

ABSTRACT

LUCIA TRI WULANINGRUM (2003). **George Eliot's Experience of Life And Intentions Seen in the Character of Maggie in *The Mill on the Floss***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

The Mill on the Floss is the third fictional work of George Eliot. It was published by Blackwood on April 4th, 1860. This novel tells about Maggie Tulliver, a daughter of Mr. Tulliver, a miller in English midlands. The character of Maggie, self-renunciation and the close relationship with her brother, Tom that is ended with their death, are the interesting points that the writer wants to analyze in this thesis.

There are three problems formulated based on the novel. The first problem is about the character of Maggie that is described in the novel. The second problem is to find out how the author reflects her experience through the character of Maggie. The third problem has purpose to reveal what the author's intention in writing the novel.

In analyzing the problems, the writer uses a biographical approach because it can help to connect the author's experience and the work itself. The writer also applies theory of character to reveal the character of Maggie in the novel. Since the analysis deals with the author's experience of life, so the writer applies theory about the relation between literature and biography. The writer also uses review about George Eliot's life to support the analysis.

Based on the analysis, the writer concludes the answers for the three questions. The writer has found that Maggie is an intelligent, sympathetic, wayward, impetuous, affectionate and forgiving. She is also described as a girl who needs to be loved and to be understood. Maggie's intelligence reflects the author's experience in reading and in learning knowledge of books. The author's experience in doing many works of charity and in taking her duty to run the household of her family are described in Maggie's sympathy and affection. George Eliot's religious doubt is reflected by Maggie's self-renunciation. Through the death of Maggie and Tom George Eliot reflects her experience of reconciliation with her brother, her father and her faith. The author's desires of sympathy and understanding about her interest and her principles is reflected through Maggie's need of being understood and being loved. Through the character of Maggie George Eliot aims to show her desire for love, understanding and encouragement. By the self-renunciation the author wants to show that one should not avoid the pain of life but one should learn the useful value from that pain. Through this work the author also tries to evoke in the readers the importance of sympathy and understanding toward others.

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The Mill on the Floss merupakan karya fiksi George Eliot yang ketiga. Novel ini diterbitkan pertama kali oleh Blackwood 4 April 1860. Novel ini menceritakan kehidupan Maggie Tulliver, anak perempuan Mr. Tulliver. Karakter Maggie, penolakan dirinya dan hubungan dekatnya dengan Tom, kakak laki-lakinya yang berakhir dengan kematian merupakan hal yang menarik yang membuat penulis ingin menganalisisnya dalam skripsi ini.

Dalam analisis ini terdapat tiga pokok rumusan masalah yang muncul. Pertama tentang karakter Maggie yang digambarkan dalam novel. Kedua untuk mengungkapkan bagaimana pengarang merefleksikan pengalamannya melalui karakter Maggie. Ketiga bertujuan untuk mengungkapkan tujuan pengarang dalam penulisan novel ini.

Dalam menganalisis permasalahan, penulis menggunakan pendekatan secara biografi karena hal ini dapat membantu untuk menghubungkan pengalaman pengarang dan karya itu sendiri. Penulis juga menerapkan teori karakter untuk mengungkapkan karakter Maggie dalam novel. Karena analisis berhubungan dengan pengalaman pengarang maka penulis juga menerapkan teori tentang hubungan antara kesusastraan dengan biografi. Penulis juga menerapkan biografi pengarang sebagai pendukung dalam analisis ini.

Berdasar pada analisis, penulis menyimpulkan jawaban dari ketiga perumusan masalah. Penulis menemukan bahwa Maggie adalah seorang wanita yang pintar, penuh simpati, bandel, bertindak tanpa pikir panjang, penuh kasih sayang dan pemaaf. Ia juga digambarkan sebagai seorang wanita yang butuh dicintai dan dimengerti. Kepandaian Maggie merefleksikan pengalaman pengarang akan kegemarannya membaca dan mempelajari pengetahuan dalam buku. Pengalaman pengarang tentang kegiatan kemanusiaan dan ketika memenuhi kewajiban untuk mengurus keluarganya digambarkan melalui rasa simpati dan kasih sayang Maggie. Keraguan pengarang akan keyakinan yang dianutnya direfleksikan pada penolakan diri Maggie. Melalui kematian Maggie dan Tom George Eliot merefleksikan pengalaman akan pertemuannya kembali dengan kakak, ayah, dan keyakinannya. Keinginan Maggie untuk dicintai and dimengerti merefleksikan pengalaman keinginan pengarang akan rasa cinta, pengertian dan dukungan. Dengan penolakan diri pengarang ingin menunjukkan bahwa seseorang seharusnya tidak menghindari penderitaan hidup tetapi seseorang seharusnya mengambil hikmah dari penderitaan tersebut. Melalui novel ini pengarang juga mencoba untuk membangkitkan pembaca akan pentingnya simpati dan pengertian antar sesama.