

## ABSTRACT

RAHMASHANI, VANYA ASTI. (2023). **The Matrix of Domination and The Black Daughter's Struggle in Sapphire's *Push***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Oppression is an unjust treatment where one group denies another group access to society's resources over a long period; race, gender, class, sexuality, nation, age, and ethnicity constitute significant forms of oppression. Oppression strangled African American/Black community for a long time, especially for African American/Black women. They are treated as the 'othered' including Precious. The oppression experienced by the main character became the concern of the study.

This study has two objectives. The first objective is to observe how Precious' live as a black daughter and how the conflicts experienced by the protagonist that reflect the racial conflict. The second objective is to observe the selected domain of power that influences Precious' subordination as the black daughter.

This study applies sociological approach and utilities literary research method. The primary resource was taken from a novel by Sapphire entitled *Push* in 1996. Theory of conflicts and black women's oppression are used to elaborate on the conflicts and explain the racial conflict. Finally, on deciding which domain of power that plays role on the main character's subordination, matrix of domination and black women's oppression are used.

Precious is the victim of abuse by her parents. She was oppressed due to her race, gender, and class. As a woman, Black woman, and came from a low-income family creates an intersectional oppression that strangled her for a long time. Some conflicts arose with her surroundings. Her conflicts with her mother, teacher, classmates, and social worker play a role in shaping Precious' condition. Precious tries to break boundaries that shaped her into a powerless woman. The humiliation by the classmates, discrimination by the teachers, negligence by her mother, and coercion by the social worker oppressed Precious in many ways. Her oppressions are explained using the matrix of domination. Each domain of power plays significant role in Precious' subordination. Structural domain of power strangled Precious from applying for welfare due to the surrounding image of the 'welfare queen.' The disciplinary domain of power strangled Precious in school. Precious was considered a failure in school due to her bad academic performance, hence she was sentenced to an alternative school without her approval. The hegemonic domain of power explains how racial slurs affecting Black young women's image on today's society including Precious. Black girls were considered "more adult-like" due to society's harmful perception on Black girls, resulting an unsafe environment for the young girls. In interpersonal domain of power, Precious experienced a conflict against herself where she has difficulty on accepting herself. Black damaging image of 'ugly' and 'stupid' damage Precious' identity as a woman. Precious classmates at the alternative school have huge impacts on her recent personality where she become a confident, competent, and friendly girl.

Keywords: *Matrix of Domination, black daughter's subordination, Precious, Push, oppression*

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Penindasan merupakan sebuah perlakuan tidak adil dimana sebuah kelompok menolak akses terhadap kelompok lain dalam kurun waktu yang lama; ras, gender, golongan, seksualitas, bangsa, umur, dan etnis merupakan bentuk penindasan yang signifikan. Penindasan mencekik komunitas Afrika-Amerika/Kulit Hitam. Mereka diperlakukan sebagai 'yang lain' termasuk Precious. Penindasan yang dialami oleh tokoh utama menjadi perhatian dalam penelitian ini.

Penelitian ini memiliki dua tujuan. Tujuan pertama adalah untuk melihat bagaimana kehidupan Precious sebagai anak perempuan berkulit hitam dan bagaimana konflik yang dialami oleh tokoh utama yang mempengaruhi subordinasi Precious sebagai anak perempuan berkulit hitam.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan sosilogis dan metode penelitian sastra. Sumber utama diambil dari novel karya Sapphire yang berjudul *Push* pada tahun 1996. Untuk menguraikan konflik dan menjelaskan konflik rasial, dan penindasan perempuan untuk kulit hitam digunakan. Terakhir, untuk menentukan *domain of power* mana yang berperan dalam subordinasi karakter utama, digunakan *matrix of domination*, dan penindasan perempuan kulit hitam.

Precious ialah korban kekerasan oleh orang tuanya. Ia ditindas karena ras, gender, dan kelasnya. Sebagai seorang perempuan berkulit hitam yang berasal dari keluarga berpenghasilan rendah, menciptakan *intersectional oppression* dalam waktu yang lama. Beberapa konflik muncul dengan lingkungannya. Konfliknya dengan ibu, guru, teman sekelas, dan pekerja sosial berperan dalam membentuk kondisi Precious. Precious berusaha mendobrak Batasan-batasan yang membentuknya menjadi perempuan yang tidak berdaya. Penghinaan dari teman-teman sekelasnya, diskriminasi dari guru-gurunya, pengabaian dari ibunya, dan pemaksaan dari guru-gurunya, dan pemaksaan dari pekerja sosialnya membuat Precious tertindas dalam berbagai hal. Penindasan yang dialaminya dijelaskan dengan menggunakan *matrix of domination*. Setiap domain kekuasaan memainkan peran penting dalam subordinasi Precious. *Structural domain of power* mencekik Precious dalam mengajukan permohonan bantuan karena citra '*welfare queen*'. *Disciplinary domain of power* menjerat Precious di sekolah. Precious dianggap gagal di sekolah karena nilai akademisnya yang buruk, sehingga ia dipindahkan ke sekolah alternatif tanpa persetujuannya. *Hegemonic domain of power* menjelaskan bagaimana penghinaan rasial mempengaruhi citra perempuan kulit hitam di masyarakat saat ini, termasuk Precious. Gadis kulit hitam dianggap "lebih dewasa" karena persepsi masyarakat yang merugikan terhadap gadis kulit hitam, dan mengakibatkan lingkungan yang tak aman bagi mereka. Dalam *Interpersonal domain of power*, Precious mengalami konflik dengan dirinya sendiri dimana ia mengalami kesulitan untuk menerima dirinya. Citra kulit hitam yang merusak seperti 'jelek' dan 'bodoh' merusak identitas Precious sebagai seorang perempuan. Teman-teman sekelas Precious di sekolah alternatif memberikan pengaruh besar terhadap kepribadiannya di mana ia menjadi gadis yang percaya diri, cerdas, dan ramah.

Kata kunci: *matrix of domination, black daughter's subordination, Precious, Push, oppression*