

There are two types of sexism, hostile sexism and benevolent sexism. Hostile sexism regards as an attitude inferior towards women as reflected in the novel. Hostile Sexism shows an attitude in dominating society by men. Benevolent sexism involves subjectively favorable, chivalrous attitudes towards women whom need an affection and support.

Hostile sexist beliefs in women's incompetence at agentic tasks characterize women as unfit to wield power over economic, legal, and political institutions, whereas benevolent sexism provides a comfortable rationalization for confining women to domestic roles. Benevolent sexism suggests a subjectively positive view of women, it shares common assumptions with hostile sexist beliefs that women inhabit restricted domestic roles and are the "weaker" sex. (Glick and Fiske, 1996: 492)

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative research to analyze novel and other related data sources to support the subject matter. In addition, the researcher will focus on analyzing sexism reflected in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013) novel.

In doing this research, the writer uses type of descriptive qualitative for her study on Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013) novel. The data of this study is text based on *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013) novel. The object of this study is *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013) novel written by Okky Madasari. It is analyzed by using feminist approach. In analyzing the data, the writer applies descriptive analysis, in which the data is collected, described and then analyzed. The steps taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows: the first is

analyzing the data based on feminist theory and then focus will be paid on analyzing sexism. The researcher uses note-taking as the method of collecting data in this research.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013) novel, the researcher found some features in every branch of feminism. The writer unveils them as follows:

1. Women's Position

There are two kinds of women's features found by the researcher based on *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013) novel. The finding of her research will be described as follows:

a. Women's Position in Earning Money

In society, women seem are seen as the lower than man, they have no wider place in their life. In *The Years of the Voiceless*, women are still controlled by man no matter they work very hard for life but still men put women as subordinate people. The major character in this novel is Marni. She is drawn as a strong, independent and survival woman. She desires to get the same place and position in earning morney. She does not want to always places man as the ones who rule women in every aspect of their life

b. Women's Position in Social Activities

From different perspective, women's position can be lifted higher than man for some reasons. It can be seen that the positions of Marni illustrated in *The Years of the Voiceless* (2013) novel looks disparate. In terms of earning for money she still ignored or considered as weak women who could make a living as men at the time. But in social activities, it seems contrast to the previous case. Marni seems to be a person who respected for her position who can help people after her success in trade and builds a good house. She considered be able to contribute in social activities.

2. Women's Role

Development of ideology primarily in Java that woman's role as the only person who can only dress and make her up to beauty one, supple friend on bed, and gave birth to a child become such a solid fortress to be dismantled by themselves. The women's role based on *The Years of the Voiceless* novel will be explained in detail as follows:

a. Women's Role in Family

Women's role separated by a concrete division of labor and it looks far from equality than men. They should be able to break through to public areas not only in the narrow and domestic area as well as men. Marni's role in daily life seems look like the description of woman being who just get narrow place and area where she cannot enter and emerge to wide area. The duty of women as wife and mother for children are heavy jobs exactly, but it does not mean when a man who feels that he is ruling on the role as the breadwinner.

b. Women's Role in Industry

Women's roles are separated by a concrete labor division than man. At that time, only man who can work in a big industry. People who can work in industry mean they are rich. In this case, there is gender inequality and marginalization of women who seemed not to understand of large and wide world especially in industry. They considered as an incompetent person, factory is the place where men can get job and work, it is not for women because women workers are often taken lightly and should not be qualified as well as men. The roles of women are tighten with the lack of equalization to obtain the same role with men in terms of employment.

3. Women's Right

As human beings who are born in equality to another one, women also want to possess their rights that need to be compared to men. On the other hand, in social reality especially in the terms of political, economic as well as in everyday life

that women's rights are still neglected. Women's right in *The Years of The Voiceless* novel can be seen in some explanation belows:

a. Women's Right for Survival

In *The Years of The Voiceless*, Marni struggles to get her own right that is not given by patriarchy society. She struggles in order to able speak up between men and especially military who always get right of all things. She tries getting her own right as a woman who should earn a living for survival her life and family.

b. Women's Right for Getting Job

The struggle for women's rights displayed by Marni's family who originally was a poor and underestimated by many people. The bitter struggle which has passed by Marni and her family shows that the rights which they fight should be obtained. From the statement and quote above explains that women are able to pass the obstacles, how difficult they stands upright as a woman to get a decent rights as complete women.

4. Women's Participation

The thought of women's participation in many activities, they just make chaotic proven at the time. Short thinking of women are considered that they could not understand how it should work and it makes women regarded as one of the causes of disorder. Their participation in the case of argue less than acceptable. Their participation based on *The Years of the Voiceless* novel are still being sub-ordinate by men, it will be defined as follows:

a. Women's Participation in Political

In *The Years of the Voiceless* women seem has less participation in decision making because men always force his opinion toward women. For men, women as easily suppressed both mentally and physically. The power that used by the ruling and men make women cannot do much. Marni who tries to participate in speaking to people who has power unfortunately she gets unpleasant treatment either from her own husband or of those in power.

The researcher also finds kinds of features in every sexism's types, each types has different features. The research finding based on data that taken from *The Years of the Voiceless* novel will be explained as follows:

1. Hostile Sexism

Hostile Sexism shows attitudes in dominating society by men. Hostile sexism regards as an attitude inferior towards women as reflected in the novel. In this study, the researcher found three features of Hostile Sexism. They will be explained as follows:

a. Taking Control in Arguing Participation

In political terms, men who have the right to negotiate in order not to destabilize the situation like what considered by Teja. He is Marni's husband. Marni will only make trouble if she takes part in the negotiations. Marni's husband repeatedly says that the role of Marni has not been taken into account in political terms. Teja considers that Marni has no competent in such matters.

b. Improprate for Wielding Over Economic

In economic terms, women are often underestimated, as evidenced in *The Years of the Voiceless* novel as if the notion of participation in economic terms less upheld. Marni who wants to raise the degree as women through the economy experienced get a lot of bully from those who regard that Marnis cannot afford it. Marni is still considered not competent in the economic field despite the fact that she is a trader. Unfortunately, her status as traders could not be counted as person who is considered as capable and worthy woman to participate in the affairs of the calculation.

c. Lack of Regard in Women's Dignity and Self-esteem

In other cases women are the victims of sexual abuse either verbally or physically. In *The Years of the Voiceless* novel also illustrates some of the side. Events in the past, there are still many poor and uneducated women make it even

more as a target of satisfying men's lust, so utterances are harassing dignity of women is often still be obtained.

2. Benevolent Sexism

Benevolent sexism involves subjectively favorable, chivalrous attitudes towards women whom need an affection and support. The researcher found two features of Benevolent Sexism on her study, they are as follows:

a. Justifying Women in Chivalrous Attitude

In *The Years of the Voiceless* novel, there is statement or comment from a man to a woman who became his co-workers, this comment shows how the position of men than women. However, actually this comment contains things that are not positive for women who perceived less pleasant to hear. It will be sensitive thing if the woman considers that statement delivered is a mere insinuation. It is like what done by Teja to Marni after she became a porter and manage in collecting money from her labors and it goes beyond what is gained by Teja.

b. Complementary of Men's Lack

As well as people in general, Marni is longing for careness and affection of a man. She also wants to be cherished, respected, and has a favorable thing from others. Men also need it although he is a sometimes degrading women, he still has a sense of where he needs a figure of women. Woman who can complement the shortage owned by the man making this attitude appears in sexist. Analysis of benevolent sexism shows that although men often degrading women, they still need woman to complete their shortcomings. Possessing traits of woman which men cannot have it naturally, makes women will be supported and loved as a weak and sensitive person. The sensitive nature of woman who is considered able to complete the necessary desire of men.

E. Conclusion

Firstly, based on the feminist analysis of *The Years of the Voiceless* novel written by Okky Madasari conveys the message through the major character. The major character of this novel is Marni. Marni struggles to be able to take part in domestic activity and a wider range makes her fall up to face men and rulers. In *The Years of the Voiceless* novel, equality between women and men is still sorely lacking. It can be viewed in terms of economic, political, security and social activities especially for Marni. The roles of women are tightened with the lack of equalization to obtain the same role with men in terms of employment.

Secondly, there are two types of sexism; Hostile Sexism and Benevolent Sexism. Hostile sexism regards as an attitude inferior towards women as reflected in the novel. Research findings on this section are divided into three terms: Taking Control in Arguing Participation, Inappropriate in Wielding over Economic, and Lack of Regard in Women's Dignity and Self-esteem. While in Benevolent Sexism the writer classifies it into two, Justifying Women in Chivalrous Attitude and Complementary of Men's Lack. Both Hostile Sexism and Benevolent Sexism are different. Hostile Sexism shows attitudes in dominating society by men. Benevolent sexism involves subjectively favorable, chivalrous attitudes towards women whom need an affection and support. In addition, possessing traits of woman which men cannot have it naturally, makes women will be supported and loved as a weak and sensitive person. The sensitiveness of woman who considered be able to complete the necessary desire of men.

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