

MOTHERHOOD ANALYSIS IN THE MAIN FEMALE CHARACTER OF THE NOVEL "LEBIH SENYAP DARI BISIKAN" BY ANDINA DWIFATMA

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Abstract

Feminism is an exciting area to study; it might reflect how culture, spirit, society, or language is conceptualized. A novel with the theme of feminism is "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan (Quieter Than a Whisper)" by Andina Dwifatma. This study examines how the concept of motherhood and Amara's image as a mother are depicted from the physical, psychological, and social aspects of the novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" by Andina Dwifatma. There are 9 research data in the form of quotations, which include 26 sentences consisting of 8 sentences describing the concept of "motherhood", and 18 sentences describing the image of Amara's character as a mother from physical, psychological, and social aspects. The data analysis technique used is descriptive qualitative, accompanied by the analysis of Culler's feminist literary criticism, namely "Reading as a Woman." The results showed that many sentences depicted the concept of motherhood and that the main female character, Amara, was imaged more in the psychological and social aspects during childcare than during her pregnancy and experienced more problems related to psychological and social relationships with people around her. In addition, Amara is also portrayed as a mother in the physical aspect but with low intensity in caring for the child she gave birth to.

Keywords: *feminist literary criticism, concept of motherhood, image as a mother*

Introduction

Patriarchy is a system of structure and social implementation that places men in a dominant position to oppress and exploit women (Allanana, 2013:115). In Indonesia, women are often pressured by various demands, such as being able to cook, do housework, get married soon, be a good wife and mother, give birth to children, and many more.

Under patriarchy, women are often defined simply as mothers, and as such, they are not viewed as individuals. With the sole role of caring, mothers' experiences, personalities, and desires are often ignored (Oliveira, 2016:70). In domestic life, women do more housework, and of course, they are required to be more patient in dealing with various things. Motherhood is one of the labels for women, especially for women who have become wives and/or mothers.

In literature, feminism is related to the concept of feminist literary criticism, namely the study of literature that directs the focus of analysis to women. Feminist literary

criticism does not mean criticism of women or women authors. It is crucial to investigate how women are represented as well as how text is manifested through gender relationships and social comparisons (Rachman, 1999:2). In addition, feminist literary criticisms are used to recognize the position of women in literary works to uncover the patriarchal system that dominates women's social life. The simple meaning conceived is that critics view literature with a particular awareness that there is a gender that has a lot to do with culture, literature, and life. Reading as a woman means reading with an understanding of dismantling androcentric or patriarchal presumptions and the ideology of male power, which until now still dominates writers and literary readers (Culler, 1983:43).

One of the literary works that became a medium of appeal about feminism is the novel. The novel is one of the popular works which is an imaginative work that is close to everyday life. An example of a novel that raises feminism about motherhood is "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" (Quieter Than a Whisper) by Andina Dwifatma. This novel tells about the twists and turns of the household life of a husband and wife named Baron and Amara who have household problems that pressure them, especially for the main female character, Amara, as a housewife. This novel, which is told from a woman's point of view, invites readers to feel the turmoil within Amara as a woman, wife, mother, and career woman in dealing with the household problems she faces.

In addition, this novel also includes thoughts about the need for women, especially mothers, to implement internal transformation to get a better and good life for themselves and their children. In general, the novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" has a unique charm because it shows the cases and existence of women in a patriarchal environment that is less favourable to the position of women, which is told from Amara's point of view as the main female character. Women's problems are related to public opinion that indirectly affects and harms women, especially the concept of motherhood. This thinking comes from understanding patriarchal power, and that power is in the hands of men.

From the previous explanation, the writer is interested in studying the novel "*Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan*" by Andina Dwifatma because this novel written from a woman's point of view which describes the problems experienced by the main female character named Amara is also felt by every woman, especially those who are married and have children. Amara recounts how her life's journey was not easy in building a household with her husband, Baron before it finally ended anyway and how she struggled for the life of her child without the help of her husband. Therefore, the writer is interested in studying more deeply the concept of motherhood and conveying the image of women as mothers contained in the novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" both physically, psychologically, and socially, with the title 'Motherhood Analysis in The Main Female Character of The Novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" by Andina Dwifatma'.

This study has 2 aims of study. The first aim of this study is to describe the concept of 'motherhood' in the novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan", and the second aim of this study is to describe the image of Amara as a mother as the main female character from the physical, psychological, and social aspects.

To examine some data found in Andina Dwifatma's novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" the writer uses the theory of literary criticism from Culler (1983), namely 'Reading as a Woman' which relates to social and cultural factors from the readers. In this case, the reader's attitude becomes the main factor in analyzing feminist literary criticism in

literary work such as a novel. Culler's theory of feminist literary criticism is to connect the story with the concept of motherhood and the image of women as mothers contained in the novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan". This aims to find out how the image of the concept of motherhood and women as a mother manifested by Andina Dwifatma in her novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan".

Methods

A qualitative study was used by the writer as a type of study because it looked at the object of study in the form of a novel where there was absolutely no data calculation technique. The writer will analyze the object of study by describing and explaining the findings of the data during the study. In this study, the writer analyzes quote sentences or paragraphs based on the point of view of the main female character named Amara based on Andina Dwifatma's novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan"

This study takes data sources from a novel entitled "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" by Andina Dwifatma. This novel was first published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama publisher, in June 2021 in Jakarta and has 155 pages and 9 chapters. In this study, the writer analyzed quote sentences or paragraphs based on the point of view of the main female character named Amara based on Andina Dwifatma's novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan". The data taken was in the form of 26 sentences consisting of 8 sentences describing the concept of "motherhood" and 18 sentences describing Amara's image as a mother from the physical, psychological, and social aspects. Every piece of data is evidence and justification during the study analysis process. Data were taken from 7 out of 9 chapters consisting of chapters 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 because the depiction of the concept of "motherhood" and the image of Amara as a mother is more shown in these chapters.

The writer used the stratified sample collection technique because the writer only takes sentences that describe motherhood as the focus of analysis in this study. According to Elder (2018), stratification involves splitting the sample frame into smaller groups or strata and using these strata to 'weigh' the selected sample as appropriate to represent the original sampling frame.

The writer uses a sample data collection technique with the documentation method. The documentation method was chosen because the writer used the novel as the object of study, and the data information obtained came from the novel.

The data analysis technique in this study is descriptive qualitative accompanied by an analysis of feminist literary criticism. The writer chose these two analytical techniques because the descriptive analysis can provide a reflective or comparative picture by comparing the similarities and differences of a particular case or phenomenon, while the analysis of literary criticism of feminism is an attempt to identify the image of maternal feminism. This study uses the analysis technique of Culler's feminist literary criticism to express 'Reading as a Woman' (Culler, 1983). These two analytical techniques are used to describe the depiction of the concept of 'motherhood' and the image of Amara as a mother in Andina Dwifatma's novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan".

To ensure the validity of the data related to the analysis of motherhood in the novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" by Andina Dwifatma, the writer uses a source triangulation technique with the steps used to read, and understand the contents of the novel, carry out an analysis related to motherhood in the novel and the image of

Amara as a mother from the physical, psychological, and social aspects and concludes the results of the analysis. The writer used the source triangulation technique as the technique used to test credibility because in this study the writer made observations and documentation from various sources that support the validity of the study data. The writer tries to study data from various sources and checks the results of the study with several expert opinions through books or journal articles that discuss literary criticism of feminism, especially feminism regarding the image of feminism or motherhood in the novel.

Result and Discussion

Research Findings

The data findings obtained from the data source in the form of the novel "Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan" amounted to 9 data with a total of 26 sentences. The results of the data findings can be seen in the table 1 below:

Table 1. Data Findings

Problem of Study	Pregnancy Phase		Caring for Children Phase	
Depiction of The Concept of Motherhood	3	12%	5	19%
Physical Aspect	3	12%	2	8%
Psychological Aspect	3	12%	5	19%
Social Aspect	1	4%	4	14%
Total Sentences and percentages	10	40%	16	60%

From the table above can be seen that in the novel "Senyap dari Bisikan" by Andina Dwifatma, there are 16 sentences describing feminism which are divided into two phases, namely pregnancy and caring for children. In these two phases, each there is showing a depiction of the concept of motherhood, physical aspect, psychological aspect, and social aspect. There are 8 sentences that show the concept of motherhood. There are 5 sentences that show physical aspects. There are 8 sentences that have social aspects. Further explanation is as follows:

1. Pregnancy Phase

The pregnancy phase is a condition that describes the period of fetal development in the womb. This phase can usually affect the psychology and physique of the mother. In this phase, there is a depiction of the concept of motherhood and the image of Amara as a mother, which is shown in the following data:

01/LSDB/Ch2/pg39/Amara

1. The depiction of the concept of motherhood: "*Air mataku mengalir tanpa bisa kutahan. Dadaku seperti mau meledak oleh perasaan bahagia.*" These sentences describe the concept of motherhood as a feeling of happiness and emotion at the sign of the presence of a child to be born.
2. The physical aspect: "*Untuk pertama kalinya, aku merasakan tendangan di perutku.*" The sentence explains that Amara's gestational age, which is getting

closer to the day of birth, makes her stomach look more significant so she can feel the baby's movement in her womb.

3. The psychological aspect: "*Tendangan itu singkat saja, tetapi seluruh tubuhku seperti tersengat.*" The sentence describes Amara feeling amazed and very happy because, for the first time, she could feel her baby's kick, indicating that the baby was in her stomach.

02/LSDB/Ch3/pg45/Amara

1. The depiction of the concept of motherhood: "*Suatu kali aku makan sate padang tengah malam, dan Yuki barangkali karena kepedasan, menendangi perutku sampai telapak kakinya menonjol ke luar.*" The sentence describes where Amara's maternal instincts begin to understand what the baby feels in her stomach.
2. The physical aspect: "*Memasuki trimester ketiga, dan memanggil namanya.*" The sentence explains that the phases of Amara's pregnancy pushed her physical image to experience weight gain due to increased food consumption. Because she is entering the third trimester, Amara feels the presence of her fetus starting to move actively in her stomach. The psychological aspect: "*Aku dan Baron ngeri sekaligus takjub.*" The sentence revealed how Amara felt horrified and amazed when she saw a bulge in the shape of a sole from inside her stomach.
3. The social aspect: "*Bayangan bahwa janinku kini sudah berbentuk manusia kecil membuat kami tak sabar bertemu dengannya.*" This sentence shows how Amara's affection and impatience in waiting for the birth of her child.

03/LSDB/Ch3/pg51/Amara

1. The depiction of the concept of motherhood: "*Rasa paling sakit bukanlah waktu mengejan, tapi menahan kontraksi sampai mulut rahim terbuka sempurna.*" The sentence illustrates how Amara struggles to endure the pain during contractions until the unbearable birth process.
2. The physical aspect: "*Rasanya seperti ada ratusan tangan menendang perutku sekuat-kuatnya.*" This sentence shows how Amara felt excruciating pain in her stomach during the birth process.
3. The psychological aspect: "*Selama kehamilan untuk rasa sakit semacam ini.*" The sentence shows that apart from the pain due to the contractions that would give birth, Amara also felt annoyed because no one had told her about the extreme pain she had to feel during the birthing process.

2. Caring for Children Phase

The caring for children phase is a condition that describes the period in which parents, especially a mother, take care of their children from infancy to adulthood. This phase can usually affect the psychological, physical, and social aspects of a mother, especially those who have just given birth.

04/LSDB/Ch4/pg59/Amara

1. The depiction of the concept of motherhood: "*Yuki berbaring di tengah-tengah antara aku dan Baron yang masih saja ditolak.*" This sentence

shows how a mother must always be ready when her child needs her at any time.

2. The physical aspect: "*Setiap malam kami hanya tidur dua-tiga jam.*" The sentence shows the physical aspect of Amara, who has had short sleep patterns since becoming a mother.
3. The psychological aspect: "*Kepalaku nyut-nyutan dan aku jadi ingin sekali membanting barang.*" The sentence shows Amara is quite shocked and stressed because of her short sleeping hours, and Yuki has not been breastfed yet.
4. The social aspect: "*Yuki berbaring di tengah-tengah antara aku dan Baron yang masih saja ditolak.*" This sentence shows Amara described as working with her husband in learning to care for her child.

05/LSDB/Ch4/pg63/Amara

1. The depiction of the concept of motherhood: "*Aku ingin melindungi Yuki dia lebih aman di sana.*" This sentence illustrates that a mother will do anything to protect her child from all kinds of dangers.
2. The psychological aspect: "*Sejak menjadi ibu aku memang lebih cengeng.*" This sentence shows Amara's emotional changes, which makes her cry more quickly because she is touched by seeing simple things since becoming a mother.
3. The social aspect: "*Selain itu, berita kriminal membuatku lebih ketakutan daripada biasanya, terutama kalau anak kecil yang menjadi korban.*" This sentence shows how Amara is worried for her child's safety.
4. However, in this data number, there is no explanation regarding Amara's physical image.

06/LSDB/Ch6/pg103/Amara

1. In this data number, there are no sentences showing the depiction of the concept of motherhood. The quotation above only shows the image of Amara as a mother from the physical, psychological, and social aspects.
2. The physical aspect: "*Air susu tiba-tiba saja berhenti mengalir.*" The sentence states that suddenly Amara cannot express her breast milk.
3. The psychological aspect: "*Air susu tiba-tiba saja berhenti mengalir. yang kami berikan padanya.*" The sentence shows that Amara panicked when she found that her milk could not come out while her child refused to drink the formula she gave him.
4. The social aspect: "*Pencarian kami akhirnya bermuara di sebuah merek susu formula impor yang harganya membuatku ingin menjual ginjal.*" This sentence shows that Amara as a mother still trying to find suitable formula milk for her child to drink, even though the price is expensive.

07/LSDB/Ch7/pg114/Amara

1. The depiction of the concept of motherhood: "*Malam itu aku mengelap badan Yuki dengan handuk hangat, mengganti bajunya dengan piyama, mengoleskan minyak telon ke perut, dada, dan punggungnya.*" The sentence illustrates how a mother is very painstaking in caring for her child.

2. The psychological aspect: "*Dua manusia kesepian sudah seharusnya saling menemani.*" The sentence shows Amara's lonely feelings because she is taking care of her child alone without the help of her husband.
3. The social aspect: "*Yuki menatapku dengan mata redup. Aku tersenyum dan mempererat pelukan.*" The sentences shows how close Amara is to her child.

08/LSDB/Ch7/pg120/Amara

1. The depiction of the concept of motherhood: "*Apa karena aku seorang ibu dan dengan sendirinya aku tahu apa yang harus kulakukan dengan anakku?*" This sentence is explained in a situation where Baron is an example of the opinion of people who think that a mother must know what to do with her child.
2. The psychological aspect: "*Aku yang memutar otak untuk bertahan hidup bersama anak kami sementara Baron berkeliaran di luar sana entah berbuat apa.*" The sentence shows that Amara as a mother feels pressured and confused because she has to think about how her child's life and herself will be without her husband by her side.

09/LSDB/Ch8/pg133/Amara

In this data number, there is only an explanation about the depiction of the concept of motherhood as seen in the sentence "*Baron berasumsi bahwa aku selalu tahu apa yang terbaik untuk Yuki karena aku ibunya.*" This sentence shows the concept of motherhood, how people think a mother must have good instincts and always know what is best for their children.

Discussion

The data found by the writer was analyzed using the theory of feminist literary criticism by Culler, namely "Reading as a Woman". Therefore, when analyzing the writer positions herself as a female reader to be able to feel what the main female character feels in the novel "*Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan*" by Andina Dwifatma. Based on the results of the analysis above, an explanation is needed from this analytical study. The following is a discussion of the results of the data analysis that has been obtained.

The depiction of the concept of motherhood in the novel "*Lebih Senyap Datri Bisikan*" by Andina Dwifatma is one of the study problems in this study. The writer chose this problem of study because the novel contains issues of feminism related to the concept of motherhood told from the point of view of the main female character named Amara. The depiction of the concept of motherhood in the novel "*Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan*" by Andina Dwifatma is divided into two phases, namely the phases of pregnancy and caring for children.

The depiction of the concept of motherhood during the pregnancy phase is how Amara's maternal nature emerged since pregnancy. First, Amara felt very happy when she felt the baby's movement in her stomach. Secondly, Amara's maternal instincts began to emerge when Amara could feel what her baby felt while in her stomach. Third, Amara struggled to endure the excruciating pain during contractions until she gave birth so she could give birth to her child safely and healthily without thinking about the risks for herself. The risks of childbirth often occur during the delivery process. The worst risk is in the form of death (Amalia, 2017).

Furthermore, in the phase of caring for children, the concept of motherhood in the novel "*Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan*" by Andina Dwifatma is described as follows. First, a mother must always be ready whenever and wherever her child needs it. Second, a mother will do anything to protect her child from all kinds of danger. Third, a mother will be painstaking in caring for her child, from washing, dressing, and feeding, to caring for her child who is sick. Fourth, other people's opinion regarding the concept of motherhood is that a mother must know what to do and what is best for her child.

Apart from depicting the concept of motherhood, the image of Amara as a mother is also a problem of study. The writer chooses the image of Amara as a mother as the second problem of study because the writer wants to know and describe how the image of Amara as a mother in the novel "*Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan*" by Andina Dwifatma from the physical, psychological, and social aspects. Similar to the depiction of the concept of motherhood, the image of Amara as a mother is also divided into two phases, namely, the phase of pregnancy and the phase of caring for children.

The image of Amara as a mother from the physical aspect during the pregnancy phase, namely the change in body shape in Amara, such as an enlarged stomach due to the growth of the fetus in her womb, so that Amara can feel the movement of the fetus in her stomach, and weight gain due to Amara's increased appetite since pregnancy. Another physical aspect that Amara experienced during her pregnancy was the excruciating pain in her stomach during contractions and the process of giving birth. While in the phase of caring for children, Amara's image from the physical aspect is first, the condition of Amara's body feels exhausted because since having a child, her sleeping hours have become irregular. Secondly, Amara's breast milk suddenly could not come out due to the mental stress experienced by Amara, so Amara could not give her breast milk.

The psychological aspect of the pregnancy phase, Amara's image as a mother explained during pregnancy. Amara felt very happy and amazed to know she was pregnant and would give birth to the child she had been waiting for. Amara was also shocked and upset because no one had told her about the excruciating pain during the birthing process. Meanwhile, in the caring for children phase, Amara's image as a mother from a psychological aspect explained that first, Amara felt shocked and stressed when she first cared for her child resulting in her sleeping hours being shorter and her child still not receiving her breast milk. Second, since having a child, Amara has become easier to cry even about small things, especially those involving children. Third, Amara panicked when she knew that her milk suddenly could not come out, while her child also did not want to accept the formula that Amara gave. Fourth, Amara as a mother feels lonely, depressed, and confused because she has to think about how she will continue her child's life and herself without the help of her husband by her side.

Amara's social aspect as a mother during the pregnancy phase is imaged in her affection and impatience in waiting for the birth of her child. Meanwhile, in the caring for children phase, Amara's image as a mother is explained from the social aspect. First, Amara as a mother works together with her husband to learn how to care for her child because this is the first time Amara has become a mother. Second, as a mother, Amara is worried about her child's safety and wants to protect her child from all kinds of dangers. Third, Amara as a mother cares about her child. Even though her child rejected all the brands of formula that Amara gave her, Amara still tried to find formula milk that was suitable for her child to drink, even though the price was expensive.

Fourth, it shows how close Amara is with her child, and Amara as a mother continues to maintain her relationship with her child.

The novelty in this study also distinguishes it from related reviews where the authors refer to differences in explanations regarding the concept of motherhood in various countries that are the object of the research. In addition, another difference is that in this study, the writer focused more on depicting the concept of the mother and the image of the main female character as a mother from the physical, psychological, and social aspects.

Conclusion

From the results of the analysis, it can be seen that in the novel "*Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan*" by Andina Dwifatma, there are many sentences that show the depiction of the concept of motherhood because this novel raises the issue of feminism that refers to the concept of motherhood. In addition, the female protagonist, Amara, as a mother is portrayed more in the psychological and social aspects during the period of caring for her child than during her pregnancy because her pregnancy period is shorter than the period of caring for the child. In addition, during the childcare period, Amara experienced more problems related to her psychology and the people around her. It is also evident that Amara is imaged as a mother in the physical aspect with low intensity in caring for her born child. There is little explanation of Amara's physical description when caring for her child in the novel.

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