

REVENGE TRAGEDY IN EKA KURNIAWAN'S NOVEL CANTIK ITU LUKA

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ABSTRACT

This novel talks about a beautiful woman who is forced into prostitution at the end of the colonial period. She bears three daughters – all are beautiful and cause much strife so that when she becomes pregnant again, she prays for an ugly child. Her prayer is answered. The story follows the lives of her daughters and their children so the scope of this family story is wide. It is a fascinating story. On the other hand, it can be a curse not only to themselves but also to others as the characters in the novel. But there is more phenomenon found in the novel such as magic realism, superstition and the brutal daily lives of many people.

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1. Introduction

Cantik itu Luka is a novel written by Eka Kurniawan. It is a tragic story about the life of a very famous prostitute in the time between Dutch colonialism and Indonesian struggle of independence. The protagonist in the novel, Dewi Ayu, bears the curse of some dark matter that ruins the life of all her beautiful descendants, Dewi Ayu who is forced into prostitution at the end of the colonial period. She has three beautiful daughters but they cause much strife that when she became pregnant again, she prays for an ugly child. Her prayer is answered.

Cantik itu Luka is an Indonesia novel talking about a beautiful woman. The entire story of Cantik itu Luka tells the story of revenge that hatred is not the physical manifestation but in the form of philosophical and spiritual, as well as things occult and shirk. Revenge tragedy is a drama in which the dominant motive is revenge for a real or imagined injury; it was a favourite form of English tragedy in the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras and found its highest expression in William Shakespeare's Hamlet. The revenge drama was derived originally from the Roman tragedies of Seneca but was established on the English stage by Thomas Kyd with The Spanish Tragedy (performed c. 1587).

Beauty does not always take kindness and happiness to the woman who has beautiful face as in the story but brings sorrow and illness that causes revenge; this case is very interesting to discuss. Because of the beauty, the misery appears and this creates revenge at the end.

The story follows the lives of her daughter and their children under the cursed of an evil ghost, Ma Gedik, because of their grandfather's fault, Ted Stammer, who separates Ma Gedik from his lover, Ma Iyang.

2. Research Methods

The research design is all the processes which are needed in planning and doing a research. This research uses qualitative method to analyze the data from the novel entitled *Cantik itu luka* written by Eka Kurniawan. Thus the method here gives a portrayal of significance of revenge tragedy especially the features of it in the novel. Finally the concept of revenge tragedy analysis from J.A. Cuddon is selected as indicator to analyze the revenge tragedy in the novel. It means that this analysis is based on the qualitative descriptive adjective.

3. Result And Discussion

3.1 Result of the Research

A tragedy of revenge can be said as a type of tragedy where the main source of the tragic events is revenge. It is important to notice that not every tragedy has elements of revenge in them. While a tragedy may have elements of revenge tragedy, the plot must revolve mostly about the desire to get revenge. The passion of revenge, motivated by the subsidiary passions of anger, jealousy, pride, ambition or envy, was as universal among the savage races of pagan eras as it has been among the most sophisticated societies throughout the history of mankind. With the absence of any social order, revenge in early time was not held to be a crime, but the mightiest thing to get a justice is by doing revenge. Its form was as a simple and direct act of violence by one individual upon another to return a personal injury. Then progress brought the civilizing developments of customs, laws and religions, and revenge became something of greater complexity - an issue dealing with ethics and morality, posing questions of responsibility and guilt.

Eka Kurniawan's novel, *Cantik itu Luka*, tells about a indigenous man who has hatred on Ted Stammler. His desire to destroy Stammler's family changes him to become an evil spirit. The revenge is a form of a curse that is given by Ma Gedik to the entire family lineage. In this case, beauty is the curse. Dewi Ayu and her children should feel a pain that is caused by their beauty. So, when Dewi Ayu is pregnant for the fourth baby, she does anything to kill the baby but the baby is still alive. What she does is useless. Finally, she prays to whatever that can hear her pray, God, demon, Satan, whatever, she wants her born ugly. Then the ugly baby is born and named Cantik. A tragedy can be as a result of revenge. Its action is typically leading characters which attempt to avenge the murder of a loved one, sometimes at the prompting of the victim's ghost; it involves complex intrigues and disguises, and usually some exploration of the morality of revenge. Eka Kurniawan succeeds in mixing realism and surrealism. In his novel, he is not only telling us about philosophy, history but also mystic and legend. He tells many about ghost, especially a ghost who becomes an evil spirit that has revenge on Stammler family. Because of the scenario that made by the evil spirit, the family members are under destruction. The evil spirit influences the family members mind to make his scenario going well. He makes sons-in-laws kill each other. He also causes them looks having mental disorders. He influences Krisan's mind to seduce his aunt. All his done are to get his revenge on the family. He separates them from the one whom they love and make them a widow. It happens because their grandfather, Ted Stammler, has separated him from his lover, Ma Iyang.

The entire story line of *Cantik Itu Luka* talks about an evil spirit's revenge. So it also can be called as revenge tragedy. This novel is one which deals, in its own way with many philosophical questions. There is ideology or statement about good or evil. The nature of human being is something that the novel addresses over the story.

3.2 Discussion

The novel *Cantik Itu Luka* is a novel full of contra version which the main characters are woman. They have beautiful face and the beauty makes their world fall into trouble and disaster, in the sense it has tragedy outrageously, it even has courtroom drama in the trial scene. Eka Kurniawan makes the novel becomes interesting and confusing and the appearance of Dewi Ayu as the protagonist who embodies the brave of woman who has the spirit and struggle to face her life in the era of colonialism. The focuses of the study is about a revenge tragedy in the novel.

Various aspects actually emerge from the novel and four of them are to be analyzed like ghost, insanity, murder, incest or adultery and suicide

a. Ghost

In the traditional belief and fiction, a ghost (sometimes known as a spectre) (British English) or specter (American English), phantom, apparition or spook is the soul or spirit of a dead person or animal that can appear invisible form or other. Description of the apparition of ghost varies widely from an invisible presence to translucent or barely visible wispy shapes.

The fact that people believe in after life and ghosts that the dead were an inseparable part of the world of the living, and the deep anxiety about one's fate after death, is important for understanding of perception of ghost in revenge tragedy. Nevertheless, ghosts, present or absent, were omnipresent whenever the issue of Death appeared. They are seen in some description in the novel, one of them is like in the below sentences:

Roh jahat yang sangat kuat sekali itu kini sedang sangat bahagia, melihat kemenangan kemenangannya, melihat semua dendamnya tebalaskan, meskipun ia harus menunggu lama.

Telah kupisahkan mereka dari orang-orang yang mereka cintai “katanya pada Dewi Ayu,” sebagaimana ia telah memisahkanku dari orang-orang yang aku cintai. (Kurniawan, 2012:453)

The demon very strong once it is now very happy seeing victory, see all the vengeance avenged. Although he had to wait a long time. “has separated me from the person I love.

b. Insanity

Insanity, craziness, or madness is a spectrum of behavior characterized certain abnormal mental or behavioral patterns. Insanity manifests people as violations of social norms, including becoming a danger to themselves and others, though not all such acts are considered insanity. In modern usage insanity is most commonly encountered as an informal unscientific term denoting mental instability or narrow legal context of the insanity defense. They are seen in some description in the novel, one of them is like in the below sentences:

Namun kepergian seorang kekasih bukanlah perkara sederhana. Ia memulai hari-hari penantiannya dengan menjadi laki-laki yang lebih gila dari orang-orang gila lebih idiot dari orang-orang idiot. Dan terutama lebih menyedihkan daripada orang-orang yang tengah berkabung.

However, the departure of a lover is not the simple case, He starts more the day of waiting to be a man who is more mad than mad people, more idiot of idiots and especially more miserable than mourning people (Kurniawan, 2012:30)

c. Murder

Murder is the unlawful killing, with malice aforethought, of another human, and generally this premeditated state of mind distinguishes murder from other forms of unlawful homicide. They are seen in some description in the novel, one of them is like in the below sentences:

Dengan tangan bergetar hebat, ia mengangkat mayat Rengganis si Cantik dan melemparnya ke laut, membiarkannya tenggelam. Lalu ia menangis di bibir perahu, menangis seperti gadis-gadis cengeng, menangis seperti orok-orok, menangis dengan air mata yang banjir. Di tengah isaknya ia berkata, entah kepada siapa.

"Aku membunuhmu," katanya, terisak lagi, dan melanjutkan, "karena aku hanya mencintai Ai." Ia masih menangis selama setengah jam setelah itu. (Kurniawan, 2012: 417)

With shaking hands, he lifted the body of Rengganis si Cantik and threw it over board, letting her cry on his lips of the boat, crying like girls, cry like babies with tears that he wept. In the middle he said to no one. He didn't know.

I kill you "he said sobbing again, and continued" because I just love Ai. He still cried for half. (Kurniawan, 2012: 417)

d. Incest or Adultery

Incest is sexual activity among family members or close relatives. This typically includes sexual activity among people in consanguineous relationship (blood relation) and sometimes those related by affinity, such as members of the same household step relatives, by adoption or marriage, or members of the same clan or lineage. They are seen in some description in the novel, one of them is like in the below sentences:

"Henry and Aneu pergi ke daerah teluk."

Tak ada apa-apa di teluk pada malam hari kecuali beberapa penginapan. Ted memeriksa satu per satu penginapan itu dan menemukan keduanya di satu kamar. Telanjang dan tampak terkejut. Ted tak pernah bicara apapun pada mereka dan keduanya tak pernah pulang ke rumah. Tak ada yang tahu di mana mereka tinggal setelah itu. (Kurniawan, 2012:41)

Henry and Aneu went to the bay area. "there was nothing in the bay at night except some hotels . Ted examine one by one the inn and found both of them in one room, naked and looked surprise. Ted never say anything on both of them and they never return home. Not anyone know where they live after that. (Kuniawan, 2012: 41)

e. Suicide

Suicide is the act of intentionally causing one's own death. Suicide is often committed out of despair, the cause of which is frequently attributed to a mental disorder such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, or drug abuse. Stress factor such as financial difficulties or troubles with interpersonal relationship often play of role. They are seen in some description in the novel, one of them is like in the below sentences :

Dewi Ayu mendongak dan melihatnya, pada sebuah batu, seperti seorang artis di atas panggung. Lagunya terdengar sayup-sayup dan ia sama sekali tak

mengetahui bahwa itulah lagu yang dinyanyikan Ma Gedik bertahun-tahun lalu di hari terakhir penantiannya selama enam belas tahun menunggu Ma Iyang.

"Ia pasti melompat seperti kekasihnya," kata Mr Willie lagi, "Dan hilang lenyap di balik kabut, terbang ke langit."

"Tidak," kata Dewi Ayu. "Ia akan terhempas ke bebatuan dan wajahnya babak belur seperti daging cincang." (Kurniawan, 2012: 52)

Dewi ayu looked up and saw, on a rock like an artist at the top of the stage that song in rifted and he did not know that is the song that sung by Mak Gedik.for along time at the end of his wait for sixteen year wait Ma Iyang.

He must have jump as her lover "said Mr willie Again." And vanished behind the fog, to heaven.

" no, said Dewi Ayu ." He will face slammed into the rocks and battered like mince.(kurniawan,2012 : 52)

4. Conclusion

The entire storyline of *Cantik itu Luka* talks about revenge, so it also can be called as revenge tragedy. It has some features of revenge tragedy such as ghost, insanity, murder, incest or adultery, suicide. All the characters of the novel are cursed by an evil ghost who makes their life mess up. Based on the discussion, the main topic of the story of the novel is a revenge of a man, Ma Gedik, whose lover is grabbed by a Dutch Man, Ted Stammmler. Then, the Dutch Man makes the woman, Ma Iyang, his mistress. Both the lovers, Ma Iyang and Ma Gedik commit suicide. This awakens a deep revenge of Ma Gedik to Stammmler's family. He becomes an evil ghost and curses the entire family lineage. This is the basic of premise of revenge tragedy. It is also at the heart of Eka Kurniawan's novel *Cantik itu Luka*.

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