

TASHA'S STRUGGLE AGAINST PATRIARCHY IN JANE GREEN'S "STRAIGHT TALKING"

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Abstract

Patriarchal culture has been rooting in the society, for decades woman's lives have been put under man's control. Patriarchy gives man privilege to grow with ultimate and authority. On the other hand, woman are forced to accept the gender division as the second class who live under inequality and oppression. Thus, as the victim of the patriarchal culture, woman get affected both physically and mentally. Due to those reasons, conducting this study is important because it gives an awareness of patriarchy system that are practiced in society. The study aim describing; (1) The reflection of patriarchy is in Tasha's life (2) Tasha's struggle against patriarchy and (3) The effect of Tasha's struggle against patriarchy. This study is descriptive qualitative research. The subject of the study is a novel *Straight Talking* by Jane Green. The data source about the study is novel. The data are the quotations from the novel which are related to the topic of the study. This study discusses about the patriarchy of the novel. The novel contains a life journey story of the main character named Anastasia, or called Tasha, who struggle against patriarchy of her life. The technique of collecting data is reading, understanding, and classifying the novel. The result of the study shows that the novel *straight talking* by Jane Green describes all the structures. There are patriarchal relations in household, patriarchal relations in work office and patriarchal relations in loves. The novel emphasizes on value of patriarchy. To conclude the study of patriarchy, this study attempts to identify both the reason and the process of her struggle in terms of character using patriarchy as the main concept.

Keywords: *Patriarchy, Infidelity, Oppression, Struggle, Society*

INTRODUCTION

Before feminist usage, patriarchy has its absolute concept at first. The origin of the word patriarchy comes from greek which means 'father who rules the family' (Pierik, 2018). Patriarchy is described as a general structure in which man have power over woman. Moreover, the patriarchal system that dominates culture encourages the formation of gender injustice, which influences various fields and aspects of human activity, so that the position and role of man are bigger and more dominant than the position of woman. In *The Second Sex* (De Beauvoir, 1989: 16) criticizes the cultural identification of woman as simply the negative object, or "Other", to man who is regarded as the dominating Subject and is presumed to represent humanity in general. Through literary work, we can convey opinions and thoughts to the public. In this study, the author using the novel as the source. One of the social life of society is the relationship between man and woman. Man and woman have characteristics that are inherent in each individual. Human beings, whether men, women, or children, do not flourish when hyper-masculinity is glorified and traditionally feminine qualities (such as care, caretaking, and valuing relationships) are denigrated. (Becker, 1999:22). It means that these traits are socially constructed in people's lives. The concept of gender emerged. Differences of gender do not really matter if they do not become gender inequality, but in most practices in social life,

these differences always result in gender inequality. The occurrence of gender inequality is more experienced by woman and cannot be separated from the patriarchal culture that is still very attached to society. The institution in the formation of a patriarchal culture is the family. Patriarchal culture is well preserved in both traditional and modern societies as the smallest unit of patriarchy, the family contributes greatly in strengthening this ideology. Opportunities for woman to play a role in the economy are also needed. The story of patriarchy system can be found in many literary works. These stories are usually taken from true stories that occur in society. Many authors use patriarchal power as the topic of their literary work, especially woman authors. They also created a new fictional story with this topic. In order to unravel ourselves from the patriarchal society, we need to be aware of the patriarchy system and unravel ourselves from it. The process of maintaining the system enforce from two ways which are through socialization and path of least resistance (*Johnson, 2005:29*). It means that by being able to socialize and choose a path which is not patriarchal oriented, we will be able to unravel ourselves from the patriarchy system. The main character in the novel has to face with affair and patriarchy. Since the feminist movement was initiated, many activists have gathered to oppose patriarchy. To reveal the patriarchy system of the main character in the *Straight Talking*, the author refers to the theories of M. H. Abrams on *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Describes characters as person presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral, dispositional, and emotional qualities that are expressed in what they say and what they do (*Abrams, 1985: 23*). In *Straight talking* novel these ideals are intersected with other images of promised satisfaction that is represented by main character. The female characters are proven to contribute in generating and maintaining the patriarchy system in their society. By proving the participation of the oppressed female characters in generating the patriarchy system does not necessarily intend to show them as unworthy victim or worth to be blamed. The intention of showing the female participation is to prove that by unraveling the condition, we can show that each contribution and participation from the victim might bring change to their life. We can find the struggle of modern woman against patriarchy. The story about main character named Anastasia, or called Tasha is a thirty year old English woman working as a television producer in London. She is perpetually single and has had few long-term relationships. Tasha's insecurities in regards to man and dating stem from her longest relationship, with a man named Simon, that ended abruptly when Simon revealed that he had been unfaithful. In addition, it is revealed that Tasha's father had multiple affairs during Tasha's youth, one of which she discovered herself. Learn from her experience, finally she build strength financially against power patriarchy with her ability to be independent woman. *Straight Talking* is a romance novel by Jane Green. The author choose this novel because of the patriarchy system that appears in the novel *Straight Talking*. Another reason, this novel is about a woman who struggles to live with the power of woman.

The author will answer the following questions:

1. How is reflection of patriarchy is in Tasha's life?
2. How does Tasha's struggle against patriarchy?
3. What is the effect of Tasha's struggle against patriarchy?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is categorized into literary criticism because in this study the author conduct discussion of literature, including description, analysis, and interpretation of a literary work. Literary criticism is intend to analyze, evaluate, justify, describe, or judge a literary work. The research design is intended to provide an appropriate framework for a study (*Sileyew, 2016, p. 2*) it means that research can be defined as the systematic and objective analysis and recording controlled observations that may lead to the development. The qualitative method is suitable for this study because the the data in this study requires verification, description and understanding to analyze the power of patriarchy system in the novel. Literary criticism

aims to analyze, evaluate, justify, or evaluate a literary work. This research is focused on the analysis aspect of literary criticism. The symbol of patriarchy and how it creates abuse against some women character to be analyzed in this study. While descriptive qualitative, the method used in this study. Qualitative methods is a research method to explore and understand the meaning that some individuals or groups of people think come from social or human problems (Creswell, 2013). Furthermore, the results from the data presented in the form of words and sentences, not numerical data. According to Aspers and Corte, It can define that qualitative research as an iterative process in which improved understanding to the scientific community is achieved by making new significant distinctions resulting from getting closer to the phenomenon studied. This formulation is developed as a tool to help improve research designs while stressing that a qualitative dimension is present in quantitative work as well. Additionally, it can facilitate teaching, communication between researchers, diminish the gap between qualitative and quantitative researchers, help to address critiques of qualitative methods, and be used as a standard of evaluation of qualitative research. (Aspers and Corte, 2019:1). The source of the data in this study is the novel entitled *Straight Talking* by Jane Green. The novel contains 310 pages, published by Broadway in United States of America in 2003. The data of this study are dialogs and sentences in the novel that support the analysis.

FINDING AND DISSCUSION

1. How is reflection of patriarchy is in Tasha's life

Relationship between man and woman such as dating, engagement, and marriage is an agreement or commitment carried out by the two people. However, not all married couples end happily like stories in fairy tales. Betrayal can break relationship commitments, ultimately hurting trust in romantic relationships. in the story of this novel, such as affair and cheating. In the novel *Straight Talking* that several man characters are involved in extramarital affairs. In patriarchal society, when a married man has an affair with another woman, it is the woman that will be accused. The infidelity in a relationship in *Straight Talking* was committed by Tasha's father named Robert. Robert work as lawyer and he really loving Tasha more as his daughter. Tasha's childhood is normal and happy. She has both parents and they seem to be happy together. But everything ends instantly when Tasha finds out that her father affair with another woman.

We were having what we thought was a deep and meaningful conversation, when I happened to glance up and out the window. There, walking along the pavement opposite me was my father. My face lit up as I got ready to run out of the restaurant and greet him, what a lovely surprise. But then I noticed that the woman at his side was holding his hand, and of course she wasn't my mother, she was a friend of my parents, a woman who had never been married, a woman who, I suppose, used to have affairs with married men (Green, 2003: 99).

From the narration above, it can describe that Tasha's feelings at that time is so angry, so upset and did not want to talk to her father anymore. Tasha carrying the burden of her father's infidelities around for her whole life, even her parents did not got a divorce at that time, but she was knew everything had changes in her family. Even though her father and mother were not divorced, Tasha's mother figure in *Straight Talking* is a strong woman. She persists with an unfaithful husband. Affair in relationship is also experienced by Tasha herself. Tasha has boyfriend named Simon and they live together in Simon's apartment. One day when Tasha want to laundry Simon's jacket, she found a photo of the woman in one of pocket. She can't believe the fact that Simon has another love and having an affair. Tasha thinks to accept Simon as her boyfriend is good decision. They live together for quite a long time and spend a lot of time together.

I thought Simon loved me, and I thought, oh how stupid I was, I thought love was enough. But do you know the worst thing about looking at the photographs and feeling these feelings? The worst thing was that if I was a bloke I'd feel the same way. If I was a bloke and had to choose between me and her, I'd choose her. No contest (Green, 2003:49).

It is clear the position of the main character who looks at her that she have power over yourself. Even though in environmental view society she is positioned in a low status, the main character views she has more value than a woman who feels safe with its status under male rule. Here is a form of awareness which the character has instilled in himself, by breaking away from community assessment.

I think subconsciously it's what I think I deserve. It's what I know, family equals betrayal. My father betrayed me and my mother, so I wait for my boyfriends to do the same thing. If they're not betraying me by being unfaithful, I'll find another reason. (*Green*, 2003:101).

The pain that Tasha got from her father's affair and endured not to divorce from her mother but have a relationship with another woman, traumatized and deeply disappointed. This makes her always have great doubts about the opposite sex and it also determines her attitude when she finds out her boyfriend's having an affair with another woman. It was her father's affair that became one of the causes of Tasha against patriarchy. She finally realized that she was wrong if she only blamed one side in the case of her father's affair, then she finally tried to fight the patriarchy through her attitude when she found out that her boyfriend had an affair. In the novel, betrayal in relationship is not only experienced by Tasha and Tasha's mother but also to the one of the minor characters who is an old woman meet Tasha on the bus accidentally. The old woman tells to Tasha how her family is destroyed because of affair. It is proved with her remark *My husband left me for another woman, Slung him out, I did, you're much better off without them* (*Green*, 2003: 119). Woman find it easier to vent their fears on other woman in a state full of emotions about an affair.

2. Tasha's Struggle Against Patriarchy

In patriarchy, woman are always forced to be stupid, wrong, defeated and inferior. In the *Straight Talking*, Tasha grew up become a smart, active and responsive woman like an ordinary woman at that time. In other side, she also grows into an independent woman that redirect her energies into her careers. All of this is did by Tasha so that man don't look down on the woman. The woman can also work well and get what she wants. Some of the narrative that explain the experience behind the feminist mindset of Tasha.

I'm successful, in a fashion. I earn enough money to go on shopping binges at Joseph every three months or so, and I own my own flat. OK, it's not in the smartest part of London, but if you closed your eyes between the car and the front door, you might-only might, mind-just think you were in Belgravia (*Green*, 2003:3).

The quotation means that Tasha used to shopping to show her identity as a modern woman that always brings up a fashion as her glamour life style, to show her capability in financial and show her class. It's also a self-actualization for Tasha to be experienced in love and struck up an acquaintance with everyone her like. Both of that things represent a basic pleasure as a concrete tangible of a sexual revolution in woman's life, that also means those freedom guide them to be better educated and earn money on average, expresses the level of sexual confidence and taking control of their own self-consciousness about their bodies or of their own to be loved. Through a moment hang out day and shopping, give a deep image for the woman movement in society, it's not only about spend a lot of money, but it's more concerned with espouse control and choice for woman. all those things Tasha did to divert her thoughts to make relationship anymore with all of man. It can be proven with the narrative below.

you're wondering how I earn my money, I'm a television producer. A bit of a joke, isn't it? I who leads such an exciting glamorous life, producing a daytime television show, I who rubs shoulders with the stars every day of her life, I who can't find a bloody man (*Green*, 2003:5).

The narrative clearly tells about the current condition of Tasha's life. With all the success, both in career and work, or appearance and fashion. She had everything that woman want in her life. Some of the perfection that only existed in the fairyland that Tasha already had. There is not much difference between Tasha's life and other woman in general. In fact, Tasha has a job that many people probably want. Often meeting and talking with famous artists is his daily job. Trying to look great and charming is another effort

made by Tasha in order to struggle against patriarchy. At the workplace, Tasha has a good achievement in careers. However, Tasha has not married yet at the age of thirty. That circumstances makes Tasha to be harassed by her television presenter. This is evident from one scene where David Miller, a married man, tries to seduce her and asks her out with the reason to appreciate Tasha's performance in a producing talk show on television. It can be proven with the narrative below.

David Miller is interested in me, and assumes that flattery will get him everywhere. Except in this case it won't, because attractive as he is, he's also married and as I think about how to respond to his invitation, my eye catches the photos stuck into the frame of the mirror behind him. Two cherubic blonde girls and a plump but still pretty wife (*Green*, 2003: 160).

Man as the dominant party in the patriarchal system of society become the shapers of values and norms in society, while woman as the subordinated party become the only recipients. Actually, woman have the right to be treated fairly and equally in the public sphere, from simple things to more complex things. The point is that there must not be any oppression for woman in any areas of life. Tasha must be treated fairly at the workplace due to her achievement in work. Her position as a single woman must not become the reason for man to harass her. When producing a talk show on television, Tasha often invites guest stars who agree with her mindset. Ruby's a woman who is had enough, a woman who is forced herself to be happy with her life and her friends. Tasha invites Ruby Everest to be a guest speaker on a television show that discusses about Betrayals in Love. Tasha met her earlier in the Green Room, and immediately warmed to her.

3. The Effect of Tasha's Struggle Against Patriarchy

Similarly to the situation in *Straight Talking* novel, all the concepts of Tasha's mindset start from a happy family under one roof. A happy family under one roof, with a loyal father who wholeheartedly loves his mother and child. A simple logic that is very difficult and complicated to be realized by most humans. Generally, the complexity comes from themselves to sometimes have an impact on psychological and mental changes. It is not an easy thing to be loyal to one person after marriage for the remaining half of our lives, but that does not mean involving other people will make life easier, because the presence of one unwanted person in a family can destroy anything we have worked hard to build before. The concept of a normal family that indirectly supports the patriarchal system sometimes undermines the confidence of an adult woman, as if woman are born and educated to be a good wife and mother for their family and her life only ends there, the same as what Tasha thought at her age over more she is not young anymore.

I was never supposed to be single at thirty years old. I was supposed to be like my mother, wasn't I? Married, a couple of kids, a nice home with Colefax and Fowler wallpaper and a husband with a sports car and a mistress or two (*Green*, 2003:1).

The simple but special expectations that most woman have from the impact of the concept of patriarchy on some social activities. Eventhough these expectations are not all in line with their ideals who only want a happy family without disturbance, in the narrative Tasha dares to confront the bad truth which has indeed been mixed in scope relations. Woman have rights and obligations that are almost the same as man even though here the man who holds the greatest responsibility is still the head of the family that called Patriarchy. The effect of the implementation of the dominant patriarchy in the setting of the novel also makes Tasha lose confidence in herself just because she is old and unmarried.

Sometimes I think it's me. I think I must be doing something wrong, giving out subliminal messages so they can smell the desperation, read the neon lights on my forehead...KEEP AWAY FROM THIS WOMAN, SHE IS LOOKING FOR COMMITMENT, but most of the time I think it's them. Bastards. All of them (*Green*, 2003:2).

From the narration above, it can be concluded that every incident that she has experienced due to the concept of patriarchy in a social environment, makes Tasha think that all man are anti-committal to one woman. Despite having a very extraordinary mental crisis due to the impact of the application of Patriarchy that

occurred in her environment, but Tasha tried to continue living, to make peace with the situation, to rise up and forgive infidelity, even though all of it was not as easy. From the narration it can be seen that Tasha has a bit of trauma to the patriarchal system in a relationship, she said *KEEP AWAY FROM THIS WOMAN, SHE IS LOOKING FOR COMMITMENT*, which indicates that demanding a status in a relationship to man is a taboo and obvious thing that most man will stay away from a woman with commitment, despite the fact that not all man are afraid or do not want clear status or commitment. Besides being disappointed with the patriarchal system, which had a major impact on her life, Tasha finally chose to support her concept by inviting Ruby, the heartbroken woman, in a talk show she produced. It's a feeling of revenge. It is prove with the narration *The guest is Ruby Everest, larger-than-life stand-up comedienne who specializes in degrading men. My kind of gal* (Green, 2003:8). It was her revenge for the impact of the Patriarchal construction that occurred in her life. According to Tasha, by inviting Ruby who was indirectly detected as a liberal feminist figure because it was stated that she specializes in degrading man. According to Tasha, it can have an impact on people's mindsets about the concept of patriarchy in social life, especially in the family sphere. After going through many events in her life related to the behavior of man towards Tasha as a woman, she turns into a tough, hard, cold and hard person to trust the opposite sex (especially about love) but deep down she is actually a soft woman. It proved with the narrative of Tasha's.

You think I'm bitter? If you'd been dumped from a great height by what feels like practically every single man in London, you'd be slightly bitter. But bear with me and you'll discover I'm not quite as bitter as I sound (Green, 2003:4).

When you fall in love, increased levels of dopamine in the brain can cause feelings of euphoria. That feeling can affect a person, as well as the main character in this novel, Tasha, who feels that her life has been completed and destroyed because of Simon's infidelity.

CONCLUSION

The topic of this research begins in Tasha's Struggle Against Patriarchy In Jane Green's "*Straight Talking*". Based on the analysis above, the formal novel elements used by the author to analyze the novel such as plot and characters are also in accordance with the theme of indirect patriarchal resistance in *Straight Talking*, by analyzing how the main character survives against patriarchy and ends up becoming an independent woman. From the problem formulation, it can be concluded that each problem formulation has conclusions, psychological impacts, and social impacts that affect physical and emotional. Which is the main character's struggle to get psychological justice from his fiancé's infidelity. In the novel, it is told that indirectly the main character, who is a woman, experiences psychological pressure because of the impact of the patriarchal system which applies if woman are second-class humans. Woman have been placed as the second sex after man in various ethnicities and nations since long ago. The placement of woman as human class has implications for discriminatory treatment of them in various sectors of life. Changes in emotional feelings also occur and are experienced by woman after being separated from a relationship or being betrayed by the man she trusted the most, such as her father, her friend office, and her boyfriend. Furthermore, woman will realize that there are no differences in nature between themselves and man except Menstruation, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Breastfeeding, and Menopause. Apart from that, humans are noble beings who have the same degree regardless of the controversy over the patriarchal system that is still applied in several states in the world. Likewise, what parents experience may not necessarily be experienced by their children, as well as the disharmony between Tasha's parents, Tasha does not have to feel this disharmony with her partner, even though her father's infidelity continues to haunt her life. Tasha through the novel tried to told the readers that the woman are at a stage where humans can make rash decisions and are vulnerable to social pressures, who want to have a world in their idealism outside of children even though they cannot be categorized as adults. The author sees that resistance or defense of a way of life in a social system such as Patriarchy is the result of a period that all humans must go through.

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