



## Gender in the Image of Female Characters in Andrea Hirata's Novel Padang Bulan and Cinta Di Dalam Gelas: A Feminist Review

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v10i5.4697>

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### **Abstract**

The findings of researchers about Andrea Hirata's novel were used as research material to describe the study of feminist perspectives that build stories in her sequel novels, namely Padang Bulan and Cinta di Dalam Gelas. Describing gender, the image of Enong, the image of women contained in the novel Padang Bulan and Cinta di Dalam Gelas by Andrea Hirata. This research was conducted in the category of novels Padang Bulan and Cinta di Dalam Gelas by Andrea Hirata and then used as teaching materials in High School. The results of the content analysis in the novel Padang Bulan and Cinta di Dalam Gelas, showed that Based on the results of the analysis sourced from the five journals above that examined the feminist perspective of the characters in the novel of Padang Bulan and Cinta di Dalam Gelas by Andrea Hirata, the researcher concluded that the image of Enong in the novel Padang Bulan and Cinta di Dalam Gelas Andrea Hirata's work can be classified into six categories: women, children, sisters, friends, community members, and workers. Women also have rights and various qualities to improve the standard of living owned by men. The gender perspective is analyzed in the novel Padang Bulan and Cinta di Dalam Gelas by Andrea Hirata using a feminist literature review. The form of gender perspective includes gender equality and gender injustice. The form of gender equality in this novel includes, equality in education, equality in politics and organization, equality in participating in competitions. Meanwhile, forms of gender injustice include, subordination of women, women's stereotypes, violence against women and workload. So that women must have an independent, intelligent, courageous person and be able to make decisions decisively. Negative stereotypes of women from socio-cultural influences that harm women must be eliminated. From the six image categories of Enong and Maryamah, it is concluded that Enong and Maryamah are responsible and hardworking. As well as its feasibility as teaching material, the image of Enong and Maryamah and gender equality in the perspective of feminism in the novel Padang Bulan and Cinta di Dalam Gelas by Andrea Hirata deserves to be used as teaching material for Indonesian Literature in Senior High School (SHS) because it is in line with the criteria for selecting literature learning materials seen from several aspects that are adjusted to the 2013 curriculum and have achieved core competencies and competencies basic K1.

**Keywords:** *Feminist Perspective; Gender Analysis; Women's Image; Teaching Materials*

## Introduction

One of the literary works that is used as a means of expressing the reality of human life is the novel. A novel is a prose fiction of a certain length whose contents include depicting motion characters and with representative real-life events with a plot or a complex situation (Tarigan 2003: 164). Generally, novels present several characters that are interconnected with each other so as to form a story or story of a person's life by highlighting the character and nature of each actor. The novel is also a revelation of fragments of human life (in the longer term) and conflicts that eventually lead to changes in the course of life between the perpetrators (Esten 1987: 12).

Through novels can be known fragments of life that revolve around women. Women are beautiful figures who are often adored. But women often experience injustice even though women are often born using the same dignity, dignity, and dignity as men. Women are seen as beautiful creatures and on the other hand are considered weak and inferior beings. To change this condition, a gender perspective is needed in looking at women's issues. Characters consisting of men and women are always presented with various problems, roles, functions and images. Characterization in literary works will lead the reader to the imagination made by the author which can be expressed through images that resemble images that are interpreted through the reader's interpretation of an object The image is a picture of sensory experience expressed through words, a picture of sensory experience evoked by words. (Sofia, 2009:24).

The disclosure of women's life stories, which are often depicted in literary works, generally reveals clearly the problem of women's nature and characteristics in facing their life and community life. The author must be able to describe women's psychological problems, and highlight aspects of femininity. Researchers use a feminist approach with the important goal of feminist literary criticism is to help us understand, interpret, and assess the fictional stories of women writers, especially the images of women contained in them (Djajanegara, 2000: 23) Selection of *Padang Bulan* and *Love in a Gelas Novels* As a research subject, it is motivated by the desire of researchers to find the image of women reflected in the role of female figures. Enong is the main character of this novel. That is, the character who is told the most and has more than one role in the story. Andrea Hirata's novel *Padang Bulan dan Cinta di Dalam Gelas* has a straightforward language style, and the imagery contained in the novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* is easy to express and interpret. In addition, this novel contains a very strong moral message that people who are not educated but have the persistence to study and work can raise themselves honorably.

This is certainly in line with literature learning at the high school level, there are demands for the achievement of integrated literary competence. In accordance with the 2013 curriculum, literature learning in high school uses a text-based approach. By using a text-based learning process, literature learning in high school is taught not only as language knowledge but as a text that carries a social function and a specific purpose to become a source of self-actualization and develop scientific activities. Learning that emphasizes the involvement of students in learning more intensely, creatively, and independently. Students are directly involved in the learning process. One of them is the ability to appreciate novels, an aspect that often triggers less than optimal literary learning is the closeness of students to literary works, (Suryaman: 2018). In some cases, there are still often learning conditions that refer to only one textbook. Study of the novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* as one of the nation's wealth, so that later the novel has the feasibility to be used as literature teaching material in schools. The study was conducted based on a feminist perspective, namely, gender analysis, character image. Each study aims to make the literary work can be used properly, so that it can be enjoyed and taken advantage of, especially by literary connoisseurs.

Based on the things described above, researchers are interested and feel it is important to analyze gender and the image of women in the novels *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata. Researchers limit the analysis to the image of the main character who is female because in the novel studied other female characters besides the main character shown in the story are not too often shown

(only acting as the central character), so that in categorizing the image of the woman is less than optimal. Furthermore, the analysis is related to literature learning in Senior High School (SHS) by determining whether or not the image of the female main character in the novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata to be used as an alternative literary teaching material.

### **Research Methods**

The method used in this study is qualitative descriptive research method. Descriptive qualitative is research that intends to understand phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, action and others (Moleong, 2013: 5). In qualitative methods, the collected data is interpreted objectively and then described according to the research objectives. Through this descriptive research, researchers conducted research based on the image of female characters who have been identified from the novel based on dialogues between characters with other characters (women) and how the female characters think in the novels *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata, then assess the feasibility of the novel as an alternative teaching material in Senior High School (SHS).

The source of data from this study is a novel entitled *Padang Bulan* By (Hirata: 2011) published in Bentang, Yogyakarta, the third printing with a thick book of 310 pages. It is the first novel of the *Padang Bulan* dwilogy. And the novel *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* (Hirata: 2011) published by publisher Bentang, Yogyakarta, with 318 pages. Which is sourced from journals and has been researched by (1) (Liasna: 2019) with the title " Perspektif Gender Dalam Novel *Padang Bulan* Karya Andrea hirata Serta Implementasinya Sebagai Bahan Ajar Sastra di SMA ". (2) (Putri: 2018) with the title " Perspektif Gender Dalam Novel *Cinta Dalam Gelas* karya Andrea Hirata: Ditinjau Sastra Feminis Dan Implementasinya Sebagai Bhan Ajar Sastra Di SMA ". (3) (Ariyana: 2017) with the title " Kajian Perspektif Feminis Dalam Novel *Padang Bulan* dan *Cinta Di Dalam Gelas* Dalam Analisis Gender". (4) (Apriyani: 2015) with the title " Citra Tokoh Enong Dalam Novel *Cinta Di Dalam Gelas* Sebagai Bahan Ajar ". And also (5) (Hakim: 2014) with the title " Perspektif Gender Dalam Novel *Cinta Di Dalam Gelas* Karya Andrea Hirata: Ditinjau Sastra Feminis Dan Implementasinya Sebagai Bahan Ajar Sastra Di SMA". These studies reviewed the feminist literature of Andrea Hirata's two novels after the tetralogy of *Laskar Pelangi* novels raised the theme of the struggle of someone who never gives up in overcoming life's difficulties. The novel *Padang Bulan* dan *Cinta di Gelas* (Hirata: 2010) was chosen as the data source on the grounds that both novels are inspirational novels. The novel provides a lot of inspiration and motivation for its readers. The language used in the novel is easy to understand. In addition, Andrea Hirata's works have also been published in international editions in various countries. Secondary data sources of this research are the internet, author biographies, papers and articles in scientific journals, dissertations and theses related to the object of research, namely the gender perspective of the novel *Padang Bulan* Novel and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* (Hirata: 2010).

The data collection technique used in this study is in the form of recording techniques. The recording technique means that the researcher as a key instrument records carefully, purposefully, and meticulously on the primary data source, namely the researcher's target in the form of text in the novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta Di Dalam Gelas* By (Hirata: 2010). to obtain the data needed in research. In the recorded data, the data source code is included to double-check the data source when needed in the context of data analysis. The data analysis technique in this study is text analysis. The steps taken by the author to analyze the data are as follows.

1. Identifying the image of a female gender through the main character in the novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by (Hirata: 2010).
2. Analyzing the image of characters with female gender in the main characters in the novels *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by (Hirata: 2010). which is built through characterizations presented by the author.

3. Summing up the image of the character with the female gender position displayed through the main character in the novel *Padang Bulan* by (Hirata: 2011).
4. Examining the feasibility of research results on the image of female gender characters in the novels *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by (Hirata: 2010) as alternative literature teaching materials in Senior High School (SHS).
5. Summing up the results of the study, the image of characters with female gender in the novel *Padang Bulan* by (Hirata: 2011) is feasible or not to be used as an alternative literature teaching material in Senior High School (SHS).

## Result and Discussion

The following is a discussion of the image of the main female character in *the Padang Bulan* novel "Enong" in the novel *Padang Bulan* by Andrea Hirata playing the role of the main character who has a position as a child, teenage girl, friend and community member. The narrator tells the journey of Enong's life story from childhood to adolescence.

*When he got home, he took his father's pacul and tray first, and then immediately returned to the lake. He rolled up his sleeves, went down the bank and started digging through the mud. He kept digging and digging. It splashed like a possessed person. His sweat was gushing, his body muddy. He gathered his dug into a tray, filled it with water, and sifted it. That afternoon, the world's first female tin pan, was born.* (Hirata, 2011:58-59)

From the story presented in the novel *Padang Bulan* found the image of the character through the characterization of the character in the story. The story tells the turbulent fate of Enong who is a 14-year-old girl who is very fond of English lessons, but is suddenly forced to quit school and take over all family responsibilities. Enong fell, got up, fell again, and got up again. Enong's story is not just a simple family story, but a child's dream, of courage to live life. The following is an explanation of the image of Enong who is divided into four positions, namely when he is a child, teenage girl, friend and as a member of society. The categorization is identified through the position of the characters in the story. As well as the feasibility of the image of the female main character in the *Padang Bulan* By Novel (Hirata: 2011) as Literature Teaching Material in High School based on several criteria applicable in the current 2013 curriculum. The description of the analysis of several criteria for selecting teaching materials includes: suitability with the curriculum, suitability with the material, suitability with the demands of character education, suitability with students' linguistic aspects. (Princess, 2018: 7-9).

Continued with a description of the gender perspective of the main female character, Enong in the novel *Padang Bulan* with the gender relation of women who try to get recognition also have the same rights as men in the novel *Padang Bulan* by (Hirata: 2011) and their feasibility as literature teaching materials in high school. Overall, the storyteller in the novel *Padang Bulan* by (Hirata: 2011) uses a feminist approach seen from the point of view of the main character. The gender perspective that appears in the novel *Padang Bulan* is in the form of gender equality and gender injustice. Gender equality in *the novel Padang Bulan* is in the form of access in the field of chess, ideals, in decision making, and in teaching. Furthermore, participation is in the form of participation in decision making, women's participation in world chess matches, and participation in supporting other women. Then the control in this novel is in the form of control over himself and control in making decisions. Then the benefits in this novel are in the form of benefits that can be enjoyed from decision making. Meanwhile, gender injustice in the novel *Padang Bulan* is in the form of marginalization of women, subordination to women, stereotypes against women, violence against women, and workload. In addition, this marginalization occurs due to the assumption that women are emotional creatures who make decisions not using the mind, but rather using the heart. Thus, women are considered unable to be good leaders because they have irrational traits. Then, with the workload of women who have the responsibility of taking care of the household, women are considered unable to focus on a career in politics. His involvement in politics is

expected not only as a passive participation but also must be active in his participation to determine and decide in all matters, so that his existence is always recognized and taken into account. In fact, many women became leaders and managed to lead their regions to their heyday. For example, Cleopatra VII, Queen Isabella I, Alexandria Vicktoria, and Margaret Hilda Thatcher. They are female leaders who have succeeded in bringing their country to glory. As well as its implementation as teaching material, Rahmanto (2004: 28) suggests that aspects that must be considered when choosing the right literature teaching materials are viewed from the point of language, mental maturity (psychology), and from cultural backgrounds including, language angle, soul maturity. (Liasna: 792-795).

*Zamzami often heard Enong talk about English dictionaries. From her tone of voice, she knew her daughter was eager to have a dictionary. On the other hand, despite being a child, Enong understood that his father was poor. He never asked to buy a dictionary, never asked to buy anything, (Hirata, 2011: 11)*

Gender perspective in the novel *Cinta di Gelas* By (Hirata: 2011). Gender perspective issues mean addressing issues of gender equality and gender injustice. Gender equality means equal conditions for men and women to obtain opportunities and rights as human beings, to be able to play and participate in political, legal, economic, socio-cultural, educational and national defense and security activities (hankamnas), as well as equality in enjoying the results of development. Gender equality also includes the elimination of discrimination and structural injustice, both against men and women The form of gender perspective includes gender equality and gender injustice. Gender equality in this novel includes: equality in education, equality in organization and politics, equality in socio-culture (Hakim, 2014: 9-11).

In line with the above research, Ariyana found gender studies on mariyamah characters in the novel *Padang Bulan* by (Hirata: 2011). Maryamah is a strong person that must be possessed by women to fight against all forms of discrimination and Victimization. Tough women can align themselves with men so they don't become second-class citizens. Injustice for women can be eliminated by demanding rights for women. Gender and women's violence with a very clear flow in detail has been described above. The violence that occurred to women experienced by Maryamah shows that women are often considered inferior and weak creatures without being able to act like men do. Psychological burden is not only physical but also mental which can marginalize women (Ariyana, 2017: 295-296).

The feasibility of Andrea Hirata's *novel Padang Bulan dan Cinta di Dalam Gelas* studied by (Liasna: 2019); (Hakim: 2014) Having an impression of literature learning in high school can be seen through teaching materials. The novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* are very relevant to be used as learning materials in high school. Implementation can be carried out using various categories, namely literary functions, literary teaching functions, and based on the selection criteria for literary teaching materials. In the novel *Padang Bulan dan Cinta di Dalam Gelas* (Hirata: 2010) the values about equality and injustice between women and men can be understood by students in students' daily lives. Thus, students are more respectful and appreciative about equal rights between men and women in everything in everyday life.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the analysis sourced from the five journals above that examine the feminist perspective of characters in the novel of *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata, researchers concluded that the image of Enong in the novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata can be classified into six categories, namely as women, children, sisters, friends, community members, and workers. Women also have rights and various qualities to improve the standard of living owned by men. The gender perspective is analyzed in the novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata using a feminist literature review. The form of gender perspective includes gender equality and gender injustice. The form of gender equality in this novel includes, equality in education, equality in politics and organization, equality in participating in competitions. Meanwhile,

forms of gender injustice include, subordination of women, women's stereotypes, violence against women and workload. So that women must have an independent, intelligent, courageous person and be able to make decisions decisively. Negative stereotypes of women from socio-cultural influences that harm women must be eliminated. From the six image categories of Enong and Maryamah, it is concluded that Enong and Maryamah are responsible and hardworking. As well as its feasibility as teaching material, the image of Enong and Maryamah and gender equality in the perspective of feminism in the novel *Padang Bulan* and *Cinta di Dalam Gelas* by Andrea Hirata deserves to be used as teaching material for Indonesian Literature in Senior High School (SHS) because it is in line with the criteria for selecting literature learning materials seen from several aspects that are adjusted to the 2013 curriculum and have achieved core competencies and competencies basic K1.

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