

# THE INTERPRETATION OF NAZI'S IDEOLOGY IN KRISTIN HANNAH'S THE NIGHTINGALE

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## Abstract

Terdapat keterkaitan kuat antara sejarah dan kesusasteraan. Namun cerita dari suatu sejarah memiliki nilai keindahan tersendiri terkait kesusasteraan. *The Nightingale* adalah novel tentang sejarah yang ditulis oleh Kristin Hannah. Novel ini menceritakan bagaimana dua bersaudara, Isabelle dan Vianne berusaha bertahan hidup di masa Perang Dunia II di Perancis. Kajian ini menekankan pada pendekatan *new historicism* untuk mengkaji diskursus Nazi. Tujuan dari penelitian ini meliputi: (1) mencari pesan tersirat penulis dari novel tersebut, (2) menggambarkan kondisi sosial-politik Perang Dunia II yang ter-representasikan dalam novel, dan juga (3) menemukan sisi ideologi Nazi yang terinterpretasikan dalam novel pada diskursus tertentu. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Sumber data diambil dari novel "*The Nightingale*" oleh Kristin Hannah dan sumber lain berupa buku dan situs internet. Sebagai kesimpulan, hasil dari penelitian ini menemukan bahwa (1) ideologi penulis sepakat tentang gabungan negara yang damai (2) kekejaman kondisi sosial-politik Perang Dunia II di Perancis (3) diskursus Nazi yang berakar dari kekuasaan Hitler.

*Kata Kunci: Historisisme Baru, Ideologi, Diskursus Baru, Nazi*

## INTRODUCTION

*The Nightingale* is one of Hannah's novels consists of the story about the suffering of people in World War II specifically in France. A little description about how the people survive in such a difficult condition of big war results big sympathy. The novel tends to talk about two inspiring women characters such as Isabelle and Vianne who have been the main characters of this novel. Isabelle, one of the characters is a woman rescuer during world war that saves airmen that falls from their jet. Additionally, the story is told almost in detail including the execution of Jews, Communist, Freemason, and Homosexual in the entire France. The background that is France during World War II is described as the real condition as if the readers watch a movie. Hence, *The Nightingale* should be chosen by the writer to be the primary source of data.

The appropriate theory that should be applied is a theory that will not omit the aspect of history in the novel. For that reason, the most effective theory to be used in analyzing *The Nightingale* is New Historicism. As the author, Kristin Hannah states that she was inspired from a woman hero character who has been a nurse in World War I. The character is almost the same with the character of Isabelle, but there must have some differentiations. Then, knowing that the text is not only a text itself is also important. "For New Historicism, the literary text and the historical situation from which it emerged are equally important" (Tyson, 2006, 291).

It is clear that knowing the reason of the author to write a story is needed to be known. Furthermore, a literary work inspired from a history should be analyzed vividly about the relationship in between. Furthermore, the ideology existed in the novel is also important to be interpreted. If Old Historicist argues that history is objective, dissimilar to New Historicist that history is subjective. It depends on who make the history. The opinion of history among people who lived in a same era and same conflict will strongly different.

This novel emerged in 2015, while World War II happened in 1939-1945. It must be a big question about the reason of the author to write that kind of story. While there are many inspiration to write story in this modern of globalization era, but Kristin Hannah chose to write about World War II. She must be a writer who has poured her ideology to this novel.

## METHODOLOGY

This thesis used descriptive qualitative research. The data were words, utterances and narrator's explanation which related to the research questions. The primary source of data was one of Kristin Hannah's novel entitled *The Nightingale*. The secondary sources of data were taken from other related books, websites and journals. The method of data collections were reading the novel, reading the theory, finding out the data, and rechecking the whole data.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. The Author's Ideology about Nazi Implied In the Novel

The ideology that is discussed here is about the ideology of the author about Nazi. The ideology is interpreted from several data that have been collected. The ideology of every person must be different. There are several factors that can create the personal ideology of every person. From an international journal entitled *Bimodal Issues, the Median Voter Model, Legislator's Ideology, and Abortion*, there is a brief explanation about how the ideology is resulted. The factors that can influence people ideology are age, marital status, religious affiliation, and also gender. (Medoff, Dennis, & Bishin, 1995). Kristin Hannah is an American author who was born in 1960. In the novel, Kristin Hannah tells the story about World War II from the side of German. To give brief description about the way Kristin Hannah tells the history, it is needed to give several descriptions.

Based on the history, France was involved to World War II on 10 June 1940. The war began with the war declared by Italy to France. Sen (1986:180) in his book entitled *Europe and the World* stated the beginning of the war in France as follow;

“The battle for France began at once, On 10 June 1940 Italy declared war against France. The French fell back in disorder and on 14 June the Germans occupied Paris.”

Seeing from the view of France, the situation of the country during the war was very terrible. The coming of Hitler and Nazi could be said suppress the French in a big suffer. Based on the quotation above, the government which has been led by Petain decided to do for armistice.

The government was replaced to Vichy under the control of German. This condition must result to the rebels who do not agree with the surrender. Then, there was a group of people who wanted to struggle for their freedom and fight against

German. The group was called as resistance as the follower of General de Gaulle. Resistance is forbidden in France, so that if they are caught by German, they would be deported. The evidence can be seen below;

The growing of Red Army only reinforced this anxiety. It is likely that as many French men and women, in the police and groups such as the *malice*, participated in defending 'law and order' against 'brigands' in 1943-44 as did in active resistance. In all some 40,000 resisters or hostages were murdered, and 60,000 deported to concentration camps for 'Gaullism, Marxism or Hostility to the regime', and a further 100,000 on racial grounds. (Price, 1993:262)

The life of the resistance is very suffering in that era. Besides that, people who are forbidden to live in German are Jews people. Hitler has been known as person who hates Jews, and this quotation shows how German subjected Jews in France during the war;

The armistice certainly obliged the French government to repatriate Jewish refugees of German origin who had sought sanctuary in France, but that statute of Jews of 3 October 1940 as an essentially French initiative. It debarred French Jews from elective office, from the civil service, teaching and journalism and imposed quotas on entry to most professions. (Price, 1993:260)

The condition of France during World War II based on the book of history is the same with the condition of France during World War II that is depicted in the novel. Kristin Hannah has to be influenced by her environment when she writes the story.

To be the writer of historical novel, Kristin Hannah must be the author who wants to influence readers by her idea poured in the novel. She does plant her belief and thought to invite the readers to understand what she wants to say, about her ideology and belief that later will relate to the discourse she shapes in this novel. The authors of historical novel must have their own thought that can be found in their novel. This statement is supported by George Lukacs (1962) in Pramodya Menggugat(2011:279) states that;

And it is a law of literary portrayal which first appears paradoxical, but then quite obvious, that in order to bring out these social and human motives of behavior, the outwardly insignificant events, the smaller (from without) relationships are better suited than the great monumental dreams of world history.

Kristin Hannah is one of the amazing authors from America. As the American, her writing tends to con with the German. In fact, German and America fought each other in the War. The author is the person who agrees to against German. The evidence on how the author proud of Allies country can be seen below;

Now, on a warm June day in 1944, a week after the allies had landed more than one hundred and fifty thousand troops in Normandy, Vianne stood in her classroom at the orphanage, staring out at the children who sat slumped and tired at their desks. Of course they were tired. (Hannah, 2015, 2428)

This quotation explains that the coming of allies is the miracle of the war for France. The author intentionally arranges the events of German that is going to be defeated by the allies in the almost end of the pages. That is truly can be said that she considers German as the evil and France as the goodness.

## **2. The Social-Political Condition of France depicted in *The Nightingale***

### **2.1. The Social Condition**

The social condition of France during World War II that is depicted in the novel is discussed from the side of family condition, and how is the situation of society that is portrayed in the novel.

In 1940 after German succeeds to do invasion in Poland and Belgium and Czechoslovakia, they began to enter the central city of France that makes the condition of France getting worse. "German in Paris. The Maginot line broken. French soldiers dead in trenches and running from the front (Hannah, 2015:330-331)" The terrible condition of France constructs the fear of Vianne. She is worried of her sister who wants to fight the Nazi. It cannot be avoided that Nazi has controlled France, above all the Maginot Line had been passed. Hannah (2015:443) states that;

"Oh, for heaven's sake, Isabelle. Paris is overrun. The Nazis control the city. What is an eighteen-year-old girl to do about all of that. What is an eighteen-year-old girl to do about all of that?" said Vianne "I am not hiding out in the Country while the Nazis destroy France. And let's face it, you have never exactly felt sisterly toward me." Answered Isabelle

In the next part when France has fallen to German, the government of French does corporation with the Nazi and named as collaborator. After France surrender, the condition of society becomes worse. Meat is rarely got because only German that has a right to eat anything they want, while French must eat the remains of German Soldier. There is no mail anymore, because only German is allowed to use the mail box.

The worse of German condition in the next chapter causes the grab of free zone. There is no more free zone. This makes the situation of France in danger. There is no safety place again because everyone is suspected; even the free zone is no more called as free zone. German does dominate all of places in France. There is no more hidden place for Jews, communists, resistance and the others.

### **2.2. The Political Condition**

The political condition of France during World War II that is depicted in the novel is discussed from the condition of the government and territory.

The government system of France after the surrender is the conception of some agreements. The agreement includes the domination of Nazi in any economical elements and also the division of zone in France. There are two zones called as the north-zone that is led by Vichy government collaborated with the Nazi, and also the free zone in the south of France. Free zone is allowed for those who want to save their life from German, because all of city is billeted by Nazi soldiers. It is also not surprising when most of French decide to leave their home for German. The division of the territory in France can be seen below;

"France had been divided into two zones. The occupied zone-the northern half of the country and coastal regions (including Carriveau)-was to be taken over and governed by the Nazis." (Hannah, 2015:457)

France still can be surviving in such of bad condition caused by the surrender decision of their leader. But the situation is worse when allied succeed to dominate North Africa, the anger of German is formed into the suffering of French. It is shown below;

“It was not unexpected, of course, this search. Since the Allied successes in North Africa had begun, the Germans stopped people constantly, demanding papers. In the streets, the shops, the train stations, the churches. There was no safety anywhere.” (Hannah, 2015:1899)

In chapter 35, the narrator explains that German is defeated by Russia in 1945. The allies also become wilder, and the opportunity for Free France and Allies Victory are biggest. It is shown in the narrations below;

“Now more than ever. Last week, new prisoners had come with news: the Russians were advancing across Germany, smashing and defeating the Nazi army. Auschwitz had been liberated. The Allies were said to be winning one victory after another in the west.” (Hannah, 2015:2756)

After that terrible condition of German, then German surrender in 1945. That's the end of the World War II in France, and all of people in camps are returning back through train. Isabelle, as *The Nightingale* can gather with her family again and lastly die because of her illness.

### **3. The Ideology of Nazi Interpreted in the Novel**

The ideology of Hitler is truly useful to be connected to the ideology of Nazi. In the other side, the author also has her own ideology that can be concluded from the way she brings her story about German and France.

Discuss about the ideology of Hitler, the main source that can support is the book written by Adolf Hitler entitled *Mein Kampf*. The book is published into two volumes. There is information about Hitler's life since he was a child until the era of World War II. The book that later become the compulsory book for German and also the ideology of Nazi. *Mein Kampf* is a book used by Nazi soldiers to be their view of ideology.

All of his reason can be found in *Mein Kampf*. He states that Marxist aims to deliver the power of the world in the hand of Jews. Furthermore, in the novel Nazi also deports freemason in France. In fact, there is a relation between freemason and Jews because mostly the members of mason are Jews.

“While the international World-Jew is slowly but surely strangling us, our so-called patriots vociferate against man and his system which have had courage to liberate themselves from the shackles of Jewish Freemasonry at least in one quarter of the globe and to set the forces of national resistance against the international world-poison.”(Hitler, 1924:337)

This quotation shows the greedy of Jews. Hitler thinks that Jewish has to be faded before they can influence this world by using their poison. Hitler writes many things about Jews which indicates his hatred to the race. His hatred is not suddenly appears without reason, but Hitler is sure that Jews are people who only be the instigators. He thinks about the Jews that had caused the shellacking of German in World-War I. Here are the words stated by Hitler in his book about his ambition to glorify German;

“This was the case especially because our movement has always proclaimed the principle, and must proclaim it, that the freedom of the country in its foreign relations is not a gift that will be bestowed upon us by Heaven or by any earthly Powers, but can only be the fruit of a development of our inner forces. We must first root out the causes which led to our collapse and we must eliminate all those who are profiting by that collapse. Then we shall be in a position to take up the fight for the restoration of our freedom in the management of our foreign relations.” (Hitler, 1924:441)

Adolf Hitler as the main person who has formed the ideology of Nazi must be the root of all of the War and holocaust. William et al (2007:10) states “Adolf Hitler formulated and articulated the ideas that came to be known as Nazi ideology.” The ideology of Nazi soldiers is clearly shaped by the influence of Hitler. The childhood experience of Hitler encourages him to do the big genocide of Jews, communist and others minority he thought as the group of people that must be faded.

In the novel, Nazi is described as the party which hates to Jews, communist, homosexual, and freemason. All of people who are involved in those minorities are thrown away and sent to the concentration camp. As has been known well that Nazi is led by Hitler, the ideology of Nazi is rooted from the ideology of Hitler. The origin ideology is actually from Hitler.”Hitler was the driving force of antisemitism in the Nazi movement, not only by setting the ideological tone but also by elevating his intense personal antipathy to an affair of state. Hitler alone defined the Jewish menace.” (Marrus, 1987:17)

Converse about the ideology of Nazi, it is actually discuss about the ideology of Hitler himself. From a essay written by Edward Lilley(n.d) by the title *Why Did Hitler hates Jewish People?* Hitler has been growth by the belief of anti-semitic ideas. There are some reasons why he hates Jewish, one of the reason is that, Hitler thinks that Jews have powered all of sectors over the world especially he finds it in German and Austria. He begins to hate Jewish and blame them has been corrupting German.

The ideology of Hitler has been concluded, such as racism (German nationalism), anti communist, and also expansion. In the other side, German soldiers or Nazi is a tool used by Hitler to create his want about all of his ideology above.

Discuss about war and sacrifice, then it will also discuss about which side as the pro and cons. German and France are involved in the war, they fight each other. German has to be the winner; France does not want to be colonized by German. Both of them must have the same opinion to keep their nation. It is all naturally happen in war that each side of the fortress will look after their own fortress.

The explanation between the novel and history is related each other, both of them cannot be separated. There must be some discussion and interpretation about the novel that have to be supported by data from other sources. The goodness of Beck in the novel indicates that actually he does not want to stay long for the war, anything he does are for Hitler. Beck, as well as the other soldiers is only followers who want to show their nationalist upon German. He often says that he is following order by his leader. It emphasizes that Beck does not cruel anymore.

“Captain Beck utters, “Do i look like the mastermind of this? i just do what i’m told. They tell me to arrest the foreight-born Jews in Paris, so i do it” (Hannah, 2015:1757)

Beck as the character represented German soldier also has the same feel as the other men who go for war. No one wants to join and die in the war while they still have family who wait for their return to home. The hatred of Isabelle to German who joins to resistance as the form of her rejection over German power, it encourages her to think bad about Beck. She hates Beck because Beck is the part of Nazi, in the other side; Beck is only soldier who also misses of his family.

The ideology of Hitler that is poured in the book he has written inspired much for the Nazi. Nazi is only one of political party in German that has changed to be the biggest power in World War II through the authority of Hitler. In other word, Hitler has succeeded to make his dream almost come true under the power of Nazi party.

Kristin Hannah as an American author who also has her own ideology to write down the story must be shaped by her environment to plan some ideologies in the novel. She has described well about Nazi and French, and she also talks about Beck who has been the protagonist character from Nazi. Captain Beck is visibly shown that he never want to do such of things he has done to French. Even he is never against the willing of his leader, he constantly states to Vianne that just follow order. It is also proven when Vianne sees him in the station holding a whip to order Jews. Hannah (2015: 1861-1862) states that "Two German soldiers were standing on the platform. One of them was Beck. He was holding a whip. A whip". This situation makes Vianne angry to Beck, she thinks of Beck is the same with other soldiers. He uses the whip to herd Woman Children onto a cattle car. She ask about the whip and here is the respond of Beck;

"Why were you there?"

"I was following orders. Where are her children?"

(Hannah, 2015:57)

This is the evidence that Beck just follows the order when he uses the whip. The analogy is the same with the concept of discourse itself. The discourse about the cruel and wicked of Nazi that has been belief until now is the shape of the agreement for those who have power. It cannot be denied that this world has been mastered by the biggest power that can give many influences for the worldview of people over the world. People had considered Nazi as bad, cruel, and wicked. However, it is all back to whom the perspective is gotten because not all of people belief that Nazi is bad as many people state.

It is clear that ideology is shaped. Ideology of every person cannot be forced because the concept is about conviction. This world is full of opposition; all of things have other side. Take for instance, rose flower is so beautiful. It has red blossom flower, and many women love rose. But rose does have other side, this flower has thorny. The part of its thorny is dangerous for people. It is the same with history; history is also full of many sides from many different arguments. According to history and the novel, Hitler is crime, but actually in the other side he is kind. He does the expansion and assassination for German. Then, all of Nazi soldiers are cruel, in the other side; they are forced to do so.

Discuss about Nazi and Hitler, there will be no absolute truth. It all happened in the past, and this world consists of binary opposition. Nazi is a party that has been influenced by the ideology of Hitler. But, there are some causes why Hitler also plant the ideology in him then spread it to Germany.

In short, the ideology of Nazi is about the ideology of Hitler. It has been interpreted from the novel that Nazi soldier also has the other side. Specifically the novel gives example from the character of Captain Beck. He is the representation of

Nazi soldier who is very kind and polite to Vianne and her family. He can be good person but not in the front of other German. It means that, Beck as well as his statement who says constantly that he is just following order, is only a weak soldier who has to follow the command from his leader. In the other side, he does not want to do so, nevertheless he always hopes that the war will end sooner.

The new discourse as the result is that Nazi only a party that follows the order of Hitler. They are not totally wrong and cannot be easily blamed. Nazi soldiers also only humankind who has many sides in their life. They must have bad side, but they do have good side. Wicked for the group of people does not mean wicked also for other group of people. For the soldiers who only want to be law-abiding citizens, obey their leader, expand their country to achieve the better German in the future, they cannot be mentioned as cruel or wicked. Finally, the main point is that Nazi just a group of people who are following order from Hitler.

## CONCLUSION

This analysis discovers the ideology of Kristin Hannah about Nazi, the social and political condition depicted in the novel and also the ideology of Nazi in the novel. In short, the ideology of Nazi is about to follow the order from Hitler. The only one who is behind the scene of Holocaust or any destruction in World War II is Hitler himself. Furthermore, the finding about the ideology of Nazi that only follows order is also supported by the idea from Hannah Arendt called *The Banality of Evil*. This theory talks about Eichmann who has no intention to be the evil during war. Eichmann, as well as Beck is the member of Nazi soldier who only follow the order from the Führer. Briefly, Nazi are the numbers of people who are demanded to show their nationalist for German, they do have to follow the order from their leader if they do not want to be punished.

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