

ABSTRACT

PERTIWI, ELLY SANTI (2020). **Black Feminism Reflected Through The Narrator's Responses of Women Oppression in Maya Angelou's Memoir: A Letter To My Daughter.** Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

A group of people have at least one attribute in common that unite them. The attribute of one's group is possibly contradictory to other group and emerges a feeling to compete or even to suppress each other. However, not all groups have the power to resist. Therefore emerged oppression where one superior group able to deny another group access to society. Black women oppression is one of the others. One of the literary works that represent Black women oppression is Maya Angelou's works. This study uses one of Maya Angelou's works, a memoir entitled *A Letter To My Daughter*, as the study's object.

The writer formulates two problems in this study. The first problem discusses women oppression experienced by the narrator in *A Letter To My Daughter*. The second problem discusses the narrator's responses to women oppression that reflect Black feminism.

This study is conducted by applying library research. This study's primary source is a memoir entitled *A Letter To My Daughter*, which was written by Maya Angelou. The secondary sources are some other books to gain additional data, and some articles discussing similar topic to this study. To answer the problems formulated, the writer applies Collins' theory of Black Feminism, Abrams' theory of memoir, and M.J. Murphy's theory of characterization. The feminism approach is applied in conducting this study.

This study finds that there are two forms of Black women oppression in Maya Angelou's experiences. They are the control of Black women's images and the regulation of Black women's bodies. The control of Black women's images is found through transmittable ideas and beauty images. Meanwhile, Black women's bodies' regulation is through domestic violence, sexual harassment, and rape. The narrator or Maya Angelou's responses reflect Black feminism by applying four characteristics of Black feminism that validating knowledge by emphasizing dialogue. Besides, the responses that are in the form of thoughts, opinions, and manners reflect Black feminism as it empowers self-definition, develops Black women's community, and contributes to Black women's domestic tradition.

Keywords: Black feminism, Black women, Women oppression, Memoir, Maya Angelou

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Sekelompok orang memiliki setidaknya satu atribut sama yang menyatukan mereka. Atribut suatu kelompok mungkin saja kontradiktif dengan kelompok lain dan menimbulkan perasaan bersaing atau bahkan saling menindas. Namun, tidak semua kelompok memiliki kekuatan untuk melawan. Oleh karena itu muncullah penindasan dimana suatu kelompok superior dapat menutup akses kelompok lain ke masyarakat. Penindasan wanita kulit hitam adalah salah satunya. Salah satu karya sastra yang merepresentasikan penindasan perempuan kulit hitam adalah karya - karya Maya Angelou. Penelitian ini menggunakan salah satu karya Maya Angelou yaitu memoar berjudul *A Letter To My Daughter* sebagai objek penelitian.

Penulis merumuskan dua masalah dalam penelitian ini. Rumusan masalah pertama membahas tentang penindasan terhadap perempuan yang dialami narator dalam *A Letter To My Daughter*. Rumusan masalah kedua membahas tentang tanggapan narator terhadap penindasan perempuan yang mencerminkan feminisme kulit hitam.

Penelitian ini disusun dengan mengaplikasikan metode penelitian kepustakaan. Sumber data utama penelitian ini adalah memoar *A Letter To My Daughter*. Sumber data sekunder adalah beberapa buku lain untuk mendapatkan data tambahan, dan beberapa artikel yang membahas topik serupa. Untuk menjawab rumusan masalah, penulis menerapkan teori Feminisme Hitam oleh Collins, teori memoar oleh Abrams, dan teori karakterisasi oleh M.J. Murphy. Pendekatan feminism diaplikasikan dalam menyusun penelitian ini.

Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa terdapat dua bentuk penindasan perempuan kulit hitam yang dialami Maya Angelou. Kedua bentuk tersebut adalah kontrol citra perempuan kulit hitam dan peraturan terhadap tubuh perempuan kulit hitam. Kontrol citra perempuan kulit hitam ditemukan melalui ide yang disebarluaskan dan citra standar kecantikan. Sementara, peraturan terhadap tubuh perempuan kulit hitam terdapat dalam kekerasan dalam rumah tangga, pelecehan seksual, dan pemeriksaan. Respon narator atau Maya Angelou mencerminkan feminisme kulit hitam dengan menerapkan empat karakteristik feminisme kulit hitam untuk memvalidasi pengetahuan dengan menekankan pada dialog. Selain itu, tanggapan berupa pemikiran, pendapat, dan sikap mencerminkan feminisme kulit hitam karena memperkuat definisi diri, mengembangkan komunitas perempuan kulit hitam, dan berkontribusi pada tradisi domestik perempuan kulit hitam.

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