

# The Portrait of Women Resistance to Patriarki Culture in Novel *Amba* Pamuntjak Laksmi

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze and describe the portrait of women's resistance to patriarchal culture in novel *Amba*'s by Laksmi Pamuntjak. This type of research is a qualitative study using descriptive methods. The subject of this research is the novel *Amba* by Laksmi Pamuntjak. Based on the results of this research, it can be concluded that the forms of resistance contained in the novel *Amba* by Laksmi Pamuntjak are prioritizing education over marriage and choosing to work in the public sector. The description of women's resistance is very total, there is no doubt, and it is caused by the fact that women are still burdened so that women become uncertain when making choices. This problem is caused by family pressure factors. The forms of resistance in novel *Amba* Laksmi Pamuntjak's more dominated by verbal resistance.

**Keywords:** *portrait of women's resistance, socialist feminism, amba, laksmi pamuntjak*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the midst of life, there are often problems with the practice of gender power regarding discrimination against men against women (Plickert, 2017). These problems make women unable to exercise their rights and cannot escape from male domination that causes women to be oppressed, both physically and mentally (Al Gharaibeh, 2011); (Hossain, 2016). The problem will also not arise if gender differences go in harmony so that between men and women can complement and respect each other in the community (Hayati, 2012). Meanwhile, women have an important role that cannot be separated from life in society (Rosida, 2017).

Egawati (2011), said that women's decisions and choices are faced with rules that must be considered so that if they are not in accordance with the existing habits. Meanwhile, Yuliani (2007), said that women often could not voice their choices because of family regulations, socio-cultural norms, and religion. The treatment by men against women is a way to express all forms of confrontation that occur within the scope of unequal power relations and forms of rejection of all types of oppression (Roberts, 1993). These problems are in line with the concept of oppression from patriarchal culture which always puts women in marginal positions (Bertha, 2017). Patriarchal culture will have an impact on the social system that is at the root of various violence, both physical and verbal (Abrahamyan, 2018). Women are formed from the description desired by patriarchal ideology and construct the behavior and role of women in submissive forms; weak person; can't fight old traditions; hypocritical creatures who pretend to love their husbands; rebellious wife; and became a display in the house (Asri and Yenni, 2019).

Women have lost the freedom to determine and live a life that develops in society so that women must be strong and brave (Hossain, 2016). In the end, the position of women becomes weak and does not have the authority as men (Suyadya, 2009). Asri (2013), said that the inequality occurred because Indonesian people were still shackled by patriarchal culture that had taken root in social life. In addition, women have three roles, namely domestic, production, and social (Suyadya, 2009). In the domestic world, women's roles are built according to patriarchal societies, such as wives who nurture and serve their husbands; mothers who serve and love the family; and a devout and skilled girl who does housework (Kawarazuka, 2019).

Women leaders in Indonesian literary works that are shackled by patriarchal culture will resist as an effort to reject the injustices they receive and demand equality of relations with men in the domestic and public sectors (Asri, 2014). The female characters in the story did not accept the opinion of women as second class so they resisted to prove the assumption was wrong by increasing self-achievement by studying and receiving higher education. Similar to the struggle of women who prioritize gender issues, women also feel a form of struggle called feminism (Bouilly, 2016). Megawangi (1999), said that the concept of feminism voiced and challenged the injustice of relations between women and men in various sectors, especially socialist feminism which examined the domestic and public sectors. Megawangi (1999), said that one of the central issues discussed by socialist feminism was to examine the relationship between domestic work and public work or in sociology referred to as family and work. Socialist feminism believes that women must be freed to

be themselves; does not belong to her husband or family; and freeing women from oppression by inviting women to enter the public sector (Tong, 2010). Women's participation in the public sector can make women make money or materials so that domestic work is no longer attached to women and women's relations with men become stronger (Megawangi, 1999).

Through fiction, the reader seems to be involved in the events that occur and presents female characters who have roles and positions that are less important than male figures. Female leaders are considered weak because they do not have and do not dare to make decisions for themselves. Nurgiyantoro (2013) said that most fiction stories view and treat female characters inferior to male characters. Some writers are able to imply a special message about the struggle of women who carry out resistance which is depicted through characters in fictional works. In writing women's stories, the author presents themes related to sector and public issues, one of which is women's resistance to patriarchal culture. Therefore, women need existence to realize that they are involved in various aspects of life.

The purpose of rejection in this study is the attitude of women's resistance to the confinement and oppression of the patriarchal system and wants to show its existence with rejection that exists within themselves and outside themselves. The rejection written in the literature that has been presented is about the patriarchal system, namely the dominance of men and women who apply similar patterns of behavior. This research is directed at the rejection of women whose aim is to obtain gender equality and avoid the existence of a negative perspective on the existence of women. Therefore, researchers need to study the portrait of women's resistance to patriarchal culture.

## 2. METHOD

This type of research is a qualitative study using descriptive methods. Meanwhile, the subject of this research is the novel *Amba* by Laksmi Pamuntjak. In novel *Amba's* by Laksmi Pamuntjak there are forms of resistance that prioritize education over marriage and choose to work in the public sector. This research was conducted in the novel *Amba* by Laksmi Pamuntjak and this study aims to analyze and describe the forms of women's resistance to patriarchal culture in novel *Amba's* by Laksmi Pamuntjak.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this data will be analyzed and described women's resistance to patriarchal culture in the novel *Amba* paper by Laksmi Pamuntjak. novel *Amba's* is one of the novels that rejects and criticizes patriarchal culture. This novel depicts a woman who is very brave in choosing her own life path and does not want to be controlled by the existing system or norms. *Amba's* told about figure who wanted to continue his education to university level, but instead the family asked him to marry someone named Salwa. The problem becomes more complicated when *Amba* finds a man he loves named Bhisma. *Amba* also did not want to get married even though he had finished his

education. *Amba* wants to be a useful person by sharing her knowledge even though family and social environment are not safe at that time.

Therefore, *Amba* does not want to be restrained by her family just because she is a child, does not want to submit to the community system just because she is a woman, does not want to be unemployed and the financial burden of both the family and men. In an effort to get out of support, *Amba* chose college rather than get married. *Amba* dares to fight for his love and releases a man he does not love. *Amba* also became a foreign language translator as a form of self-actualization of the knowledge he had thus far so that it was useful for many people in social life.

The patriarchal culture that developed in society has made men take control of women's lives. Male domination results in women not being able to voice their choices freely. This condition triggers women to resist to get the same position with men. Various forms of resistance carried out by women against the patriarchal culture which curbed it based on the perspective of socialist feminism in the novel *Amba* by Laksmi Pamuntjak, including prioritizing education over marriage and choosing to work in the public sector.

### Prioritizing Education over Marriage

The first data shows the form of women's resistance to the patriarchal culture in the field of education by *Amba* in the novel *Amba* by Laksmi Pamuntjak. The part that shows that *Amba* does not care about marriage and *Amba* is more concerned with education, can be seen in the following quotation.

...they have to wait a year, after *Amba* completes her final high school exam. That means he just had his eighteenth birthday. Eighteen and not married. In Kadipura it means a virgin who doesn't sell. For Nuniek there was no more terrible fate, precisely because he knew *Amba* would not care. (1/AM/1, 2012: 126).

These data describe that *Amba* figures are more concerned with education than marriages that have been planned by his parents. Ignorance that makes *Amba's* parents upset and *Amba* wants to be equal with men in the field of education. According to him, women also need education so they do not live in the ignorance and power of men. Therefore, *Amba* thought of ways to be free from patriarchal culture support by increasing self-achievement. *Amba's* defense of his choices and decisions can be seen in the following quotation.

*Amba* himself is steadfast in his stance. He not only wants to graduate, but he wants to graduate with extraordinary. For him there is no other choice he must go to university. In the third grade of high school, all students are no longer expected to only pass three subjects of mathematics, Indonesian, and exact science, but are required to enter a major. *Amba* entered "Part A" language. (1/AM/2, 2012: 128).

*Amba's* figure lives in Kadipura. At that time the community still thought that women who were not married at the age of 18 years were women who did not sell. These problems are worried by *Amba's* parents. Embarrassment towards the community made *Amba's* parents tell *Amba* to

marry rather than continuing his education. However, Amba's decision did not waver, he was not subject to obedience. For Amba, the social life of the surrounding community, has not been separated from patriarchal values that make women lose their rights.

Choosing to Work in the Public Sector

The data describes that working in the public sector is seen and done by Amba in the novel *Amba* by Laksmi Pamuntjak. Amba chose to work in the public sector so that the knowledge she gained during college was useful to many people. Amba showed her ability as a translator. This can be seen in the following quotation.

But Amba will remember at that moment as something true and necessary. There was a quiet but generous feeling in the air, which filled his chest, like a joke. Kediri will be the test. Endurance for him, a test of determination and courage. (2/AM/1, 2012: 177).

He will leave. He will not be afraid. He will help others. Be useful. (2/AM/2, 2012: 177).

To try to be useful, even though I admit that place is dangerous. (2/AM/3, 2012: 183).

Amba as a foreign language translator is a doctor who is in a hospital. Amba chose to work rather than marry his fiancée and he wanted to be a useful person. Amba felt there was an empty space in her heart that needed to be filled by helping many people in social life. Therefore, sometimes the place he was aiming was quite dangerous, Amba continued his choice. Amba expressed a strong desire for her fiancée and asked her fiancé not to inform her parents. Amba was sure that her decision would not be approved because her family's wish was to get Amba married. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"To try to be useful, even though I admit that place is dangerous. So don't judge me, please respect my decision this time, all I need is your understanding and support. Please do not tell my family because they will worry, they will not understand like Mas." (2/AM/4, 2012: 183).

It is time for him to test his abilities. When he sent his application to Kediri, he felt very modern and mature. There are three reasons that make this decision feel light. One, he knows, no foreign language is useful without the full practice of immersion; two, he wants to repay his debt to his parents, who have generously allowed separation so far, who have closed their world to open the world to him, the eldest son. (2/AM/5, 2012: 177).

The quote illustrates that Amba wants to test his abilities by working as a translator and Amba wants to show his ability as a graduate of English literature. In addition, Amba also wanted to repay his kindness of his master who had let him continue. By showing independence in the financial sector, Amba wants to be free from the shadows of parents who have been financing their education process. That way, Amba hopes her parents will no longer be able to manage her choices because she can live a life without asking and financially dependent on the family.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The results of the research that has been done, women's resistance to patriarchal culture in the novel *Amba* by

Laksmi Pamuntjak, it can be concluded that the forms of resistance prioritize education over marriage and choosing to work in the public sector. novel *Amba's* depicts the figure of a woman who dares to choose her own way of life and does not want to be controlled by existing systems or norms. In this novel, tells the character of Amba who wants to continue his education to university level, but his family asks to get married. He did not want to get married even though Amba had completed his education. Amba wants to be a useful woman and can share knowledge even though her family and social environment approve it.

Therefore, Amba does not want to be restrained by his family just because he is a child, does not want to submit to the social system just because he is a woman, does not want to be unemployed and burdensome in the financial fields of the family and men. Efforts to get out of this support, Amba chose college rather than marriage and Amba dared to fight for love and release a man he did not love. In addition, Amba has also become a foreign language translator as a form of self-actualization of the knowledge he can so that it is useful for people in social life. In the end, the description of women's resistance in novel was *Amba* Laksmi Pamuntjak's influenced and caused that women were still given a burden, such as guilt and the opportunity to think again so that women become uncertain when making choices. In this case, the dominant factor is caused by family pressure factors. These forms of resistance are more dominated by verbal or verbal resistance.

#### 5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Praise and gratitude the authors say to Allah, who has bestowed his grace and gift so that the author can complete this research article properly. The author also thanks all parties who contributed during the writing process of this research article. Hopefully this research article is useful for writers, in particular and readers, in general. Thus the author can convey, for your attention, the authors thank you.

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