

Women Characteristics in the Novel "Laksamana Malahayati Sang Women Keumala" by Endang Moerdopo its Utilization as Literature Criticism Reading Material at STKIP Usman Safri Kutacane Aceh Tenggara

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Abstract. This study aims to describe the toughness of the female character found in the novel Laksamana Malahayati Sang Perempuan Keumala by Endang Moerdopo which can be used as an inspiration for women today. The formulation of the research problem is how the toughness and character of the character of Laksamana Malahayati is found in the novel Sang Perempuan Keumala. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method of analysis and historical research. The results of this study indicate that the toughness and character of the female characters that appear in the novel is the toughness of the warrior figure in the battlefield against the Dutch and the Portuguese. This Keumala woman found several characters, namely Leadership Spirit, Courage, Curiosity, Nationalism, Responsibility, and Religion. Based on the results of the character analysis, it is hoped that the character of Admiral Keumalahayati can be an example and inspiration for today's women. Analisis novel Laksamana Malahayati Sang Perempuan Keumala Karya Endang Moerdopo baca sebagai bahan bacaan Kritik feminisme di universitas.

Keywords: Social, Language and Cultural Education

1 Introduction

Judging from the history of the nation's struggle, the national revival movement originated from the ethical politics of the Dutch East Indies which provided opportunities for Indonesian youth to experience education in schools. Actually the intention of the Dutch East Indies government policy was to produce workers such as educated workers, teachers, lowly bureaucrats, and doctors who could treat the ailments of the natives. Thus they can reduce the operational costs of the colony (Indonesia) which is too expensive when using imported personnel from the Netherlands. But it turns out that this policy has its own benefits for Indonesian youth. The enlightenment in the world of education that they get requires their young souls to start moving to fight for the rise of this nation towards independence later. Until 1908, the Budi Utomo

organization was established which became the point of national awakening. Actually, long before Budi Utomo was inaugurated, the names of great and strong female fighters had been born who played a role in fighting for independence.

Call it the name Keumala Malahayati or known as Admiral Malahayati who became the Commander of the Women's Sea Fleet War when Aceh was ruled by Ali Riayat Shah (1586-1604), Alaudin Riayat Shah (1604-1607), and Iskandar Muda (1607-1636). In the novel "Laksana Malahayati the woman Kelumala" Malahayati is told to lead a fleet of 2,000 female soldiers. Besides Malahayati, we also know Martha Christina Tiahahu (1801-1818), Cut Nyak Dien (1850-1908), whose struggle was continued by her son, Cut Meurah Gambang, Cut Meutia, Pocut Baren, and many more warriors and the resilience of women there.

Entering the era of women's struggle without weapons, a female warrior named R.A. Kartini (1879-1904) who struggled in advancing education for women. He raised public awareness at that time by replacing the wrong mindset which stated that women did not need to receive education, with a mindset of progress that required women to also experience education in schools. Not only the Low School, but must be able to continue to a higher school, just like the boys.

The novel *Laksana Malahayati Sang Perempuan Kelumala* depicts a female character named Keumalahayati. Keumalahayati is a female figure who is known to be very brave in defending the State of Indonesia, especially in the Aceh Darussalam area. The novel *Laksana Malahayati Sang Perempuan Kelumala* shows the existence of a feminist ideology by telling women who have succeeded in equalizing gender so that women are at a superior stage.

In the novel *Perempuan Keumala*, it is narrated that Keumalahayati is a woman who holds the rank of admiral. Here is the quote.

"It has become his dream to drag on every day to be able to grow up here and become his joke every time to be able to gain knowledge in this place. His nautical soul has grown so widely in his blood, his spirit of courage lives abundantly in the breath of this master's descendants, O Tuanku Ahli..." (Moerdopo, 2008: 31)

Keumalahayati's positions described in the novel are also in accordance with historical facts. History records that Keumala was indeed the Commander of the Royal Protocols of Darud Donya. In this context, Hasjmy (1993:240) explained that Keumala had indeed served as the Protocol Commander for the Kingdom of Darud Donya Aceh Darussalam. When her husband died in Haru Bay to expel the Portuguese, Keumalahayati was still serving as the Protocol Commander for the Kingdom of Aceh Darussalam at that time. Keumalahayati's third position is Commander of the Inong Balee Troops. After the death of her husband, Keumala asked Sultan Al-Mukammil for permission to form an army consisting of widowed women whose husbands died in the Haru Bay War just like her.

In Malahayati's novel, this is a true story that comes from Aceh. This novel has two versions, this is evidenced by the existence of a children's book entitled *Laksamana Malahayati* by M.A. Maya Amanda. Then, there is also a novel entitled *Laksana Malahayati Sang Perempuan Kelumala* by Endang Moerdopo. The difference between the two novels is in terms of language, where the novel made by Endang already has a translation from Acehnese to Indonesian while the novel by Amanda still uses a lot of regional languages.

In the novel, it is narrated that Keumalahayati was one of the high-ranking officials of the Acehnese kingdom at the time of the sultan Alaidin Riayat Syah Al-Mukammil.

Keumalahayati was an officer and served as admiral to guard the Malacca prayers in place of her husband who was martyred for defending Naggroe. The courage of keumalahayati was aroused when she left her husband. Since then she decided to continue her husband's struggle against the invaders and he founded an army consisting of widows who were martyred by their husbands.

In her struggle and toughness against the invaders, Keumalahayati cannot be separated from her public role and in her domestic role, Kumala has always been an exemplary wife who always prays for her husband in fighting against the prayers that she prays to God to always be blessed and always be in God's protection. not easy for women, there must be obstacles. Barriers related to the role in the family and the demands of his role in the public sphere. In the domestic sphere, women carry out their roles as mothers and wives, while in the public sphere they have responsibilities related to work and tasks in the public sphere. The dual role is a risk that women inevitably have to take when they are involved in the public sphere.

Before the birth of great Acehese women such as Cut Nyak Dien, Cut Nyak Meutia, Tengku Fakinah, Pocut Baren, and Pocut Meurah Intan, there was one woman who had already come down to fight against the invaders with enthusiasm, namely Keumalahayati. The record of the story of Keumalahayati is rarely known by many people and in the world of literature there are not many who tell about this figure of Keumalahayati completely and clearly. In fact, Kuemalahayati is a woman who served as the first laksana in Indonesia and even in the world. However, it was not until 2017 that President Joko Widodo inaugurated this first female admiral as a national hero.

This book reveals that women can participate, fight, and dare to defend the country without losing the instincts possessed by a woman. Through this book, it is hoped that Keumalahayati's character can be imitated and can increase motivation and can inspire especially Indonesian women and young people to always fight and increase their love for the homeland. In this article, the author is interested in discussing the character of Admiral Malahayati more deeply through the analysis of the novel "Laksamana Malahayati the Woman Keumala" which is expected to inspire women today to imitate the character values of Admiral Malahayati.

2 Research method

This study uses descriptive qualitative analysis and historical methods, namely through several stages, namely source criticism (testing), data collection, analysis and interpretation, and historical writing. (Sugiyono, 2008)

The first step is heuristics, namely finding and collecting historical data and relevant sources through literature study. Literature study to help collect sources that support the completion of the topic under study, the first step is to collect sources in the form of books or journals concerning the story of Laksamana Malahayati.

The second step, namely source criticism, is the assessment of the sources needed to carry out historical writing. Source assessment is needed to determine the credibility and authenticity of a source. Source criticism is divided into external criticism and internal criticism. External criticism aims to test the authenticity of a source, so that the original source is obtained, not an imitation or fake. The wider the description of the source, the more reliable the source. Internal criticism is an investigation of the facts by evaluating the data that has to do with the source facts so that the data is truly accurate (credibility test).

The third step is analyzing and interpreting, for this stage the author connects more data obtained from studies in the library. For this analysis stage, the theme is related to the book about Laksamana Malahayati. The fourth step, Historiography, is a stage in the form of writing activities on the results of the interpretation of facts and attempts to reconstruct the past to provide answers to the problems that have been formulated. Thus the results are poured back into an interesting story.

3 Discussion

Character is a value that is embedded in a person and manifested in behavior. These values are interpreted as actions that want to do good and actually have a good life (Muchlas Samani and Hariyanto, 2012: 42). In addition, in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) character is the nature, character, or character that makes an individual different from other individuals. From some of the meanings of character that have been described above, we can conclude that character is the attitude, behavior, action of a person that distinguishes himself from others in everyday life.

Character is personality, character, temperament, character, behavior. Character refers to attitudes, behavior, motivation, and skills (Rohmah, 2017). Character is not something that can be inherited. Character must be formed and developed consciously through a process. Character is not something you are born with that cannot be changed. Each individual is responsible for the character they have and has full control over their character and themselves. Through Laksamana Malahayati, it can be seen that character is something that is owned by an individual that is formed over time and is influenced by various factors that are around him.

Character Analysis of Admiral Keumalahayati

The character values possessed by Admiral Keumalahayati include (1) Leadership Spirit, (2) Courage, (3) Curiosity, (4) Nationalism, (5) Responsible, (6) Religious. Which character values can be imitated in everyday life.

1. *Spirit of Leadership*

Ma'had Baitul Maqdis military education is a place of learning that produces brave officers and is well known for their courage who is ready to defend the nanggroe. The cadets from various regions of Nanggroe choose this education, including Malahayati, it has been his dream for a long time to gain knowledge, develop, and spend time in this education. Malahayati completed his education with good honors and the highest grades. Malahayati was once the head of ocean security. He got the position because he succeeded in defeating the sea pirates who disturbed the fishermen who were looking for fish. Its guard area is very wide, from the Malacca Strait to the Indian Ocean.

This is what proves the courage of this female officer to all the people. Malahayati then served as the Protocol Commander for the Kingdom of Darud Donya Aceh Darussalam whose task was to regulate all activities carried out by Sultan Alaidin Riayat Syah, he was tasked with managing the life in the palace, receiving guests of honor who would meet with the Sultan. Malahayati is required to be broad-minded with tasks that are

Malahayati served as the Royal Protocol Command because His Majesty had a crisis of trust in the officials in the palace. And at that time what was more concerning was that the Sultan did not trust his family and relatives because they were suspected of having a personal interest in

controlling the country. His Majesty Sultan began to realize that something was wrong with his second son, namely Sultan Muda who was planning something to fight against the power of his own father, namely Sultan Sultan. Therefore, the Sultan gave Malahayati the trust of getting an assignment in the palace which aimed to secure the Sultan.

Once upon a time, there was a battle in Haru Bay against the Portuguese who brought victory, but behind the victory obtained, the war claimed thousands of lives, including Admiral Tuanku Mahmuddin bin Said Al Latief who was the Commander of the Malacca Strait Fleet who was none other than the husband of Malahayati. As a result of the death of her husband, Sultan Sultan dismissed Malahayati from his position, namely Commander of the Royal Protocols, and then appointed him as Commander of the Malacca Strait to replace her husband, Tuanku Mahmuddin bin Said Al Latief to secure and protect the Straits of Malacca. Not long after the slump period due to the death of her husband and the loss of her daughter, Malahayati rose again and asked for permission from the Sultan to form the Inong Balee troops, namely women who became widows due to the death of their husbands who died in battle to help defend Nanggroe for join the war against the enemies who have disturbed the peace of nanggroe and uphold the truth.

2. *Courage*

The thing that shows how high Malahayati's courage is when Nanggroe is visited by two foreign ships from the Netherlands, each led by Frederick de Houtman and Cornelis de Houtman, aiming to establish trade relations. At first this group received a good reception from the Aceh Sultanate. But gradually the unpleasant behavior of these Dutch people was revealed. They treat women with disrespect and they force the traders to sell their wares cheaply, if the merchants refuse they do not hesitate to resort to violence. Malahayati had heard this and he did not remain silent and in the end he fought against the Dutch people and in the end he killed Cornelis de Houtman using the dagger he had.

3. *Curiosity*

When Malahayati just entered the Ma'had Baitul Maqdis education, he indeed showed a different character from the others, he was a brave person, a leader at heart and had a high curiosity as written in the book (Moerdopo, 2018). Undergoing education at Ma'had Baitul Maqdis has been his dream for a long time, he wants to gain knowledge and grow in this military education.

4. *Nationalism*

Malahayati has lost her husband Admiral Tuanku Mahmuddin bin Said Al Latief and Cut Dek who is none other than his son has been taken by Admiral Teuku Mughal Fadlil Syah and he experienced a fight which ended he was stranded on the beach. Malahayati was really very down and felt sad for all that had happened to him. All the events that constantly plagued him had taken up all his time and mind so that he forgot his country. But one day Malahayati woke up from his slump and realized that he had been left behind all this time.

Malahayati's condition did not make him forget his beloved homeland. Even in a slumped state, Malahayati still remembers that his country is in danger, and he says that he shouldn't be in this slump, the spirit has re-emerged in Malahayati, he promises to rise up to defend the country. His enthusiasm has turned into a strength that makes Malahayati still able to stand up and be able to go through the day, he is aware that duties and responsibilities await.

From the actions taken by Malahayati, it can be seen that he is a person who has a high spirit of nationalism, loves his homeland very much, he is willing to put aside his personal feelings in order to defend his beloved country.

5. *Responsible*

Malahayati is a commander or leader who is very responsible for whatever he does. When she was stricken with deep sadness due to the loss of her loved ones, be it her husband, children, and friends, Malahayati realized that life would go on and he as a leader had a responsibility to protect his country from outsiders and people alike. within the sultanate itself. Likewise when he led the Inong Balee Fleet troops he continued to pay attention to his troops and ensured that they remained safe and nothing bad happened to them. During training, the Inong Balee troops who have children are given a place to leave their children while they are training or when they are going to fight.

Then at another time he killed Tuanku Ibrahim Jaffar because he had violated the orders and trade rules made by the Sultan, after that the Sultan of Johor did not accept the death because they could no longer freely roam the north sea as usual, and they chased Malahayati. Then Malahayati said that he would be responsible for the death of Tuanku Ibrahim Jaffar himself because he was the one who killed him.

6. *Religious*

Malahayati is a very religious figure, as evidenced by he always involves the creator in everything he does and he always remembers Allah in every condition. When she had a bad feeling before her husband's death she kept chanting the name of Allah to ask for protection and safety for her husband, and she did not forget to always pray that her path would always be eased in fighting for the truth.

5 Conclusion

Malahayati is a woman who is tireless in fighting for and crushing enemies who try to disturb or disturb her country. He loved his country so much that nothing could destroy it. Despite the many obstacles, calamities, and sorrows that Malahayati went through, he still tried and struggled with the strength and courage he had. Malahayati is a picture of women who are able to fight and prove that women are not weak creatures that can be underestimated, and women can also fight in defense of their beloved country. But behind the greatness of an Admiral Keumalahayati, there are not many historical records that tell about this Acehese woman. Her name was not as popular as other female heroes, even though her struggle was extraordinary and she was very instrumental in the glory of the Aceh Sultanate at that Time.

Utilization of reading materials in the Literary Criticism course can be done in the form of reading books that are used in learning according to CPMK. Feminism Literary Criticism reading book product for STKIP students Usman Safri Kutacane Aceh Tenggara is used as supporting or additional reading material in the learning process.

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