

ABSTRACT

Esther Deborah Kalausewang. 2023. *Female Objectification and Resistance in The Valley of Amazement and Beauty Is a Wound*. Yogyakarta: English Language Studies. Graduate Program. Sanata Dharma University.

Objectification of women is an issue which have occurred for a long time. This study examines the issue of sexual objectification found in *The Valley of Amazement* by Amy Tan (2013) and *Beauty Is A Wound* (2015) by Eka Kurniawan. Living closely to the prostitution world, the female characters from both of the novels experienced sexual objectification differently yet managed to show resistance in various ways. Hence, this thesis needs to examine the portrayal of female objectification and investigate how the female characters resist female objectification in the light of socialist feminism

Ten categories of sexual objectification is applied to examine the portrayal of female objectification. Foucault's thought on power and resistance is utilized to investigate how the selected female characters in *The Valley* and *Beauty* resist female objectification. Socialist feminism is utilized as an umbrella approach to unravel the struggle of the female characters within the intertwining domination of capitalism and patriarchy.

Firstly, the finding shows that female objectification is portrayed through human trafficking and intimate partner violence (IPV) in both of the novels. They have been made as instruments; their autonomy and subjectivity are denied; their personhood is reduced to their body, appearance and sexual functions; they are treated as if they possess zero agency and as if they are things to be owned; they are violated emotionally and physically; their voice is silenced. Second, the female characters resist female objectification through resilience, sisterhood and motherhood. Their resilience enables them to cope with difficult situations, to adapt and come up with tactics. Sisterhood is evident when the female characters work together to resist IPV and its consequences. Motherhood becomes the reason for all to survive. Their resistance against female objectification which is driven by capitalism and patriarchy is still a choice although it comes with a cost.

Socialist feminism has shown that the results are centrally caused by forms of sexual objectification underlined by systemic oppression of capitalism and patriarchy. Thus, this thesis illustrates the mechanisms of the oppressive institutions of female objectification and its individual resistance, yet also puts forward the question of other impacts which gender-based and economic-based objectification cause in other types of human exploitation. The female characters' resistance conveys a message: humanity is deserved by everyone, regardless of their gender, race and class. Future studies can address cases of male objectification, child objectification, or even young adult objectification occurring in different parts of the world and aspects of life.

Keywords: Female objectification, Human trafficking, Intimate partner violence, Resistance, Socialist feminism

ABSTRAK

Esther Deborah Kalauserang. 2023. *Objektifikasi Perempuan dan Resistensi dalam The Valley of Amazement dan Beauty Is a Wound*. Yogyakarta: Magister Kajian Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Objektifikasi perempuan merupakan persoalan yang sudah lama terjadi. Penelitian ini mengkaji isu objektifikasi seksual dalam *The Valley of Amazement* karya Amy Tan (2013) dan *Beauty Is A Wound* (2002) karya Eka Kurniawan. Hidup berdekatan dengan dunia prostitusi, tokoh perempuan dari kedua novel tersebut mengalami objektifikasi seksual secara berbeda namun berhasil menunjukkan resistensi dengan berbagai cara. Dengan demikian, tesis ini menelaah penggambaran objektifikasi perempuan dan menyelidiki bagaimana para tokoh menolak objektifikasi perempuan melalui perspektif feminisme sosialis.

Sepuluh kategori objektifikasi seksual diterapkan untuk mengkaji penggambaran objektifikasi perempuan. Pemikiran kekuasaan dan resistensi Foucault digunakan untuk menyelidiki cara para tokoh perempuan menolak objektifikasi perempuan. Feminisme sosialis digunakan sebagai payung pendekatan dalam mengungkapkan perjuangan mereka di dunia kapitalis dan patriarkis.

Pertama, ditemukan bahwa objektifikasi perempuan digambarkan melalui perdagangan manusia dan kekerasan pasangan intim (KPI) di kedua novel tersebut. Tokoh-tokoh perempuan dijadikan sebagai alat; otonomi dan subjektivitas mereka disangkal; kemanusiaan mereka diukur berdasarkan tubuh, penampilan, dan fungsi seksual; mereka diperlakukan seperti orang yang tak punya pilihan dan seperti barang yang dimiliki; kemanusiaan mereka dilanggar secara emosional dan fisik; suara mereka dibungkam. Kedua, mereka melawan objektifikasi perempuan melalui ketangguhan, persaudaraan dan peran ibu. Ketangguhan membantu mereka mengatasi situasi sulit, beradaptasi dan berstrategi. Persaudaraan antar perempuan terjalin saat mereka bekerja sama melawan KPI dan konsekuensinya. Peran menjadi ibu adalah alasan bertahan hidup. Perlawanan terhadap objektifikasi perempuan yang dilatarbelakangi kapitalisme dan patriarki masih menjadi pilihan walau harga perlawanan mereka mahal.

Feminisme sosialis telah menunjukkan bahwa segala bentuk objektifikasi seksual digarisbawahi penindasan sistemik kapitalisme dan patriarki. Dengan demikian, tesis ini telah menggambarkan mekanisme institusi opresif objektifikasi perempuan dan perlawanan individualnya, namun juga mengajukan pertanyaan tentang dampak lain yang ditimbulkan oleh objektifikasi berbasis gender dan ekonomi dalam jenis eksploitasi manusia lainnya. Akhirnya, tindakan perlawanan para tokoh perempuan menyatakan bahwa kemanusiaan layak dimiliki oleh semua orang. Penelitian selanjutnya dapat membahas kasus objektifikasi laki-laki, objektifikasi anak, atau bahkan objektifikasi anak muda yang terjadi di berbagai aspek kehidupan.

Kata kunci: Feminisme sosialis, Kekerasan pasangan intim, Objektifikasi perempuan, Perdagangan manusia, Resistensi