CYCLE OF ABUSE IN RUTH ANN NORDIN’S NOVEL HIS REDEEMING BRIDE (2009): A PSYCHOLOGICAL FEMINISM

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Abstract

This research investigated about a woman cycle of abuse in His Redeeming Bride authored by Ruth Ann Nordin. This research has purposes: (1) What are woman circle of abuse in His Redeeming Bride novel; (2) How do the woman face the oppression in the His Redeeming Bride novel. This research is a descriptive qualitative research. The primary data is sentences in His Redeeming Bride novel authored by Ruth Ann Nordin which describes about woman oppression conditions or circumstances. The data were collected by analyzing the sentences which consist of tension building, acute violence, reconciliation/honeymoon and calm mentioned by Dr. Walker. As the result, there are 22 sentences which describes about oppression. The women face the oppression bravely because they think that they need to stay strong and continue to live even though their husband leaves them. Most oppression in the novel indicates the woman suffered from psychological violence.

Keywords: Cycle of abuse, women oppression, psychological violence, feminism.

Introduction

Novels that had a variety of themes and content, among other about social problems, which generally occurs in the community, including those related to women. The woman was very interesting to talk about. A woman in public areas tends to be used by men to satisfy their colonies. Women have transformed into material business and sexual exploitation. In other words, today has lost a proud feminist nature and lauded not only by women, but also men. It is very painful when women just became a business segment or market (Anshori, 1997: 2). Related to the literature, the problem has no restrictions on women's involvement in the world of creation, critique and as a lover, but it is no less important is how the woman represented in literary texts. When observed, the study emerged as a growing scientific activities of the academic field in this decade, actually comes from feminism activity (Andersen, 1988: 10-12). Feminism is not an attempt to rebel against the people, instead of combating social institutions, of culture such as marriage, household and public spheres. Women basically do not want to be a secondary, not wanting marginalized. The feminist movement is a movement of women to reject everything that is marginalized, subordinated and demeaned by the dominant culture, whether in the political, economic and social environment in general.
His Redeeming Bride novel is one of the works Ruth Ann Nordin, published in 2009. This novel about the issues rose in the women psychology due to oppression, especially oppression in sex and man desire also women's social life. Privileged novel His Redeeming Bride is that the leaders involved in the novel with the fabric of the story, detail events are described and disclosed carefully, so the storyline is maintained. Grooves used in this novel through backward flow, Nordin wanted to tell the events experienced by its main character in this novel. Moreover, Nordin was able to describe the fact that there is in life at that time in the psychology of sex as well as social and other injustices suffered by women.

In this novel the reader is faced with on an oppression and injustice by women who felt by the main character. Through this literary work the author gives readers a reflection about the injustices of oppression experienced by female characters in the novel The His Redeeming Bride.

Problems in the oppression of injustice contained in the novel His Redeeming Bride, one of which is shown by Sarah and Cassie as a female figures which was repressed and feel the injustice in the darkest of their life because of their husband. Injustice, among others, expressed in the form of violence against women. Based on the above explanation, the novel His Redeeming Bride work of Ruth Ann Nordin analyzed by the feminine psychological review to find out the problems that indicate the oppression of women in the novel.

Methodology

The data used in this study is qualitative data. Qualitative data is data that form the description, not formnumbers or coefficients of the relationship between variables (Aminuddin in Azizah, 2008: 26). The data is part of the is very important in any form of research. Steps of collecting data are: researcher reads the novel; researcher separates any sentence or paragraph which considered as data, researcher analyzes the findings with theory, researcher make conclusions based on findings and theory.

The data used in this study is literature. Literature is the source of the data obtained from document seeking data about things or variablesthe records, transcripts, books, magazines and others whosupport research. They are His Redeeming Bride by Ruth Ann Nordin and all the data are taken from other sources such as biography of the author, website about the novel, several books of literature. At last, by finding the technique used to analyze the data in this novel and then retype all the data that have been and are selected based on actual quotations in accordance with the statement of the problem.

Finding and Analysis

In His Redeeming Bride novel, there are twenty data that show any event which considered as part of cycle of abuse. These findings will be described and analyzed based on each part of cycle of abuse.

1. **Tension building.**

Tension Building (TB) is a condition where someone gets stressed from daily life. TB can also be caused by conflict continuously because of work, children naughty or husband action. In the novel, there are nine Tension
Buildings circumstances. The story in the novel is begun with TB event in page one. It is a conflict happens between Neil Craftsman and Cassie.

Neil Craftsman handed his wife the divorce papers, glad to be rid of the mockery they called a marriage. (p.1)

The story begins the story with how Neil Craftsman creates a situation where a conflict between him and his wife to interest the reader. Based on the paragraph above, Neil Craftsman handed Cassie a divorce letter. Neil feels that his marriage is not happy anymore or he has a secret intention for doing that.

Divorce is something that cause sadness for a couple. Most divorce is caused by third person or unhappiness from the marriage. For woman, divorce causes a psychological impact. This impact can affect the woman behavior against the environment. For example, due to the divorce, some mother abuse the children or blaming them as the reason.

In the novel, Neil divorce with Cassie because of her departure, Neil glad because Cassie leave Emily with him. As the beginning of the story begins with Tension Building, it indicates that there will be many conflicts over the family. Another Tension building act can be seen in the same page but different paragraph.

Neil gritted his teeth. True, he silently thanked the miserable woman for leaving her daughter with him, but Emily would be devastated if she left without explaining that she had to leave. Not that he wished to tell Emily the real reason for Cassie’s departure. The poor girl suffered enough with the lack of motherly affection she received for the past seven years of her life. He gulped the lump in his throat, his heart aching for the innocent child. Say yes, Cassie. For once, think of someone other than yourself. (p.1)

In that paragraph, in this case, Emily is the victim. Due to her lack of his mother ability in taking care of her. Emily is a good child, she never complains about everything, she always accepts it and she always thinks about other people than herself. This scene was a TB which happened in Emily’s feeling. Based on the paragraph above, her mother never takes a good care of her for almost seven years.

This scene causes a psychological impact in Emily psychology. She grows as someone who never feels the warmth of her mother. Neil knows about this, and then He chose to divorce and hope that Cassie will leave Emily to him. This scene rarely occurs in a romance novel, because most romance novels show that tension building is caused by a conflict in family. Conflict happen in family is not a life and death situation where life is in a stoke.

Tension building happens a lot in this novel because there are many conflicts in the family, as the story begins with showing two families with same problems. In the novel, from the novel, reader can read the character characteristics.
2. **Acute Violence**

In this novel, there are some Acute Violence occur. This condition is not caused by a conflict in a family or a fight between husband and wife but occur because of someone else or third person. For example this acute violence occurs in Sarah family, when she was on a trip to another place.

A gunshot startled her. The horses bucked back, upsetting the wagon and causing her to lose her balance. She tumbled onto the hard ground, her arms instinctively protecting her large belly, and she rolled to her side, barely noting the sharp pain of a rock that probed her hip. The quilt had fallen halfway off her body, tangling around her limbs. She struggled to free her legs so she could stand, but her belly made the task next to impossible. She was floundering around on the ground when two dirty men rode over to them on their stallions.

The dark, lanky one pointed a .45 at Jim. "Give us your money." His voice came out low and gruff. (p.13)

As the paragraph above describes about how acute violence occurs. In that paragraph, someone shot a gun to the air, the sound of the gun shocked Sarah, she falls from the wagon, and she almost loses her baby because when she falls, her belly comes first. She able to protect her belly from touching the ground. After shocking from the gunshot, she get shocked because of the two dirties man getting close to her. They force Jim and Sarah to give them their money while pointing a gun to them.

Because of the robber act, Sarah get harm physically and mentally. This kind of violence cause her body fall from the wagon, her body get hurt, but she still tries to get up and still tries to save her belly. In the paragraph, Sarah tries to stand by herself, but because of her belly, she could do it.

Based on paragraph, Sarah is a strong woman, even though she is pregnant, she has strong will to stand up without getting help from her husband. She flounders around to find something to grab so she can stand up. In the novel, there is no acute violence which caused by husband, there is no quarrel between a family which mostly woman get violence from the husband.

3. **Reconciliation/Honeymoon**

Reconciliation or Honeymoon is a condition where a couple who fight each other ends their fight. This condition can also occur when a man or woman in a good mood. Conflict between couples sometimes can be seen as a time where a couple get know each other and after they are tired of fighting, they will become normal or making a sweet moment.

In the page sixty-seven in the novel, reconciliation scene occurs, it happens between Neil and Sarah when he helps her to get in the wagon.
Her face flushed when she realized he was still holding her hand. Even with their gloves on, she noted how well her hand fit in his. (p.67)

The paragraph above shows a good emotion which comes between Neil and Sarah. As described above, Neil can be categorized as a handsome and interesting man. As a wife, Sarah is rarely being touched by Jim, because of that Sarah feel warm when Neil holds her hand.

The scene between Neil and Sarah can be categorized as reconciliation. Neil and Sarah never meet before and because of that event, Sarah a little bit opens her heart. However, Sarah has already making her own sensation through that coincidence.

Reconciliation can be seen in page one hundred thirty-six. It happens between Neil and Eliza.

He moved his hand up and over her breasts. "Respond to me. Act like you wants to do this." Even as he said it, he chided himself. Fool. Don’t be weak. But he was, and it scared him.

Cassie’s indifference to him in bed had more of an impact on him than he thought. I’m not here to think of her. He leaned over to kiss Eliza, the scent of perfume and sex with her other customers drifted into his awareness. (p.136)

That scene which describes above can be considered as reconciliation but in different point of view, it can be a tension building. It happens because it is not a honeymoon; it is a scandalous scene between Neil and Eliza. Eliza knows that Neil has a wife, but her still doing it with Neil.

As a normal guy, everything in Eliza put Neil in interest. Her body and her smell. Eliza also tries to attract Neil interest by doing something which attracts Neil. Neil tries to hold his lust, he still tries to remember that he has already a wife but in the end due to Eliza’s charm, he cannot resist.

This event is a honeymoon, a state where a couple tries to know each other and share everything. A condition where a couple forget about everything like problem and burden. In Neil case, this activity help him to forget about his past, same as Sarah, she can forget about her hurt because of her husband. Sarah cannot forget how his husband sacrifices her into the hands of robber when they get robbed.

4. Calm

Calm is the state next after the honeymoon or reconciliation, but in this novel, calm is a state after a fight between couple. In the novel, there are two kinds of calm in this novel, state of happiness or state of sadness.In the page five, a fight between Neil and Cassie, where Neil offered her a divorce letter.

She closed her eyes so her tears wouldn’t fall on the pot roast on the table in front of her. She took a deep cleansing
breath, focusing on the sound of the birds chirping outside the open window. A breeze drifted through the room and caressed her hot cheeks that stung with the pain of another rejection. She should be used to it by now. (p.5)

This is a state where Cassie has already accepted Neil’s demand. She has got a lot of pressure and gets used for being disappointed by Neil’s action. Crying is also considered as calm. As mentioned above, calm is a state which can be happiness or sadness. The point of calm is a state after a fight, that’s why the result is between happiness or sadness. In the paragraph, it can be seen that Neil leaves Cassie with her sadness, he just go and let Cassie hold her tears after their long marriage.

Another finding about calm can be found in page six in Jim’s family. In this paragraph it is focused in Sarah.

*But she did have a child on the way. The thought brightened her mood. She would concentrate on the baby. While she cut up the roast and put a hearty portion on Jim’s china plate, she considered different names that would suit a girl or a boy.* (p.6)

As mentioned in the paragraph above, this calm condition comes from Jim and Sarah, while the one who get depressed is Sarah because Jim asked her to divorce, Sarah does not really accept it or reject it. She just focuses about her next baby. Sarah is a strong woman, behind her stress and she still able to do her job as a wife and taking care her next baby.

The findings will be described and analyzed and tries to find out the result. Based on cycle of abuse mentioned by Walker, there are four phases of abuse, Tension building, Acute violence, Reconciliation/Honeymoon, and Calm. These phases should be run in a cycle or clockwise so there will be a perfect cycle of abuse. In this novel, there are two families that roles in playing the story, it between Neil family and Jim family. All details will be described below.

First phase is Tension Building (TB). TB is a condition which can be source of problem in the story, in the *His Redeeming Bride* novel, the story begin with TB to attract the reader. The TB begins where Neil asked Cassie to divorce. The reason of their divorce because they don’t have children for ten years’ marriage. Neil action put Cassie in a stress condition. Cassie never thinks that her marriage will be end because she never gets pregnant after ten years marriage.

TB also happens in the beginning of the story in a marriage couple, Jim and Sarah. Different with Cassie’s condition, where Cassie hoping for a baby, Sarah is in a pregnant condition. Sarah does not really care about what Jim intentions; she only thinks about her next baby.

A fate of two families comes when they meet each other. In wagon where Neil helps Sarah to climb the wagon. Sarah who already disappointed with her husband feels happy when Neil touches her hand. Neil is a mature and good
looking man, so all women likes him. This event is the greatest tension building, where Sarah heart gets affected by Neil’s charm.

Acute Violence mostly occurs when there is a gap differences between man and woman, where man considered stronger than woman. When a couple arguing about something, it is not impossible that most man will harm a woman especially when man loses his temper. But in *His Redeeming Bride* novel, violence does not affect the woman’s physical, but rather woman’s psychology or her mental state. As mentioned above where Jim and Sarah in the way to another region, they are stooped by bandits. When the robbers ask them money, Jim offered his wife as a sacrificial pawn, he says that the one who has money is Sarah and Sarah is pretend to be pregnant.

What Jim does to Sarah hurt her mentally? When Sarah falls from the wagon because of the gunshot from the robbers, Jim does not want to help her, Sarah almost loses her baby because she falls with belly comes down first but she able to protect her belly with her hands. In the novel, there are not even once any violence which hurt the woman.

Reconciliation or Honeymoon is a state where a couple doing something that makes them happy or forgets about what happens before they fight each other. But in *His Redeeming Bride* novel, because the two couples are getting divorce, the characters have different way to reconciliation their minds. For example Neil who enjoy himself for having sex with Eliza. He tries to forget Cassie but in the end he just comparing Eliza with Cassie. Jim chose to drinks until he gets drunk, while Cassie and Sarah enjoy themselves, just before Neil met Sarah. After Neil met Sarah then later they are getting married. When Neil and Sarah want to have a sex, Neil is always compares Sarah with Cassie in his mind, he wants to forget about Cassie but he always remembers her.

Calm is a condition normally comes after reconciliation or honeymoon. In a cycle of abuse, calm can be considered as a result of tension building, acute violence and honeymoon or reconciliation. The calm condition is also affected by the character’s personality or how deep their feeling to each other. Based on findings in the novel, calm can be divided into two categories, first happiness is calm, it means that after the characters pass the phase tension building, acute violence and reconciliation or honeymoon, their relationship becomes better, they forget their problems and forged a new and good relationship. Sadness calm means the result of the phase cause sadness in woman’s side. It can be leaving a woman in her despair or breaking the relationship. Most calm in the novel are sadness, but at the end of the story, Happiness comes to Neil and Sarah.

Cassie and Sarah is a mature woman, they both are a good wife and a responsible woman. They are struggling with their condition, both of them after happiness. Compare with them, their husband Neil and Jim are childish; they never realize how their wives love them. It cannot be avoided that men has a desire of having a perfect woman, but sometimes they forget that they have already get the perfect one.
Conclusion

In *His Redeeming Bride* novel, the researcher had found all events which categorized as phase of cycle of abuse. There are ten paragraphs which contain about tension building, two paragraphs contain acute violence, six paragraphs contain reconciliation and four paragraphs contain calm.

The researcher finds out that acute violence can be physically and mentally, but in *His Redeeming Bride* novel, the acute violence happens only harm the woman mentally. The researcher also fined out that Calm can be divided into two kinds, first is sadness calm and happiness calm. In the novel, both calms are found. The story itself ends with happiness calm.

The women in the story, Cassie and Sarah are adult and matured women; they both can face their despair without harming themselves. They can stand up and looking for other happiness. They realize that they have stay alive and continue to live.

References


