

Abidah El Khalieqy's Novel Perempuan Berkalung Sorban: A Feminist Analysis

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Abstract

In patriarchal countries, women are viewed as belonging to a lower class than men. This study aims to comprehend the feminism used in Perempuan Berkalung Sorban's novel. The goals of this study are to 1) define feminism in Perempuan Berkalung Sorban's novel and 2) comprehend the feminist organisations that are present in the text. This study employed a qualitative descriptive research methodology. According to the research, Perempuan Berkalung Sorban's feminism represents a woman's battle for existence and human rights, and it also contains both liberal and radical feminism.

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

INTRODUCTION

Literature, a form of creative expression that use language as its medium, deals with the human being and his life (Semi, 2008). Literature can convey a notion, a theory, or a school of thought since it is a creative art form that relies on individuals and many different aspects of life. Literary authors frequently share their views on topics that real-world people deal with. One of the reasons the authors created a literary work is because of this realism and the use of imagination. Content and form are two criteria that can be used to examine literature and reveal the author's perspective. Literary works raise questions about both their forms and their contents in terms of how they are presented.

According to David, literature is an art form, just like painting, sculpture, music, theatre, and dance. What distinguishes literature from other types of art is the language utilised in it (David, 1971, p.139). Literature is the art of writing, or one would suppose that any written expression but not all written documents is referred to as literature. Perhaps understanding or approaching the arts or the uniqueness of a literary work is what is needed in this circumstance. When tracing the literature of evolutionary biology, one

should start with the causes, influences, and situations that promote literature, such as the economic, social, and even the concept of geography.

Literature may have started when man realised, he was capable of creating. Realizing this, he started writing not just to communicate his sentiments but also to quietly convey significant social themes that were covered in gorgeous language. He came to the conclusion that he could employ word play to amuse readers. In the past, it was difficult to keep track of the development of world literature because of the distance. However, we also have access to a wide range of literary works. Literature was tackled in different ways by authors from diverse cultures, times, and languages.

Literature can more accurately portray a culture than historical or cultural relics since it interacts directly with language and people. The author's message will be interpreted differently by each reader. Using mythological, social, psychological, historical, or any other literary theory affects how the text is decoded. Literature always retains an artistic element, no matter what standards we employ to judge it critically. Culture and national boundaries are irrelevant to literature. It speaks to us regardless of our race, culture, or country.

Even if there is a clear connection between the two, writing and literature are not the same. Literature is not a category that all writing falls within. Academics disagree on when written documentation first began to resemble "literature," as the term is fairly arbitrary. Another important factor to consider is that the historical expansion of literature has not been consistent throughout the world. The planned or accidental destruction of numerous books over the ages, as well as the unintended disappearance of entire cultures, is the main barrier to creating a coherent worldwide history of literature. The earliest forms of English literature are no longer existent, much like the earliest forms of other national literature.

Written and spoken words are both used in literature. The term "literature" can be used to describe a wide range of works, from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but it most frequently refers to works of fiction like poetry, plays, prose, and novels. Literature, which is practically the same as art, confirms what is true in a painting. A novel is "a collection of people and events produced from reading, observation, and experience, and braided into a new plot," according to the dictionary

definition. A novel is neither an exact replica nor an imitation of life as we experience it (Knowledges, 2006, p.20).

The book is essential as a literary work because it offers a viewpoint on how to approach life in a creative way. This is plausible given that the issues presented in the book pertain to all of mankind and humankind as a whole. Indonesian novels are published fairly frequently. The large number of recently published novels is evidence. The novels explored a wide range of subjects, including those pertaining to women and common community socioeconomic difficulties. Discussing female role models is fascinating. Men frequently take advantage of women in public places to feed their desires. In the workplace and through sexual activities, women have been exploited. In other words, it is now admired by both men and women and no longer has a proud feminist character. It hurts a lot when women are viewed as merely a market or business area. Many instances were used as evidence to disprove widespread notions that, among other things, all countries treated men and women equally in terms of gender roles (Bryson, 1992, p.140-141).

Women are a never-ending source of inspiration because of their diversity. Studies that focus solely on issues affecting women are more prevalent than studies that examine issues affecting men. The assumption that women's lives are unique has caused stress in many aspects of life, which has contributed to the tendency (Mubin, 2008). The women's uniqueness is not necessarily something they like because they frequently suffer unfairness (Effendi, 2000).

The person in question is a female relative who had a difficult time understanding the existence and inviting nature of the problems that developed in her life. Some people who still uphold patriarchal ideology regard women who want to learn about themselves as "resistance." Males are more aware of the opportunities for nonphysical development that are inherent in their presence as humans, whereas females are more concerned with defining their own identities.

Numerous women's issues regarding gender equality garner more sympathy from the general public since they are closely related to social justice issues in a more general sense (Nugroho, 2008). In order to achieve women's emancipation, this movement seeks to destroy the idea of gender-based oppression and look into the roots of women's sexism. Recently, the feminist movement has questioned and challenged numerous forms of

gender unfairness that middle-class women experience. Because the idea that women endure injustice because of their gender penetrates every part of its philosophy, it may therefore be said that feminism is an ideology of women's emancipation in general (Humm, 2002).

Women have faced injustice and tyranny against this backdrop. In reality, the name downplays the desire of people to support men's rights. The history of feminism shows that movements develop gradually. The theory of literary criticism associated with feminism has long been used to assess literary works. Female feminism served as the impetus for the development of feminist literary criticism, a branch of sociology of literature that focuses on how men's writing stereotypes women as constrained, misunderstood, and trivialised by patriarchal norms. Men belong to the general camp in a patriarchal society, which includes the environment and life beyond the home, whereas women belong to the home camp, which is limited to the environment and life inside the home (Djajanegara, 2003, p.30).

In Indonesian literature, Suroso and Suwardi (1998) assert that there are two classes of women. The first category is based on cultural customs or women's biological roles (wife, mother, and sex object). Second, he asserted his status as a standalone person as opposed to her husband's companion. Feminist refers to a female character of the second type mentioned above who aspires to independence in her beliefs, conduct, and awareness of her rights. Men and women experience different gender differences that are impacted not just by biological factors but also by societal conceptions. The biological differences between men and women are the main factor in shaping the social roles of the sexes.

Progressive feminists desire to see women's status and educational attainment on par with men. A feminist perspective was chosen because the compelling aspects of the main character's existence fairly demanded equality between men and women. This study focuses on gender awareness, patriarchal dominance problems that influence the main character, and various forms of patriarchal dominance resistance.

Feminists can pursue and fight for this goal in a number of ways. Working toward equal rights and responsibilities for men and women is one strategy. As a result, the fight for equal rights (movement for equal rights). The women's liberation movement, which aims to liberate women from the confines of the domestic sphere, the family, and the

home, is another tactic. In the end, the lady can serve as an example of strong female role models and promote the values of feminism.

Islam has laid out certain rules for how men and women should conduct themselves in daily life. Despite the variations and similarities in the distribution of their tasks, which is referred to as "gender inequality," the division of responsibilities is equally important in attempts to achieve a respectable existence. To make sure that all of humankind's potential is realised in public life, both men and women have obligations. In the book *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* by Abidah El Khalieqy, the main character Annisa is involved in a sort of uprising and persecution. The author wants to demonstrate the feminism of Abidah El Khalieqy's *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* using these descriptions.

The purpose of this study is to analyse the feminist themes present in the novel "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" by Abidah El Khalieqy. Specifically, the study aims to define the concept of feminism as portrayed in the novel, and understand the presence of feminist organizations within the text. The study adopts a qualitative descriptive research methodology to achieve these objectives. Overall, it seeks to explore the novel's depiction of women's struggles for existence and human rights, encompassing elements of both liberal and radical feminism.

This study objectives as follows are to define and analyse the concept of feminism as depicted in the novel "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban." Examine the portrayal of women's battle for existence and human right in the novel. Identify and explore the presence of feminist organizations within the text. Evaluate the extent to which the novel reflects elements of liberal feminism. Assess the extent to which the novel reflects elements of radical feminism. Provide a comprehensive understanding of the feminist themes and perspectives presented in "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban." Contribute to the existing body of knowledge on feminist literature and its portrayal in patriarchal societies.

The study holds several significances is in academic contribution, the analysis of "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" contributes to the existing body of knowledge of feminist literature, particularly in the context of patriarchal societies. It sheds light on the portrayal of femimist and feminist organizations in the novel, expanding understanding in this area. In feminist perspective the study provides insights into the feminist themes and perspectives within the novel, allowing for a deeper understanding of the challenges faced

by women in patriarchal societies. It contributes to feminist discourse by highlighting the struggles for existence and human rights depicted in the text. Literary analysis by examining the novel's representation of feminism, the study offers a literary analysis that enhances understanding of Abidah El Khalieqy's work. It explores the novel's thematic depth and social commentary, adding to the discourse on Indonesian literature and its engagement with feminist ideas. Societal Awareness, this study raises awareness about the status of women in patriarchal societies, focusing on the themes of existence and human rights. By highlighting the struggles and experiences of women, it promotes dialogue and understanding surrounding gender inequality and the need for societal change. Inspirational and empowering in "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" portrays women's battles for existence and human rights, potentially inspiring and empowering readers, particularly women, who resonate with the challenges depicted in the novel. The study highlights these empowering aspects, contributing to discussions on the role of literature in promoting social change. For cultural appreciation, through the analysis of an Indonesian novel, the study encourages cultural appreciation by exploring feminist themes within the context of Indonesian society. It provides a platform to understand and appreciate the unique perspectives and experiences of Indonesian women, fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Previous studies on "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban" and its feminist analysis are limited. However, there have been studies conducted on Abidah El Khalieqy's works and Indonesian feminist literature in general that can provide some background for this study. One previous study focused on Abidah El Khalieqy's novels, including "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban", and examined the representation of women and feminist themes in her works. It analysed how her writings challenge patriarchal norms and contribute to feminist discourse in Indonesian literature. Another study explored the portrayal of women in Indonesian literature and examined the intersection of gender and religion in Abidah El Khalieqy's novels. While not specifically focused on "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban", it provided insights into the broader themes and perspectives present in the author's works. Additionally, there have been studies on feminist literature in Indonesia society, analyzing the representation of women, gender dynamics, and feminist movements in Indonesian novels. These studies provide a broader context for understanding the feminist themes present in "Perempuan Berkalung Sorban". However,

there is still a gap in research specifically analysing the feminism employed in “Perempuan Berkalung Sorban” and comprehending the feminist organization depicted. This study aims to fill that gap and build upon previous research by conducting a focused analysis on the novel and its specific feminist themes and perspectives.

METHOD

This study used a qualitative descriptive analytical method to assess the Perempuan Berkalung Sorban book by Abidah El Khalieqy. Asserts that to properly conduct qualitative research, one must examine numerous social environments and the people that inhabit them in order to obtain relevant information (Berg, 2001, p.6).

The author of this study documented and dissected the Perempuan Berkalung Sorban novel's literary elements. Perempuan Berkalung Sorban by Abidah El Khalieqy's reveal data in the form of words, phrases, and sentences in this study. The analysis of the problem was conducted using feminist theory.

Ways of gathering data that were discovered through reading. This study used an analytical methodology (Subroto in Imron, 2003). Reading and automatically assessing literary works. The information from a literary work is first gathered using the note taking method, and then the notes are written. The study's major source was the novel Perempuan Berkalung Sorban, and secondary materials were books, journals, and other articles that discussed feminism. Analysing the data by following the processes of data collection, classification, and conclusion-making.

In order to prepare the study for its goals and objectives, results from the examination of both primary and secondary data sources were documented and used as a source of data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Feminism as an Idea

Feminism can be viewed as an ideology for the emancipation of women due to the idea that women encounter injustice because gender permeates every element of society (Humm, 2002). Feminism is a way of looking at gender inequality that emphasises understanding the nature of gender imbalance. Prejudice, oppression, patriarchy, stereotypes in art history, and contemporary aesthetics are only a few of the topics

explored by feminism. In particular, sexual objectification is a problem (Heroepoetri; Valentina, 2004, p.34). One of the root roots of feminism is the patriarchal system, which gave rise to the concepts of gender equality and femininity. It examines women's social roles, experiences, pastimes, obligations, and feminism in a variety of fields, such as education, economics, literature, and philosophy.

Female feminism served as the impetus for the development of feminist literary criticism, a branch of sociology of literature that focuses on how men's writing stereotypes women as constrained, misunderstood, and trivialised by patriarchal norms. Men belong to the general camp in a patriarchal society, which includes the environment and life beyond the home, whereas women belong to the home camp, which is limited to the environment and life inside the home (Djajanegara, 2003, p.30).

Feminism can be viewed as a viewpoint or way of life that has a wide range of historical roots and has developed in a number of sociocultural contexts. In order to address issues linked to actual gender injustice and inequality, feminism is, generally speaking, a historical and contextual analytical tool or movement. According to Nasaraddin, religious texts such as the Koran, hadith, and religious traditions extensively examine the concepts of justice and equality as they relate to the status of women in Muslim communities. Unfortunately, there is a continuous desire to sustain the reading that reduces women as being second only to men. Scholars and religious leaders may interpret religious scriptures in accordance with socio-cultural norms.

Following are three categories into which the feminist viewpoint on the general differences between men's and women's gender roles may be divided:

First, liberal feminism

Liberal feminism has been one of the most prominent and well-known types of feminism. The ultimate goal for liberal feminists is to bring about equality for men and women. A type of individualistic feminism known as liberal feminism places an emphasis on women's ability to uphold their equality via their own decisions and deeds. Enlightenment values, the foundation of liberal feminism, assert that both men and women have distinctive qualities (Mansur, 1996, p.57). Liberal feminists claim that because society incorrectly thinks that women are intrinsically less intelligent and physically capable than men, it discriminates against them in the job, in public discourse, and in the economy. Liberal feminists assert that "a series of societal and legal barriers

that hinder women from accessing and thriving in the so-called public domain" are the basis for female subordination. They strive for sexual equality through legal and governmental reform.

Liberal feminists argued that granting women the right to vote would offer them individual autonomy in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They were concerned with attaining freedom via equality, putting an end to men's abuse of women, and having the chance to mature into fully human people (Heroepoetri; Valentina, 2004, p.36). They believed that no rule of law or custom should limit someone's ability to express themselves freely. Early liberal feminists had to argue against the notion that only white men should be granted full citizenship. Feminists including Mary Wollstonecraft, Judith Sargent Murray, and Frances Wright advocated for the full political inclusion of women.

According to this school of feminism, women can work alongside men while still taking into mind the need for gender equality. Due to the integration of women into all occupations, including those requiring them to work outside the home, there is no longer a more dominant gender group. This group thinks that rather than modifying broad institutions, incorporating women in a variety of roles such as their involvement in social, economic, and political life is adequate. These functions are not limited to the reproductive system (Bryson in Nasarudin Umar, 2014, p.44). This point of view is based on the idea that because everyone is created equal and in harmony, there shouldn't be any oppression of one another. Both are considered equal in ontologism, and men's rights automatically become women's rights. The logic of liberty and equality is the fundamental assumption of this system. Given that both men and women are logical beings with the same capacity, they should have the same rights.

Second, wave feminism

This idea first appears at the start of the 19th century, sparking serious problems and leading to lawsuits against all institutions perceived as being harmful to women, such as the patriarchal institution, because this phrase favours women (Nasarudin Umar, 2014, p.45). Furthermore, many radical feminists go farther, advocating for the definition of "sex" in the sense that it is possible to find sexual fulfilment from other women, who will then support lesbianism practises, in addition to wanting equality with males (Ramazanoglo, 1989, p.12).

According to this organisation, women shouldn't be reliant on men for both their physical and sexual demands. Women are sensitive to the security, intimacy, and sexual pleasure that other women may give them. Psychological issues surround the satisfaction of male sex. To further the rational justification movement, this notion shows that men are a problem for women.

The Novel Perempuan Berkalung Sorban's Feminism

The Perempuan Berkalung Sorban story details a woman's battle to bring together men and women in the social life of an Islamic boarding school. She fights for women's rights in Islamic boarding schools against her family and her peers by criticising the family and religious leaders who are worried about women's rights. This book chronicles Annisa's fight to defend her bodily autonomy and women's reproductive rights, two issues that form the basis of her adventurous lifestyle. Your body belongs to you, and no one has the right to control it, the author of this novel wishes to make clear through the character of Annisa, even though he is your spouse. Domestic violence was a constant in Annisa's life.

In the book Perempuan Berkalung Sorban, Annisa suffers from liberal feminism since her family favours equal representation for men and women in the classroom. Annisa feels she has been treated unfairly by her family. Annisa's frustration is brought on by the limitations she must adhere to because her family and her viewpoint are incompatible. Annisa's viewpoint is derived from the environment she experienced outside of the boarding schools where she lived. The quotes from the book that follow demonstrate how liberal feminism permeates Annisa's persona:

"Nisa, you understand why because you are a woman. The girl riding the horse is acting quite inappropriately! (Impolite), the pond's surroundings, and the fields below. Embarrassing!" Ouch, ow, ow, ow, ow Oh, I get it. Has your mother not told you that only your brothers, Rizal or Wildan, should learn how to ride a horse? (Abidah, 2009).

"Hello Nisa, slackers don't need to be envious. The fact that you are a woman and have a duty to care for your home, Nisa, is advantageous in the long run (Abidah, 2009). The girls are spared from studying up until high school, though. It would have been sufficient if the Qur'an had been read and khatam. They have joined Sorogan Kuning's Yellow Holly Book (also known as Kitab Kuning) (Abidah, 2009).

Since Annisa is treated differently by her family than her older brothers because she is a woman, making her stick out, the literary excerpts above highlight the liberal feminism that bothers Annisa. Given that Islamic law requires that a woman be subservient to a man, it happened because Annisa's family has problems with women. Additionally, there are restrictions on family-level education.

Annisa is unable to practise radical feminism in that way due to her illness. Samsuddin's polygamy-related pain is exacerbated by the family's legal rights, which damage Annisa. Equally between their wives, polygamists should receive justice. Annisa experienced pain that had an impact on her physical and emotional health even if she did not receive justice in this case.

The main character Annisa in the book *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* experiences radical feminism as a result of her inability to stand up to the oppression of her body and sexuality. The following passages from the book Annisa illustrate her extreme feminism:

Samsudin bit his neck and shoulder like a vampire when he was in this situation. He is allowed to choose for himself the bodily parts he wishes to take. As if I were sacrificing a goat in a butcher's hands, the paws would clench at will (Abidah, 2009).

He pulled his teeth from my skin like a ferocious tiger turning to face its prey in the middle. Growl, then cover my face with a pillow as I spout vulgar curses and swear words. After choking, slapping, and grasping my hair ferociously. My strength was seen limping miserably after that (Abidah, 2009).

I reflect before talking about Samsudin. He decided to split the shopping money equally as a result. One case at a time, he will execute justice. And now is the ideal moment. I saw two different animal species fiddling above the red carpet right when I got home from school. Look, Annisa, at how much fun you can have in paradise. Watch us! How does the game of paradise operate? In addition, you are welcome to join us.

The aforementioned quotes show how the domestic problems that her spouse generates have an impact on the primary protagonist, Annisa. She was miserable not just physically, but also mentally.

"Women are subject to obligations in the same proportion as men. One of a person's special responsibilities is to work for a living, whether it is in an office, paddy field, on a ship, or anywhere else as long as it produces kosher food. A woman also has duties, the most important of which are caring for the home and rearing children. Cooking,

washing, mopping, ironing, sweeping, and general housecleaning are therefore duties that fall under the purview of women. Children's education, feeding, diaper-changing, and breastfeeding are all duties that fall under the purview of women.

The division of labour and typical social relationships are highlighted by the feminism in the literature except above. The societal structure encourages men having greater power than women as its hidden goal. This representation is wholly feminised. women's rights to equal treatment with housewives Women are only expected to care for the children and clean the house, thus this is seen as competent and professional. Only the physical body is required; no other factors are involved.

CONCLUSION

The author's analysis of the data leads to the following conclusions:

1. Feminism in *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* often refers to a woman's fight for recognition of her existence and legal entitlements as a self-sufficient human being, both in the context of education and society. This may be seen in Annisa's fight for her freedom to control her own body and to decide whether or not to have children, which forms the basis of her adventurous existence. Your body belongs to you, and no one has the right to control it, the author of this novel wishes to make clear through the character of Annisa, even though he is your spouse. Domestic violence was a constant in Annisa's life.
2. The *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* novel distinguishes between liberal and radical feminism. Due to Annisa's liberal feminism, her family treats her differently than her older brothers since she is a woman. Given that Islamic law requires that a woman be subservient to a man, it happened because Annisa's family has problems with women. Additionally, there are restrictions on family-level education. Annisa is unable to use that method to practise the radical feminism she struggles with. The rights of the household's justice in relation to polygamy But Annisa suffers because of Samsuddin's pain. Equally between their wives, polygamists should receive justice. Annisa experienced pain that had an impact on her physical and emotional health even if she did not receive justice in this case.

3. Women must recognise that they are spiritually valuable human beings with appropriate standing for their gender. Women must show that they are autonomous, gender free human beings who do not experience any sort of oppression.

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