LIVING IN DIVERSITY IN R.J PALACIO'S *WONDER* NOVEL*:* A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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by:

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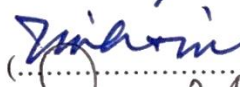
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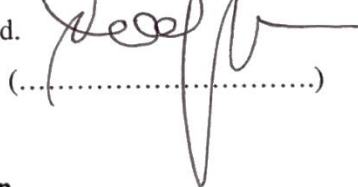Team of Examiners:

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini adalah tentang keragaman yang ada pada novel Wonder menggunakan analisis sosiologi sastra. Objek penelitiannya adalah novel wonder karya R.J Palacio berhalaman sebanyak 315. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengatahui jenis keragaman apa saja yang ada pada novel Wonder, bagaimana keragaman yang tercermin dalam novel Wonder melalui analisis penokohan serta menemukan alasan Palacio membuat isu keragaman dalam novelnya. Peneliti menggunakan teknik pengumpulan data dengan cara membaca, membuat catatan penting dan mengindentifikasi data yang sudah terkumpul. Sedangkan analisis data dilakukan dengan teknik reduksi data dan penyajian data. Keabsahan data diambil menurut Denzin (1978) dan Patton (1999), yaitu triangulasi sumber data dan triangulasi teori. Berdasarkan analisis data, hasil penelitian menemukan: (1) jenis keragaman dalam novel Wonder yaitu keragaman ras, keragaman sosial status dan keragaman latar belakang keluarga (2) keragaman digambarkan melalui penokohan, setting, sudut pandang, simbol dan imagery (3) Palacio mengangkat isu keragaman dalam novel wonder karena terinspirasi dengan pengalaman pribadinya.

Kata kunci: keragaman, sosiologi sastra, wonder

Abstract

This research is about the diversity that reflected in the novel Wonder using sociology of literature theory. The object of this study is a Wonder novel by R.J Palacio as many as 315 pages. This research aims to find out what kinds of diversity reflected in the Wonder novel, how the diversity reflected in the Wonder novel through characterization analysis and find the reason Palacio made a diversity issue in her novel. The researcher uses techniques of data collection by reading, taking the important notes and identifying the data that has been collected. While data analysis is by data reduction and data display. The data validity is taken according to Denzin (1978) and Patton (1999), namely triangulation of data sources and theory triangulation. Based on data analysis, the results of the study are: (1) the type of diversity in the novel Wonder namely racial diversity, diversity of social status and diversity of family backgrounds (2) diversity was described through characterizations, plot, settings, points of view, symbols and imagery (3) Palacio raised the issue diversity in the novel wonder because it is inspired by her personal experience.

Keywords: diversity, sociology of literature, wonder

1. INTRODUCTION

The issue of this research is Living in Diversity Reflected in Wonder Novel using Sociological Analysis. Diversity is something or someone who has different characteristics. Wonder novel is written by R.J Palacio. Palacio is a great author born in New York City on July 13, 1963. Her real name is Raquel Jaramillo. Wonder novel has been researched by other researchers with different issues. There are three studies of the Wonder novel that researcher have found the first is A Child Character's Development in R.J. Palacio's Children's Realistic Fiction Wonder Novel by Rindra Nuriza. The second is The Solidarity in Addressing Terms of R. J. Palacio's Children Novel Wonder: A Sociolinguistic Analysis by Jannah and the last is Bullying in R. J. Palacio's Wonder by Sarah Pinontoan.

Rindra Nuriza examines the Wonder novel which aims to enhance the development of children's characters through the Wonder novel. In addition to reading the novel Wonder, children are expected to understand the values that contained in the novel. Because in the novel Wonder there are many life values that are exemplary. The results of this study indicate that the main character was developed through four events, there are also six figures who helped develop the character. Another research is Jannah, this study aims to find out the forms of solidarity that exist in the novel Wonder. To analyze the data, the writer uses sociolunguistic analysis. The results of this study are four types of addressing terms, namely: name, nickname, kinship term and endearment. The last Sarah Pinontoan about bullying in the Wonder novel aims to find the causes and effects of bullying. The results of this study indicate forms of intimidation such as social aggression, physical aggression and social aggression. Whereas the effects of bullying are lack of confidence, feeling lonely.

Based on previous studies, there was no research about diversity. So, the purpose of the author to research about diversity because in the novel Wonder is told through different perspectives so that there are many different figure's characteristics. Like in terms of physical, nature, and at cetera. In addition, it is also to find out how they respond to the presence of the main character (Auggie) who is physically imperfect.

The researcher used the theory of sociology of literature in analyzing this research. Sociology of literature is the study of humans in society, about institutions and social processes. Sociology examines social structure and social processes including social changes that study social institutions. Literature as sociology deals with humans because of its existence in society to be enjoyed and utilized by the community itself. Literature as a social institution that uses language as its medium because language is a form of social expression that displays a picture of life. According to Wellek and Warren symbolizes literature as life because most of it comes from experience. Literature is also a social institution because using language as the medium. The relationship between social and literature that literature is an expression of society. For example, an author expresses his or her life through literary works such as novels or poetry and it can also represent the expressions of people's lives.

Sociology of the author concerning the problem of the author as a producer of literary works. Social issues and social ideology of the author. Sociology of literary works that concerns the existence of the work itself, which contains the contents of the literary work, the objectives, and other matters implicit in the literary work itself, and relating to social problems. Sociology of the reader is social influence of the literary work that conduct to the readers, namely the extent of the social impact of literature on the community.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of the study is qualitative research. Which means this method is in the form of descriptive text. According to Lexy (2005), qualitative research methods are research that intends to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects. Such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, etc., holistically, and by way of description in the form of words and language, in a special natural context and by utilizing various natural methods. This research uses sociology if literature theory. The object of this research is novel Wonder that written by R.J Palacio. Novel Wonder was published on February 14, 2012 in the UK. The primary data source is novel itself while the secondary data sources are articles from the internet, journal or other research that related with this paper, books of literary criticism. The

technique of collecting data uses taking notes the important things, reading the material like novel Wonder, collecting the data in accordance with sociology of literature theory and the last is the data that has been collected and then analyzed The researcher used two steps of analyzing the data from Miles and Huberman (1994) as follow data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification . Because usually the data obtained a lot, it must be summarized. this is what is called data reduction, which is to choose only the main points and focus on important thing. While data display which mean how to present the data. In qualitative research, the presentation of data can be done in the form of descriptive text. After presenting the data, the next step is to conclude and verify the data with the aim that the data that has been collected becomes the results of the analysis. The researcher used data validity in analyzed data from Denzin (1978) and Patton (1999) as follow data source triangulation and theory triangulation. Data source triangulation is data collection techniques using the same method of data from various sources while theory triangulation is based on various theories that have different basic assumptions, explaining some of the same data differently.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Palacio uses a first-person perspective in the Wonder novel. According to Heri Jauhari, the Perspective or also called the center of narration is a determinant of the style and style of the story where the character and personality of the narrator who determines a lot in choosing the story told to the reader. The first person perspective as the main actor is the point of view that usually uses the pronoun "I" in the main character.

Wonder novel contains eight parts, each part told by a different perspective, there are Auggie, Via, Jack Will, Summer, Justin and Miranda. Auggie is the main character in the Wonder novel. He began the story in part one, and Palacio makes three parts for Auggie, the first, sixth and eighth parts. Then Via gets the second part. Via is Auggie's sister. Via tells how to become Auggie's sister who has a physical disability. In the third part there is Summer, she is Auggie's best friend at Beecher Perp. Summer is a sincere person who wants to be friends with Auggie. In part four there is Jack Will, he is Auggie's friend but initially Jack became friends

with Auggie just because of orders from Mr. Tushman However, Jack is a good boy, he is also a good friend of Auggie at Beecher Perp. In part five, there is Justin. He is Via's boyfriend. Justin is a good boy. Justin even told Via to continue to love Auggie, because Auggie needed attention from those closest to him. Then in section seven there is Miranda. She is a good friend of Via. Miranda has a lot of stories about Auggie. Then in the last part Auggie closes the story beautifully. After many unpleasant things received by Auggie, finally received an award from Mr. Tushman because Auggie has a kind, patient heart and makes people realize that Auggie is an extraordinary kid.

In the Wonder novel, there are three kinds of diversity, namely racial diversity, social status diversity and diversity of family background. Here, the researcher will explain where the diversity lies through the characters in the novel Wonder. The first is Auggie, which has two diversity namely racial diversity and diversity of family background. In terms of racial diversity, racial diversity is biological difference such as skin tone, physical differences and at cetera. In other word is the category of humans into large populations or groups and different from the physical characteristics, geographical, and inherited tribes. Auggie, who introduced him, that he was the same child as the others. But no, Auggie did behave like any other child, but Auggie was not at all unusual. He is extraordinary. Auggie has physical differences on his face. He has a defect on his face since birth. In addition, in terms of diversity of family backgrounds, Auggie is blessed with a whole family, loving each other, supporting each other. Even though Auggie often gets bad treatment from other people, Auggie is lucky because he has a mother and father who are very fond of him and an older sister who also loves Auggie. They tried their best for Auggie even protected Auggie from others who staring at Auggie with strangely.

The second is Summer. Summer is Auggie's best friend at the Beecher Perp school. She is also different from the others. Because she lives in Manhattan, New York City, Summer has physical differences. She has a name that is very similar to her like skin tone is tan, green eyes like leaves and has curly hair. This is different because the majority of Europeans are white. Besides Summer there are also Isabel and Nate Pullman. They are Auggie's parents. Isabel and Nate are different. Isabel

is a Brazilian while Nate is from Poland. According to Palacio, they are symbolizing diversity.

Then there is Jack Will is someone who was born into a middleclass family. His father is only a teacher while his mother is only a social worker. This includes the diversity of social status in which all children who attend Beecher Perp are rich. diversity social status is the difference in position illustrates the difference in social status. People usually pursues a position of high social value to get respect in society.

Julian in contrast to Jack Will. Julian is the son of someone who is rich. Diversity of social status also influences someone's behavior. High and low social strata affect someone's behavior. High strata mostly have special treatment from the community, some are arrogant but there is also low profile. It all depends on their perspective. From Julian's perspective, he is a bad boy, arrogant and has a popular gang in his school. He often mocked Auggie even he invited his friends not to be friends with Auggie.

In the Wonder novel, there is also diversity of family backgrounds, where the writer finds from Justin and Miranda's perspective. Diversity of family background is like being born from a different family. In Justin's part, he tells a lot about his family. Even compares the Via (Auggie's sister) family with his family. His parents divorced when he was four years old and lived with his father in an apartment. From then on, he grew up in a family that hated each other. Justin's parents rarely noticed him. Besides Justin, there is also Miranda whose parents also divorced. Her father was with another woman, while her mother was busy with her work. Since her mother and father divorced, Miranda has never seen her father at all. Miranda lives with her mother. However, her mother has rarely talked to Miranda since her divorce. Because she never felt love in her family at all, Miranda really liked Auggie and her family. He loved that family more than he loved his own family.

The reason of Palacio for making the issue of diversity originated from her personal experience. When Palacio was with her son, they met a child who had a disability on his face. Seeing this, Palacio's son cried in fear. Not wanting to hurt the feelings of the child, Palacio took her child away from that child. But it actually

worsened the atmosphere. Palacio also lost precious moments for her son who should not need to be afraid of the child. Finally, through Wonder, Palacio writes about a child with a disability on his face. With that difference Palacio made many perspectives. Palacio wants to invite readers through the Wonder novel to appreciate that difference. Because each difference has a uniqueness that is worthy of respect.

4. CONCLUSION

Based finding and discussion, the conclusions can be drawn, namely: first, there are three variations in the Wonder novel, namely racial diversity, diversity of social status and diversity of family background. What shows racial diversity is that there is Auggie who has differences on his face, then there are Auggie's parents born from different families. Nate Pullman was born Poland While Isabel was born in Brazil. Both of them must have a different culture. In addition, there is Summer which has tan skin, curly hair and green eyes. Summer has different physical characteristics from his friends who are mostly white. In addition, Palacio's diversity of social status makes it from the perspective of Julian and Jack Will. Julian is a child from a rich family while Jack Will is a child from a middleclass family. Jack's father is just a teacher. The last is diversity of family backgrounds. Made from the perspective of Auggie, Justin and Miranda. Although Auggie has a disability on his face and gets a lot of unpleasant treatment with others, Auggie is very fortunate to have an intact and loving family. Auggie's mom, dad and sister really loved him and tried to always protect Auggie. Whereas Justin and Miranda who since childhood their mother and father are equally divorced. Justin's father and mother divorced when he was four years old. Whereas Miranda's father and mother divorced because her father chose another woman and her mother was busy with her work. Justin and Miranda admire Auggie's warm family, who love each other. Justin and Miranda never get the attention of their respective parents.

The second is the diversity that is reflected in the Wonder novel is through characterization analysis so that it can find out what are the differences in the wonder novel. Palacio makes a story from several different points of view to know

how the characters deal with children with disabilities whether we should stay away or we respect them by accepting the situation like normal people.

The third is Palacio's reason why she raises the issue of diversity in her novel. As explained in the previous chapter, that Palacio met a child who has a disability on his face. From that incident, Palacio want to invites people through her novel to respect each other's differences. Because in every difference, there is a uniqueness of each other that should be worthy of appreciation. Because we were born in this world, must be different and we should always be grateful.

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