

ABSTRACT

SILVIA AJENG PUTRI NATALIA. **Oppression toward Afghan Women during the Mid to the Late 1900s as Seen in Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2012.

Wars and conflicts give nothing but misery. So many wars and conflicts that have happened in the world only left dead people, poverty, destroyed places and horror. The country which becomes the center of the attention in the world because of its never ending conflicts and wars is Afghanistan. Afghanistan has experienced many historical events for centuries and changed its government, religion, system and many aspects for many times. Afghanistan's rise and fall give some effects to the people especially for women because they are oppressed mentally and physically because the social condition happened in Afghanistan. Since the novel written by Khaled Hosseini entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns* gives portraits about the oppression toward women at that time, the writer decided to study the women's oppression topic to show oppression toward women in Afghanistan that happened during the mid to the late 1900s by analyzing the description of the characters and the setting in the novel.

There are three problems that have to be answered in order to see the oppression toward women. The problem are (1) How are the characters in the novel described? (2) How are the social setting in the novel described? (3) How do characters and setting show the oppression toward women in Afghanistan during the mid to the late 1900s?

This study is a library research to find the data sources. The primary data source is the novel itself. While the secondary data sources are from the internet and some books related to the story. Sociocultural- Historical approach is applied because this thesis discusses about the actual oppressions as the social phenomenon that happened in Afghanistan during the mid to the late 1900s by looking at the actual history and events that happened in Afghanistan.

The result of the this analysis shows the oppression toward women as seen in the novel that happened in Afghanistan during the mid to the late 1900s. First the writer analyzes the two major characters, Mariam and Laila, by looking at their characteristics. In this novel Mariam is described as hardworking, shy, ignorant, fearful and endurable. On the other side, Laila is described as smart, beautiful and brave. Second, the writer analyzes the social setting in the novel to show what historical events that have happened in the novel such as Afghanistan's patriarchal system, the Communist arrival, and the rise of Mujahideen and Taliban. After getting descriptions of characters and social setting of the novel, the writer relates the characteristics and the social setting to show oppression toward women in Afghanistan during the mid to the late 1900s as seen in the novel. the writer using the theory of oppression to identify the oppression. There are two kinds of oppressions seen in this novel. They are physical and mental oppression which Mariam and Laila have experienced.

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Perperangan dan konflik hanya menghasilkan penderitaan. Banyak sekali peperangan yang terjadi di dunia ini hanya menyisakan tewasnya penduduk, kemiskinan, tempat-tempat yang hancur dan rasa ngeri. Negara yang telah menjadi pusat perhatian di dunia karena peperangan dan konflik tanpa ujung adalah Afghanistan. Afghanistan telah melalui kejadian-kejadian historis dari sekian abad yang lalu dan telah mengganti pemerintahan, agama, sistem dan beberapa hal untuk beberapa kali. Jatuh bangun yang dilalui Afghanistan memberikan efek kepada masyarakat terutama perempuan dikarenakan perempuan tertindas secara fisik dan mental karena kondisi sosial yang telah terjadi. Karena novel karya Khaled Hosseini yang berjudul *A Thousand Splendid Suns* memberikan gambaran tentang penindasan terhadap perempuan-perempuan di saat masa itu, penulis memutuskan untuk membahas topik tersebut.

Ada tiga pertanyaan yang harus dijawab untuk mengetahui penindasan terhadap perempuan. Pertanyaan-pertanyaan tersebut ialah (1) Bagaimana tokoh-tokoh utama digambarkan? (2) Bagaimana latar belakang sosial digambarkan? (3) Bagaimana tokoh-tokoh dan latar belakang sosial menunjukkan penindasan terhadap perempuan-perempuan di Afghanistan pada masa pertengahan hingga akhir tahun 1900-an?

Skripsi ini menggunakan metode penelitian pustaka dan juga menggunakan data dari internet. Penulis mengumpulkan data dari buku-buku dan jurnal dari internet. Pendekatan sosiobudaya-historis digunakan karena skripsi ini membahas tentang penindasan-penindasan yang terjadi di Afghanistan pada pertengahan hingga akhir tahun 1900-an dengan melihat sejarah dan kejadian-kejadian aktual serta fenomena yang terjadi di Afghanistan pada masa itu.

Hasil dari menganalisis karya sastra ini menunjukkan penindasan terhadap perempuan yang terjadi di Afghanistan pada masa pertengahan hingga akhir tahun 1900-an. Pertama, penulis menganalisis dua karakter utama, Mariam dan Laila, dengan memperhatikan karakter dari Mariam dan Laila. Kedua, penulis menganalisa latar belakang sosial dari novel tersebut untuk menunjukkan kejadian-kejadian historis yang terjadi di Afghanistan seperti sistem patriakal yang dianut Afghanistan, kedatangan komunis di Afghanistan, bangkitnya Mujahideen dan Taliban di Afghanistan. Setelah mendapatkan deskripsi dari dua karakter utama dan latar belakang sosial dari novel, penulis menghubungkan gambaran karakter dari dua tokoh utama dan gambaran latar belakang sosial untuk menunjukkan penindasan terhadap perempuan di Afghanistan pada masa pertengahan hingga pada akhir tahun 1900-an yang ada di dalam novel. Penulis menemukan dua macam penindasan yang dapat dilihat di novel ini yang Mariam dan Laila alami, penindasan secara fisik dan mental.