

PEMBELAJARAN JURNAL SASTRA

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DESPERATELY SEEKING JUSTICE IN OKKY MADASARI'S *BOUND*

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Abstract: Resistance is often performed by marginal people as the response to the situation that is not benefitted them. *Bound* is a novel by Okky Madasari, which talks about marginal people's resistance to injustice and their desperate struggle for humanity and decent life. The characters in this novel show the struggle for freedom and their resistance to the repressing power. The issue of resistance and the struggle against injustice is well explored for the readers to get the picture of what they feel and struggle for. This paper discusses the persistence of the characters' resistance in the novel. This study aims to describe the resistance performed by some characters in the novel by applying the concept of resistance by James Scott (1985), elaborating the form of open resistance and closed resistance. This study indicates two forms of resistance in the novel, namely open resistance and closed resistance. Some characters in this novel, Cak Man, Sasana, and Jaka held an open resistance in the form of demonstration against the factory employer. Jaka, Sasana, and female workers are among the people who did resistance against the dominant group. The closed resistance is carried out by several characters in this novel, like Sasana's parents, who cried and cursed when Sasana was tortured by his friends and the perpetrators could not be brought into court because of their fathers' position as the general and government officials.

Keywords: Bound, injustice, struggle, resistance, Okky Madasari,

ABSTRAK: Resistensi seringkali dilakukan oleh kelompok masyarakat marginal sebagai respon terhadap situasi yang tidak menguntungkan bagi mereka. "Bound" (versi Bahasa Indonesia, Pasung Jiwa) merupakan novel karya Okky Madasari, yang menarasikan resistansi kelompok marginal terhadap ketidakadilan dan perjuangan mereka untuk mendapatkan menegaskan kemanusiaan dan kehidupan yang layak, yang selalu menjadi tema yang relevan untuk situasi kekinian. Karakter dalam novel ini merefleksikan perjuangan mereka melawan kekuasaan yang represif. Persoalan resistensi dan perjuangan melawan ketidakadilan ini dieksplorasi dengan baik dalam karya sastra ini, sehingga pembaca bisa mendapatkan gambaran yang mendalam mengenai perasaan dan perjuangan karakter ini. Makalah ini mendiskusikan kegigihan karakter yang ada di novel ini dalam melakukan resistensi. Paper ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan resistensi yang dilakukan oleh beberapa karakter utama dalam novel. Dengan menggunakan konsep resistensi oleh James Scott (1985) paper ini mengelaborasi dua bentuk resistensi, resistensi terbuka dan tertutup. Studi ini menunjukkan dua macam resistensi dalam novel "Bound." Beberapa tokoh dalam novel ini, Cak Man, Sasana, dan Jaka melakukan open resistance dalam bentuk demonstrasi di depan pabrik. Contoh lain, resistensi yang dilakukan Jaka, dengan memukul bosnya karena memotong dua hari upahnya. Tokoh lain, Sasana melawan ancaman dari preman pasar yang mencoba memerasnya. Sedangkan resistansi tertutup bisa dilihat dari apa yang dilakukan oleh beberapa tokoh, seperti orang tua Sasana, yang hanya bisa marah dan mengumpat ketika

teman-teman Sasana menyiksa Sasana dan anak-anak ini tidak bisa diproses hukum karena orang tua mereka adalah Jenderal dan pejabat pemerintahan.

Keywords: Bound, injustice, struggle, resistance, Okky Madasari,

INTRODUCTION

Bound is a novel by Okky Madasari published in 2014, which is an English translated version from the Indonesian novel "Pasung Jiwa" (2013). This novel narrates the resistance of marginal people in responding to injustice that happened to the characters in the novel. This novel is valuable to be analyzed due to its theme which is relevant to the current situation, in which many people have lost their freedom due to various factors such as religious views, social systems, economics, and politics. The struggle of those who lose their freedom is described through several characters in this novel, which is well explored so that readers can come to understand the struggle they have done.

Resistance is almost always performed by people in marginal or subordinated situation, due to the repressing power exercised against them. In this novel, there are two main characters, namely Sasana and Jaka. We can find the other minor characters like Sasana's father and mother, Cak Man, a woman who works in the factory, and Jaka's friends. Sasana is a teenage boy who was growing up in unpleasant situation. Since his childhood, his school achievements made his parents proud of him. Unfortunately, when he was in junior high school, he got bullying from his friends. He was beaten to a pulp and asked for money every day. He was threatened, if he did not give money or reported to others, his life was at stake. One day, he was beaten and got severely injured so that he had to be rushed to the hospital. Sasana's parents immediately took action to save their child. Sasana's father is a lawyer, he went to the school principal and asked for justice for what happened to his son. But all his effort was useless, because the parents of the perpetrator children were army officers. Instead, the school suggested Sasana quit from the school.

The other main character is Jaka Wani, Sasana's friend when they lived in Malang. Jaka worked in a factory in Batam, and he accidentally broke a glass. Consequently, Jaka had to pay this and his boss cut his salary for two days. Jaka could not accept the decision. He hit his boss and then ran away from the factory. Since then, Jaka has been a wanted man sought by the factory's boss.

In addition to the two main characters, there are some characters who did fight against injustice committed by superiors or dominant group. The first is Sasana's parents who tried to advocate his son's case, but it failed, because the perpetrator children cannot be brought into the court because their father is the general and government officials. The other character in the story discussed here is Cak Man, who demands the employer's responsibility for the death of Marsini who worked in the factory. She has disappeared for a few days. She did not go home, and did not go to work. It turns out that she was a victim of sexual assault from his superiors and she committed suicide.

The other marginal group narrated in this novel is women. This novel described the sexual harassments that often happened in the working place, involving the boss or supervisor men as the perpetrator of sexual abuse and the female workers as the victims of the abuse. The victim, after the rapes, got pregnant. Because of her pregnancy, with no man responsible for her, she was fired. In this novel, we will find out how the women and her friends tried to do resistance against the men in the power.

The novel "*Bound*," Okky's fourth novel, has a unique style, in which it tells the story in a long-winded manner. Especially with strong characters like Sasana who tried to struggle to get justice in his school, and Jaka who demands justice for a worker who is raped by his superiors. In this discussion, we apply James Scott's theory of resistance to read and understand the characters' resistance. To reach the objective, the questions are formulated as follows: 1. How do the characters perform open resistance in Okky Madasari's *Bound*? 2. How do the characters perform closed resistance in the novel?

JAMES SCOTT'S CONCEPT OF RESISTANCE

James Scott defines resistance as any action taken by subordinates or groups shown to reduce or reject claims (for example rent or tax) made by superordinate parties or groups against them. Scott divides the resistance into two parts: Public or open resistance and hidden or closed resistance. These two categories are distinguished by the articulation of resistance, form, characteristics of

social and cultural areas. Open resistance is characterized by open interactions between superordinate class and subordinate class, while hidden resistance is characterized by closed, indirect interactions between subordinates and superordinate classes. James Scott (1985: 285) draws the notion of resistance in general which sees the real situation in society. Resistance is defined through the following characteristics; (1) organic, systematic and cooperative, (2) self-centered principles, (3) revolutionary consequences, and (3) includes ideas or intentions that negate the back base around family life.

Scott (1990) revealed that many kinds of resistance exist and occur around our everyday life, clearly illustrated by the resistance of the weak minority, those who do not have the power to make an open rejection. The open resistance (social protest or demonstration), is a form of resistance that is organized, systematic, and principled. The manifestations used in the resistance are violent methods such as rebellion. Closed resistance (symbolic or ideological), is a rejection of categories imposed on society. For example; gossip, slander, or withdrawal of respect for the authorities.

Resistance is carried out because of the oppression to a group of people or community. Resistance is used by the oppressed people as a tool to get their rights back. The oppressed usually perform resistance in many creative ways, because of the consequence of the resistance they have to consider. They can do it in an open resistance, which is easily defined and known publicly. This is a form of resistance that can be observed, physically and directly, and usually there is communication between two disputing parties. Zuraida (2013: 17) explains that open resistance is a form of resistance that is marked by the actions that originate from direct communication between the dominant classes (the rulers) and the dominated classes (the ruled).

James Scott (1985) revealed that there are four characteristics of open resistance. First, intangible resistance in accordance with the prevailing system, organized between one party and another, and cooperating with each other. Second, there is an impact (revolutionary consequences) in movements that can affect the survival. Third, rational by focusing on the interests of many people. Fourth, aiming at eliminating acts of domination and oppression from the authorities. Open resistance leads to movements carried out systematically in coordination between leaders and members taking part in the resistance.

The closed resistance or hidden resistance, is a form of resistance done by someone through a less systematic procedure. Closed resistance tends to refer to the resistance movement intangibly by calculating the form of resistance, the achievements obtained, and the determination of individual attitudes in organizing desires, and the ability to fight. The closed resistance has four characteristics; occur irregularly, disorganized, individual (aiming for profit by focusing on individual interests), does not have direct effects of change.

Both types of resistance function as a tool for the oppressed in changing the existing cultures and systems that is not benefitted for them. Open resistance is easily recognized by because its forms of action can be observed, while closed resistance tends to have no real manifestation in the actions because they are individual and considered to be able to affect the existing order (Scott, 1985).

METHOD

In accordance to the objective of this research, mainly to describe the open and closed resistance of the characters in Okky Madasari's *Bound*, this study applies the literary criticism (Klarer, 2004; Wiyatmi, 2013) as the approach. Literary criticism focuses its analysis by reading and interpreting a literary work and elaborating it with the concept of sociology of literature (Damono, 1979; Damono, 1983). The data source of this study is the novel *Bound* written by Okky Madasari that was published in 2014. It consists of 19 chapters and 273 pages. The data of the study are in the forms of sentence, paragraph and dialogue quoted from the novel. They are collected based on the purpose of the study. In brief, the researchers select carefully the data needed in the novel "*Bound*" according to the research questions posted above.

The data collection technique in this research is reading carefully, to get the comprehensive understanding on the issues discussed, and taking notes. The notes are in the form of excerpts of words, phrase, and sentences. The next step, the researcher selects the notes by focusing on the resistance of the main characters. The analysis is done through interpreting and comparing each of

the data. The data is also dialogued with the theory used in this study. The last is drawing conclusion from the analysis.

DISCUSSION

People's desperate resistance in Okky Madasari's *Bound*

The open resistance that the characters have done in this novel shows that the resistance is an effort to reduce or reject the claim by other powerful parties, the superordinate or dominant person (as stated by Scott, 1985), but not always from different social classes. The resistance is almost always performed by the oppressed one. In this case, we can find out the oppressed and marginal parties are represented by the characters Sasana, Jaka, and Cak Man.

Cak Man, whose daughter, Marsini, was dead because of suicide, could not accept his daughter's death. Marsini was committed suicide because she was raped by her employer. She felt ashamed and depressed so that she did suicide. Nobody knows this, and she just disappeared. Her friend at her boarding house told Cak Man later about this issue, and he felt so sad and so sorry for her daughter's short miserable life.

In demanding the employer to be responsible to the death case of Marsini, Cak Man, with Jaka, Sasana and some of his friends staged a demonstration in front of the factory.

I could see Cak Jek getting agitated. He kept gesturing with his hands and pointing to the factory building. At one point he also gestured to Cak Man and patted him on the shoulder, as though to say.

"This is the father of Marsini, the worker who's missing. Don't you feel any pity on him?"

The guards looked increasingly hostile. They kept pointing at the road. They were telling Cak Jek and Cak Man to leave.

"We're going with our plan," Cak Jek said as soon as he reached us (Bound, 77).

The demonstration is the evidence that people do an open resistance with a purpose, to fight against injustice. Cak Man was outrageous to the employer who has caused the death of his daughter. He also saw that the injustice happens in the public area (in the working place) and it may occur to anybody with nobody responsible for it. The injustice and pressure from the capitalist system is represented by the factory employer and supervisor (a higher rank than the manual workers) who have done sexual harrasment to female workers. This made the marginal men, Jaka, Cak Man and other workers, did open resistance in the form of demonstration.

Jaka, the worker that has a strong cause to do resistance, sparks some rebellious actions against the boss of the factory. In other occasion, he has to made conflict with the employer because he unintentionally dropped the TV glass so that the supervisor is mad at him, and gave the punishment, that he has to work unpaid for two days. Jaka did not accept the boss' claim. Instead, in his anger, Jaka slapped his boss after they were arguing.

"And you have been paid for all the components that you work on," he said

"But now you're telling me to work two whole days for no pay?"

"It's only two days. Remember, it should have been five."

"I won't do it!" I said, loud and firm. I don't know what had possessed me, but I no longer had any sense of fear. I hadn't been able to defend Elis, or the two women who were fired, but I had to defend myself.

"As you wish. That means you're fired this company," the supervisor said. "There won't be any severance pay because you made a mistake and refused to follow the rules."

THWACK! I smacked him right in the face. I bolted out of the room before the foreman could even react. I didn't run because I was afraid. I ran because I didn't want to waste the rest of life (Bound; p. 167).

The data above show that Jaka is angry and has no fear of anything else in his life. This is caused by the fact that he has witnessed unfairness and injustice happened among his friends in the factory, especially the female workers who got sexual assault, got pregnant and fired from their job. Now the same case occurred to himself. So, Jaka was furious to his superior not only because of his own case, but it is an accumulation of furious and guilty feeling of his inability to protect his female friends who have been fired because of the injustice factory system. Jaka's action of smacking the boss is led by his anger of the boss, the capitalist that exploited them unfairly in the factory working system.

In the factory, the employer, the boss and the supervisor are the persons with power. On the other hand, the (manual) workers, male and female are the real working class, who are marginalized in the capitalistic system of a factory. This novel describes the situation in which many female workers have got sexual abuse many times. In many cases, it was considered as something commonly happen to the young female workers, especially if she is young and good looking. In this novel, there are many cases in which women are the victims of the sexual abuse done by the employer or the supervisor (the men whose position in the factory is higher than the female workers). Marsini's death is caused by the sexual abuse with the employer as the perpetrator. In other case, a female worker was raped many times by male supervisor and she got pregnant because of that. The factory has a rule that those who is pregnant (out of marital pregnancy) she is to be fired from the job. This rule is in fact harmful for the female workers. In most cases, they got pregnant because of the un-consensual sexual relation, or rape. Like the case of a woman protesting her situation of fired from the job.

The sound of woman shouting tore through the factory that afternoon. She was standing facing the foreman in the corner of the building closest to the exit. She was shouting loud enough for everyone to hear her.

"Goddamned foreman! Goddamned factory! Firing someone after you've squeezed everything out!" (Bound, 163)

The woman got unfair treatment because of the rules and the system in the factory that is not benefitted to the female workers. The data above describe a woman who was fired from the job in the factory because of her pregnancy, and she got pregnant because of the sexual abuse and rape done by the employer and supervisor. She shows her open resistance by yelling to the foreman, and nothing else she could do. She did not get any success in her resistance though.

The unfairness does not only happen in the working place like factory where the working system shackled the people like Jaka and other characters. It also happened in other public space. In the factory, injustice and unfairness show that the perpetrator of the injustice is the one in the dominant group or the employer and the victims are the ones as the subordinate position. Unfortunately, the unfairness and injustice also happen in the social setting of the market, in which the low-class people struggle to overpower one another. This case can be found in the story of Sasana who make a living by busking in the market, and the thugs in the market racked him to get his little money.

"You want to fool around? You think you can mess with us? Just ask anyone who's the boss of this market!" One of them said, his eyes bulging at me. I didn't speak. I whimpered in pain as my throat was squeezed. "Now where's our cut?" (Bound, 189)

"I kicked the man in front of me in the groin. He yelped, and an instant later a fist slammed into my head incredibly hard....." (Bound, 199)

The data indicate that Sasana was being driven out by thugs when he was busking in the market. They forced him to give money to them, but Sasana refused to do that. Finally, in desperate effort, Sasana kicked one of them. Even though Sasana did not succeed in defeating them, he had tried to resist, because he did not want to be persecuted. Sasana's resistance is an effort to decline the thugs claim and power.

The open resistance that the characters have done above, show that in the under-pressure position, the marginal people have the courage to fight back. Most of the resistance is not totally successful, but this open resistance marked the important phase of the people's struggle to challenge or decline the abusive power surrounding them. The open resistance that the workers have done is not always well-organized or systematic, because of their limitedness, but the resistance has marked important phase for their life individually and socially.

The characters' closed resistance in Okky Madasari's *Bound*

Closed resistance according to Scott (1985) is a more symbolic and ideological resistance. This kind of resistance is a rejection of categories imposed on society. People usually do the closed resistance through the action like gossip, slander, or withdrawal of respect for the authorities.

The first case of closed resistance happened to Sasana's parents. When Sasana was in childhood, he was bullied and beaten by his friends. One day, Sasana was beaten to almost dead. Seeing her son condition, the mother was furious and asked her husband to do something. As Sasana's father is a lawyer, the mother persisted him to do a legal action against the perpetrator.

"One of them was the son of general, and another was the son of a government official. This case couldn't be processed," father said quietly.

"What? Our son was tortured like a dog and the people who did it can't be processed?!" Mother shouted. She wasn't just angry at the people who had hurt me or at the police who were powerless. She was angry at my father.

"Can't you do something? This is about our son! Our very own child was assaulted by people like those and you just stay silent?!"

"Calm down, now, don't get emotional like that...." Father said.

"How can I calm down? This is my son. I feel his pain. I will never get over people treating my son like that."

"Me too..."

"You too what? You're supposed to know the law. What's the point of being lawyer or knowing the law if you can't sort out something like this?"

(Bound, p. 38)

The data above indicate that Sasana's mother was astonished to what happen to her husband. He is a lawyer but cannot do anything to advocate Sasana, his own son. The mother's mourning also shows that they realize that there is something unfair, something injustice happen to her son, to her family. Because of inability to take a clear action, she feels bitter as the victim. She does not victimize herself, but she realizes that the power relation in Sasana's case is beyond her reach. The parents crying is symbolical as this shows their inability to accept the situation. They do not believe nor respect to the whole legal system that do not make justice to all people.

Father suddenly started crying. Mother and I were shocked. Here was my father, a man who has always been strong and firm, now crying. I didn't even know he could cry. He always seemed so rock-steady and ready with a solution for every problem. Those were the same values he tried to teach me from young age. A boy mustn't cry, mustn't mope, mustn't be weak. But now he was crying, right here in front of Mother and me. He was sobbing loud and deep (Bound, 38).

Sasana's father cried because he realized that he could do anything for defending his son, his family. His cry surprised Sasana and his mother. This is related to the masculine image that a man (the father) never cries in any situation, never shows a helplessness. He has to represent himself as a steady man, a rough man who is always able to cope with any situation, gives solution to any problems. It seems that toughness is the opposite of crying. Cry is considered as a weakness. But here, father's crying shows a symbolical action, that means, he is a human being just the same as the other, male or female, that has the feeling of weakness, powerless, sad, and other melancholia. And, crying is not only the monopoly of women. This is a good lesson for Sasana, because his old belief that man must not cry, must not (look) weak is challenged by his father's crying. Sasana's father

crying is symbol that the masculine image has changed. This resists the belief of people that men cannot cry. That man is just like another human being who commonly has feeling just like the other human being.

The closed resistance is also manifested in the case when Jaka, Sasana and Cak man did demonstration. They are stopped and interrogated separately by security guard and the police.

The senior officer leaned over me, then grabbed me by the hair to face him. "So, you're a tyranny who likes to go against authority?" he asked.

Again I stayed silent. What was I supposed to say?

"Answer!" he yelled.

I shook my head. "No, sir," I said.

"Goddamn tyranny! Can't even talk right. Seems we've got to fix that mouth of yours so you can talk right," he said. He undid his pants, and suddenly I realized he had in mind. NO NO NO! (Bound, 83)

Sasana was arrested and taken to an unknown place. He was beaten until he was collapsed, then asked by the police several questions. The next several minutes, he was beaten and tortured. The beat and torture fuel his hate and resistance toward the employers and the police. His resistance in silent, in pain has a big effect in his hate and untrustworthy to the officer.

The resistance is also performed by the female workers in the factory. Many female workers were raped by the supervisors and the foreman. The rape is an un-consensual sexual relationship that makes the women angry. Most of the rapist did this with violence. Some of the women are quiet some other speak aloud because they are impaired by having (unwanted) pregnancy.

"We tried fighting, didn't we? And they still fired us. No one cares," Sarti Said

"We have to try again," I said. "We'll get the other workers to join. I am sure there must have been many others like you who were raped but didn't dare say anything about it."

"Because none of them got pregnant!" Sarti Said.

"That's true. If we hadn't gotten pregnant, we would have stayed quite too," Kalina said

"So there really are a lot more of you?" I asked. They both nodded.

"You don't have to look far. My roommates were all raped by those guys," Sarti Said

"You mean it's not just the foreman doing this?" I asked.

"Of course not! There are six foremen, and they're all the same. The supervisor too. Sometimes the security guards join in," Sarti Said (Bound, 176-177).

The data show that most of the female workers having conversation are raped by the men in the factory, either the supervisor, the foreman, and the security guards. They are the men who have power in the factory. Not all of the raped women dare to talk about the issue. The raped women who got pregnant usually speak aloud because they have to fight for their own condition. Most of the pregnant women are expelled from the job, and they got a big problem to maintain their living, while they are pregnant.

Jaka is the one who is always motivated to do resistance against the factory and the employer. He also invited other friends to support him, joining the demonstration. His action of resistance aims at increasing workers bargaining position. We can find out from the conversation below, that Jaka knows the important roles that the workers play in the whole proses of production. So, if the workers go on strike, the employer of the factory owner will be in a loss, a big loss.

"On Wednesday we go on strike, everyone together. We let the factory take a loss. Imagine if the factory didn't operate for a whole day. They wouldn't know what to do. And the workers would get attention. We could demand whatever we wanted from them."

"What if we get fired?" Rustam asked.

"How are they going to fire you if everyone goes on strike? You think they can fire everyone? They'd even more money." (Bound, 180-181)

The excerpt shows that Jaka and his friend take the other opinion into account. Jaka tries to convince the other friend about the decision to make a worker strike. He presented the impact of the strike, which is clear enough. Rustam's question shows that the decision has to be taken carefully, mainly considering the risk that they have to face. When one of them is in doubt, he answers with an optimistic statement that the factory owner is realistic in making a decision.

The analysis above shows that the closed resistance can take many different forms. The resistance against the employer, resistance against the "masculinity image", resistance against the security and police, women's resistance against the rapist in the factory. This symbolic action belongs to the close resistance as it shows the symbolical action dealing with many parties they have to fight against.

CONCLUSION

The open resistance and closed resistance may be not a clearcut difference. We can find out here that the open resistance is always related to the closed resistance. The first example of open resistance were done by Cak Man, Sasana, and Jaka who held a demonstration by singing in front of the factory to get the factory leaders out. Sing a song is a symbolical action because it communicates something and has a certain purpose. The example of open resistance is demonstration, Jaka's hitting his boss, Sasana's fought against market thugs who ask him for money for busking in the market. The open resistance shows that the repressed people always have energy to fight back, without considering win or lose.

The closed resistance that is done by some characters in this novel take many different forms. The resistance against the employer, resistance against the "masculinity image", resistance against the security and police, women's resistance against the rapist in the factory. This symbolic action belongs to the close resistance as it shows the symbolical action dealing with many parties they have to fight against. This implies that the resistance has not always resulted in a 'winning party'. In many cases the resistance did not get the result as they wanted, but the resistance is a symbolical action that repressed people have to do.

This study focuses on analyzing the characters by using James Scott's resistance theory. There are still many other topics need to be explored more from this novel, for instance, the topic of author's world view or other sociological or psychological aspects described in the novel. It is interesting also to research other topic, like power relation among the characters in the novel.

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