

An Analysis of *Lebih Senyap Dari Bisikan* Novel: Feminist Perspective

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Abstract

Feminism is not a new theme in the world of literature. The purpose of this research is to describe the study of feminism in Andina Dwifatma's novel Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan. A qualitative descriptive analysis of the Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan novel was done. The novel's literary features were noted by the author and examined in this research. In this study, the authors of the new work reveal data in the words, phrases, and sentences they use. Feminist theory was used to analyze the issue. The results showed these novel contents three types of feminism. That are liberal feminism 55,55% (5 data of 9), radical feminism 22,22% (2 data of 9), and existentialist feminism 11,11% (1 datum of 9).

Keyword: *feminism; novel; right; qualitative descriptive research*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is basically a form of creative art that uses language as a medium where a human being and his life are the subject (Semi, 2012). Even when tracing the literature of evolutionary biology, Aryanika (2016) begins with the roots, factors, and circumstances that encourage the creation of literature, such as the economic, social, and even the concept of geography.

Literature, as a creative art form that employs humans and all aspects of life, can be used as a medium to communicate an idea, a theory, or a system of human thought. Authors of literary works used to express their feelings about something that existed reality. This reality, along with the element of imagination, is one of the factors that led to the authors creating a literary work. Aryanika (2016) stated that literature can be discussed in two ways to determine the author's thoughts contained in his work: content and form. In terms of content, literary analysis discusses what is contained within it, whereas literary analysis discusses how it is delivered.

One of literary work is novel. A novel is a short fictional prose story that portrays inventive characters, motions, and living scenes. A novel is a literary work that contains

both intrinsic and external aspects. The intrinsic element is the ingredient that builds the literary piece itself. It is this part that causes the literary work to appear factually to be found when reading literature (Nurgiyantoro, 1995). Novels are writings that recount stories about extraordinary events in people's lives. Extraordinary because that episode gave birth to a quarrel, a debate that caused upheaval in the souls of the characters, transforming their way of existence.

As stated by Wulan (2016), this novel facilitates understanding how communication takes place in a country. Even though the world of a novel is fictitious, it provides a rich and colorful setting in which characters from various social and regional backgrounds can be described. A reader can learn about how the characters in such literary works perceive the world around them (such as feelings, habits, traditions, and belongings).

Indonesian novel development is fairly quick. The abundance of recently released novels serves as proof. The novels covered a wide range of topics, including social issues that typically arise in communities and those pertaining to women. It's fascinating to talk about female figures. Men frequently exploit women in public settings to feed their colonies. Women have been exploited commercially and sexually. In other words, it no longer has a proud feminist aspect and is now praised by both men and women.

Gender problems surrounding women and their place in Indonesian culture are still hotly disputed. It occurs because patriarchal tradition is still ingrained in society's social structure. The patriarchal culture's portrayal of women as "the other" by Simone de Beauvoir. Rohmawati and Padin (2021) stated that in patriarchal culture, the portrayal of women is portrayed as a person who must behave properly, conform, not debate, and not outperform males in any way (1). Moreover, a patriarchal social order implies that men are stronger than women, both individually and in the environment and society (2).

God made people in a way that allows them to coexist peacefully in this planet since they depend on one another for survival. The fact that humans are made in pairs—men and women—so they can support one another—shows that this is the case. The ideal relationship between men and women, however, is influenced by a number of elements that have been linked to one another for years. These elements include psychological, political, and economic. Given that men and women are in the same political, economic, and psychological circumstances, these elements should logically promote positive

relationships between them. Sadly, in the reality, these issues lead to a lack of harmony in relationships between men and women.

Widyastuti (2007) stated that men often believe they are superior to women. Every man's life has been infused with this harsh treatment. In other hand women believe that they are inferior and frail. When women feel weak, they become frailer than they actually are, and when men feel strong and powerful, they become more active than they actually are. These are called injustice or unfairness. According to Capital and Sulistyaningsih (2023), women's unfairness in life begins with sex, education, and socio-culture, and progresses to their function as members of society or within the public.

A movement known as the feminist movement has recently questioned and attacked several forms of gender injustice that all women confront. In an effort to create women's emancipation, this movement aims to dismantle the idea of gender-based oppression and investigate the causes of women's sexism. Therefore, in general, it can be claimed that feminism is an ideology of women's emancipation because the notion that women experience injustice due of their gender permeates every aspect of its philosophy.

Feminist theory gives us a way to understand how people act in a social setting by focusing on women and the problems they face today. Feminism represents a view of the world that honours women and that tackles systematic inequalities that are gender-based. Individuals, communities, families, and organizations are seen through a feminist lens in their social, political, economic, ethnic, and cultural settings. The convergence of these environments creates the possibility of discrimination based on gender specific interactions (Lay and Daley, 2007).

Feminism describes a woman's conception of her rights, equality, position, and status in relation to men and women in a variety of spheres of life, including the social, political, educational, economic, and sexual spheres. The goal of feminism is to achieve gender equality by putting an end to discrimination, injustice, and oppression that women have experienced. Thus, feminism is a concept of equal rights for women that was developed to advance women's rights (Maharani, 2019).

Stated by Kusumondanu (2021) that without disrespecting males, the feminist movement fights for women's rights in all spheres of life and against gender inequality. It never promotes the concept that women are better than males or that they are against every man. Feminism merely opposes the patriarchal culture, a societal structure that

really has historically subjected women to discrimination based on gender. Both men and women should indeed be given their own personal independence and social responsibilities.

In the history of feminism, movements emerge gradually. Maharani (2019) stated that feminist literary criticism is based on the notion that men dominate not just social, political, and economic fields, but also science. The theory of literary criticism of feminism has been widely applied in the analysis of literary works. Feminist literary criticism as a branch of sociology of literature starts with the urges of female feminism to analyse the works of authors in the past and to show the portrait of women in the work of authors that portray women as suppressed, wrongly interpreted, and belittled by patriarchal traditions.

Feminism is not a new theme in the world of literature. Feminism literary criticism arose above theoretical considerations. According to Lestari (2015), this theoretical thinking encompasses four characteristics of social theory literature that the theory of social literature connects at least four areas of theoretical thought: social thought, literature, history, and the relationship between them. Departure from history, which was always evolving along with the changing circumstances, gave rise to the emancipation term pioneered by RA. Kartini. This, however, has not transformed the image of women in the realm of literature, which has traditionally portrayed women as victims.

Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan is a novel written by Adinda Dwifatma which published first time in 2021. It tells about the story of Amara and Baron, the husband and wife in this book, are trying to have a child. They do their best to survive the postpartum period after having a child. After these times, a character named of Saliman appeared, introducing Baron to the stock market. Their economy then took off. However, a terrible incident happened. 1.5 billion were lost by Baron. From there, the storyline switches to Amara, a wife who battles for both her own and her only child's wellbeing.

The researcher chose *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan* to study because, in the first place, it describes the gender injustice that afflicts the female characters. The second reason is that the book portrays women who are perseverant, resilient, and brave enough to speak out against injustice like what she has encountered.

The feminism of female primary characters in *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan* is the topic of this study. This study focuses on female characters since it is suited to the main

feminist notion, meaning the female character in the novel experiences oppression, and then the way the female character survives against the oppression she faced.

Previous study was conducted by Aryanika in 2016 which entitled *An Analysis of Perempuan Berkalung Sorban Novel: Feminist Perspective*. The research results are (1) feminism portrays a woman's effort to establish her existence and rights as an independently existing being, not just in academics as well as in community (2) there are two types of feminism shown in the novel, radical feminism and liberal feminism. The similar research also conducted by Maharani (2019). The result of the research is about the battle of the main character in this novel, a smart, independent, aspirational, and dishonest woman, to obtain her rights demonstrated that she was capable of being on an equal level with males in terms of equality. At the end, she was able to work and support herself so she could live her life on her own terms.

Literature should be studied not just for personal enjoyment but also to gain a deeper comprehension of the genre (Kurniawati et.al, 2018). The analysis process must be specific and based on rational thought and comprehension in relation to the field of literature. Thus, the purpose of this research is to describe the study of feminism in Adinda Dwifatma's novel *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan*. The specific purpose of this research is to describe forms of gender inequality in the *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan* novel.

METHOD

The method used to analyze *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan* novel by Adinda Dwifatma was qualitative descriptive. Explained by Berg that qualitative research properly seeks answers to questions by examining various social settings and the individuals who inhabit these settings (Berg, 2001). In this research, the writer recorded and analysed are the elements in a literary work in *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan* novel. In this study the writer reveal data in sentences form in the novel of *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan* by Adinda Dwifatma's work. The problem was analysed using feminist theory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our civilization is marked by male dominance over women. Male dominance extends beyond simply holding positions of authority and may also extend to the economy, society, and the political arena. When they were treated unfairly in society,

women were not allowed to defend themselves. Kusumondanu (2021) stated that patriarchy is the term used to describe this inequality. Numerous literary genres, including prose, theatre, and poetry, all contain elements of patriarchy.

Then feminist theory provides a viewpoint for evaluating people's actions in social contexts by concentrating on women and the issues that women face today. Feminism provides a perspective of the world that celebrates women and that challenges systematic inequities that are gender-based. Individuals, communities, families, and organizations are viewed through a feminist lens in their social, political, economic, ethnic, and cultural contexts. The confluence of these contexts raises the prospect of discrimination based on gender-specific interactions.

Feminist ideas put forth an effort to define women's oppression, explain its origins and impacts, and also provide ways for their emancipation. Stated by Purwarno *et.al.* (2021) that these ideas provide a way of thinking that goes beyond the types of individualism and abstraction that are common within liberalism by paying special attention to systems of power and social context and by investigating the actual experiences of women living within these structures.

There are four types of feminism namely liberal feminism, radical feminism, marxist feminism, and existentialist feminism. In this novel three types of feminism are found. That are liberal feminism 55,55% (5 data of 9), radical feminism 22,22% (2 data of 9), and existentialist feminism 11,11% (1 datum of 9).

Table 1. Types of Feminism found in *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan* novel.

Quotes	Type of Feminism
"Setiap pagi aku masak sarapan, kami makan bersama, lalu pergi kerja tepat pukul tujuh. Kantor kami berdekatan. Baron akan mengantarku duluan dan pulangnyaku naik taksi ke kantor Baron yang searah dengan rumah. Malamnya giliran Baron yang memasak sementara aku menonton series atau reality show favoritku." (Page 4)	Liberal Feminism
"Kalau anak kita perempuan dia harus suka baca buku, tapi juga pintar dalam dandan. Ngapain pilih salah satu?" "Kalau anak kita laki-laki dia harus bertukang, tapi juga masak dan bebers." (Page 4)	Existentialist Feminism
"Yang aku tahu, keluarga dan kenalan kami, baik di kehidupan nyata dan di media sosial, lebih sering menyemangatiku, bukan Baron. Kalau ada resep jus atau obat atau makanan atau vitamin atau apa pun itu yang konon manjur untuk kehamilah, mereka memberitahuku,	Liberal Feminism

<i>bukan Baron. Kalau mereka ingin berbasa basi setelah lama tidak ketemu, mereka akan bertanya, “Amara sudah isi belum nih? Sambil memegang perutku. Namun tidak ada yang memegang penis Baron sambil bertanya, “Baron sudah berhasil menghamili belum, nih?” (Page 14-15)</i>	
<i>“Karena itukah aku ingin mempunyai anak? Agar aku bisa bilang bahwa aku sudah menjalankan peran utamaku sebagai perempuan? Agar aku bisa mengenakan tugas tubuhku yang dirancang untuk melanjutkan kehidupan? Agar aku bisa pergi ke acara keluarga atau reunian tanpa merasa tersakiti lantaran ditanya terus-terusan ‘kapan?’, ‘kapan?’.” (Page 15)</i>	Liberal Feminism
<i>“Kami Berbeda jurusan (aku di Ilmu Komunikasi, dia di Administrasi Bisnis) tapi kami satu fakultas.” (Page 23)</i>	Liberal Feminism
<i>“Aku mendekat dan meneyentuh lukanya, tapi Baron menampik tanganku. Dadaku berdentam-dentam. Ini pertama kalinya dalam pernikahan kami Baron mengasariku.” (Page 104)</i>	Radical Feminism
<i>“Segalanya begitu cepat terjadi. Tangan Baron mengayyun dan pipiku terasa perih. Kami berdua sama-sama kaget. Aku memegang pipiku dan Baron membelalak.” (Page 105)</i>	Radical Feminism
<i>“Laki-laki tua kalau dapat istri yang masih muda akan dipuji, sementara perempuan mudanya dibilang bego atau mengincar harta.” (Page 120)</i>	Liberal Feminism

Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism is the idea that asserts gender equality as a means of releasing women from oppressive gender norms (Desmawati, 2018). Liberal feminists establish their case by stating that both men and women are rational individuals who should have equal access to political involvement and educational possibilities. Additionally, it rejects men's monopolistic dominance (Karim and Azlan, 2019).

Liberal feminism paved the way for improvements in the economy, opportunity inequity, civil rights, and self-fulfilment. Theoretically, liberal feminism believes that gender distinctions are not founded in biology, and hence that women and men are not all that dissimilar—their shared humanity outweighs their reproductive divergence. If men and women are not different, the law should not treat them differently. Women should have equal rights to men, as well as equal educational and employment possibilities (Purwarno *et.al.*, 2021).

“Setiap pagi aku masak sarapan, kami makan bersama, lalu pergi kerja tepat pukul tujuh. Kantor kami berdekatan. Baron akan mengantarku duluan dan

pulangannya aku naik taksi ke kantor Baron yang searah dengan rumah. Malamnya giliran Baron yang memasak sementara aku menonton series atau reality show favoritku.” (p.4)

From quotation above, it indicates the passage categorized into liberal feminism. It depicts the life of a married spouse, a wife and a husband, who has same role and ability in their life. Both of them has a job in the morning and they decide to divide the house chores equally. The wife cooks in the morning, so does the husband cooks in the night. Both male and female gender seems to have the freedom to fulfil themselves.

“Yang aku tahu, keluarga dan kenalan kami, baik di kehidupan nyata dan di media sosial, lebih sering menyemangatiku, bukan Baron. Kalau ada resep jus atau obat atau makanan atau vitamin atau apa pun itu yang konon manjur untuk kehamilan, mereka memberitahuku, bukan Baron. Kalau mereka ingin berbasa basi setelah lama tidak ketemu, mereka akan bertanya, “Amara sudah isi belum nih? Sambil memegang perutku. Namun tidak ada yang memegang penis Baron sambil bertanya, “Baron sudah berhasil menghamili belum, nih?” (p.14-15)

“Karena itukah aku ingin mempunyai anak? Agar aku bisa bilang bahwa aku sudah menjalankan peran utamaku sebagai perempuan? Agar aku bisa menggenapkan tugas tubuhku yang dirancang untuk melanjutkan kehidupan? Agar aku bisa pergi ke acara keluarga atau reunion tanpa merasa tersakiti lantaran ditanya terus-terusan ‘kapan?’, ‘kapan?’. (p.15)

Quotations above indicate that the main female character in the novel feeling unfairly treated by the society. The pregnancy should be the things for both wife and husband, but the society beliefs that pregnancy is only woman’s responsibility. Women have reproductive organs that support pregnancy and breastfeeding. This makes people believe that pregnancy and breastfeeding are the main tasks of a woman, so work in an office or even in education is a just secondary role for a woman. Meanwhile, men have an obligation to earn a living, so society is not so burdensome about pregnancy for men. Because of this understanding, women often feel pressured.

Stated by Marhumah (2011) that gender issues are part of social problems that broadly happen in Indonesia in the world of career, education and even religion. Female reproductive organs along with the associated functions to her, such as being pregnant, giving birth, and breastfeeding, is considered to limit space and women's movement. This limitation is not applying to men. It's this difference which gave birth to the separation of functions and responsibility between men and woman.

“Laki-laki tua kalau dapat istri yang masih muda akan dipuji, sementara perempuan mudanya dibilang bego atau mengincar harta.” (p.120)

Not only about pregnancy. When making a decision the woman will be judged from the negative side while the man will be worshiped with the positive side as seen in page 120. This indicate that the man has power in society. Men carry out the main roles in society because generally considered to be more potent, stronger, and more productive (Marhumah, 2011).

“Kami Berbeda jurusan (aku di Ilmu Komunikasi, dia di Administrasi Bisnis) tapi kami satu fakultas.” (p.23)

Although gender inequality is seen in this novel, not all of this inequality is experienced by the main female character. The main female character still has equality, namely the same rights as men in pursuing education up to the tertiary level. From the quotation above, we can see that the husband and wife first met at the university where they both studied.

Radical Feminism

One of the feminist ideas is radical feminism. Radical feminists said that "the individual is political" and that all women are "sisters," implying that women's fortunes are closely entwined. It is also believed and insisted that men's control over both women's reproductive and sexual life, as well as women's self-identity, self-respect, and self-esteem, is the most basic of all the forms of oppression that humans inflict on one another (Sibarani dkk, 2020).

In their discourses, they emphasize individualist characteristics. They did not dispute the widely held belief that the only issue affecting women's concerns stems from discussions about women's everyday life, such as political, economic, or educational involvement. They believed that male control extended beyond just restricting women's involvement in public and included their private affairs, including their reproductive and sexual functions (Karim and Azlan, 2019).

“Aku mendekat dan meneyentuh lukanya, tapi Baron menampik tanganku. Dadaku berdentam-dentam. Ini pertama kalinya dalam pernikahan kami Baron mengasariku.” (p.104)

“Segalanya begitu cepat terjadi. Tangan Baron mengayyun dan pipiku terasa perih. Kami berdua sama-sama kaget. Aku memegang pipiku dan Baron membelalak.” (p.105)

Both quotations above indicate the radical feminism. Position of men are more dominant than women in a patriarchal society. Subordination of femininity illustrated through the unequal distribution of character, roles, and status between feminine and masculine. In the division of character, women (feminine) integrated by passivity, stupidity, obedience, kindness, useless, while men (masculine) associated with aggression, intelligence, strength, and effectiveness (Sofranita and Wahyuningsih, 2015). This makes men think that they can easily abuse women.

The quotations above illustrate that a husband has used violence towards his wife. The first is the husband violently shrugging off the wife's hand, while the second is the husband slapping the woman on the face. This comes under the category of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is the most brutal kind of abuse against a person, a number of people, or a woman. It includes domestic abuse, dowry-related violence, rape in marriage, female genital mutilation, and other destructive customs that hurt any member of the family. Domestic abuse also includes physical, sexual, and psychological trauma. Anyone living in the home has the potential to engage in domestic violence.

Existentialist Feminism

Women's existence is significant. Women are not only a necessary component of a plot, but also a major role in literary works. The ultimate need that each person aspires to fulfill is existence, or self-actualization in Maslow's terminology. Every person will undoubtedly desire to be acknowledged for who they are in society, which makes them an important member of the community. Even now, the spirit of the recognition of historically existing women is growing.

One of the existential feminist ideas is represented by the marginalization of women as the other in the male-created society and the assumption that men are the subject but women are the objects. Existential feminism is a woman's fight via personal actions in the domestic sector, which appears to be different from feminism practiced by those who fight in the larger society ().

Existentialist Feminist beliefs that woman must develop into a self, a subject that defies categorization and transcends essences. Simone de Beauvoir (2009) stated that women in this universe merely served as liyan of males, contrary to the existentialists' claims. Men are the subject and women the objects. Therefore, existentialism, in the eyes of Beauvoir, occurs when a woman ceases to be an object and instead becomes a subject within her.

“Kalau anak kita perempuan dia harus suka baca buku, tapi juga pintar dalam dandan. Ngapain pilih salah satu?”

“Kalau anak kita laki-laki dia harus bertukang, tapi juga masak dan beberes.”
(p.4)

According to the passage above, this information falls within the category of existentialist feminism, which considered that a woman must develop into a subject that transcends definitions, identities, and essences. A child who will be born one day has the right to choose what kind of person she/he will make herself/himself. Stated by Kusumondanu (2021) that women indeed have the option to reject the socially prescribed feminine role. Taking the feminine role entails admitting that women will only serve as men's objects.

Beauvoir (2010) claims that there is a chance for women to reject injustice. Women can work, first of all. Beauvoir is aware that working in a patriarchal society is difficult and harmful, notably if it forces women to labour in both their home and workplace or industry. Despite how tough and exhausting it is, Beauvoir remains adamant. In community, women will be able to express their standing. Second, women have intellectual capabilities. According to Beauvoir, intellectual activity takes place when an individual thinks, observes, and determines; it does not cease whenever a person is the subject of thinking, analysis, or description. It implies that women may actively participate in decision-making and express their opinions about community by becoming intellectuals.

CONCLUSION

According to the findings of the study, there are three forms of feminism in the novel *Lebih Senyap dari Bisikan*. First, the novel's characters exemplified liberal feminism because of what they did to satisfy their own lives and earn money via hard labour. Man and woman, wife and husband, have the equal chance to achieve and perform their duties. The second, radical feminism. Indicated by the description of violence perpetrated by a husband against his wife. The third is existentialist feminism. It reflected in the existence of a statement where the novel character determines the attitude and characteristics of the baby that to be born, even the baby's gender is not yet known.

SUGGESTION

Based on conclusion above, the writer proposes suggestions below:

1. Gender injustice may strike at any time and in any place, affecting both men and women in all sectors and levels of life. As a result, efforts must be made to eliminate gender inequity.
2. The findings of this study will be used to perform an in-depth investigation of the gender approach, particularly gender inequities that affect women.

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