

ABSTRACT

ALOYSIA YOSEPHIN FIBRIANA (2003). **Criticism Towards 'Untouchability' in Indian Caste System Seen Through Ammu's Life Experience in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

The God of Small Things is Arundhati Roy's first literary work that describes a real condition of the Indian society which applies the caste system strictly. This work portrays the oppression of the caste system towards the people inside and outside the caste system.

Three questions were formulated to guide the analysis in this study. The first question was to recognize the practices of the Untouchability in the caste system in Indian society as described in the story. The second question was used to find out Ammu's life experiences which is related to the practices of the caste system. The third was to find out how Arundhati Roy stated her criticism towards the practices of Untouchability in Indian caste system through the portrayal of Ammu's life experiences.

The library research was used since many data and theories were collected from some books in order to accomplish the analysis. The Sociocultural-historical approach was also applied to know further about the society and its history as the background the story.

The analysis showed that the practices of Untouchability in Indian caste system bounded and discriminated every aspect of life of the Untouchables. It made them could not improve their life and there were rules the were obviously deep rooted in Indian caste system. Nothing was able to bring changes for these rigid social laws. The second analysis described Ammu's life experiences which were related to the practices of the Untouchability in Indian caste system. Ammu endured a tragic life experiences because of the practices of the caste system. She could not gain her dreams because all of the limitation of the caste system. This description attempted to reveal Arundhati Roy's criticism towards the practices of untouchability in Indian caste system.

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The God of Small Things adalah karya sastra pertama Arundhati Roy yang mendeskripsikan kondisi masyarakat India yang sebenarnya, yang menerapkan sistem kasta dengan kaku. Karya ini menggambarkan tekanan sistem kasta terhadap masyarakat di dalam maupun di luar sistem kasta.

Untuk memandu analisis, tiga pertanyaan dirumuskan dalam skripsi ini. Pertanyaan pertama adalah untuk mengenal praktek 'ketaktersentuhan' di dalam sistem kasta di India yang digambarkan dalam cerita. Pertanyaan kedua untuk mengetahui pengalaman hidup Ammu, yang berkaitan dengan praktek sistem kasta. Pertanyaan ketiga untuk mengetahui bagaimana Arundhati menguraikan kritik terhadap praktek 'ketaktersentuhan' di dalam sistem kasta di India melalui gambaran pengalaman hidup Ammu.

Metode kepustakaan digunakan untuk menyelesaikan skripsi ini karena banyak data dan teori didapat dari beberapa buku. Pendekatan sejarah sosial budaya juga digunakan untuk mengetahui lebih dalam tentang masyarakat dan sejarahnya sebagai latar belakang cerita.

Analisis menunjukkan bahwa 'ketaktersentuhan' dalam sistem kasta di India membatasi dan mendiskriminasi setiap aspek kehidupan kaum tak tersentuh. Sistem kasta membuat kehidupan kaum 'takersentuh' tidak dapat berkembang dan sistem kasta di India memang berakar sangat kuat. Tidak ada sesuatu pun yang mampu mengubahnya. Yang kedua, analisis ini akan menguraikan pengalaman hidup Ammu yang menjadi korban dari praktek sistem kasta di India. Ammu mengalami pengalaman hidup yang tragis karena dia tidak dapat mencapai mimpi-mimpinya karena dibatasi oleh sistem kasta. Deskripsi pengalaman hidup Ammu tersebut akan digunakan untuk menguraikan kritik Arundhati Roy terhadap praktek 'ketaktersentuhan' di dalam sistem kasta di India.