

## GENDER BIASED IN RATIH KUMALA'S *GADIS KRETEK* NOVEL

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### Abstract

This research is aimed to identify the gender biased expression toward the role of woman in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*. Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek* was published in 2012. It tells about the history of cigarette in Indonesia through the perspective of the life of one of cigarette producer in building his own business. *Gadis Kretek* also depicts the Javanese culture as the background of the story, in which patriarchal system is applied in every life of Javanese people.

The data were collected by using documentation analysis intake-note method. There are 45 gender biased expressions found in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*. Those expression were classified into 4 (four) categories of inequality of gender stated by Fakhri, namely gender and subordination, gender and stereotype, gender and violence, and gender and workload.

The result shows that in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*, woman is described as the second class in Javanese culture. The Javanese culture described by Ratih Kumala strictly applies patriarchal system. Patriarchal system refers to the system in which the men have the authority over the women. The women have only domestic role, while the men have public role. Therefore, it results in the gender inequality. There are 45 gender biased expressions found in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*. Those expressions fit not only in one category of gender inequality, but also in two or three categories. The most gender equality expressions found in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek* are the gender and stereotype. Gender and stereotype refers to the prejudice toward the women attitudes, women role in society and women role in family.

**Keywords:** gender biased, Javanese culture, patriarchal system

### Introduction

A novel, one of literary work, is one of means of communication. It means that the author of the novel conveys his idea to his reader through the story in the novel. Conveying the idea of the author to the reader can be classified into communication activity.

*Gadis Kretek*, written by Ratih Kumala, has Javanese culture as its social background. It describes the history of cigarette in Indonesia, especially in Javanese culture through the perspective of the life of one the producer of cigarette in building its own cigarette business. Ratih Kumala describes the Javanese culture including the role of patriarchal system that strictly applied in Javanese society. Patriarchal system puts a man to get the authority over the woman. The man has role in public area, while the woman is in domestic area.

Therefore, it results in gender inequality, namely gender and subordination, gender and stereotype, gender and violence, and gender and workload.

Based on the above background, the research questions are; (1) How are the Javanese woman role toward the patriarchal system described in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*? And (2) What are the roles of Javanese woman categorized by using Fakhri classification?

Therefore for answering the question research, this research is aimed to identify the Javanese woman role toward the patriarchal system described in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek* and the role of Javanese woman categorized by using Fakhri classification.

### Methodology

This research is included to qualitative descriptive research since the research has

purpose to give the factual description systematically and the data found are not analyzed by using number.

The data of research are taken and classified based on the purpose of the research. Therefore, the first purpose of the research is identifying the gender biased expression in *Gadis Kretek* novel. The data of this research are taken by the following steps:

1. Reading *Gadis Kretek* novel carefully.
2. Identifying the gender biased expression found in *Gadis Kretek* novel.
3. Noting the gender biased expression found in *Gadis Kretek* novel.

The data found are grouped by using Fakh categories of gender inequality, and then the data are described to depict the role of Javanese woman toward the patriarchal system that is strictly applied in Javanese culture.

## Findings & Discussion

### 1. Findings

There are 45 expressions that describe the role of Javanese woman. Those expressions are delivered by woman character and the man character in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*.

Some expressions fit, not only in one categories of gender inequality, but also in two even three categories. The gender inequality categories stated by Fakh are gender and subordination, gender and stereotype, gender and violence, and gender and workload.

The following table is presented to show the categories of gender biased expressions found in *Gadis Kretek* novel.

Table 1. Gender Biased Expressions found in *Gadis Kretek*

Gender Biased Expressions	Quantity	Percentage
Gender and subordination	23	37.7%
Gender and stereotype	31	50.8%
Gender and violence	1	1.6%
Gender and workload	6	9.8%

The table shows that expressions grouped in gender and stereotype are mostly found in *Gadis Kretek* novel. They are 31 expressions or 50.8 %. The second position is expression grouped in gender and subordination as 23 expressions or 37.7%. The next places are expressions grouped in gender and workload. They are 6 expressions (9.8%). The last group showed in the table is the expression grouped in gender and violence. It is only 1 expression.

### 2. Discussion

Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek* novel was published in 2012 by Gramedia Pustaka Utama. It tells the history of cigarette production in Indonesia through the perspective of the life of the producer of cigarette. The history of cigarette production in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek* novel is started in period before the declaration of proclamation of Indonesian independence. Ratih Kumala uses certain cultural terms for describing the condition of Indonesia, particularly in Java and also for describing the parts of cigarette as the main point of this novel. In describing the Javanese culture as her novel background, Ratih Kumala also describes the role of Javanese woman in which the patriarchal system is strictly applied.

Therefore, many gender biased expressions are found in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek* novel. Those expression are categorized by using the Fakh gender inequality category, they are gender and stereotype (31 expressions), gender and subordination (23 expressions) gender and workload (6 expressions), and gender and violence (1 expression).

The description of each category is seen in the following.

#### a. Gender and Subordination

The patriarchal system gives the consequences in determining the role of man and woman. The man is placed higher than woman. The role is based on the physical characteristic of man and woman. Man is

depicted as a strong, mighty, tough and aggressive person, while woman is a weak, gentle and passive person (Umar, 1999, p. 65). Those physical characteristics impact on determining the role of man and woman in society. The man is in public area, and the woman is in domestic area.

There are 23 gender biased expressions that categorized as gender and subordination expressions found in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*. The example of the gender and subordination expression;

*Romo menangis sejadi-jadinya bak lelaki kehilangan harga diri (GK,3)*

#### b. Gender and Stereotype

Gender stereotype in patriarchal system refers to give judgment or bias to woman. Woman must be placed in lower position than man. Besides, the woman must be in domestic area to take care of the children and do household activity. The woman is also expected to be beautiful, thin, and slim.

The gender and stereotype category is mostly found in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek*, they are 31 expressions. The following is the example of the gender and stereotype expression:

*Laki-laki itu lebih senang dengan Roemaisa yang dulu, yang penurut, menunduk ketika diajak bicara orang lain, dan senantiasa melayani selayaknya perempuan Jawa baik-baik. (GK, 82)*

#### c. Gender and Violence

Inequality role of woman and man, in which woman is in lower position than man, influences the acts of violence. The acts of violence include the physical (hit, rape, sexual harassment) and verbal (insult).

There is only 1 expression found in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek* that is categorized as gender and violence expression.

*“Aku masih bisa kasih dhia makan, ndak perlu kerja jadi pelinthing yang gajinya cumak koyo tha-i!(GK, 169)*

#### d. Gender and Workload

The patriarchal system situates the woman in domestic area's work when the man is in public area's work. Yet, the inequality gender is not limited only on the domestic-public area' work. When the woman has a chance to get the work in public area, her position is still on the 'domestic-like' area, such as a secretary.

There are 6 expression in Ratih Kumala's *Gadis Kretek* that categorized in gender and workload expression. The following expression is an example of inequality of gender and workload:

*Meski pelindungan lebih banyak dilakukan kaum perempuan, tetapi Tegar merasa nyaman melinting bersama mereka. (hal. 38)*

### Conclusions

From the above discussion, it is concluded that.

1. The gender biased expression are categorized by using the Fakih gender inequality category, they are gender and stereotype (31 expressions), gender and subordination (23 expressions) gender and workload (6 expressions), and gender and violence (1 expression)
2. Ratih Kumala as the author of *Gadis Kretek* novel mostly describes the role of the Javanese woman is lower than the man. She also figures the Javanese woman as the gentle and weak person. The Javanese woman must serve her husband, take care of her children and do household activity.

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