

Conference Paper

Poverty in Nunuk Y Kusmiana's Novel *Gadis Pesisir*

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ORCID:Asnani: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4775-6123>**Abstract**

The purpose of this research was to describe poverty in Nunuk Y. Kusmiana's novel *Gadis Pesisir*. The book describes Umar and his daughter Halijah. Umar was a fisherman who did not use modern fishing technology. This greatly affected his fishing abilities, which made the family poor. This study adopted the poverty descriptions proposed by Soeharto (2005), namely a material, social and income description. The material description included daily primary needs such as clothing, food, shelter, health service and education. The social description included social exclusion, dependence on others and an inability to participate in society. The description of income included the lack of income associated with the number of children in the family. This study used descriptive qualitative methods because this is the most suitable method for literary phenomena (Endraswara, 2011). The descriptive method does not use numbers but uses an appreciation of the interaction between the concepts that are being studied empirically (Semi: 1993). The data collection used sorting and noting. The results of the study indicated that material, social and income features are not fulfilled in this novel.

Keywords: poverty, poverty description, material, social, income

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1. Introduction

Poverty is the condition where you are unable to fulfill basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and health. According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia poverty is the condition of inability of individuals, families, or group to meet the basic needs of life (clothing, food, and shelter). The poor community can be determined based on their income to meet living standards (Nugroho, 1995). Furthermore, the standard of living in a society is not only meet for food but also health and education. Likewise, a proper place to live in is also a standard of living in an area. Suryawati (2014) stated that a community is called poor if their income is lower than the average income so that it can be said that they were unable to proper.

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There are two types of fishing technology, traditional and modern. The modernity includes the size of boat used and the level of exploitation of the fishing gear (Sawit in Imron, 2003). In addition, the fishing area is included in the term of modernity. Modern fishing technology has the ability to roam up to the off shore. On the other hand, traditional fishing area is limited to coastal water. The use of different technology has led to the concept of traditional fisherman and modern fisherman. Furthermore, Acheson in Imron (2003) said that fishing technology such as engine boat is very important, because the condition of fishery resources that can be easily moved from a place to another. Fisherman also needs adequate means to survive, long live on water.

Nunuk Y. Kusmiana in her novel *Gadis Pesisir* tells of the fishermen poverty in Papua, Jayapura. Their life depends on their daily fish catch. There is a fisherman, Umar, the main character in the novel. He is a traditional fisherman. He does not use modern technology of fishing gear. He just has a traditional one like sampan, traditional boat (boat without engine).

2. Literature Review

Suryawati (2014) stated that there are four forms of poverty. They are absolute poverty, relative poverty, cultural poverty, and structural poverty. Absolute poverty is the condition in which a person income is below the poverty line so that it is not sufficient to meet standard needs, like food, health, clothing, housing, and education. The poverty line is defined as the average expenditure or average consumption for basic needs related to meeting welfare standard. Relative poverty is the form of poverty that occurs because of the influence of development policies that has not reached all level of society, causing inequality income and welfare standard. It is known as disadvantaged areas. Cultural poverty is poverty that occurs as of the result of attitude and habit of a person or community, which generally comes from culture or customs that are relatively unwilling to improve the standard of living. Habits like that can be in the form of being lazy, extravagant, less creative, and also relatively dependent of other parties. Structural poverty is a form of poverty caused by low access to resources that occurs in socio-cultural or socio-political order that does not support poverty alleviation.

According to Soeharto (2005) poverty can be seen in three ways. They are material description, social description, and description of income. Materials description includes daily primary needs such as clothing, food, shelter, health service and education. Limited food sufficiency and quality can be seen from the limited food stock. Limited access and low quality of health services are caused by difficulties in accessing service, low quality

of service, and lack of healthy living habits. Limited access and low quality of education services are indicated by gaps in the cost of education, limited education facilities, and opportunities to get education. Social description includes social exclusion, dependency, and inability to participate in society. Social exclusion is as a result of an individual inability to improve his life condition. Description of income includes the lack of income and adequate wealth, associate with total income and number of family members. Some reasons why someone meets poverty are individual and pathological causes as a result of behavior, family causes related to family education, sub-cultural causes that link poverty to surrounding environment, causes agency, which sees poverty as a result of the action of others, such as wars, government, and economy, and structural causes; poverty as a result of social structures.

3. Research Method

This research uses qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative method is the most suitable method for literary phenomena (Endraswara, 2011). In accordance with the opinion of Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2002), qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words about people and observable behavior. Descriptive method is a method that does not use numbers but uses appreciation of the interaction between concepts that are being studied empirically (Semi, 1993). In addition, the content analysis is used to examine the contents of the text to determine the depiction of poverty in the novel. The data collection method uses note-taking method.

4. Result and Discussion

Poverty in Nunuk Y. Kusmiana' novel *Gadis Pesisir* is described as the main topic of the novel. It tells about Umar's family who migrated from Ambon to Papua, Jayapura. Umar is a traditional fisherman.

4.1. Description of Material

Description of material covers daily primary needs such as clothing, food, shelter, health service and education.

4.1.1. Clothing

Clothing is drawn from Halijah's uniform. It is old but she has to wear it because she does not have any clothes. It can be seen in the following quotation.

The back of her uniform is thinning, it is fringed from being worn. Her uniform was pathetic to make her more extra care sitting on the chair. She is afraid it suddenly tore. Her father and her mother do not have money buying her a new uniform. (Gadis Pesisir: 77)

Halijah, gadis pesisir, just has one uniform for six days of going school. It is so pity. She should wear it because she does not have others. Her parents is so poor buying her a new uniform. Her parents cannot have afford to fulfill clothing for their daughter.

4.1.2. Food

The fulfillment of daily food for the family is very concerning. The family only has one plate of rice porridge for lunch and dinner.

One plate of rice porridge is not a one-time meal. That is for lunch and dinner. The children are welcome to arrange their own. They can eat the whole porridge or half now and half later. (Gadis Pesisir: 47)

The quotation above tells us how poor they are. Umar family always starved. It makes his son becomes a thief in neighbors' house. In fact, he just takes some rice or candy.

4.1.3. Shelter

The fishermen live on the shoreline, a house on stilts which is above the water. Umar's house consists of a living room, two bedrooms, and a kitchen. The house is small without bathroom.

The living room was almost unfurnished. There was only an old mat on the floor which luckily did not torn. There is also a picture of a European autumn forest scene from an old calendar pinned to the wall. (Gadis Pesisir: 134)

The simplicity of Umar's residence is due to the lack of funds to buy household furniture.

4.1.4. Health service

There is one hospital in Papua, Jayapura but the location is far from the village. It makes difficult for the villagers go to there. Lack of funds and lack of knowledge make the villagers far from health. This cause that Umar's son suffered mental retardation due to malnutrition while he was in the womb and after birth. Umar's wife does not breastfeed the baby. Her breasts do not have milk because she only eats porridge every day. She is starving because there is no food. Furthermore, when she gave birth, she was not treated by medical team.

.... A girl was holding a baby and feeding him some liquid. The baby looks thin. His cheeks are thin. Small legs. His head is almost bald. There is something strange on his face. There is a strange expression on the baby that makes him look different from most babies. Lately, the baby's mother and the girl found that the baby was suffering from some kind of mental retardation. This type of disease caused by malnutrition. (Gadis Pesisir: 129)

4.1.5. Education

Umar is one of the fishermen who has low education. He never receives education so he is illiterate. He only studies the Arabic script letter. Besides, in the fishermen village, there is just one junior high school. The students are getting fewer and fewer. There are some reasons why they quit the school. For example, because they should help their parents in fishing, or because they do not think that having knowledge is important. In addition, parents do not encourage their children to continue their school.

Wa Kanni pupils are only thirty. Wening, Halijah, and Babarina were there of the first thirty-seven disciples. It is not the first time she has lost her students. Previously, in the second month she taught at the school, a student resigned. He is a young man from a fishing village who decided to end his school to help his father at sea. Four months later, two little girls decided to quit school. One is because of lazy, the other is pregnant before marriage. (Gadis Pesisir: 291)

4.2. Social Description

Social description including social exclusion, dependence to others, and inability to participate in society.

4.2.1. Social exclusion

Because of poor, Umar family is blocked to access some rights such as human right. Some mothers look down to Umar's children.

How quickly Mamak Nur becomes furious. Everyone knows that Mamak Nur stared at the young girl's back with contempt. How could such an important question from a girl like Halijah? Who is she? The daughter of a poor fisherman! Mamak Nur thought. (Gadis Pesisir: 16)

The quotation tells us that Mamak Nur is very angry when Halijah joins in their conversation. She thinks that Halijah had no right to reply their conversation. Mamak Nur underestimates Halijah.

The community did not consider the existence of Umar family. Even when there is something new they are wearing, regarded as strange thing and suspicious. The community did not consider Umar family to be respected citizen.

"Where do you get it?" Guess Mamak Nur instead of asking "Where did you buy that pants?" Mamak Nur did not want to be polite. Such a thing is not her, especially with member of Umar family who in her eyes did not really need to be thought of as existing. (Gadis Pesisir: 79-80)

Mamak Nur like others people does such social exclusion to Umar family.

4.2.2. Dependence on others

The dependence of Umar family to neighbor had seen when she had to go into debt to keep eating.

"The last rice debt has not been paid for two months. Now, you want to debt banana. Protested Ibu Jawa. "It can be that way". "Pay the old first, then owe the new one". (Gadis Pesisir: 133)

The conversation above takes place when Mamak wants to owe banana to Ibu Jawa. Because Mamak has had some debt to Ibu Jawa, she does not want to give more debt if Mamak has not paid her previous debt.

Umar family is very dependent on neighbor kindness owe them even for some rice.

4.2.3. Inability to participate in society

Umar family is not considered to participate in community activities. The financial inability made him unable to participate in community.

No one took into account her existence, because she is so thin and black. Apart from that, her family is also consider too lacking to be considered to exist. These are the basic things that make her never considered to be involved in this kind of social activity. (Gadis Pesisir: 191)

Halijah, Umar's daughter, is not able to participate in society because of the existence of her family. They are so poor that they are alienated by society.

4.3. Income Description

Income overview of Umar includes the lack of income associated with the number of family members. Umar has five children while he is just a traditional fisherman who depends on nature in catching fishes.

"I'm tired of being pregnant all the time".

"There is no pregnant women who is not tired."

"Ibu Jawa is not tired."

"That's because she has one child."

"She said she took pills."

"Stop talking about something I don't like. Regarding the pills or whatever object is put in it, let it be the business of Ibu Jawa. Not us. Do you understand that?" (Gadis Pesisir: 40)

It is the conversation of Umar and his wife. Mamak feels tired of giving birth some babies. They have had five children, but Umar does not consider that he could not afford to support his family.

5. Conclusion

From the discussion above, it concludes that Umar's family is a traditional fisherman family who experiences poverty. They are lack of all descriptions, i.e. description of material such as clothing, food, shelter, health service, and education; social description

such as social exclusion, dependence on others, and inability to participate on society; and income description.

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