



## Feminist stylistics content in the novel women crying to the black moon by Dian Purnomo

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### Abstract

This paper discussion of feminism research in Dian Punomo's Women Crying to The Black Moon, the form of gender inequality. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach, in research because it will analyze the data described in words which aims to determine the figure and image of the main character in the novel. The result of this paper to conclude of Stereotypes are labeling or marking of certain groups with negative attitudes or judgments. One of the stereotypes about women is the issue of women preening in order to attract the attention of the opposite sex, so that when cases of violence, sexual harassment and even rape occur, people tend to blame women, even though she herself is the victim in these cases. In this novel, through interactions with the character Om Vincent, there is no difference other than women breastfeeding and giving birth. The rest, boys and girls are the same.

**Keywords:** Black Moon, Women Crying, gender inequality, sexual harassment

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### 1. Introduction

Literature is the result of the author's thoughts, feelings and feelings by relying on imagination. Fiction in literary works is in the form of essays or experiences that can be poured into writing using interesting language. Literature and language are two related fields. Language in a literary work as a primary sign system creates a special sense that contains aesthetic value, apart from being a means of communication, which is able to convey various kinds of information to the audience or readers (Aprilia *et al.*, 2020) <sup>[2]</sup>. Furthermore, literature as a secondary sign system that uses language media depends on the secondary system held by language. Thus, a literary work can only be understood through language.

Literary works are divided into three types, namely prose fiction, poetry and drama. Prose fiction is also divided into several types in various forms such as romance, novels, novelets, and short stories. The term fiction prose, or simply works of fiction, is also commonly referred to as story prose, narrative prose, narration, or plotted stories. The definition of prose fiction is a story or story carried out by certain actors with specific roles, settings and stages and series of stories that depart from the imagination of the author so as to form a story (Aminuddin, 2013) <sup>[1]</sup>. The novel is a type of prose that uses a wide range of vocabulary to explain complicated issues. Novels also utilize simple language that is easy to comprehend. Because. Indirectly, the novel offers benefits to all readers, such as fixing issues and providing understanding. In a novel, the author usually makes every effort to bring the reader to the hidden meaning, such as the original picture. A feminist topic is one of the subjects discussed in the work.

### 2 Literature Review

Feminism is a feminist movement that advocates for gender equality in all aspects of life, including politics, economics, education, and social and organized activities that protect women's rights and interests. Feminism is a social consciousness of women's oppression and exploitation, both at work and at home (Suharto, 2010) <sup>[12]</sup>. Feminist literary analysis is a term used to describe a feminist approach to literary studies. According to Djajanegara, feminist literary criticism arose from feminists' desire to scrutinize the works of women writers in the past in order to demonstrate how the dominant patriarchal tradition suppressed, misrepresented, and underestimated women in many ways. Furthermore, there is a feminism concept, which is an understanding that grows among women to be self-sufficient as subjects, both in terms of nature and individual independence.

In fact, women's freedom is emerging "against" the other sex, mainly men, who have long dominated thoughts, work, knowledge, and social status (Djajanegara, 2000) <sup>[5]</sup>.

It was noted that some individuals believe that most Indonesians are not supportive of feminism. As predominance in patriarchal culture, feminism does not exist in the world of Indonesian literature. According to Marilyn French, patriarchal culture is a collection of norms that provide men legitimacy, authority, and legal ability to systematically oppress women (Suyitno dan Nugraha, 2014) <sup>[14]</sup>. In this discussion, the author wants to examine the novel *Women Who Cry to the Black Moon* by Dian Purnomo from the perspective of feminist stylists. In this novel, it raises the issue of the "marriage and capture" custom that occurs in Sumba. This novel is quite interesting because it tells a lot about the injustice of the main character in fighting against customs. These traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation can now be said to have deviated and may no longer be ethical to carry out in this day and age. Many women are instead happy, but instead suffer the consequences of being victims of sexual harassment. The story of this novel is not convoluted and complicated. It looks simple, but feels strong and full of meaning. Dian Purnomo was able to convey his concern about the "marriage and capture" tradition, which is detrimental to women a lot. Women are often only seen as "objects" instead of "humans". In addition to the interesting theme of the story, the cover of the book is very representative of the suffering of women who are victims of "marriage and capture" in an artistic and touching way.

In the novel *Perempuan Yang Menangis Kepada Bulan Hitam*, it creates gender injustice against the views of parents who consider matchmaking their children because tradition is an obligation that must be carried out. Based on love or not, girls must accept the mate given to them by their parents. Families will feel ashamed (disgrace) if their aged children, both girls and boys, have not been married. In a number of novels studied, it appears that there are attempts to show the bad effects of this tradition carried out by female characters. Based on the description above, the researcher intends to conduct a study with the title "Content of Feminist Stylistics In the novel *Perempuan Yang Menangis Kepada Bulan Hitam* By Dian Purnomo". In the novel *Perempuan Yang Menangis Kepada Bulan Hitam*, there is gender inequality that is received by the main female character, Magi Diela. With a sense of wanting to get her rights as a woman by doing whatever she thinks is right.

### 3. Research Method

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach, in research because it will analyze the data described in words which aims to determine the figure and image of the main character in the novel. Mulyani *et al* (2018) <sup>[9]</sup> stated that a qualitative study is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior. Qualitative research has several characteristics, namely; 1) takes place in a natural setting, 2) the researcher himself is the main instrument or data collection tool, 3) the data analysis is carried out inductively. This type of research is feminist literary criticism, a type of literary criticism that utilizes the framework of feminism theory in interpreting and evaluating literary works (Endraswara, 2013) <sup>[6]</sup>. This research emphasizes more on the

content of Feminist stylists in the novel being studied. Data is a main thing in a study. In this study, the data source used is a document or a collection of sentences containing feminism in the novel "*Women Who Cry to the Black Moon*" written by Dian Purnomo, published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama for the first printing in 2020 with a total of 312 pages. The technique used in data collection is library research, namely by recording documents or archives that are closely related to the research objectives, namely the first to read over and over again the whole novel to understand its contents as a whole, record words, sentences, or data important issues related to the problem under study, record and collect relevant theories related to research, conduct research based on existing theories, and draw conclusions.

The presentation of data that is often used in qualitative research is narrative text. This data analysis activity was carried out with the first step of analyzing data from a data source, the novel *Wanita Yang Menangis Kepada Bulan Hitam*. The Second, the data obtained from the supporting data sources will be linked to the data from the data source of the novel *Wanita Yang Menangis Kepada Bulan Hitam*. Third, based on this step, a description of the content of feminist.

### 4. Discussion and Research Results

The results of this study are presented based on the data obtained in the novel *Perempuan Yang Crying to Bulan Hitam* by Dian Purnomo using reading, listening, and note-taking techniques. The data obtained were then analyzed for forms of gender inequality in the form of sexual violence, sexism, Impostor Syndrome, Education, Economics and Stereotypes. After finding the research results that are in accordance with the research objectives, then proceed with the discussion of the research results by describing the results of the analysis guided by the theory of opinion rules and experts. The novel consists of 312 pages, in the novel 20 data were found which were examined by the researcher. The data is obtained from the novel *Perempuan Yang Crying to the Black Moon* by Dian Purnomo, both in the form of dialogue and narration.

### 5. Sexual Violence

According to Mark Yantzi, sexual violence is a type of violence that develops as a result of sexuality concerns. According to him, the perception of women as sexual objects is intertwined with the relationship between sex and violence. When there's sex, there's nearly always violence. Rape and sexual harassment are examples of many acts (insult and humiliation of the opposite sex) (Astuti, 2011) <sup>[4]</sup>.

*"Magi Diela merasa sangat rendah layaknya seekor binatang, ditarik-tarik, dinaikkan ke kendaraan untuk di bawa dari satu tempat ketempat lain". (Page 42).*

An excerpt from a narrative in the novel is an illustration of the treatment of several men who were assigned to kidnap Megi's character, Megi was not treated like a human. In that section, it is also told that Megi's character has experienced sexual harassment by the perpetrators of her abductors. In line with the understanding of sexual violence above that, women tend to be objects of sexual violence perpetrated by men, in this novel Megi's character has experienced sexual harassment while on a pickup.

*“pemerkosanya! Ko Tunggu Pembalasan! Magi Memaki tepat di depan wajah Leba Ali”*. (Page 52).

Based on the quote above, it is clear that Magi is very angry with what the character Leba Ali (the brain behind Megi's kidnapping) has done. Leba Ali's actions not only hurt her physically, but also disturbed her mentally. She roared, cried, and said she just wanted to die.

*“Dia harus menelepon Ama, dan menelan makian apa pun yang akan dilontarkan kepadanya. Ini adalah harga yang harus dia lunasi untuk kebebasannya”*. (Page 168).

*“Leba Ali mencekik leher Magi yang dia balas dengan ejekan, Cuma ini yang ko 640ias? Berusaha membunuh perempuan yang ko incar sejak kecil? yang ko Cuma 640ias pandangi dan tunggu sampai besar?”*. (Page 290).

*“Leba Ali membalas dengan meludahi wajah Magi dan Menjunjnya sekali lagi”*. (Page 291).

The quote above clearly describes the sexual violence committed by Leba Ali against Megi, the violence left scars such as bruises and wounds on Megi's female parts.

Megi is a very strong woman, despite getting very inappropriate treatment, Megi stays awake by not falling asleep because she faints due to several beatings and other violence by Leba Ali.

## 6. Sexism

Sexism is the prejudice and assumption that one sex is superior or better than the other sex (Hadi, 2021) <sup>[7]</sup>. According to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), the meaning of the word sexism is the use of words or phrases that are belittling or insulting regarding groups, genders, or individuals. Sexism has meaning in the field of linguistics (Indonesia Dictionary, 2017).

For example, men have to work, while women only have to take care of the kitchen and children.

*“Mungkin secara adat mereka sudah resmi bercerai, tetapi semudah itukah? Lalu berapa banyak perempuan yang sudah, dan akan diperlakukan seperti itu? Dikawini, dijadikan pabrik anak, dieksploitasi, disakiti, lalu dicampakkan”*. (Page 59).

From the novel quote above, it is explained that Leba Ali had divorced his previous wife according to custom, traditional divorce was considered very detrimental to women, because it was easy to divorce a wife without any consequences for the husband. While, the wife is only made a slave to lust and personal servants only.

*“...Ama Bobo tidak sanggup mananggung aib dan tidak mau keluarganya dianggap membawa bencana di seluruh kampung karena mengingkari kesepakatan yang sudah di buat wunang kedua keluarga”*. (Page 111).

In the narrative quote above, Ama Bobo (Megi's father) considers Megi to be a disgrace to his family, because Megi

has refused to be matched by Leba Ali, in their custom it is a disgrace for women to reject men's proposals. considered to be able to invite disaster for the village where they live.

*“kalau su jadi istri orang ko taka da pilihan. Cobalah ko belajar memasak supaya ko pung suami suka makan di rumah”* (halaman 280).

*“Magi harus pamit kepada laba Ali jika akan pergi kemana, magi menggeleng dalam hati, perempuan di mata Leba Ali memang selayaknya tahanan.....Leba Ali mau Megi membuat kopi dan sarapan pagi dulu sebelum pergi”* (halaman 286).

In the excerpt above is a conversation between Megi's sister-in-law which shows that the position of women in the household cannot be separated from matters relating to the mattress, kitchen and serving their husbands, women are required to provide the best service to their husbands. The nature of women shown in this section is as a servant for a husband.

## 7. Impostor Syndrome

This term is used to describe the pattern of behavior of a person who often doubts or even feels unworthy of success (Arwa, 2021).

*“Biar saja Manu jadi penjaga konter hape atau jadi penjaga toko serba ada satu-satunya di Waikabubak”*. (Halaman 196).

*“Anak dikuliahkan menghabiskan banyak uang tetapi pulang menjadi pembangkang, melawan orang tua, mencoreng muka ayah sendiri dengan tahi, lupa kain lupa kebaya”*. (Halaman 197).

In the quote in the novel is the expression of Ama Bobo who gives a hint of Megi's escape due to avoiding his match with Leba Ali. Manu is Megi's younger sister, Ama bobo does not want to send Manu to school, it is assumed that sending the child to school will make the child a rebel and disobedience to his parents and forget the customs. Adat is very highly respected in this area. The quote above has also provided evidence of the forms of gender inequality contained in the novel. This injustice is not only experienced by Megi, but also by Manu as Megi's younger brother. It is appropriate for customs that undermine the rights of some tribes, groups and genders to be left behind and only be made into stories.

## 8. Education

The Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 1995 concerning Corrections has regulated the right to receive education for Correctional Students, namely in Article 14 letter c and in more detail it is regulated in Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 32 of 1999 concerning Terms and Procedures for the Implementation of the Rights of Correctional Inmates in particular in Articles 9 to 13 which regulate the implementation of education and teaching (Pangaribuan, 2022) <sup>[10]</sup>.

*“Pekerjaan, kemungkinan untuk bersekolah lagi, kesempatan menikah dengan laki-laki yang di cintai, dan yang paling membuat Magi sedih adalah kehilangan kemerdekaan dan harga diri”*. (Halaman

62).

*“Dia ingin ilmunya yang didapatkannya di bangku kuliah berguna. Dia ingin menjadi perempuan mandiri, lalu kalau harus menikah juga dia maunya dengan laki-laki yang tidak mengekangnyanya”.* (Halaman 155).

An excerpt from a narrative in the novel is the voice of the mind of Megi's character. He was worried that his younger sister would not be able to continue her education to college because she had run away due to avoiding her matchmaking. In Indonesia itself, a child has the right to education, but he collides with customs and culture that are still very strong in some areas in Indonesia.

In the next quote, Megi speaks in his mind about the match that he avoids, he doesn't want the knowledge he got while in college to be in vain and not benefit himself and society. Megi dares to fight against the traditional currents that are so swift in her area, she wants to open everyone's thoughts that women have the right to get a higher education, not only as "servants" for their husbands.

*“Lupa kain lupa kebaya! Dengus Ama Bobo. Sa kasih biaya sa punya anak tidak main-main. Sa punya hewan sa jual, tanah ikut terjual karena sa mau sa punya anak jadi pintar, bukan orang lupa adat”.* (Halaman 161).

*“Ko su bikin aib untuk keluarga. Mau ko tambah lagi? Ko tahu pamali menolak lamaran yang su dibahas di tika radat”.* (Halaman 185).

*“Begini, Nona. Dalam adat kita ini, menolak lamaran itu sama arti membuang jodoh. Ko pung ama dan ina takut ko tidak aka nada jodoh lai, sampai mati”.* (Halaman 210).

From this quote, it can be seen that *adat* is very fundamental in the life of the people in the area. Customs greatly influence every behavior of the community. Everyone must not violate customs, if they dare to violate it will receive reinforcements or sanctions from their ancestors.

## 9. Economy

*“Sehari-hari dia bekerja dengan petani, terutama kelompok tani perempuan di beberapa desa di sana/ banyak hal baru dipelajari di sini. Meskipun ini sedikit berbeda dari impiannya mengembangkan pertanian di tanah kelahirannya”.* (Halaman 155).

*“...diisi dengan diskusi Bersama kelompok-kelompok tani, terutama petani perempuan, juga membuat vlog berisi perkembangan yang dicapai organisasi tempat bekerja sekarang, wawancara petani, tips-tips pertanian, dan profil pendampingan”.* (Halaman 180).

From the excerpt of the novel narrative above, it can be seen from the economic aspect, how a Megi who is very enthusiastic to benefit and develop the knowledge he gets in agriculture, of course this shows us that women can also play a role in developing and raising the economy in Indonesia.

## 10. Stereotype

Stereotypes are labeling or marking of certain groups with negative attitudes or judgments. One of the stereotypes about women is the issue of women preening in order to attract the attention of the opposite sex, so that when cases of violence, sexual harassment and even rape occur, people tend to blame women, even though she herself is the victim in these cases (Ridwan, 2006) <sup>[11]</sup>.

*“saya berani, kamu lebih pemberani. Saya lari dari rumah, kamu lari dari pulaumu. Saya dipaksa kawin dan tidak bisa melawan. Kamu diculik, dipaksa kawin dan berani melawan”.* (Halaman 155).

*“Seharusnya kamu tidak lagi berfikir bahwa perempuan dan laki-laki itu berbeda. Apa yang bisa dilakukan laki-laki, bisa dilakukan perempuan, begitu juga sebaliknya. Hanya satu yang kami tidak bisa, melahirkan dan menyusui”.* (Halaman 185).

The quote above is part of a conversation between Om Vincen and Magi. Om Vincen's statement confirms that there is no labeling or other marking between women and men. According to him there is no difference other than women breastfeeding and giving birth. Otherwise, men and women are the same. That's why Om Vincen tried to calm Magi and said that he was the hope of women to prove women's rights.

## 11. Summary

Based on the results and discussion of feminism research in Dian Punomo's novel entitle Women Crying To The Black Moon, the form of gender inequality in the novel can be concluded as follows.

1. Sexual violence in Mark Yantzi's view is a form of violence that occurs because of sexuality issues. According to him, the view of women as objects of sexuality is closely related to the relationship between sex and violence. Where there is sex, violence is almost always born. Various acts such as rape, sexual harassment (insult and humiliation of the opposite sex). This novel shows that women tend to often become victims of sexual violence.
2. Sexism is prejudice and the assumption that one sex is superior or better than the other sex. In the novel, it tells how women/wives are always positioned as servants for their husbands.
3. Impostor Syndrome This term is used to describe the behavior pattern of a person who often doubts or even feels unworthy of success. In this novel, it shows that there is a form of gender injustice in the novel. This injustice is not only experienced by Magi's character, but also by Manu as Magi's sister character.
4. Education is so important for Megi as the main character in this novel, shows that every woman has the right to get the same education opportunities for other gender.
5. The economic aspect, how is a Megi who is very enthusiastic to benefit and develop the knowledge he gets in the field of agriculture, of course this shows us that women can also play a role in developing and raising the economy in society.
6. Stereotypes are labeling or marking of certain groups



with negative attitudes or judgments. One of the stereotypes about women is the issue of women preening in order to attract the attention of the opposite sex, so that when cases of violence, sexual harassment and even rape occur, people tend to blame women, even though she herself is the victim in these cases. In this novel, through interactions with the character Om Vincent, there is no difference other than women breastfeeding and giving birth. The rest, boys and girls are the same.

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