

AN ANALYSIS SOCIAL CHANGE IN OBAMA ERA AS REFLECTED LAUREN OLIVER'S NOVEL "BEFORE I FALL"

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Abstract

This research is entitled "An Analysis Social Change In Obama Era As Reflected Lauren Oliver"s Novel "Before I Fall. The purpose of this study is to determine what social changes occur in the novel "Before I Fall". The method that has been used in this research is qualitative, because this method can provide accurate data. The data obtained from novel Before I Fall which consists seven chapters. Data is also taken from the books, journals and internet concerned with this research. The results showed that the social changes that occur have a positive impact that makes inspiration for adolescents and other society.

Keywords: social change, novel, analysis

Abstrak

Penelitian ini berjudul "Sebuah Analisis Perubahan Sosial di Era Obama Sebagaimana Tercermin dalam Novel Lauren Oliver "Before I Fall". Metode yang digunakan penelitian ini adalah kualitatif, karena metode ini dapat memberikan data yang akurat. Data diperoleh dari Novel Before I Fall yang terdiri dari tujuh bab. Data juga diambil dari buku, jurnal dan internet yang berkaitan dengan penelitian ini. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perubahan sosial yang terjadi berdampak positif yang menjadi inspirasi bagi remaja maupun masyarakat lainnya.

Kata Kunci: perubahan sosial, novel, analisis

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a work of art in the form of written or oral. In the beauty of literature, we can find many social and cultural values. Literature not only offers entertainment, but we can share knowledge and experience, develop ourselves and thought process, and communicate well with literary style. According to Heru Kurniawan (2012) literature is a branch of art, namely the creation and aesthetic expression of people (beautiful). In this case, there is a literary connection with social change because both of them also involve the society in it. Social change is a change that occurs in society and can affect social relations in society. Society is a process in social change. We will experience changes and gain the value of social and cultural change in society by the process. Literature can arise due to social changes in society, can also be social changes that occur as a result of changes in literary works. One of the causes of social change is a conflict between individual with group or group with group. As the social changes in the novel entitled “Before I Fall” (2010) because conflict.

The prominent conflict in the novel is between group with individual. Social change also occurs due to social strata which means to distinguish a class between the lower and upper classes. This also happens in the novel which is willing to maintain its social strata for the sake of its popularity. According to Soekanto (in Dewi, U and Darsono, P, 2017:95) social strata or social classes are social layers based on wealth, customs, religion, descent, and others. Whoever has the most wealth is placed as the uppermost social staratum. The writer is interested in choosing this novel to be studied. Reading novels to get literary knowledge is a very good and effective way. Not only information that we will get from the novel, but we will find literary values in it. There are several reasons for this, because this novel is a story that inspires teenagers in general. This novel has a good message that we can apply to our lives. The social changes that occur also to remind teenagers to do a good thing for everyone is very noble because we do not know when we last lived. Use your life to make good memories instead of hurting someone’s heart.

2. METHODOLOGY

The writer used qualitative research in analyzing Before I Fall novel by Lauren Oliver (2010). Qualitative research is a type of social science research that collects and works with non- numerical data and that seeks to interpret meaning from these data that help understand social life through the study of targeted populations or places. The writer used qualitative in order to get more data in analyzing the novel. Types of data in this research divide into two: primary data and secondary data. Primary data is Before I Fall novel and secondary data is getting from other sources, journal, article which related to the research and support the analysis research which related to the theory the writer used. Technique of collecting data is technique or way used to collect data.

According to Yin (2014) data collection techniques include interviews, observations, (direct and participant), questioners, and relevant documents.

There are some steps that are used in collecting data for this research:

1. Reading the novel “Before I Fall” by Lauren Oliver as the main source.
2. Reading other supporting sources related to the material.
3. Collecting data from books and journal which are related to the material.
4. Collecting data from the internet browsing to get some information.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis focuses on Social Change in Obama era in the novel “Before I Fall” by Lauren Oliver. This chapter shows the social changes and the impacts that occur in Obama era. The writer had done the analysis by reading the novel and found the data which was related to concentrate on the problems. Social change is not unusual for Americans, especially promiscuity that occurs America even 42% of unmarried adolescents in America claimed to have had sex at least once. This figure, according to CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), has not increased compared to the same survey in 2002. Here some example from this novel to show it:

“Don’t call me kid. This is one reason I’m happy I decided to have sex with Rob tonight: so Lindsay and Elody won’t make fun of me anymore. Thankfully, since Ally’s still a virgin it I won’t be the very last one, either. Sometimes I feel like out of the four of us I’m always the

one tagging along, just there for the ride, I told you it was no big deal.” (Oliver, 2010:11)

From the quotation above we can find out that teenagers in Obama era wanted an intimate relationship before marriage even they considered they were still children if they haven't had intercourse. Social change that they experience should have a positive impact that doesn't damage the environment. But many American teenagers are trapped and have a high curiosity in promiscuity that actually violates the norms of social change.

Promiscuity is a form of social change because this culture is taken from the culture of other regions or countries, especially western countries such as America, where the culture of promiscuity is very clear compared to those of Indonesia who live in the east. American teenagers are not least associated with promiscuity or even being wrong associations also affect one's personality, causing "bullying". It showed on the paragraph below:

“All of sudden, Ally looks at something over my shoulder and starts giggling. „Psycho Killer, Qu”est-ce que c”est.” we all turn around. Juliet Sykes, or Psycho, has just drifted into the senior section. That”s how she walks: like she”s drifting, being blown around by forces outside of her control. She”s carrying a brown paper bag in her long pale fingers. Her face is shielded behind a curtain of pale blonde hair, shoulders hunched up around her ears”. (Oliver, 2010:27)

The United States is a country with a high level of intimidation. One out of every four students in the United States receives daily bullying, cyber bullying, verbal bullying, or direct bullying. These cases, however, cannot be seen as ordinary juvenile delinquency, because they involve bullying cases having a major impact on the mental health of their victims. Students will have one of friend will bully and be their victim. Juliet Sykes is Lindsay's friend they were young but not anymore, Lindsay and her bestfriends make a name for calling Juliet Sykes that is Psycho killer, qu'est-ceque'est or psycho. Because of Lindsay's odiousness, it hurts Juliet.

The Impacts of Social Change in Obama Era

There are some positive effects obtained from specific social changes in promiscuity are having many friends, new experience, and unwittingly they are able to think with adults. It show paragraph below:

“Standing on the deck with Lindsay I got that exact same feeling. After that Lindsay and I were best friends. Ally came in later after she and Lindsay were in a field hockey league together the summer before eight grade. Elody moved to Ridgeview freshmen year. At one of the first parties of the year she hooked up with Sean Morton, who Lindsay had had a crush on for six month. Everyone thought Lindsay would kill Elody. But the next Monday at school Elody was at our lunch table, and she and Lindsay were bent over a plate of curly fries, giggling and acting like they.d known each other forever. I”m glad. Even though Elody can sometimes be embarrassing, I think deep down she”s the nicest of any us”. (Oliver, 2010:38)

From the above quote, we can conclude that American teenagers can have the friends that they want and in the era of Obama promiscuity has become commonplace and not new thing to them. But only a few groups are able to make promiscuity become a positive thing and do not harm the society.

Not only that, American teenagers have a tremendous positive impact due to these social changes. So, not all American teenagers give a negative impact, even their care has become even greater for society, especially in Obama era. It may be pictured at the following quotation:

“I want to help you, “I say to Juliet, though I know that I can”t make her understand, not like this. Don”t you get it?” She turns to me, and to my surprise I see she”s crying. “I can”t be fixed, do you understand?” I think of standing on the stairs with Kent and saying exactly the same thing. I think of his beautiful light green eyes, and

the way he said. You don't need to be fixed and the warmth of his hands and the softness of his lips. I think of Juliet's mask and how maybe we all feel patched and stitched together and not quite right". (Oliver, 2010:338)

The positive impact that we can take from social change is to help someone. Then, the moral value of help in Lauren Oliver's novel can be seen in the helpful attitude that Samantha possesses of Juliet Sykes. Samantha runs to apologize and explains that Juliet will have an accident. But Juliet Sykes doesn't believe in Samantha. She ran faster and suddenly there was a car. And the end Samantha dies and Juliet Sykes crying and she says, "Sam you save me".

That's the life of adolescents in America, they become traumatized if there is someone who helps them even though before they often get bullied even it is very difficult to trust someone who has bullied them. But we can learn from American teenagers in Obama era, they can awaken themselves with the wrong deeds they have done.

4. CONCLUSIONS

After making the analysis and presenting the entire data in chapter four, in this chapter the writer makes the conclusions of the study based on the formulation of the problems, they are:

- 1) There are two things of social change that occurred in Obama era as reflected Lauren Oliver's novel "Before I Fall". They always do something as they like, they often mocked Juliet, they often do bad things. They enjoy promiscuity and want to try having intimate relationships especially Sam. Although this is common in America in Obama era even they become ashamed when they are found to have never committed intimate relationships in their teens and be bullied by their friends.
- 2) There are two impacts of social change in Obama era as reflected Lauren Oliver's novel "Before I Fall". They discover new environments and atmosphere and have new experiences. They want to try something they have never done without limits. American teenagers also have a high level sympathy to help and save their friends.

5. REFERENCES

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