Feminism Perspective in the Novel *Cinta di dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata

Rabiatul Adawiyah Siregar

Department of Indonesia Literature, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Al Washliyah University, Medan 20217, Indonesia;

*Email: adawiyahsiregar73@gmail.com*

**Abstract**

This research aims to find out socio-cultural background of Andrea Hirata and gender perspective in his novel *Cinta di dalam Gelas* (Hirata, 2011) based on a review of feminism literature. Andrea Hirata is an Indonesian author best known novel from Belitung. Feminism is aimed to the balance or gender interaction. As Ratna (2012, p. 184) says that feminism is females move in refusing everything imagined, subordinated, and degraded by dominant culture in politics, economics, and social life in general as well. This is a qualitative research with descriptive analysis. The object of this research is the structure and the existence of gender perspective portrayed by the protagonist, Maryamah. Data collection procedure is done by library research, refer to, and record with the novel itself as the main data. Data analysis technique is done by heuristics and hermeneutics techniques. Results show that the social background of the writer of the novel actually comes from Belitung that inspired the novel. Gender perspective in novel *Cinta di dalam Gelas* includes gender equalities and inequalities in the novel happened in many aspect of life. Those are equality in education, equality in politics view and organization, equality in social culture. Meanwhile, gender inequalities include female subordination, female stereotype, violence against women, and women's workload.

**Keywords:** gender perspective, gender equality, novel, feminism.

**Introduction**

Literary works is one of culture products created to note and communicate the phenomena happens in society. From a literary work, the reader will re-find a number of events, social phenomenon, culture, and politics happened in a society in a period of time. The consciousness of the importance on gender justice and equality, known as feminism, is one of the existing phenomena in Indonesian literary works. Although it is not portrayed explicitly, many Indonesian novels written for example by Andrea Hirata, N. H. Dini, Djenar Maesa Ayu, Fira Basuki, Dewi Lestari, Ayu Utami since the first time have talked about the importance of gender justice and equality to achieve the society in social justice.

The consciousness on feminism raises in society which has presumptions that male considered better in many aspects than female. The society considered embraces patriarch ideology, as also the society in Belitung. That is why gender inequality happens.
This novel tells about Malay social culture with Maryamah as the protagonist in struggling to establish her rights in society. Its social background shows that Belitong is a patriarchate district, considering that women are under men in many aspects of life as in education, politics, economics, and social culture. The novel portrays the attempts of Maryamah who learns playing chess to beat her ex-husband. Chess is considered as a game for male and there is no any woman play the game. In this point of view, the inequality on gender happens. The problems about justice and equality on gender consider interested to be analyzed using feminism literature approach. The novel also tells the reader about the importance in putting the women and their rights at the good position. In Cinta di Dalam Gelas (Hirata, 2011), the theme is about a woman who tries to establish her rights and the feminism perspective.

**Literature Review**

*Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata is one of novels tells about feminism. The goal of feminism is the balance or gender interaction. Broadly speaking, feminism is females move in refusing everything imagined, subordinated, and degraded by dominant culture in politics, economics, and social life in general as well (Ratna, 2012, p. 184). In the novel, the protagonist, Maryamah, called as Enong, struggles her rights and attempt to establish her dignity toward Matarom, Maryamah’s ex-husband, chess master in the village.

Feminism perspective exists to criticize the strong realism perspective with its strength and secure concepts. The perspective also criticized the realist’s base assumption that focussed only on the actor of the state. Meanwhile, feminism tells more about the actor of non state who influential also in the development of international relations (Weber, 2005, p. 87). The feminism theory introduce gender as the relevant empirical category which is the tool to analyze and understand the relationship of global strength as well as the normative position to develop the alternative order of world (True, 2001, p. 213)

**Research Method**

The method used in this analysis is a qualitative with descriptive analysis by objective approach. Saryono (2011, p. 1) says that qualitative research is a research used to observe, find, portray, and describe the quality or idiosyncrasy of undefined social influence. The data analyzed in this research is qualitative in word, phrase, clause, or sentence forms in the novel. However, the data taken from the novel as the primary source done by document analysis, observation and the discussion. Then the data obtained are reduced and limited to the subject matter of this analysis followed by the presentation of the data in showing the result. The secondary data such as books and website used to support in analysing the data. Moeloeng (2007, p. 157) states that source of data in qualitative research are words and actions besides the rest is additional data as documents, etc.

**Result and Discussion**

The criticism of feminist literature involves woman, especially feminists, as the reader. The focus of the reader is the image and stereotype of woman in literary work (Sugihastuti, 2011, p. 138). According to Djajanegara (2000, p. 27) the criticism of feminist literature originates from the desire of the feminists to study the literary works of previous woman writers and also to realize the image of woman in the literary works of man writers that usually portray the women which are to be pressed, defined, and also to be underestimated by the dominant patriarch tradition.

Equality on gender means the equality of man and woman in the opportunity or chance and the rights as human, to be able to participate in politics, laws, economics, social culture, education, and national defence and security and also the
equality in enjoying the product of development. Equality on gender also covers the elimination of discrimination and structural injustice toward man and woman. Gender actually is not a problem as long as gender inequalities do not exist. But, the problem is, difference in gender bears many gender inequalities for man and especially for woman also. To understand how the difference on gender causes gender inequalities, it can be seen through many existed manifestation of gender inequalities (Fakih, 2012, p. 12). According to Fakih (2012, p. 13-22), gender inequalities are divided into five: woman marginalization, woman subordination, gender stereotype, gender violence, and work load.

Ratna (2012, p. 56) describes that biographic approach is a systematic study about creativity process. The writer basically is more successful to portrays the situation in the surrounding society. From the description above, the answers of the research are as follow.

**The Background of the Writer’s Social Culture**

Ail Barra Bedridden Semen Said Haran, known as Andrea Hirata, born on 24 October 1976 in Belitung island, Bangka Belitung province. Graduate from Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia for his S1 program and from Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom, with cumlaude predicate for his S2 program. He has characteristics which are different with the other writers. They are: 1) the themes of his literary works usually are about education and struggle. 2) his literary works inspired from his hometown and the culture of Malay, Belitong. 3) he always adds struggle values and motivations in his works. 4) Malay accents are dominant for his works. And 5) he adds also songs and poems in his works. His works relate to the social condition and phenomena in society.

**Feminism Perspective in the Novel**

Gender perspective problems mean discussing the problems of gender equality and inequality. Gender equality means equal for man and woman in chances and opportunity to establish the rights as human in many aspects of life.

Gender equalities in the novel are:

1. Equality in Education
   In the novel, equality in education is portrayed when Maryamah can joined the English course and graduate from the course in the best 5th position.

2. Equality in Politics and Organization
   Equality in Politics and Organization when Selamot does not want her pride to be trampled and underestimated by a man named Mintoha. Finally she becomes Maryamah manager and creates a chess club named Kemenangan Rakyat adalah Sebahagian Kita Semua.

3. Equality in Social Culture
   Equality in social culture is shown when Maryamah join at the chess game in her village. She is the first woman in her village that plays chess and join the game.

Gender Inequalities are as follow:

1. The Subordination of Woman
   The subordination of Woman can be seen when the society in the village forbid Maryamah to join the chess game. The society considers that chess is a game for man only that is why woman can not join the game.
2. The Stereotype of Woman
The stereotype of woman is shown when the society in the village is very patriarch. They consider that woman is nothing. The jobs of woman are only for serving her husband.

3. The Violence of Woman
The form of violence on woman can be seen when Maryamah who experiences violence physically. Matarom treats Maryamah as he likes. One of his bad attitudes is that he likes to heard woman’s feeling. It can be seen when his wife who is pregnant comes. She is also treated badly by Matarom as Maryamah received.

4. The Work Load of Woman
The work load of woman in the novel can be seen from the works that Maryamah did as tin pitcher. This kind of works usually is done by man. Maryamah works hard to fulfil her need, her three young sisters, and also her mother.

Conclusion
In conclusion, feminism comes from the existing consciousness as the result of the violence experienced by women. It can be started by the struggle in establishing their rights that they should receive to be treated well as woman.

The past belief considers that man has higher position than woman. It means that man can intimidate the woman in many aspects of life. Nowadays, the belief begins to disappear. The existence of feminism makes the woman has the pride and prestige as high as man. Feminism movement gives a great influence on the advancement of woman because they have the same position as man in many aspects of life such as education, economics, politics, and also their social status in society.

_Cinta di Dalam Gelas_ by Andrea Hirata is a novel which portrays the struggle of a woman, Maryamah in establishing her pride and dignity toward her ex-husband and also portrays the struggle of Maryamah to get her rights as a woman. The plot of the novel described forward. It means that the plot is chronological which signed by the first event followed by the next events. The setting is taken at a village in Belitong. The society still believes the concept of patriarch which considers that woman has not the position as man in society. Woman is the subordination of man. The concept makes Maryamah struggling to establish her rights as high as man in position in many aspects of life in society.

The feminism perspective analyzed in the novel used the review of feminist literature. The forms of feminism perspective are gender equality and inequality. The forms of gender equality in the novel are: equality in education, politics and organization, and also the violence and the work load.

References
