## WOMAN PORTRAYAL IN KIDD'S THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES



#### A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain

Sarjana Sastra in English Lireature Study Program

ERNI

#### F21115014

# HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

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## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

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With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No.393/UN4.9.1/KEP/2020 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Erni (F21115014) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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#### WOMEN PORTRAYAL IN KIDD'S THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

By ERNI

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> Makassar, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 The writer,

#### ABSTRACT

Erni. 2020. *Woman Portrayal in Kidd's The secret life of bees*. (Supervised by M. Syafri Badaruddin and Abidin Pammu)

This thesis aims to describe the portrayal of the main character of female in the novel *the secret life of bees*, Lily. This thesis also explains the other characters influence to Lily in the novel.

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative method. The data source in this study is the novel *the secret life of bess* by Sue monk kidd. To support the data in the analysis, the writer used structuralism approach to analyze the intrinsic structures of the novel, included character, plot, setting, and theme of the story.

The result of this research shows that the main character of female in the novel, Lily Melissa Owens is portrayed by the author as an strong women that is full of stunggle to find the answer about her memory in the past about her mother. The writer also finds that the other characters in the novel have influence for Lily's portrayal. The other characters also have influence for woman Lily's life in the novel.

Keywords: woman, portrayal, structuralism

#### ABSTRAK

Erni 2020. Woman Portrayal in The secret life of bees. (Dibimbing oleh M. Syafri Badaruddin dan Abidin Pammu)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan penggambaran tokoh utama wanita dalam novel *The Secret Life of Bees*, lily. Penelitian ini juga menjelaskan pengaruh tokoh lain terhadap Lily di dalam novel.

Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data dalam penelitian ini adalah novel, *The secret life of Bees* karya Sue Mon Kidd. Untuk mendukung data dalam analisis, penulis menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme untuk menganalisa struktur intrinsik novel, meliputi karakter, alur, latar, dan tema dalam cerita.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tokoh utama perempuan dalam novel, Lily, digambarkan oleh pengarang sebagai perempuan tangguh yang penuh semangat untuk menemukan jawaban tentang ingatannya di masa lalu tentang ibunya. Penulis juga menemukan bahwa karakter lain dalam novel memiliki pengaruh terhadap penggambaran Lily. Karakter lain juga berpengaruh pada kehidupan wanita Lily dalam novel.

Kata kunci: wanita, penggambaran wanita, strukturalisme

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#### **CHAPTER I**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The first chapter of the thesis is an introduction that includes an overview in the preparation according to the title. The writer discusses the introductioan, which consists, background, scope of problems, research questions, objectives of the writings, and the significance of the study.

#### 1.1 Background

Literature reflects the factual circumstances that occurred when the works are created that expresses in various style and form of literary works. As the literature derives from the factual life, it can be used to enrich people knowledge of the problems that happened in the world. People get knowledge of moral, culture, social, politic, history, and others. It describes the human life in broad range, both in various parts of the world and in various time frames. Therefore, it helps people to grow.

Literature is a writing that produced by the writer's imagination. Wellek and Warren (1963:22) also state that the term of literature seems to be the best if we limit it into the art of literature that is imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of fact. It is not just the collection of real events though it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination. As we know that the function of literature is not only to get entertainment but also to get an education. Wellek & Warren (1989:26): If literary work has a function appropriates its nature, the both of them (entertainment and benefit) must not only exist but also complement each other.

As part of society, literature cannot be separated from its author. The author creates literary works as tool to express his attitudes and feelings on events around him. In making literary work, the author also wants to persuade readers to think of the social problem that occurs in generations. Language is inevitable part of literature because language produces literature to be able to read by people who speak the language. Without language, literary work cannot be understood and even is not considered as form of literature. Therefore, a number of experts also state that literature is art of language. In summary, language is a method of communication and literature can be the content being communicated.

Literary works have many forms in its elaboration. These forms of literature are Drama, Poem, Short Stories and Novel. Literary works are divided into several categories by genres. Genres in literature are epic, tragedy, comedy and creative nonfiction. Novel is a fictional prose narrative of considerable length, typically having a plot that is unfolded by actions, speech, and thoughts of the characters.

According Julien Bonn (2010:93), Literature includes poetry, drama, fiction and many kinds of non-fiction writing, as well as oral, dramatic and broadcast compositions, not necessarily preserved in a written format such as films and television programs. The fiction works discussed in this thesis is a novel. According Julien Bonn (2010: 112) novel is a long fictional narrative written in prose, which developed from the novella and other early forms of narrative. A novel is usually organized under a plot or theme with a focus on character development and action. Action and the characters in the novel are made by the writers themselves. So, an action and the events in the novel can be a real story in everyday life. They can be ambition, sadness, joy, happiness, sense, logic, and many others are based on the facts of one's life. A novel should be interpreted if it completely. The interpretation of a novel is a generally done through the examination of the aspects of the novel itself. Character is an important aspect of novel because when the author talk about the novel, it may ask: who are the character in the novel? How are characters portrayals in the novel? What's conflict? What theme of the novel? etc. Talking about character and its character portrayal is more interesting than other aspects of novel.

One of the most popular literary works in literature is novel. Novel is a representation of human life through the authors experience at his time, invites the reader to learn about life through the character, events, and condition at that time. Therefore, by reading a novel we can enlarges our human sympathy and enhances our enjoyment of life.

The first novel written by Sue Monk Kidd is Kidd which tells about Lily Melissa Owens, a fourteen-year-old white girl who lives on a peach farm with her father, T. Ray, who is both neglectful and abusive. Lily holds a terrible and guilty secret: She believes she shot and killed her mother, Deborah, when Lily was four years old. Lily has a housekeeper/nanny named RosaleenDaise, who has cared for Lily for ten years. When Rosaleen watches President Johnson sign the Civil Rights Act on television, she decides she will register to vote. She and Lily walk into town but are accosted by three white men who harass Rosaleen. After picking up and abusing by her father from jail, she manages to escape from him and frees Rosaleen leaving behind her abusive father. They flee away to Tiburon, South Carolina because Deborah had written that town on the back of the picture in Lily's bag. Lily hopes it's a clue to help her find out about her mother. Lily and Rosaleen go to the bright pink Boatright house outside of town and are welcomed and taken in. Lily's brand new life is started here. Through her experiences, Lily has learned to trust her own instincts and matures into a young lady who believes in herself.

The Secret Life of Bees is a book by author Sue Monk Kidd. Set in 1964, it is a coming-of-age story about loss and betrayal. It received critical acclaim and was a New York Times bestseller. It won the 2004 Book Sense Book of the Year Awards (Paperback), and was nominated for the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction, these are the reasons why the writer chooses *The Secret Life of Bees* than other novel written by Sue Monk Kidd as the object of the research.

Based on the story above, the writer observes and analyzes *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Based on that, then the writer is interested in reviewing portrayal of female character, Lily Owens in the Novel *The Secret Life of Bess* because of her role in the novel. She has a role as a though and independent woman, full of dreams and face the difficulties.

#### **1.2** Scope of The Problems

From the background's explanation, this study focuses on portrayal of the main character of female, Lily Owens and her relation to the other characters in Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*.

#### **1.3** Research Questions

Based on the background above, the writers discusses about problems as stated below:

- What is the portrayal of woman character, Lily Owens in the novel *The* Secret Life of Bees by Kidd's?
- 2. How do the other characters influence of the female character, Lily Owens in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Kidd's?

#### **1.4 Objectives of The Writings**

Relating to the research questions, the writer decides objectives of the research as follows:

- To describe the portrayal of woman character, Lily Owens in the novel *The* Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd.
- 2. To explain the other characters influence of the female character, Lily Owens in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd.

#### 1.5 Significance of The Study

This research has both academic and practical significance. Academically, this proposal can be used as an additional source for feminism problems. Practically, for the readers, this proposal can give some feminism problems information. This proposal also can help the readers to have comprehension about portrayal of woman character, Lily Owens in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd.

#### **1.6 Sequence of The Chapter**

This proposal consists of five chapters, which consist of chapter one which is the introduction that consists of background, scope of the problems, research questions, objectives of the writings, and sequence of the chapter. Chapter two consists of literature review which provides review of some previous study and applies some theories to support this analysis. Chapter three explains methods which the writer uses in analyzing the novel, includes methods of collecting data, and method of analyzing data. Chapter four the analysis that consists of intrinsic elements of the novel and results of analyze the research questions. Finally, chapter five is the last chapter that concludes the whole chapter, consist of conclusion and suggestion.

#### **CHAPTER II**

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer discusses literature review, which consists of previous study, and structural approach.

#### 1. **Previous Study**

Previous study is used to know about the other thesis and to know about the thesis that related to this thesis. Some data can be obtained from the relevant or nearing with the research conducted previously. Based on observations made by the writer in various sources, there are several other writers who have discussed the issue and the same approach from what the writer analyzes. The writer finds some theses related with this thesis. They are Irmawati (2013), Hermawati (2015), and Sari Kartika (2007). There are three theses having similarity and differently to this study.

The first study is Irmawati (2013) student of English Department Faculty of Letters Hasanuddin University. Her research entitled *The Portrayal of Women in Sparks' Nights in Rodanthe* discusses the portrayal of women in the novel *Nights in Rodanthe*. She divides the women portrayal in her research into two aspects, independent and moral. She also divides the life of women in 21<sup>st</sup> century into two aspects, marriage and hard working. In her research, she uses the genetic structuralism approach by Lucien Goldmann to analyze the novel. The similarity of this research and the writer's research is the two researches are explained the same issue, that is woman portrayal. In the other hand, the differences of these two researches are the object of research and the approach. Irmawati used Spark's

*Nights in Rodanthe* as object and the writer used Lewis' *Arrowsmith* as object. Irmawati also used genetic structuralism approach and the writer used structuralism approach.

The second previous study of Hermawanti (2015) in her thesis is entitled *A Study Symbols in Sue Monk Kidd's The Secret Life of Bees.* It explained about symbols in the novel The Secret Life Bees. The are two major symbols found in the novel The Secret Life of Bees appear in epigraphs symbolize motherly character, love and sincerity through august's character and also as the representative of queen bee. Hermawanti analyzed of symbols characters using semiotica approach. The are two major symbol found in the novel. The symbols of bess appear from the epigraps and also within the story. The bees which appear in epigraps symbolize motherly character, love and sincerity throught August's character and also as the representative of queen bee.

The third previous study of this research is Sari Kartika (2007), a student of English Department Faculty of Letter Hasanuddin University. Her research entitled *The Portrayal of Women in Thornton Wilder's Our Town* discusses about American women's life to run her household. In her research, she uses genetic structuralism to analyze the drama. The similarity of this research with the writer's research is the two researches are explained the same issue, that is woman portrayal. On the other hand, the differences of this research with the writer's research are the object of research and the approach. Sari used Wilder's *Our Town* as object and the writer used Lewis' *Arrowsmith* as object. Sari also used genetic structuralism approach and the writer used structuralism approach.

From some of the previous studies above, it shows that the novel of *The Secret Life* of *Bees* has many aspects that are very interesting to analyze, However, The writer has a approach theory to analyze this famous novel written by United State authors. But, in this thesis the writer focused on woman portrayal, Lily Owens in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

#### 2. Structural Approach

Structural Approach is an approach which focused in intrinsic elements of literary work. This approach is known since 1950 in France which believes that literature's project is all about intrinsic. A structural approach a structural appears because of the phenomena that developed in geneva with its formalism.

The intrinsic approach was originally written by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in their book "Theory of Literature". Wellek and Warren introduced intrinsic approach, which essentially is a study of literary work based on analyzing the internal elements that build that work.

The natural on sensible starting point for work in literary scholarship is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literary themselves. After all, only the works themselves justify all our interest in the life of an author, in his socal environment, and the whole process of literature. Wellek and Warren 1962:332)

Structural theory is an approach whose object is not a collection of separate

elements, but rather the interrelationship of one element with another element.

Structural analysis of a literary work aims to dismantle and describe as thoroughly, thoroughly, in detail, and as deeply as possible the interrelationships and intertwining of all the elements and aspects of literary works that produce the greatest overall meaning (Aminuddin 1990: 180-181).

The writer can conclude that the structural approach is an approach in

literary science that's the way of analyzing the structural elements that build literary

works from within, as well as looking for the relevance of these elements in order to achieve meaning unanimity. These structural elements that build literary works from within are characters, plot, setting and theme that mostly reflect the actual life in that time need to be analyze, as Teeuw states:

The aim of structural analysis is breaking accurately carefully, detail and deeply of dependability correlation of all elements and aspects of literary work that produce comprehensive meaning. The important thing in structural analysis is overall present (1998: 125).

Based on the explanation above, the writer concludes that structural analysis need to be done as detail as possible and objectively. Literary works also viewed as independent creations, having their own meaning that connected each other in the form of structural elements. In analyzing Sinclair Kidd's novel, the writer uses structural approach.

The novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd is a structure of literary work that consists of many structures of intrinsic elements and most of the scenes in the novel based on the author life and experience. Those intrinsic elements are character, plot, setting and theme.

#### 2.2.1 Character

Character is people who are appeared in a narrative prose or novel and it is interpreted by the readers as a person who has moral quality and certain tendency such as being expressed in what they say and what they do (Abrams 1988: 76). Character is a creature or a thing that is appear and involved in a work. The other definition of character explained by Gill, "A character is someone in a literary who has some sort of identify (need to be strong one), an identity which is made up by appearance conversation action, name a possibly thoughts going on the need" (1995: 129).

Character is not always a human. Character is usually in the form of animal, plant, inanimate object even fictional creature derived from the human imagination that its own attitude and behavior. Character is divided into two parts, according to Forster (1927:104), as follows:

a. Rounded character is a character with a complex mixture of characteristics.

b. Flat character is a character with only one or two characteristics displayed in the story.

The functions of the characters, story characters are divided into two, namely protagonist and antagonist character. Protagonist character is a character that gives positive values. Most of the readers admire protagonist character. Antagonist character is a character that gives negative values. The antagonist character is the character that causes the conflicts in the story. The antagonist character also sometimes called the villain because its opposite role to the protagonist character.

The role or level of importance of characters, are divided into two, namely main character and support character. It is explained by Perrine in Rinaldy as:

Each of the character has his or her different role. The character that has significant role in a story one called main character of mayor character. Whereas characters that have less support main character are called minor character (2013: 12).

Both characters have his or her influence to the whole story. The main character is important because it is displayed continuously so that the main character dominating most of the story. Because the main character most widely displayed is always in touch with other characters, he or she greatly determines the overall development of the plot. The support character also has his or her role in the story.

From the explanation above, the writer concludes that a character is someone or something in a story that has identity that made by name, conversation, action, and role. A character is not always a human. It is usually in a form of animal, plant, or inanimate object. Each of the characters have different roles in a story.

#### 2.2.2 Plot

The author uses a plot to arrange the story structure. Plot refers to what happens in a story. Plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed (Perrine 1988:42). The composition of the story is formed from conflicts that come in turn. The conflict can come from outside, such as an accident or disaster, or it can also come from within, such as revenge, anger, or jealousy. Plot is a literary term defined as the events that make up a story, particularly as they relate to one another in a pattern, in a sequence, through cause and effect, how the reader views the story, or simply by coincidence (Stanton 1965:14). The other definition of plot also explained by Abrams, "Plot is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects" (1999:224).

Scholes (1981:21) stated that the plot is often conceive of as moving through five distinct sections such as expositions, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.