

Prosodi

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Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa dan Sastra
Program Studi Sastra Inggris
Universitas Trunojoyo

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~ **Albertus Suwardi**

Comprehending English Idioms: Strategies Used by Indonesian EFL Speakers and Implications for TEFL

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~ **Hat Pujiati**

Semantics-Pragmatics: What It Is

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DAFTAR ISI

Halaman Redaksi	i
Daftar Isi	ii
A Marxist Interpretation of Shirley Jackson's The Lottery ~ Albertus Suwardi	79-85
Comprehending English Idioms: Strategies Used by Indonesian EFL Speakers and Implications for TEFL ~ Yazid Basthomi	86-96
✓ The Psychoanalysis of Firdaus in Nawal El-Saadawi's Women at Point Zero ~ Lisetyo Ariyanti	97-106
Metaphor, Paradox and Symbol in Shakespeare's Coriolanus ~ Imron W. Harits	107-115
Wacana Tubuh Perempuan dalam Tiga Cerpen Periode Tahun 2000an: Ha...Ha...Ha..., Mutilasi, dan Akar Pule ~ Hat Pujiati	116-133
Semantics-Pragmatics: What It Is ~ Suryo Tri Saksono	134-141
Petunjuk bagi Penulis	

THE PSYCHOANALYSIS OF FIRDAUS IN NAWAL EL-SAADAWI'S WOMEN AT POINT ZERO

Lisetyo Ariyanti*

Abstrak: Wanita di Mesir dianggap sebagai seorang yang berbahaya dikarenakan kebebasan mereka. Wanita dianggap sebagai ekspresi dari dosa dan godaan. Wanita selalu diperlakukan tidak adil dan selalu menderita akibat kekerasan laki-laki. Fenomena ini dapat dilihat melalui sebuah karya Nawal El-Saadawi, *Women At Zero Point*, karena cerita ini berisi tentang karakter wanita yang berjuang untuk bertahan dalam mendapatkan hak-hak mereka berhubungan dengan latar belakang sosiobudaya sebagai seorang wanita mesir yang akan dianalisa secara psikososial dan psikoseksual. Paper ini didasarkan pada teori psikososial, psikoseksual dan psikoanalisis Malinowski. Paper ini menunjukkan bahwa pengalaman Firdaus pada "unknown" seks ketika dia masih anak-anak, mempengaruhi perilaku seksualnya ketika dia dewasa. Karena itu, ada hubungan yang sangat erat antara psikososial dan psikoseksual pada perilaku manusia.

Kata kunci: karakter utama, psikoanalisis, latar belakang sosiobudaya, kekerasan, psikoseksual

Background of Study

Woman is a great topic to be discussed, not only on a casual conversation but also on a literary work. The way of women represented in many literary works is usually the reflection of what happened in the society during the story is written. Meanwhile, in Egypt where women freedom is considered as something dangerous, women are assumed as the expression of sins and temptations. Women exist as a tool to be used by men, and are frequently oppressed violently and brutally with little or no consequence for such action. This phenomenon can be seen through Nawal El-Saadawi's *Women At Zero Point* since the story talks about the women's characters struggle for survival in getting her rights related to the sociocultural background as an Egypt woman that is going to be analyzed psychosocially and psychosexually.

The major character, Firdaus, plays a role as an Egyptian woman who often gets the violences from the men sexually and physically. The condition of being an Egyptian Woman at that time is underestimated by men. That's why Firdaus is portrayed as the victim to illustrate how sociocultural background influences her life as an Egyptian woman. Firdaus takes readers through her turbulent childhood, from being abused and witnessing the abuse of her mother by her father, to her mysterious female circumcision as a young woman, to the twisted molestation by her uncle, betrayal by lovers, and on to bitter exploitation by pimps, and last and possibly most ruthless-

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the persistent taunting of men, women, and law enforcement- as she struggles to live an adult life she has been given no tools to live.

Firdaus fights not just to be in control of her own destiny but also to figure out who she is. Her struggle is to live a dignified life in a society in which she has limited options. All of her struggles related to her surrounding and sexuality are the important parts here to be analyzed. That's why it grows my intention to dig up more about her struggles through the violence socially and sexually; and also to find out the causes of her psychosexual activity by understanding her sociocultural background.

Psychosocial

A psychosocial disorder is a mental illness caused or influenced by life experiences, as well as maldjusted cognitive and behavioral processes. The term psychosocial refers to the psychological and social factors that influence mental health. Social influences such as peer pressure, parental support, cultural, religious background, socioeconomic status and interpersonal relationship all help to shape personality and influence psychological make up. Individual with psychosocial disorders frequently have difficulty functioning in social situations and may have problems effectively communicating with others.

Although psychosocial variables arguably have some degree of influence on all subtypes of mental illness, the major categories of mental disorders thought to involve significant psychosocial factors include: substance-related disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, sexual and gender identity disorders, adjustment disorders, disorders usually first diagnosed in infancy childhood, or adolescence.

Psychosexual

- (1) Adolescence begins with puberty. It is an early transition period in the total development process, during which maturation gradually takes place in certain parts of the reproductive system and leads to the phase of development that we recognize as maturity, the period when the organism actually becomes capable of efficient reproduction. (Swartz, 1963:190)
- (2) The biological development that occurs in adolescence includes, of course, much in addition to the growth of the reproductive capacities of the organism. Broadly considered the biological growth of the adolescence falls into 3 general categories:
 - a. primary sexual growth: It involves the maturation of the reproductive function and of the body parts, such as the uterus and testes, that participate directly in it.
 - b. secondary sexual growth consist in the development of certain physical characters that, while not a part of the primary sexual apparatus, contribute identifying male and female features, such as the development of asex characteristic body form.
 - c. Finally, by nonsexual, general body growth, It encompassas such changes suchas the growth in absolute respiratory capacity and the increase in activity of certain endocrine glanelns which play an

extremely important role in both the sexual and nonsexual phases of adolescent development.(Swartz,1963:191)

- (3) The development of sexual behavior in adolescence is to a considerable extent conditioned by the availability of opportunities for sexual experience.(Swartz,1963:193)

Socioculture in Egypti toward Women

When a literary work is made, it usually reflects what happens in the society at that time. It describes the condition around the subject matter of its literary work such as this novel. Nawal El-Saadawi wrote this novel in 1983. At that period, the condition in Egypt is quite hot. It happened because of the struggle of the society especially the Egyptian women. Egypt is a Republic that gained its formal independence from Great Britain in 1922 and acquired full sovereignty following the end of World War II. The societies are in transition period, change from traditional society to modern society with all traditional problems. The traditional values still represent the problems which are unsolved .A problem being discussed and generating the conflict is the position and the human rights of women. This case is the basic problem in society, which not only affects on women but also men. When some violences happen to women, they sometimes do not realize what the violences are, because of the low education that they got at that time. (Perry,2004:51)

This case related to this novel, which talks more about the struggle of Firdaus as the main character to get her rights and as a subjective look into the intrinsic underdevelopment of marginalized citizens, and how the absence of justice fosters through Egyptian politics, economics, and society. Firdaus is one of these citizens. Since she was a kid, she always got many kinds of violence, such as sexual violences and physical violences. This happens because of the stereotype in Egypt that the women is just an object of the men, means that women should obey and receive whatever the men do toward them. Moreover, when they have married, a young wife was under considerable pressure from her husband and his family. At that time, exactly in 1983 when this novel was published, the power of men was a very big while The Women Right did not work well.

Psychoanalysis

The Role of Sociocultural Factors in Behavior of Firdaus as Egyptian woman

It is one of the subtleties of human growth that actions constantly performed or observed by an individual come to be regarded by him as the natural way for man to behave. In this process behavior experiences are unknowingly abstracted from their historical context and treated not as happenings taking place within a particularly society, conditioned by a particular culture or way of life (Swartz, 1963:91). Malinowski has described in his essay *Sex and Repression in Society* (Malinowski, 1954:53) :

Man is possessed of growth possibilities for many different ways of life. He is not a creature of fixed dispositions. Behaviour development is an historical process that can not be understood apart from the social-cultural circumstances in which it occurs. Cultural differences is a kind of conditions in human life that mold people into who they presently are. A person's identity and way of thinking are influenced greatly due to their family's surroundings and relationships they are involved in.

Social culture has a big contribution in the way of man behaves and thinks. Through this theory, El Saadawi writes this novel based on the situation in Egypt where this story took place, exactly happened in 1983. She figures Firdaus as the main character instead of the victim who gets so many violences since she was a kid until adults physically and sexually. Egypt has a hard culture for behaving toward women. Firdaus was born in the middle of poor family. Her father is a poor farmer who could not read and write. He did not have good knowledge about life. He was uneducated well. It is illustrated in page 16.

'Ayah saya seorang petani miskin, yang tidak dapat membaca maupun menulis, sedikit pengetahuannya dalam kehidupan. Bagaimana caranya bertanam, bagaimana menjual kerbau yang telah diracun oleh musuhnya sebelum mati, bagaimana menukar anak gadisnya dengan imbalan mas kawin bila masih ada waktu....' {page 16}

Translated

'My father a impecunious farmer who can not read and also write, a few knowledge in life . How to planting, how to sell the buffalo which have been poisoned by its enemy before death, how to convert his aughter with the dowry reward of when there is still time...' {page 16}

Firdaus should face the poor family with a hard culture. As the statement of Malinowski said above, the family surrounding can influence the man's behavior, including Firdaus. *Her background as being born in an uneducated family causes her sufferings through her turbulent childhood, from being abused and witnessing the abuse of her mother by her father, to her mysterious female circumcision as a young woman, to the twisted molestation by her uncle, betrayal by lovers, and on to bitter exploitation by pimps, and last and possibly most ruthless, the persistent taunting of men, women, and law enforcement, as she struggles to live an adult life she has been given no tools to live.* Her suffering is started when her mother who should love and protect her daughter, in the other hand she tortures her by slicing her thigh. Her mother's background, culture and society help support the sufferings that Firdaus gets. It is illustrated in page 18 :

'...Apa sebabnya Ibu sampai melahirkan saya tanpa ayah? Mula-mula ia memukul saya. Kemudian ia membawa seorang wanita yang membawa sebilah pisau kecil atau barangkali pisau cukur. Mereka memotong secuil daging di antara kedua paha saya.'

Translated

'What caused my mother bear me without father? Firstly, she beat me. Then she came with a woman bring a small knife or perhaps gold digger. They sliced meat in both of my thigh'.

We can see that sociocultural of Firdaus has big influences in how she behaves and is behaved. It is described in the explanation below:

If attitude towards one's self is in some way incorporated into the self concept, and if this self attitudes significantly would be to investigate to what extent these attitudes interact with attitudes of others in determining social behavior.(Childe,1952:54)

The stereotype that woman is a tool for men in fulfilling desire is very coherent in Egypt (Perry, 2004:87). The socioculture pressures her in facing the life that causes her to be a prostitute. Men around her consider her as unworthed woman, as a tool of sexual desire. It seems so irony. Egypt is a Moslem country, but how the society behaves toward her is so shame.

Firdaus as the Egyptian woman grows through the hard culture which undersetimates the position of a woman. This case causes some violences for her, sexual violences or physical violences. Individuals differ in the degree to which they approximate cultural expectations regarding their behavior. (James, 1965:89)

The Principles of Psychosexual Growth

The Childhood of Firdaus

"The anatomical differences between men and women, their sexual responsiveness, and their ability to reproduce do not appear suddenly and all at once, but result from a slow and gradual development. We have also seen that this development can be thwarted in various ways. What is true of human physical growth also applies to the development of human sexual behavior. Masculine and feminine attitudes and the preference for certain sexual partners or certain forms of sexual activity are not established once and for all at one particular moment, but are acquired gradually over a period of time. The outcome of this process depends not only on a child's inherited abilities, but also on social influences, such as the reactions of parents, teachers, playmates, and friends. In some cases, these influences can be quite negative." (Brown,1958:96)

It happens to Firdaus psychosexual's growth. Since she was a child, Firdaus often gets the violences sexually. At the first time when she played with her boy friends in the river, there was a small boy, named Muhammadain, they played as the bridegroom and bride. When Muhammadain lifted her cloth and command her to sleep on the hays, She felt an enjoyment very much in one of part her body, which she did not know exactly. It is written in page 19

'...Seorang anak lelaki kecil yang bernama Muhammadain biasanya mencubit saya dari bawah dan mengikuti saya ke sebuah teratak kecil yang terbuat dari batang-batang pohon jagung, ia menyuruh saya tiduran di atas tumpukan jerami, dan mengangkat galabeya saya. Kami bermain-main menjadi pengantin perempuan dan pengantin laki-laki. Dari bagian tertentu tubuh saya, di bagian mana saya tidak tahu dengan pasti, timbul suatu nikmat luar biasa....'

Translated

'...There is small boy, named Muhammadain, usually pinchs me from under and follows me to a small hovel made from bar of maize tree, he orders me lay down on the heap of hays, and lifts my galabeya. We romp to become the bride and bridegroom. From certain part of my body, in which part I do not know exactly, arise an enjoyment excruciatingly...'

Then her uncle, a student of El Azhar does the same. His education does not guarantee him not to do the sexual violence. Furthermore, he does it to his niece, Firdaus. He gropes my foot till my thigh and squeezes crudely. It is written in page 21

'...Saat berikutnya saya dapat merasakan tangan itu menjelajahi kaki saya sampai paha dengan gerakan yang gemeteran dan sangat berhati-hati. Setiap kali terdengar suara langkah kaki orang di pintu rumah kami, tangannya akan segera ditarik kembali....'

Translated

'...Next moment I can feel that hand explores my feet until thigh with the tremble and careful movement . Each time He hear voice of people's footstep in our door of the house, his hand will be immediately re-pulled...'

These illustrations are some of sexual violences that Frdaus were got when she was a child, eventhough she did not know what actually these kind of actions means for her. At least she could feel an enjoyment. It is one sign of sexual desire. Recognition of the basic nature of many of the actions acquired in infancy and childhood has led to a concern with the relationship between the general quality of early life experiences and later behavior development. (Swartz, 1963:169). It shows in page 20:

'...Sebenarnya ia melakukan hal yang jauh lebih dari itu, tetapi saya tidak lagi merasakan kenikmatan yang menyebar dari bagian tubuh saya yang tidak diketahui tapi yang sudah terbiasa itu...'

Translated

'...In fact he [do/conduct] that much more matter from, but me [shall] no longer feel the enjoyment disseminating from that unknown me body shares but accustomed...'

The age of childhood occupies a special place in fantasy life of many adults. Like in the disorted image which is written by Keble

The heart of childhood is all mirth:
We frolic to and fro
As free and blithe, as if on earth
Were no such thing as woe
(<http://www.springerlink.com/content/j82573563w313525>)

According to psychoanalytic thinking, there is a basic sexual instinct or drive present universally in all human beings from the moment of birth. This instinct, which strives for sensual pleasure, is at first diffuse and attains its eventual proper direction

and focus only through a process of "psychosexual maturation". Human infants first seek their gratification in a direct, unhampered, and undiscriminating way, until they learn to modify and control their instinctual urges through social conditioning. Human sexuality thus unfolds under the influence of two opposing forces: the "pleasure principle" and the "reality principle". In other words, a child's personality development can be described as a contest between biological drive and cultural constraint. (Freud, 1955:164)

Adolescence Behavior.

A full measure of the joy and pain of growing up is contributed through the sexual development of the adolescent. The wine of life is bitter sweet. The development of sexual behavior in adolescence is to a considerable extent conditioned by the availability of opportunities for sexual experience. This, in turn, is largely a function of the sociocultural influences acting on this person. (Ausubel, 1960:83)

Firdaus's experience in "unknown" sex when she was a child influences her sexual behavior when she is adolescence. She knows earlier about this knowledge. When she lives with her uncle's family and he does a sex with his wife, She can feel what happens in her body. Her sexual growth develops well through her past experience. It is shown in page 56

'...Saya merasa tubuh saya bergetar bersama dipan, nafas saya menjadi semakin cepat, sedemikian rupa sehingga setelah sejenak saya pun mulai terengah-engah dengan kegilaan yang serupa. Kemudian perlahan-lahan, ketika gerakan mereka berkurang suara nafas menjadi sunyi kembali. Nafas saya menjadi wajar dan teratur, dan saya tertidur dengan tubuh bermandikan keringat.'

Translated

'...I feel my body vibrate with the bed, my breath becomes faster, in such a manner after a moment I even also start panted with the similar craziness. Then slowly, when their movement decreases, the breath voice becomes quiet again. My breath becomes regular and fair, and I am fallen asleep with the body bath-sweat.'

When she graduated from high school, her aunt and uncle consider her as an adult. They want to marry her with Mr Syekh Mahmoed, the one who is an old and had a bad face. They consider that Firdause has been mature. It is showed in page 52-53:

'...Firdaus telah bertambah besar, yang mulia, harus dikawinkan....Gadis-gadis seusia dia sudah kawin bertahun-tahun sebelumnya dan sudah melahirkan anak...'

Translated

'...Firdaus has grown larger, Excellency, have to be married....The girls on her age have married through years previously and have born children...'

A disturbance happens in her adolescence. She feels something such as love, but this is not a normal love when somebody loves another in opposite of gender. This case does not happen to Firdaus. She loves to a woman, named Miss Iqbal. When she touches Miss Iqbal's hand, she feels something strange in her touching, something such as enjoyment and desire. It is one of behavior disturbance in Firdaus' adolescence.

The adolescent discovers and defines the elements of sexual attraction, unique and individual to him/ her as an ongoing process of differentiation. The homosexual discovers that she/he is sexually excited by same-sex stimuli in the same way that the heterosexual discovers that s/he is excited by opposite sex stimuli; and within these categories, they both discover even more specific attractants (e.g., body types, body parts, sex acts, positions, odors, words, etc.). It is possible for a homophobic adolescent to be disgusted with his or her feelings of attraction to same-sex peers and to fear the consequences of a gay life. (http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/Psychosexual_Stages_of_Personal_Development.html)

This is a fact of explanation that earlier experience of sex in the childhood without a good knowledge about it can cause some disturbances for adolescence, like what happened with Firdaus. That is why there is strong relationship between psychosocial and psychosexual in the man's behavior.

Conclusion

When a literary work is made, it usually reflects what happens in the society at that time. It describes the condition around the subject matter of its literary work such as this novel. Nawal El-Saadawi wrote this novel in 1983. At that period, the condition in Egypt is quite hot, caused by the struggle of the society especially the Egyptian women.

This case is related to this novel, which talks more about the struggle of Firdaus as the main character to get her rights and as a subjective look into the intrinsic underdevelopment of marginalized citizens, and how the absence of justice fosters through Egyptian politics, economy, and society. Firdaus is one of these citizens. Since she was a kid, she always got many kinds of violence, such as sexual violences and physical violences. This happens because of the stereotype in Egypt that the women are just an object of the men. It means that women should obey and receive whatever the men do toward them.

It is one of the subtleties of human growth that actions constantly performed or observed by an individual come to be regarded by him as the natural way for man to behave. In this process behavior experiences are unknowingly abstracted from their historical context and treated not as happenings taking place within a particularly society, conditioned by a particular culture or way of life

The poor family with a hard culture should be faced by Firdaus. As the statement of Malinowski said above, the family surrounding can influence the man's behavior, including Firdaus. Her background as

uneducated family causes her sufferings through her turbulent childhood, from being abused and witnessing the abuse of her mother by her father, to her mysterious female circumcision as a young woman, to the twisted molestation by her uncle, betrayal by lovers, and on to bitter exploitation by pimps, and last and possibly most ruthless- the persistent taunting of men, women, and law enforcement- as she struggles to live an adult life she has been given no tools to live. Her suffering is started to show when her mother who should love and protect her daughter, in the other hand she tortures her by slicing her thigh. Her mother background, culture and society help support the sufferings that Firdaus gets.

Since she was a child, Firdaus has often got the violences sexually. At the first time when she played with her boy friends in the river, there was a small boy, named Muhammadain, they played as the bridegroom and bride. When Muhammadain lifted her cloth and command her to sleep on the hays, She felt an enjoyment very much in one of part her body which she did not know exactly.

Her early childhood influences her very much for her psychosexual growth. "Development in childhood means, through the increased breadth of behavior growth characteristic of this period, provides a vastly extended range of opportunities for the development of individual differences in behavior."

Firdaus's experience in "unknown" sex when she was a child influences her sexual behavior when she is adolescence. She knows earlier about this knowledge. When She lives with her uncle's family and he does a sex with his wife, She can feel what happens in her body. Her sexual growth develops well through her past experience.

This is a fact of explanation that earlier experience of sex in the childhood without a good knowledge about it can cause some disturbances for adolescence, like what happened with Firdaus. That's why there is strong relationship between psychosocial and psychosexual in the man's behavior.

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