

Representation of a Mother in the Perspective of a Modern Indonesian Poet

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Abstract. Women face many problems in life. One of the most meritorious women in life is a mother. The mother gives her whole life to raise her child, even giving birth to generations who are very meritorious. Mothers have a very important role in all walks of life. This is what is being studied in this research, which examines how modern Indonesian poets perceive the struggle of a mother contained in poems of modern Indonesian poets. The poems of modern Indonesian poets analyzed are works by Joko Pinurbo, Oka Rusmini, and W.S. Rendra. This research is a type of qualitative descriptive research with a content analysis method. The sources of data in this study were the collection of *Telepon Genggam* poetry by Joko Pinurbo, *Pandora* by Oka Rusmini, and *Doa untuk Anak Cucu* by W.S. Rendra, who has women's resistance. The data in this study are stanzas or lines of poetry in the poems of modern Indonesian poets.

Keywords: mother, Indonesian poet, modern, critical discourse.

1 Introduction

Language has the power in encouraging someone to do something. So that this language can represent something or explain something that is very important. Noermanzah explained that language as a means of communication means that language is a series of sounds that are systemic, in the form of symbols, arbitrary, varied, dynamic, humane, and a means of social interaction that replaces the individual in stating something or expressing it to the interlocutor [7].

The languages that are combined into one unit become a discourse. Discourse is a meaningful story structure. Or it can be said that discourse is a form of presentation that contains one or more ideas using language (verbal and nonverbal). Arsyandikayani & Sumarlam state that language is a medium of communication between humans. Language acts as a medium between speakers and speech partners, or writers and readers. With this language media, events that occur in society emerge. Language is a very important need for humans to communicate. Language

as a medium of communication extends to various fields, namely health, technology, business, power, and politics [1].

Mardiana says that functionally, language is a tool for humans to communicate that is arbitrary and universal. Humans can express ideas, thoughts, and feelings by using language, both orally and in writing. Nowadays, language is growing and is not only used as a means of communication but more than that [6].

When we look at the complex structural arrangement, it can be said that it is a discourse. One example of discourse is poetry. Poetry is a discourse consisting of languages. So like a painting, poetry is also made by poets not without reason. Poets write poetry due to several factors, one of which is wanting to say something. The poem can represent the outpouring of the poet's heart, in the form of joy, sorrow, sadness, and so on. The main point in the poetry written is that the poet wants to communicate with someone, namely the reader, for certain reasons.

The approach analyzed to examine a literary work can vary. The discourse analysis approach can be used to study poetry. Michel Foucault's discourse analysis is a method of analyzing media texts to dissect how the media constructs a discourse. Discourse analysis emphasizes the constellation of power that occurs in the process of production and reproduction of meaning. Discourse analysis sees the use of language in speech and writing as a social practice. Language is analyzed not because it describes linguistic aspects only but connects context. The context here can mean the language used for certain practices and purposes [3].

There is a separate reason for an author to write poetry, it could be because he wants to express ideas, express social criticism, and can also motivate other people. Indirectly, poetic works photograph or describe an event. One of the images in a literary work is describing a mother. Many people think that being a mother in this modern era is a good thing. However, on the other hand, some argue that being a mother does not have to have children, for this reason, this condition is called childfree. After all, the child is what the parents have been waiting for. Many parents work hard to get someone, even spending a lot of money. It is true, in the Qur'an letter At Taghabun verse 15, Allah Subhanahu wata'ala says, "Surely your wealth and your children are only a trial (for you), and with Allah is a great reward."

Women, namely a mother are often constructed as creatures that need to be protected, less independent, irrational, relying only on feelings, and so on. As a consequence, boundaries appear that place women in a space full of standard rules that need to be followed. There are many positive sides of women that distinguish them from men that are rarely exposed, namely character traits, such as the ability to control emotions, self-control, and social sensitivity [12].

A mother is a figure who plays an important role in the family, even for the nation, state, and religion. Mother is the first madrasah for her child. Gade explains that the mother is the pillar of life in a family who gives full attention to their children, both in the form of the future, and in the form of fulfilling material matters, property, furniture, and housing [2]. A mother contributes to her family, such as research from Junaidi being a housewife is not a lowly activity or demeans women's dignity because it is considered to be the slavery of women. This pattern of thinking is because the standard of success is measured by high courts. Women can be successful as bosses in the office, but not necessarily successful as wives or mothers [5].

This research examines how the perspective of modern Indonesian poets depicts the figure of a mother in her poetry. The main reason is whether a mother is still considered a lowly and lowly job.

2 Research Methods

This research includes qualitative descriptive research. The data and data sources in this study are verses/arrays of poetry by modern Indonesian poets, namely a collection of mobile phone poems by Joko Pinurbo, Prayers for Children and Grandchildren by W.S. Rendra, and Pandora by Oka Rusmini which depicts the figure of a mother. The data collection technique in this study was by listening to notes, listening to all the data regarding the poet's views on a mother, then recording and analyzing it associated with relevant articles/research. Content analysis is the technique used in this study. The approach used in this research is Michael Foucault's critical discourse analysis. In the study of critical discourse analysis, there are 4 things, namely, representation, misrepresentation, marginalization, and delegitimization. This research will only discuss the representation of the figure of a mother found in the poetic works of modern Indonesian poets, especially Joko Pinurbo, W.S. Rendra, and Oka Rusmini [10].

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 A person who never gives up and cares

The figure of a mother is depicted by W.S. Rendra as someone who never gives up and doesn't give up easily. A mother is driven by the motivation not to give up easily in the face of something. The poetry excerpt below explains that a mother and child have an attachment.

(1) *Jangan Takut, Ibu!* (2003)

Jangan takut, Ibu!
Jangan mau digertak
Jangan mau diancam
karena ketakutan
meningkatkan penjahjahan.
(Rendra, 2016, pp. 42).

A child encourages his mother because he cares and as a child, he must be devoted to his parents, especially his mother. In the quote above, indirectly the child does not want his mother to be hopeless, he wants her to always be on principle. This is one form of a child's concern for his mother. On the other hand, the mother is indeed a brave and unyielding person. On the other hand, the mother also needs to get the attention of her child or husband, because that is where the role of family members is to create a harmonious family.

(2) *Ibu yang tabah* (2002)

Ia mendidik anak-anaknya untuk tidak cengeng.
Ia tidak suka melihat orang mudah menangis.
Bila anak-anaknya bertanya, "mengapa ibu
Tak pernah menangis?", jawabnya, "biar kutabung

Air mataku buat hari tua. Bila kelak aku
Meninggal, kalian bisa memandikan jenazahku
Dengan tabungan air mataku.”
(Pinurbo, 2017:38).

As in the excerpt of the poem above, the mother is extraordinary. The first line, /She educates her children not to be crybabies/, means that the mother teaches her children not to be crybabies in dealing with problems. In the quote above, the mother is described as she does not like seeing people who cry easily, this shows that the mother is very great and used to not being a crybaby, so she does not want her child to be a crybaby.

In lines 3-5, it can be seen how a mother cares for her child, who always holds back tears in the face of all problems. So that the child can also imitate his mother's attitude not to cry easily, give up, and care for his family. As research from Gade states that a mother in educating her child has its examples, namely a mother must have role models that can be exemplified in her life and form norms of values and beliefs [2].

3.2 Feeling overwhelmed

A mother is a human being in general and must experience being overwhelmed in taking care of everything in the family. A mother is indeed an ordinary human being, but her struggle in caring for, educating, and raising children is extraordinary. It takes a lot of time and energy to live the life of a mother. As in the excerpt of the poem below.

(3) Den Haag (2002)
Di Novotel, Den Haag, wajahmu tetap tak mau pergi. Aku
Lapar melakukannya. Aku ingin kau hilang dari otak dan tubuhku.
Maukah kau pergi sejenak saja? Beri aku 14 hari saja untuk
Sendiri menjadi perempuan. Melupakan nyeri di perut yang
Teriris berpuluh-puluh pisau. Melupakan rengesanmu, botol
Susu, *pampers*, menu pagi-siang-soremu, juga bau pesing
Pantatmu yang gembul dan seksi.
(Rusmini, 2017, pp. 48-49).

The above excerpt from the poem shows that a mother's life is not easy, it can be said to be hard work. Every day he spends taking care of his child, starting from being sick after giving birth, calming a crying baby, making milk, and sometimes wetting his bed, so he has to change his diapers. Agree with that, research from Junaedi states that a housewife is heavy and her office hours are 24 hours. It is necessary to change the perspective that being a housewife is considered easier and lighter than being a career (working) woman [5].

3.3 Enduring strong and gentle

(4) *Perempuan yang tergusur* (2003)
Tapi aku kagum pada daya tahanmu,
Pada caramu menikmati setiap kesempatan,
Pada kemampuanmu berdamai dengan dunia,

Pada kemampuanmu berdamai dengan diri sendiri,
Dan caramu merawat selimut dengan hati.
(Rendra, 2016:54).

A mother is a person who is resilient and strong in facing anything. The poetry quoted above shows that a child is amazed at his mother, because he has strong endurance, enjoys every opportunity, makes peace with the world and himself, and takes care of the blanket with his heart. The meaning of the verses of the poem is a mother who cares for her children and raises them without expecting anything in return. How strong a mother is at peace with the world, as well as herself in every situation that hits her.

By research conducted by Surahman that a mother has a role in the future of the child, including, (a) the mother as a protector from all kinds of dangers, (b) the mother gives attention at all times, (c) the mother as educators who teach science and morals to the child [11].

(5) *Anak seorang perempuan (2002)*
Ibu tak pernah menyebut dirinya
Perempuan jalang, dan bagi anak seperti saya
Yang mengalami kelembutan cinta seorang ibu,
Soal itu toh tidak penting-penting amat.
(Pinurbo, 2017:41).

The mother in the poetry quote above is described by the poet as a very loving person. In lines 2-3, the poet describes that the mother never calls herself a bitch, but if this is attached to her, she is still a gentle person for her child, so what can be said, is this does not reduce the love of the child to the mother.

4 Conclusion

The mother figure depicted in the works of modern Indonesian poets, namely, Joko Pinurbo, W.S. Rendra, and Oka Rusmini is very realistic. The figure of a mother is depicted with simplicity but loves her family, especially her child. There are several points obtained, namely (1) a mother who never gives up and cares for her child, (2) a mother is an ordinary human being, so it is natural to experience being overwhelmed, and (3) mothers have strong endurance in dealing with all problems and gentle nature towards his son. This is something that needs to be understood that a mother has an important role in life so the image of the mother is the example for her child in dealing with her life.

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