



## Moral Value and Image of Women in The Novel of The Single Parasite Ayu Utami's Work

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### ABSTRACT

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The purpose of this research is to describe the moral values and images of women contained in the novel The single parasite by Ayu Utami. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. The object and subject of this research study is Ayu Utami's novel Si ParasitLajang, published in 2013. The data of this study are the moral values and images of women contained in the novel The single parasite by Ayu Utami. The data source of this research is Ayu Utami's novel Si ParasitLajang. The data collection technique is done by reading the object of study in depth accompanied by an understanding of the moral values and images of women in the novel. This qualitative research data analysis technique is inductive in nature, namely an analysis based on the data obtained first by classifying the data that has been recorded in the data recording list for existing categories or classifications, the second data that has been classified is further analyzed to be used as a basis for interpretation all data and the third then concludes the research results. The results of the research on the moral values and images of women in the novel The single parasite by Ayu Utami are (1) the moral values in the novel The single parasite by Ayu Utami, namely: being responsible for the family, loyal, and care. (2) the image of women in the novel The single parasite by Ayu Utami is an educated woman, a woman who is independent, women who have a high social life, beautiful women, ugly women, married women, single women, metropolitan women, brave women, and critical thinking women.

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### 1. Introduction

Literature is human knowledge and a literary work is the result of the author's imagination. Welles (1993: 3) suggests that literature is a creative activity of a work of art. Literary work is an art form that is poured through language. Literary works consist of various forms, namely poetry, prose and drama. Prose can be in the form of short stories and novels. Novel is part of the form of literary works. Semi (1998: 32) argues that the novel is a work that expresses aspects of humanity that are more profound and presented subtly. Novel is a form of literary work that has its own characteristics. The depiction of the novel can be created by the presence of characters with characters running in a coherent and appropriate plot, then ending after a climax.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2009:10) the novel is described as a work of profession that is quite long, not too long but not too short. According to Scholes Via Junus (1984:121) Novel is a story related to real or fictional events imagined by the author through his observations of reality. So it can be concluded that the novel is a form of literary work in the form of a fictional story in the form of writing or words consisting of intrinsic and extrinsic elements that tell about human life in interacting with the environment and each other and the author tries his best to direct the reader to real life pictures through the stories contained in the novel. In Indonesia, there are many literary works in the form of novels, one of which is the novel Si parasit Lajang by Ayu Utami.

Ayu utami, whose full name is Justina Ayu Utam, is known as a novelist that broke the establishment, especially on issues of sex and religion. The first novel she wrote was Saman (1998). From her work, Ayu



has attracted the attention of many readers and literary critics because her novels are considered as novels of reform in the world of Indonesian literature. Through that novel, he won the 1998 Jakarta Arts Council Romance Writing Competition. The novel was reprinted five times a year. Critics welcomed it well because the novel *Saman* gave a new color to Indonesian literature. His work in the form of essays is often published in the *Kalam Journal*. Another of her works, *Larung*, which is the dwilogy of her novel, *Saman* and *Larung*, has also received a lot of attention from readers. So far, Ayu Utami is known as the author of the novel *Saman*, which is often cited as an example of a work with the characteristic of "new openness" in discussing sexuality. However, Ayu can be said to be not a productive author. Ayu's other works are novels *Larung* (2002), *Bilangan Fu* (2008), and the collection of Essays *Si Parasit Lajang* (2003), and *Lalita* (2012).

This single parasite novel tells the glimmer of the mind of an urban youth. In his late twenties he decided not to get married and called himself a single parasite, a term originally coined by Japanese feminists. At first glance he seemed very indifferent to the values around him, not caring at all about people's comments. On the other hand, he is very observant and pays attention to his surroundings. The *Single Parasite* notes the strangest things that happen in town: nerds squeezing in sidewalks, the trend of drinking alone, billboards, school uniforms, and so on. The *Single Parasite* was a mid-town girl. Based on the contents of the single parasite novel by Ayu Utami, that novel can be analyzed in terms of moral values and the image of women in it.

Moral values are absolute things that must be owned by humans. Morals themselves are explicitly related to the process of individual socialization without morals, humans cannot carry out the socialization process. Moral in today's era has an implicit value because many people have a moral or immoral attitude from a narrow point of view. Moral is a basic trait that is taught in schools and humans must have morals if they want to be respected by others. Moral is the absolute value in social life as a whole. The assessment of morals is measured from the culture of the local community. Moral is the act or behavior or speech of a person in interacting with humans. If what a person does is in accordance with the sense values prevailing in the community and is acceptable and pleasing to the community environment, then that person is considered to have good morals, and vice versa. Moral is a product of culture and religion. Each culture has different moral standards in accordance with the prevailing value system and has been built for a long time, while according to Sugihastuti (2000: 45), image means a form, an image, can be in the form of images that many people have about personal or visual mental impressions (shadows) caused by a word, phrase or sentence, and are the basic elements that are typical in prose and poetry. Imaging is a collection of images that are used to describe objects in literary works. Image is closely related to an image because the image is a collection of these images.

Related to research on single parasite novel analysis, there are several studies with different problems. The first research is a study conducted by Feri Gunawan (2016) entitled *Ayu Utami's World View in the Novel Si Parasit Lajang*. The research studied by Feri Gunawan are: intrinsic elements (character, theme, and setting), reflected social context, and the author's world view reflected in Ayu Utami's novel *Si Parasit Lajang*. The results and discussion of this research are the main character in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* is A, the theme in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* is the need for a hard struggle to realize the hopes that are aspired to become a reality, the setting in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* is the Utan Kayu Community Complex. The social context reflected in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* is about the Indonesian people who still have a backward mindset towards equality of material and spiritual rights between men and women. Ayu Utami's world view in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* is a view of marriage, culture, and religion.

The second research is a study conducted by Saksono Prijanto (2017), entitled *The single parasite: a portrait of metropolitan women*. My character (female) in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* (SPL) adheres to her attitude, namely that women must have equality with men legally in various matters, especially regarding marriage.

The third research is a study conducted by Sofi Aulia Rahmania (2020) entitled *The Image of Hedonism in Figure A (I) in the Novel Si Parasit Lajang by Ayu Utami*. The research studied by Sofi Aulia Rahmania, namely: analyzing a novel quote that describes the hedonistic behavior of character A. The results of the analysis show three hedonistic behaviors that are often carried out by character A to achieve pleasure and enjoyment. The forms of hedonistic behavior described by the author in character A (I) in the novel "*Si Parasit Lajang*" include: (1) free sex, (2) drinking alcohol or beer, and (3) sexual behavior liking sex stories and pornographic videos. utami.

The author chose to research a single parasitic novel by Ayu Utami to be studied or analyzed in the form of moral values and the image of women because the novel is told or there are questions about the content of moral values and the image of women in it. This is interesting to study because there are some interesting things in Ayu Utami's *Parasit Lajang* novel because this novel is the work of one of the female authors who raised the story of women and this novel has an interesting theme, that is, so that ideals become reality, there is a need for a hard struggle and contains Ayu Utami's views on whether or not everyone has the right to choose a family in the city.

## **2. Research Methods**

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach. The object and subject of this research study is the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* by Ayu Utami which was published in 2013. The data of this research are the moral values and image of women contained in the novel *Siparasit Lajang* by Ayu Utami. The data source of this research is the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* by Ayu Utami. The data collection technique was carried out by reading the object of study in depth accompanied by an understanding of a moral value and the image of women in the novel. This qualitative research data analysis technique is inductive in nature, which is an analysis based on the data obtained, the first by classifying the data that has been recorded in the data recording list for existing categories or classifications, the second data that has been classified is analyzed further to be used as a basis for interpreting all the data and the third then concludes the research results.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1 The moral values in the novel *Siparasitlajang* by Ayu Utami are:**

#### **a. Women's love for family**

The role of Bik Inem's character is evidenced by the quote:

Bibik not pamper Mesdi. He loves her. Only child. Her husband remarried not long after she gave birth and she asked for a divorce. Since then she has worked as a maid for her son. He sold his goats to send Mesdi to school. Two years later I found out that Mesdi was the only child from the village who studied up to high school. Even his father was not supportive. His mother, Bik Inem, worked and succeeded in shaping Mesdi into a young man who was diligent in studying (*Si Parasit Lajang*, 2013: 108).

#### **b. Loyal**

The role of the mother in a single parasite who is very loyal to her husband. This is evidenced by the quote:

My mother is the most beautiful creature, She is so so different from me. He never changed girlfriends. I changed girlfriends five times (out of which five don't count boyfriends). She believes that marriage is the best way of life for humans, unless people become nuns and monks. I believe that having a family is good for other people (*Si Parasit Lajang*, 2013: 78).

Singles who ride and use parental facilities. I was young and had a devotee. The bell rang and a courier delivered a basket of pink roses. If I'm not at home, it's my mother who accepts. When I return, he will complain sincerely. "Why didn't that person just send plastic flowers? The real rose only lasted three days." That's right, plastic flowers can last a hundred years. Like plastic waste that does not decompose in three hundred years. "But it's a sign of love, mother." And that's how it could be love like a flower. If it is timeless means imitation. If it's real, then it only lasts three days. Mother, of course, can't believe that true love lasts three days. He has proven that the love of him and my father endures in the good and the bad until death do us part. Only love is not like a cut rose, but like a rose tree. It needs to be cared for so that it continues to grow. (*Si Parasit Lajang*, 2013:83).

#### **c. Care**

Store A is a very caring person. A cares about inequality in domestic life. That is why A always criticizes patriarchal marriage. This is evidenced by the quote:

I am against polygamy. There's nothing funny about that. Also nothing funny with my memories of the story in the magazine *Bobo* about Nazaruddin Hoja who had two wives. (*Si Parasit Lajang*, 2013:174).

Polygamy is not a duplication or extension of nature. It can only be accepted as an answer that tries to be fair in an unjust society structure; namely the patriarchal one, which causes women to depend on the protection of men, fathers, or husbands (*Si Parasit Lajang*, 2013:177).

### 3.2 The image of women in the novel *Siparasit Lajang* by Ayu Utami, namely:

#### a. The image of educated women

Education is used as the main reference or guide in life. An education can help change the future for the better. Education also a person will be seen to have "value" in front of others. The education possessed by women in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* is described by Ayu Utami through the main character. This can be seen in the following quote. (9) "It is said that Sahal saw me for the first time at the Driyarkara College of Philosophy. A school that is not known to the head of the city on the Scout-Rawasari route. But known to all potential thinkers in this country. At that time there was a seminar, in the context of the campus's anniversary." (*The Single Parasite*, 2013:3).

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that the character "I" in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* was educated in college. This shows that the main character is very concerned about the quality or quality of education for him. The education she has made her a smart woman so that her friends also consider her an educated woman.

#### b. The image of independent women

A woman is said to have an independent nature if the woman has a strong, tough attitude and does not easily give up to achieve a hope she wants. In addition, an independent woman can also be described through her hard work in achieving what she aspires to. A person is said to be independent if he has been able to devote his own energy and thoughts in his life. The female character in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* also has an independent attitude. This can be seen in the following quote. (10) "One night Sahal and I were in a dark and dirty carriage. This Matarmaja train goes to Tulungagung. (Sahal accompanies me to write Larung). The officers sweep up the garbage and the wet floor." (*Si Parasit Lajang*, 2013: 98).

To produce an article for his work, the main character "I" in the novel *Si Parasit Lajang* is not half-hearted. He makes his own observations to several areas which will later be included in his new novel. The literary works produced are not merely the result of mere imagination, but on the other hand there are also real facts.

#### c. The image of women who have a high social spirit

Having a high social spirit is one of the attitudes that must be possessed by a woman as the image of a good woman. Life in today's difficult conditions is often encountered by someone who does not have a high social spirit towards others. (11) "Well, strange son of a miracle. Some time before I had just appeared in a women's magazine in a green overall. My hair was still not long. and my religion is Catholic – at least that's what it says on my ID card. Strange and magical again, those days I received a literary gift accompanied by a sum of money. Since there were no taxes in those days, I usually like to cut off a portion of the group's earnings to donate to other parties." (*The Single Parasite*, 2013:58).

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that the main character "I" has a high social spirit. Awareness of his social soul appears by itself when he feels obliged to set aside some of his income to give to others. Without being asked or required, the "I" character gets used to setting aside some of his income to be donated to other parties.

#### d. The image of a beautiful girl

At the beginning of this novel the author describes herself as a beautiful woman. Besides my character (the author), there are also Natalie and Bikinem characters who are described as beautiful women. This can be seen in the following quote.

Sahal saw me and was amazed. He felt I was beautiful. Maybe to be precise, he thought I was beautiful, bright, like the tight lime green t-shirt I was wearing (*Si Parasit Lajang*, 2013: 3).

A beautiful French girl, let's say Natalie, whose face reminds me of Feby Febiola. He is slim and small for European size (*Si Parasite Single*, 2013: 135). Bik Inemraut is sweet and exudes simplicity (*Si Parasit Lajang*, 2013:107).

#### e. The image of an ugly woman

My shop is described as an ugly woman, after she launched her first novel, *Saman*. This can be seen in the following quote.

He said, "Actually, when we met for the first time how come you were beautiful?"

bastard. That's how it is. That means now I'm ugly. And apparently it's true (*The Single Parasite*, 2013: 7). The image of my character turned ugly because when he became an author, he did not take care of

himself. By day he worked as a journalist and at night he became a writer. So she doesn't have time to beautify herself like other women.

**f. The image of a married woman**

The characters in the novel that have the image of marriage are the characters of Mother, Bik Inem, and Suci. The three figures married, conceived, and gave birth. This can be seen in the following quote. He believes that marriage is the best way of life for humans, unless people become nuns or monks (Si Parasit Lajang, 2013: 78).

He loves his only child. Her husband remarried shortly after she gave birth (Si Parasit Lajang, 2013: 108). To be able to bring in her lover, the sissy with glaring eyes and lips that like to speak innocence, and in order to get benefits and insurance for both, they must first become husband and wife. So they secretly married. Without telling anyone including me. Ow (The Single Parasite, 2013: 188).

**g. The image of a single woman**

The image of a woman who is not married or single in the novel Siparasit Lajang by Ayu Utami is my character, she decides not to get married because for her marriage is a social construction. Marriage is only intended for those who are able to carry out their obligations as a husband. This can be seen in the following quote.

I am not a suitable person to have a family (Si Parasit Lajang, 2013: 36).

I mean this. Having a family means you can't play games. Once you are married, you should not divorce. Once you have children, you can no longer put them in your stomach and break them down into sperm and eggs. Having a family is a lifelong contract. It means those who can afford it, please do it. I still feel incapable (Si Parasite Lajang, 2013:36).

**h. The image of metropolitan women**

My character is an urban woman who lives in Jakarta. This novel describes the differences in the image of urban women with women who live in villages. The relationship between the village and the city is not really equal. This can be seen in the following quote.

I'm of course a Jakarta kid. That means I am a metropolitan girl (Si Parasit Lajang, 2013: 3).

Rarely is there a truly equal relationship. Rural and urban relations are unequal. The relationship between small towns and big cities is unequal. There is a hierarchical arrangement in which one is higher or more powerful than the others (Si Parasit Lajang, 2013: 6).

**i. The image of a brave woman**

My character in the novel is a brave character against the military regime. This resistance is proven through press activities that my character often participates in. This can be seen in the following quote.

One or two years later it is said that we met again. At the office, the Tempo Brass magazine, which at that time had just been closed. In bredel means closed by the government. Banned from publishing again, the business is shut down. Hey, once again, it's still General Suharto's era. Now is still the era before the reformation. The military regime can kill a publication at will (Si Parasit Lajang, 2013: 4).

**j. The image of women who think critically**

My character in the novel is a female character who thinks critically about feminists and feminist fighters. This can be seen in the following quote.

Feminists like me (ckckckc) may think it's stupid. But what's wrong with being stupid? Stupid is not something wrong. Stupid is something stupid, stupid! (The Single Parasite, 2013:25).

I once knew a Japanese feminist, he said based on his research, most Japanese women who had advanced careers were not married. And women like that generally stay in their parents' homes, houses they don't need to open because there are mothers who do it, and fathers who don't want to leave their girls alone (Si Parasit Lajang, 2013: 27).

#### 4. Conclusions

Based on the results of the research described in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that the moral values and image of women contained in the novel Siparasit Lajang by Ayu Utami are:

- a. Moral values in the novel Siparasit Lajang by Ayu Utami are: women's love for family, loyalty, and care.

- b. The images of women contained in the novel *Siparasit Lajang* by Ayu Utami are: educated women, independent women, women who have a high social spirit, beautiful women, ugly women, married women, single women, metropolitan women, brave women, and women who think critically.

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