

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE NOVEL THE HATE U GIVE BY ANGIE THOMAS

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Abstract

This research analyzes the extrinsic elements and human rights principles in the novel. The Hate U Give is a novel about a teenager who suffered from discrimination as part of African American community. This research shown the treatment of human rights principles violations and strong relationship between the writer and her literature work. The purpose of this research is first, to identify extrinsic element in the novel. Second, to analyze human rights practice done by society in this novel. This study uses extrinsic approach by Warren and Wellek (1956). The method used is descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data in this research. The data sources are taken from the quotes in the novel. The finding in the research are first, this novel is a motivation of the writer to spread awareness about her childhood memory. Second, human rights principles are violated such as universality and inalienability, participation and inclusion, indivisibility, accountability and rule of law, lastly equality and non-discrimination.

Keywords: *Extrinsic Elements, Human Rights, Violations, Novel*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis elemen ekstrinsik dan hak asasi manusia dalam novel. The Hate U Give menceritakan tentang seorang remaja yang mengalami diskriminasi karena berasal dari komunitas Afrika Amerika. Penelitian ini menunjukkan jenis element ekstrinsik dan prinsip-prinsip Hak Asasi Manusia. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah pertama, untuk mengidentifikasi elemen ekstrinsik dari novel. Kedua, untuk menganalisis implementasi Hak Asasi Manusia oleh masyarakat dalam novel. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan ekstrinsik oleh Warren and Wellek (1956). Metode yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis data dalam penelitian ini. Sumber data diambil dari kutipan dalam novel. Temuan dalam penelitian ini adalah pertama, novel ini adalah sebuah motivasi dari penulis yang berdasar dari pengalaman masa kecilnya. Kedua, terjadi pelanggaran prinsip Hak Asasi Manusia yaitu universalitas dan absolut, partisipasi dan inklusi, ketidakterpisahan, akuntabilitas dan supremasi hukum, terakhir kesetaraan dan non-diskriminasi.

Kata kunci: *Unsur Ekstrinsik, HAM, Pelanggaran, Novel*

1. INTRODUCTION

Human rights live among the society, therefore, it is clear to be portrayed whether it is implemented properly or inappropriately. Literature works portray society issues. It starts from personal issue, group issues, or even personal to group issues. Also, it is the reason behind literature works such as novel, play, or films easily catch society's attention. Furthermore, it is in line as what Werren and Wellek (2016: 21) stated that works of literature are imaginative creations with high moral standards. These principles then become actual aspects of society. Novel is one of literature work which becomes source of data in this research. Priyatni (2021: 124) wrote that novel is a derivative of *novellus* in Latin. According to *novellus*, the name is derived from the Latin word *novus*, which in English means "new" or "new." Because a novel is a type of literary work that developed later from other literary genres, such as poetry and drama, it is said to be novel.

This research talks about one of literature works which is novel. It portrays human rights issues in novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. The reason why this research brings this issue is because the implementation of human rights is still far from theory. Lestari (2021: 2) stated that there are five basic principles that need to be uphold to implement human rights. Those principles are (a) equality, it is a concept that expresses respect for all people as independent individuals with equal worth and dignity. (b) Non-discrimination, it demonstrates that no person's existence can be disregarded due to their race, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or ideological convictions, or nationality or citizenship. (c) Indivisibility (not divided); human rights, including civil and political rights, economic rights, sociocultural rights, and collective rights, are linked and cannot be separated. (d) Interdependence (mutual dependency) refers to the idea that the exercise of one human right depends, in whole or in part, on the exercise of another. (e) Responsibility establishes that each state, person, and other entity (corporations, non-governmental organizations, and others) is accountable for upholding and defending human rights (Ashri, 2018).

Afro-Americans as one of society groups which live has been facing the real struggle to be treated appropriately. However, it seems hard to get it since the long customs have been built about how to treat their group. In this era, many of them are still being discriminated against or discredited because of their skin color. They still cannot mingle with other society groups properly. In America, the way of the society treats Afro-American cannot be labeled as successfully fair. According to CNN politics 2017 on highlight *Blacks and Whites See Racism in the United States very, very Differently*, Polls

show most Americans think Trump's campaign and presidency is making a difference when it comes to prejudice in the United States.

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas's to begin with novel about a high school young lady who hooks with racism, police brutality, and activism after seeing her black friend killed by the police. The book got to be a quick youthful grown-up success and was adjusted into a motion picture without further ado after its discharge. It has been published since 2017. It has 444 pages.

This novel is considered as source of data because it portrays human rights as one of social issues as a form of interaction which happens among the society. The data of this research are quotes from this novel. The quotes are from the characters' utterances especially those who represent the human rights principle. The theory which is used to analyze this research is sociology of literature by Warren and Wellek. It is descriptive qualitative research which involves written data and library research. There are some objectives discussed in this research as mentioned in the background. The objective of this research surely answers the research problems. The objectives of this research are:

1. To identify what types of extrinsic elements appear in *The Hate You Give* novel.
2. To analyze how the issue of human rights in America is reflected in the novel *The Hate You Give*.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research applies a descriptive qualitative method. By applying descriptive qualitative method, the author only collected, classified, analyzed the information and after that make a conclusion. In this research, the data are descriptive since the data are in the form of words rather than numbers.

This research discusses about human rights principals which can be portrayed in *The Hate That You Give* novel. The theory approach which used in this novel is extrinsic theory by Warren and Wellek. This research figures out if the society in this novel obeys or implements human rights principals or not. Also, the researcher classifies which principals are violated or implemented.

It has 444 pages which contain data needed for this research. Meanwhile, the data in this research is quotations from this novel which represent human rights principals. Furthermore, the data is analyzed by using Warren and Wellek's extrinsic approach.

The data was collected using a documentation method that is usually used to gather information from documents like books, notes, and others. The technique of collecting data was done by utilizing these following steps:

- a. The first step was reading the novel carefully then continued by highlighting the sentences and words taken from the portrayal and dialogue of the novel that appeared the influence of the outward components and indicated human rights practice.
- b. Another step was taking note of the sentences and words that appeared the impact of the extrinsic elements and the sentences and words that shown human rights practice.
- c. The final step was recognizing the information in arranging to find out the outward components that influenced the creation of the novel, and how the novel reflected what kind of human rights and how they are implemented in the novel.

According to Miles, Hubberman, and Saldana (2014), there are some steps of analyzing data in qualitative research, they are data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/ verification.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this novel, it has been found that there are three types of elements of extrinsic. Those are society, biography, and psychology. It shows that writer's experience really reflected in this novel. Meanwhile, it has been found that some human rights are violated such as universality and inalienability, accountability and rule of law, participation and inclusion, indivisibility, lastly equality and non-discrimination. In this novel, those principles are violated among the society of US from the novel because Starr always gets negative judgment upon her. she has absolute rights to sound her voice about Khalil but she can't do that since the society already has negative perception about African American community.

1. Elements of Extrinsic

a. Biography

Angela Thomas was born in 1988 in Jackson, Mississippi. She grew up in an economically depressed African American neighborhood and was exposed to gun violence at an early age. As how the extrinsic approaches work, she exposes her own experience about gun violence through the novel.

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officers. (Thomas (2017: 1)

Another situation which defines a gun violence that attacked Starr is,

Soon after, a white police officer with the badge number one-fifteen pulls them over. Khalil questions the motivation for the stop, and One-Fifteen orders him out of the car and searches him. One-Fifteen commands Khalil not to move, and returns to his car. Khalil opens the door to check on Starr. One-Fifteen fatally shoots Khalil. (Thomas (2017: 15)

Biography of the writer effects a lot in their literature work. It is because people can know genius, moral, intellectual, and emotional development of the characters. Angie as the write is related to Starr, her character in the novel. Through Starr, she wants to be represented as someone who comes from African American community which gets a lot of hatred and injustice.

Furthermore, Angie went to a good university and pursue her dream to get acknowledgment as a successful African American figure. She has managed to be influential by publishing several best seller books including *The Hate U Give* novel. Her condition reflected in the novel. She went to a famous high school cause her parents sent her to that school. The purpose was so Starr could get a better life by hanging around majority who dominate the school. This condition relates with Angie because both Angie and Starr want a change in their life. Though it was too risky but they did it.

Furthermore, at the beginning, Star did not have confidence to speak up as the witness of her friend's death. She was intimidated as a minority while she held a fact of injustice from a police institution. But she managed to speak up the truth trough Ofrah. She got a platform to sound her voice about the fatal shooting done by the police officer. She got supports and attention from people. This relates with Angie who finally got exposure from her masterpiece who talk a lot about injustice and discrimination received by African American.

b. Psychology

In extrinsic elements, biography is not the only topic to be talked about. There is also psychological aspect. It means that a literature work cannot be separated from the writer's psychology situation. It is related to not only the condition of the writer's psychology, but also the creative process during the works making. Furthermore, it talks about whether the purpose of the work is a motivation or imagination of the writer.

Both Angie and Starr have platform to talk at the end. Starr had interview with Ofrah in the novel. Meanwhile Angie has got the chance to write some famous novels which talk a lot about discrimination toward African American. Also, character development of Starr obviously cannot be separated from Angie's condition when she had to get through her struggle.

Furthermore, Starr was fragile at the beginning of the story that was so relatable with Angie who also could not do anything at that age. She could only see the chaotic situation around her without doing anything. Angie, through Starr delivered how hard to a minority who got injustice and negative judgement meanwhile they held the truth. The blame did not deserve to be gotten by them. However, both Angie and Starr were successful in going through that condition. It is because Starr finally got a platform to talk on TV through Oprah. She no longer realized that being silent was not always right especially when it disclosed essential facts. It reflects Angie's condition who was also able to get out from her nightmare. She has also got a chance to speak up about her condition through her best seller novels. Besides, she has got exposure as a talented rapper. Wider opportunity has opened for her to motivate larger society for being respectful toward African American community.

c.Society

Sadly, it is not only in the novel but also in real life. Angie takes example from the real-life society in US. In the case of discrimination toward black people or African American, it has happened for several cases, there was George Floyd who was gone viral before. Few years before that, there was Eric, Michael, and Tamir cases who also faces same condition as Floyd. They were got shoot by police but they did not get justice because the police claimed that they did nothing wrong since they believed Floyd and others were the one who committed crime and deserve to be treated so. Meanwhile, even if they were wrong, a long investigation and procedure needed to be done first before jumping to the conclusion.

Same case happened to Khalil. Despite he was a drug dealer, there was no proper investigation toward him but the police officer just shot him without telling anything. After that, the police institution did not show any good intention to do further investigation about this case.

2. Reflection of Human Rights in US from the Novel

Human rights need to be taken into account by the global society. There are no excuses to not respect or violate everyone's rights to be treated fairly. US as one of the biggest countries in the world still faces difficulties to handle discrimination toward the black people. It has been proven by news which keep coming and appearing about victim of discrimination because of skin colour.

The Hate U Give novel is set in US. Though, it does not clearly state that the setting is in US but according to sparknotes.com, the setting of place takes in Garden Heights, an inner-city neighborhood in the southern part of the United States, possibly a

fictionalized version of the Georgetown neighborhood of Jackson, Mississippi, and the suburbs associated with that city. Jackson, Mississippi is where Angie Thomas as the writer was born. Therefore, it could not agree more that this novel is talking about US.

It needs to be remembered that there are five kinds of principles that must be fulfilled so an act will not be called as human rights violence. Those principles are universality and inalienability, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness, equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, and accountability and rule of law.

a. Accountability and Rule of Law

Furthermore, according to the quote above, it can be concluded that African American community as minority group is still hard to get access in to appropriate law exposure. It shows another human rights principal violation which is participation and inclusion. In participation and inclusion, all society deserves to get the same exposure in social, economy, and political practice. Getting opportunity to voice justice or get presumption of innocence is an appropriate practice of participation and inclusion. However, Starr did not get it. She had to fight by herself to voice her witness toward Khalil's injustice death. Luckily, there was someone who offered the opportunity for her to participate in voicing justice. Again, it is not from government, but the civilians. At the same time, it shows that there was part of society who still cares with African American's rights.

b. Equality and Non- Discrimination

Discrimination and mistreatment do exist, it can be seen from the quote above. Therefore, no equality and a total discrimination. Society really gives pressure toward African American society. They gave hatred on the community. They do not value the community equally. They still took into account the color of skin, ethnicity, and the race. Sadly, systematic discrimination has been realized by the community but they could not do anything. The majority keeps doing it as if there was nothing wrong upon what they have done. If they really care toward the community, they would focus on the drug cases, they would not see who has done it. Also, there would be no judgment by looking at the background before the investigation had done.

c. Universality and Inalienability

Through this quote, it shows that there was no universality and inalienability toward Khalil as African American. Majority or the white police institution did not take into account Khalil's death as an issue. They believed that it was not wrong to shoot a black who still unproven wrong. If they really realize with the existence of human rights,

they would respect dignity and rights which belong to Khalil. They were not supposed to abandon the fact that Khalil was also a civilian who needs proper investigation whether he was a drug dealer or not. Also, during the preparation, violence and threat are not supposed to be there.

d. Indivisibility

From the quote above, it's not only equality and non-discrimination principle has been violated but also indivisibility. It is because the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living cannot be compromised at the expense of other rights, such as the right to health or the right to education. By mentioning about *they have hard time getting real job*, the community did not get enough opportunity to develop themselves. The majority society still look down on them. The black community did not get their rights to elevate their economy status. It is obviously wrong and has violated rights to get an opportunity to have a better job in society. Furthermore, it is really hard to live as an African American in US because there has been always hatred that will come to the community as what they quote said. Not only judgment, but the blame will always be on them because of their incapability fight back. Again, it is because of the systemic discrimination.

e. Participation and Inclusion

Access is not only limited to the justice but also to the law exposure. It shows another human rights principal violation which is participation and inclusion. In participation and inclusion, all society deserves to get the same exposure in social, economy, and political practice. Getting opportunity to voice justice or get presumption of innocence is an appropriate practice of participation and inclusion. However, Starr did not get it. She had to fight by herself to voice her witness toward Khalil's injustice death

It is sad but true that black community does not get access to any aspects in society layers especially to develop their financial. They do not get the opportunity to get proper job because of the long history between US society and Afro-American. Therefore, once they have this kind of case, US society only use their stigma toward the community who labeled as drug dealer cause they believe that is the only thing that the community can afford.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This novel has strong relationship with its writer. It can be seen from the biography, psychology, and society of the writer. Those are elements of extrinsic which usually used to a approach a literature work. Starr and Angie are related to each other. Biography of Angie and Starr are similar. Both of them come from a city which exposed by gun violence and discrimination toward minority. This novel is created from her

childhood memory. She shows a positive character development of Starr. Therefore, this novel is not utopia because Angie as the writer has been successful in her career. She is well educated, a talented writer and rapper. So, basically, she has been acknowledged by the society. It has been concluded that this novel is her motivation to spread awareness about racist society, gun violence, discrimination as a form of human rights violations.

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