

**THE CASTE SYSTEM IN PRAMOEDYA ANANTA TOER'S
NOVEL “*BUMI MANUSIA*”**

A THESIS

By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	i
ABSTRACT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	3
1.4 Scope of the Study.....	4
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	4
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 The Caste System	5
2.1.1 The Caste System Influence.....	7
2.1.2 The Structure of the Caste System During The Dutch Colonial Period.....	9
2.1.3 The Function of the Caste System During The Dutch Colonial Period.....	10
CHAPTER III METHOD OF THE STUDY	12
1.1 Research Design.....	12
1.2 Data Collection.....	12
3.3 Data Analysis.....	13
CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS	14
4.1 Analysis	14
4.1.1The Impact of the Caste System on Individual Rights and Opportunities for Social Mobility.....	14
4.1.2 The Character’s Rejection of the Established Social Order....	18
4.1.3 The Caste System in the Social Structure of Dutch East Indies Society	26
4.2 Findings	28
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	29
5.1 Conclusion.....	29
5.2 Recommendation	29
REFERENCES	30
APPENDIXES	33

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APPENDIXES

Biography of the Author

Pramoedya Ananta Toer was born on the island of Java in February 6th 1925. He was imprisoned by the Dutch from 1947 to 1949 for his role in the Indonesian revolution, then by the Indonesian government as a political prisoner. Many of his works have been written while in prison, including the Burn Quartet (*Bumi Manusia*, *Anak Semua Bangsa*, *Jejak Langkah*, and *Rumah Kaca*) which was conceived in stories the author told to other prisoners during his confinement on Burn Island from 1969 to 1979.

Pramoedya is the author of thirty works of fiction and nonfiction. His novels have been translated into twenty languages. He received the PEN Freedom-to-write Award in 1988 and the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1995. He is currently under city arrest in Jakarta where his books are banned and selling them a crime punishable by imprisonment.

Pramoedya Ananta Toer is one of the Indonesian writers who became an enemy of the New Order. Pramoedya Ananta Toer spent much of his life in exile during the New Order government. His works were banned from publication and even burned because they were considered communist.

The writer, who is familiarly called Pram, is the eldest of eight children of the couple Mastoer and Oemi Saidah. His father was a teacher, while his mother was a rice trader. Pram deliberately removed the Javanese prefix "Mas" from his last name because he felt it was too aristocratic. Pramoedya Ananta Toer attended elementary school at the Boedi Oetomo Institute in Blora. When he was in elementary school, Pram was not promoted three times. This made his father, who was the school principal, feel very embarrassed. He was also considered a stupid child. In fact, after Pram graduated, his father did not want to register him for the next level of school. Fortunately, his mother was willing to pay for and send Pram to Radio Vackschool (telegraph school). Pram actually graduated from the telegraph school, but he didn't get his graduation certificate because it coincided with the arrival of Japan to Indonesia.

When Pram was 17 years old, his mother died, followed by his seven-month-old sister Soesanti. Later, he had to become the backbone of the family because his father liked to gamble. In May 1942, Pram decided to move to Jakarta with all his siblings. He worked at the Domei News Agency to support himself and his younger siblings. While working, Pram continued his education at Taman Dewasa/Taman Siswa (1942-1943) and attended a course at Stenography school (1944-1945), so that he could become a fast typist and become a stenographer. In 1945, Pram then attended the Islamic College to study philosophy, sociology and history. It was this life of struggle in his youth that probably shaped Pram into a writer who was sensitive to the pain and misery of the common people.

Summary of the Novel

Bumi Manusia is a fictional novel with a historical drama genre that is set during the Dutch colonial period. In this book, the life of a young Indigenous man named Minke is also told. Minke attends H.B.S or Hogere Burgerschool, which is the same level as Senior High School (SMA) and is only for Europeans, Dutch, and Indigenous elites.

Tirto Adhi Soerjo, whom people called Minke (Nyai Ontosoroh called him Sinyo), was the son of the Regent of Wonokromo city B so he was educated to become a Regent like his father, but he refused to do so. As a native, Minke was a good student at H.B.S, a lover of literature, and had a knack for writing. It was evident that he became quite well known in Java as his writings were published in Dutch newspapers under the name Max Tollenaar (a pseudonym).

However, the education Minke received at H.B.S made him a person who respected Europeans, especially because of the teaching of his teacher, Juffrouw Magda Peters. In Bumi Manusia, Minke praises and respects the Europeans and no longer cares about Javanese culture, as his native culture.

In the end, Minke realized and found out that the Europeans he praised and respected were none other than the oppressors of other nations. This is told in depth by Pramoedya, which initially Minke respects and praises Europeans until finally he hates what he has done so far.

The story of *Bumi Manusia* begins when Minke gets a challenge from his friend, named Robert Suurhof to go to Wonokromo to a beautiful Indo-European girl, Annelies Mellema. Until then, Suurhof became Minke's rival because they liked and loved the same person, Annelies Mellema. However, Annelies loves Minke instead. Annelies lives in a luxurious and beautiful house with a Nyai named Nyai Ontosoroh and her brother, Robert Mellema.

In the novel *Bumi Manusia*, not only Minke and Annelies are emphasized, but also Nyai Ontosoroh. It is told that she was sold to the Dutch by her own father. This was done so that his father could occupy a higher position. Unfortunately, without a marriage bond, Nyai Ontosoroh had to live together with Mr. Mellema, a person she had never known.

Nyai Ontosoroh has a grudge against her parents and is determined to raise her own dignity through her knowledge. Nyai Ontosoroh learned a lot from Mr. Mellema, namely living like a European, reading various European books, learning to read and write, and company management.

In the beginning, Mr. Mellema was very kind and loving to Nyai Ontosoroh even though she was never married by religion and law. However, all of that disappeared when Mr. Mellema's legitimate son from the Netherlands came to work in Indonesia and sued Mr. Mellema. This causes Mr. Mellema to leave Nyai Ontosoroh and the situation becomes chaotic.

However, Nyai Ontosoroh already had experience and learned a lot with Annelies, until finally they founded and built a very large company. By doing so, she proved to people that although she was only a Nyai, she was able to be respected because of the abundant wealth obtained from her own sweat and became an independent woman.

In addition, Robert Mellema, Annelies Mellema's older brother, tends to follow his father and is reluctant to recognize Nyai Ontosoroh as his mother. Minke's presence in their lives, namely Nyai Ontosoroh and Annelies, was warmly welcomed by both of them. However, it is not liked by many people, especially Minke's parents. This is because Ontosoroh is a 'Nyai'.

The term Nyai at that time was considered a woman who did not have norms of decency because of her status as a 'mistress'. So from there, Nyai Ontosoroh began to try and study hard so that she could be treated like a human being in general.

Then, Minke was not only opposed by his parents, but he was also attacked by Robert Mellema and Suurhof who said that he was only after Nyai Ontosoroh's wealth. In the midst of many obstacles and challenges, Minke persistently tried to find Annelies. It was worth the many challenges out there because Annelies was a beautiful woman with a gentle and kind personality. This is evident through her attitude of being able to manage the company with Nyai Ontosoroh, as her mother.

After passing through various obstacles and obstacles that are very long and complicated, finally Minke and Annelies get married, they live happily, Minke's career has improved very well. Minke has also graduated from his school, H.B.S with a satisfactory rating. In fact, previously Minke had been dismissed by the school because of various accusations against him who had done inappropriate things with a Nyai. However, he managed to get through and deal with it all.

All the happiness Minke had gotten, until finally there was a disaster that came to him again, he was very very down and down. Dutch law or European law had brought him down. A nation that he respected and praised.

After the death of Mr. Mellema, which is still a big question mark, indeed from the beginning Mr. Mellema's legitimate son who comes from the Netherlands has messed up the household between Mr. Mellema and Mrs. Ontosoroh, namely by demanding Mr. Mellema's property which has long been managed by Ontosoroh.

Annelies also became the victim because she was the legitimate daughter of Mr. Mellema. Annelies need to be returned to Europe and must be willing to leave Minke and Nyai Ontosoroh. Why is Nyai not included? It was because from the beginning, Nyai was never legally married to Mr. Mellema so he had to confess all the companies he had built with Annelies.

Minke and Nyai Ontosoroh tried as much as possible to defend and protect the company and Annelies who were about to be brought to the Netherlands. However, European law remained impartial to Indigenous people like them (Minke and Nyai Ontosoroh).

Characters in the Novel

Minke

Minke is the main character in the novel. The novel's point of view of human Earth uses the first-person perspective of Minke. Minke's life journey describes the internal and external conflicts faced by individuals in the colonial period.

Minke is a young Javanese student of great intelligence sensitivity and ambition. Living equally among the colonists and colonized of late 19th century Java. He battles against the confines of colonial structures. The son of noble Javanese, he moves easily among the Dutch and their ideas and language but is prevented from enjoying their rights. He also falls desperately in love with the beautiful Indo-European named Annelies, and it is through her and her extraordinary family that Minke finds the strength to embrace his world-the world of Indonesia-and all its beauty and possibility, brutality, and anger.

Minke, was a young native who attended school among the Europeans. An erudite man, who always wanted to know things. From his interactions with Annelies and his mother, Minke is the type of man who is good at encouraging a woman. Minke is not a maniac. It was recorded from his words to his mother, that he wanted to be a free man. Although, he's the son of a respected man. A lot of people want to make him their son-in-law.

Nyai Ontosoroh

Nyai Ontosoroh who is actually named Sanikem is a prominent figure in the novel Bumi Manusia. She was the mistress of Herman Mellema, a Dutch man who owned an agricultural company. Nyai Ontosoroh is described as having a broad insight, especially about European customs and culture. His ability to speak Madurese demonstrates his closeness to the local culture, which creates an additional dimension in his character.

The term "Nyai" in that era for people who became concubines, or illegitimate wives. Usually, the illegitimate marriage is between the employer and his subordinate. Usually, too, it is called "concubine". Nyai Ontosoroh was a concubine, sold by her own father. However, he was an educated, knowledgeable Nyai-Nyai, even though he was not in school at all. His main school is his own life experience

and Mr. Mellema. He learned to read and everything from Mr. Mellema, until finally, he was able to run his company alone, after Mr. Mellema lost his mind. The severity of Nyai Ontosoroh, of course, because of resentment in the past. A past that he cannot forgive and accept. This, effect on psychic Annelies.

Annelise Mellema

Annelies Mellema, told by a beautiful Indo-European woman. Son of Nyai Ontosoroh and Mr. Mellema. Basically, Annelies are deft women. He worked in the family company, as a foreman for the workers in his company. However, she is also a weak woman and very dependent on others. Since the early chapters, it has been described that way. In addition to his weak heart, he is also described as physically weak. Obviously, Annelies ' physical weakness was due to her weak heart. When she broke up with Minke, Annelies really missed her man, so much so that she fell ill. In fact, Annelies have a personal doctor. Of course, the nature of Annelies like this is not without reason. The main reason, because his own mother Nyai Ontosoroh and bad things he experienced with his own older brother; Robert Mellema.

Robert Mellema

Robert Mellena is the first child of Nyai Ontosoroh the fruit of love with Mr. Herman Mellema, but it is not reflected at all that both are a child-mother. This happened because Robert Mellena also considered himself a full-blooded European, who only wanted to take advantage of the natural wealth owned by Nyai Ontosoroh in it.

Robert is Annelies ' older brother. His role in the novel is also quite strong: it gives a dimension of conflict and family dynamics in the story. His interactions with Minke provide further insight into the social and cultural differences of the time.

Herman Mellema

Herman Mellema is a Dutch man who keeps Nyai Ontosoroh as his mistress. From his relationship with Nyai Ontosoroh, he has two children, namely Robert Mellema and Annelies Mellema. Herman Mellema is described as having no responsibility towards his own family. He has a legal wife named Amelia Mellema Hammers who lives in Europe.

Jean Marais

Jean Marais was a French painter and friend of Minke. His involvement in the story opens up an additional perspective to the colonial system from the point of view of a foreigner.

Robert Suurhof

Robert Surrhof is an Indo who claims to be European (Dutch), has the characteristics of a colonizer, Dutch colonialism that openly insults and harasses Minke as an indigenous land crocodile, womanizer, and does not yet have a high civilization. Clearly illustrated the negative relationship of Indo figures, because it insults the humanity of the colonized.

Juffrouw Magda Peters

Magda Peters is an ethical Dutch teacher at the school where Minke studied. Their interactions reflected differing views on the social and political issues of the time.