

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A literary work is a creative activity of a work of art. In addition, literary works are imaginative works that are seen more broadly than works of fiction. Wellek and Warren (1995:3-4), literary works are generally works of art that are the author's expression of the results of his reflection on life with language, a literary work is also a picture of people's life poured in the form of writing by the author with his imagination, and one of the types of that literary work is a novel. A novel as one of the types of literary work can freely talk about the life experienced by man. Various rules and norms in its interaction with the environment so that in literary works (novels), there is a certain meaning about life.

Novels are able to present the development of one-character, complicated social situations, relationships involving many or a few characters, and various complicated events that occurred a few years ago in more detail. Another characteristic of novels is their ability to create a universe that is both complete and complex (Stanton, 2012: 90). The completeness contained in the novel always makes a reader and researcher able to imagine the fictional world.

Intimidation is one of a genre that is often used in literary works. Intimidation is an act or behavior that aims to frighten, coerce, or pressure a person or group of people to do something or cancel an action that has been taken. Intimidation can be done verbally or nonverbally.

In literature, intimidation is an important and prominent theme in a literary work. The depiction of intimidation in literature can describe how power can oppress

and influence others, and can describe the psychological impact that intimidation has on victims and perpetrators. In developing literary works, authors can use intimidation as a tool to build characters and plots, as well as a means to convey a moral message to readers. However, the depictions of intimidation in literature can also trigger trauma to readers who have similar experiences.

Literary depictions of intimidation can also describe how certain cultures or systems can facilitate or even justify intimidation behavior. Literary works can criticize and explore the negative effects of intimidation, and invite readers to empathize with victims and take action to prevent and overcome intimidation. In addition, literary works can also be a means to increase awareness and understanding of it.

In the literary context, intimidation is often associated with the themes of power and domination, as well as with the characteristics of powerful individuals. Therefore, depictions of intimidation in literature often show a conflict between power where the victim of intimidation and those in power try to maintain or gain power. In literary works, this can be reflected in the struggle between protagonist and antagonist characters. Intimidation is also often associated with broader social issues, such as race, gender, and social class. Literary works can describe how intimidation can be a form of discrimination and oppression of weaker or marginalized groups in society.

Women have transformed into areas of business and sex exploitation. In other words, nowadays it has lost the feminine nature that is proud and flattered not only by women but also by men. We can read this phenomenon from stories, advertisements, and films that almost sell the image of women as sex spreaders.

Power still belongs to men, while women's position is as male "harvesters" (Anshori, 1997:2).

Literary works are said to be tools intended for the author to express his ideas. Literary works, in this case, novels, are literary works written by authors based on true stories and imaginations that have many benefits (Anggraini, 2016: 67-76). The novel is also used as a conveyer of the author's ideology to the reader. The ideas expressed by the author are perceived by the reader.

Literature is an embodiment of the existence of life in society. Things that can be described in a literary work about society can be in the form of social structures, functions, and patterns of society, as well as about the social relations of society. The depiction of social interaction in society cannot be separated from the interaction between men and women. The interaction between the two opposite sexes can be an interesting theme that can be used as a study because it can create a pattern in people's lives both culturally and socially.

The theory of feminism is more appropriate to express the views of women in literary studies. Because, feminism is a theory about the equality of women with men, besides that feminism is used as an organizational activity to fight for the rights and liberation of women from male pressure. Feminism seeks to equalize the position between women and men (Anggraini, 2016) Feminist literary criticism is a major form of feminists' strong desire to examine literary works to show women's views that usually in the work of male writers mostly women are abused, or underestimated by patriarchal traditions.

In the point of view of feminism, there are two terms that describe the space of women's activities, namely domestic and public spaces. Domestic space is a woman's activity related to the household, while public space is related to women's

activities carried out outside the home, both interactions with the surrounding community and within the scope of work (Sugihastuti and Setiawan, 2010: 84). Domestic space is known for the role and function of women as domestic workers, this happens in the inferiority section of women. Women are in charge of looking after and educating children, cleaning the house, cooking etc. In the public sphere, men are more dominant over women, because basically men work hard to make a living. Socialist feminism asserts that gender differences in addition to class oppression are the origins of women's oppression that exude issues of economic imbalance, property rights for family and domestic survival, and the provision of workers' salaries are contained in the rules of capitalism. Socialist feminism asserts that gender differences in addition to class oppression are the origins of women's oppression that exude issues of economic imbalance, property rights for family and domestic survival and the provision of workers' salaries are contained in the rules of capitalism. So that the novel *Beauty is A Wound* by Eka Kurniawan shows that there is female resistance, as well as the determination of the main character Dewi Ayu when facing Japan in the colonial period, the strength of women in facing the miserable life, and the use of men by women to get their wishes.

The protagonist is the main character in a story. A protagonist is the key decision-maker that influences the plot of a story. The protagonist plays a major role in the storyline, often portrayed as the character who faces the most conflicts and obstacles. In a complex story that contains subplots, each subplot can have its own protagonist.

The researcher decided to analyze this topic because this study will explore the protagonist's fight against intimidation that occur and the way she got it. The

study focuses on the intimidation and the struggles of the protagonist to fight against the intimidation.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

In this study, the statement of the problem is required so that the problem can be easier and more focused to understand. Based on the background above, there are two problem elements to be formulated. The problems are:

1. What types of intimidation occur in the novel *Beauty is A Wound* by Eka Kurniawan?
2. How does the protagonist struggle to fight against intimidation in the novel *Beauty is A Wound* by Eka Kurniawan?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, there are two objectives that can be accepted in this research, namely as follows:

1. To explain the types of intimidation that occur in the novel *Beauty is A Wound* by Eka Kurniawan.
2. To understand the struggles of the protagonist to fight against intimidation in the novel *Beauty is A Wound* by Eka Kurniawan.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study in this research is important so that the problems that exist in this study lead to the point of the problem, and become more limited and focus to be analyzed. The researcher focuses on the intimidation that happens and the Protagonist's fight against the intimidation in Eka Kurniawan's novel *Beauty is A Wound*. The other topics that are not related to this study will not be discussed.

1.5 Significances of the Study

This research has two significances of the study. Theoretically, this study is expected to contribute any outstanding knowledge related to any element of literature. This contribution is regarded as important for students, as well as researchers in this particular field. Practically, this research trains students to understand literature more and provides information about the novel studied.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Intimidation

In *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, intimidation is defined as an act of frightening (especially to force another person or party to do something), bluffing, or threats. Intimidation is also said to be aggressive behavior that is intentional and carried out repeatedly to create pressure on other people, both physically and psychologically. In general, intimidation is a serious problem, and intimidation is usually defined as intentional, repeated physical or psychological actions carried out by people who hold power over the victim (Kowalski et al., 2014: 1073-1137).

According to Crow & Macintosh (2009), intimidation is an act of frightening, especially to force another person or party to do something, such as bullying, or threats of humiliation. Aini (2011) added that intimidation is generally caused by various factors, including the first being a harsh social environment, both in the economic, social, political, cultural, and so on. Phylogenetically, the nature of violence is innate, but to become an action, violence is a product of the social environment in society at large.

Indirectly, intimidation is behavior carried out by individuals or groups to achieve their goals. The goals of the individual or group can of course be positive or negative (Gumelar, 2022).

In the literary context, intimidation is often associated with the themes of power and domination, as well as with the characteristics of powerful individuals. Therefore, depictions of intimidation in literature often show a conflict between power where the victim of intimidation and those in power try to maintain or gain

power. In literary works, this can be reflected in the struggle between the protagonist and antagonist characters.

In several literary works, intimidation is also often associated with broader social issues, such as race, gender, and social class. Literary works can describe how intimidation can be a form of discrimination and oppression of weaker or marginalized groups in society.

2.1.1 Types of Intimidation

a. Verbal Intimidation

Verbal intimidation is a form of intimidation that is carried out by insulting, insulting, threatening, and mocking the victim with unkind words, calling bad names, making fun of, spreading bad rumors, threatening, speaking rudely, and criticizing cruelly. The aim is to influence the victim's mental condition (Mishna et.al, 2005: 718-738). Verbal intimidation is an action in the form of insulting, harassing, and labeling someone in a communication pattern (Gendron & Frenette, 2016).

Meanwhile, Lestari (2018) said that verbal intimidation is all forms of verbal acts that are insulting, shouting, cursing, and frightening by uttering inappropriate words. According to Shields (1999), verbal intimidation has a worse impact than violence carried out by physical means. This is because injuries resulting from physical intimidation can still be treated with various types of medicines. However, verbal intimidation requires recovery which tends to take longer through therapy and psychological assistance because of its abstract nature.

According to Kuvaja & Day (2021), there are several characteristics of verbal intimidation, namely:

- a) Usually carried out by people closest to the victim who has the opportunity to carry out verbal intimidation, namely where the victim finally believes the perpetrator that there is something wrong with him and begins to feel that he is worthless and that he is the source of the problem.
- b) Verbal intimidation is very manipulative and aims to control the victim.
- c) Verbal intimidation causes the victim's self-esteem to decrease without the victim realizing it, and they increasingly withdraw from their environment so that the victim will change their behavior and surrender to the behavior whether they realize it or not.

Based on the definition above, researchers conclude that verbal intimidation is threats, insults, harassment, humiliation, shouting, cursing, frightening, calling out bad names, making fun, spreading bad issues, threatening, saying rudely, and criticizing cruelly, and carrying out continuously which has the potential to result in psychological harm and, feelings of inferiority.

b. Physical Intimidation

Physical intimidation has a much more negative impact on the victim than verbal bullying. Because physical threats involve violence. Violence is usually carried out with bare hands, such as slapping or grabbing, and worst of all, with sharp weapons. This physical threat causes deep trauma for the victim who tends to blame themselves. Physical intimidation is usually carried out by people who feel they are physically stronger than other people (Mishna et.al, 2005: 718-738). This action is carried out as an attempt to control the victim with the power possessed by the perpetrator. This includes kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, pushing, and other physical attacks (Zakiyah et al., 2017). Physical intimidation is the most visible and

most identifiable form among other forms of intimidation. Afifi et al., (2016) add that the stronger and more mature the person doing the intimidation, the more dangerous this type of attack is, even if it is not intended to cause serious harm. This physical intimidation can cause short-term and long-term damage.

Based on the definition above, it can be concluded that physical intimidation is any form of physical violence involving kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, pushing, and other physical attacks.

c. Psychological Intimidation

Psychological intimidation aims to destroy the victim's mental and self-confidence. This is done by eliminating the trust of people around the victim, such as accusing him of stealing, exclusion, neglect, and shaming, slandering him, inviting other people to stay away from the victim, and inciting people around the victim to isolate the victim. As a result, the victim's self-confidence will decrease and his psychology will become disturbed (Mishna et.al, 2005: 718-738). According to Hufon (2023), psychological intimidation is an act of violence conveyed through body language or other non-physical actions, that target the opponent's psyche so that it can have a mental impact. The impact can even disrupt the victim's mental condition. Examples of psychological intimidation are humiliating, isolating, nagging, alienating, and even mentally suppressing the victim.

Based on the definition above, the researcher concludes that psychological intimidation is intimidation that attacks the victim's mental and mental health by humiliating, isolating, degrading, alienating, and weakening the victim's self-esteem.

2.2 The Influence of Intimidation in Literature

The depiction of intimidation in literature can affect the way readers perceive the characters, plots, and moral messages in literary works. The influence of intimidation in literature can shape the image of social, economic, and political society. Literature can strengthen or undermine the concept of social justice. According to Losey (2011:33), literary works that display intimidation can affect readers who have experienced or become victims of intimidation.

Some of the influences that can occur due to the depiction of intimidation in literature are:

- a. Convey a moral message: Literary depictions of intimidation can convey a moral message about the importance of avoiding behavior that frightens or coerces others and about the importance of rejecting intimidation and discrimination.
- b. Creates tension and conflict: It can create tension and conflict between characters, which can increase the level of drama in a literary work.
- c. Demonstrates power dynamics: Intimidation in literature can also reveal power and domination dynamics in the relationships between characters, as well as show the impact of power imbalances in society.

2.3 Theory of Feminism

Feminism is a theory about the equality of women with men, besides that feminism is used as an organizational activity to fight for the rights and liberation of women from male pressure. Feminism seeks to equalize the position between women and men (Anggraini, 2016: 67). Feminist literary criticism is a major form of feminists' strong desire to examine literary works to show women's views that

usually in the work of male writers mostly women are abused, or underestimated by patriarchal traditions. Feminism is a women's movement that demands emancipation or equal and just rights with men.

Feminism is unlike any other view or understanding. Feminism does not originate from a theory or concept based on a single theoretical formula. That is why, there is no abstraction of the specific understanding of the application of feminism to all women throughout the ages. The definition of feminism according to Khatimah and Sai'dah (2003: 34) is an awareness of the oppression and exploitation of women that occurs both in the family, at work, and in society as well as the conscious action of men and women to change the situation lexically. Feminism is a movement that demands full equality between women and men. The understanding of feminism can change due to feminist understandings or views based on historical and cultural reality, as well as the level of awareness of perception and behavior.

Feminism is a theory about the equality of women with men, besides that feminism is used as an organizational activity to fight for the rights and liberation of women from male pressure. The novel *Beauty is A Wound* by Eka Kurniawan shows that there is female resistance, as well as the determination of the main character Dewi Ayu when facing Japan in the colonial period, the strength of women in facing the miserable life, and the use of men by women to get their wishes. Therefore, the theory of feminism is more appropriate to express the views of women in literary studies in this research.

2.4 Fight Against Intimidation

James C. Scott in Asiktiyan (2002: 13-15) defines resistance as all types of resistance carried out by the weak against the powerful with the aim of reducing or

rejecting all demands that harm the weak or asking for the rights they should get. In this definition, it can be understood that resistance is a form of resistance carried out by one or more people who intend to reject the demands of classes of people who are against classes of people who are weak. Fighting against something is also classified as resistance.

According to James C. Scott (Asiktiyan, 2002: 13-15), there are two types of resistance, namely as follows:

a. Open resistance

Open resistance is an organized and overt form of open and overt resistance. The form of resistance in open resistance is by violent means such as rebellion.

b. Closed resistance

Close resistance is resistance that is carried out clandestinely secretly and unorganized. Some examples of closed resistance are gossiping, slandering, lack of respect for the authorities, etc.