

**The Portrayal of Indonesian Mother in the Translated Novel "The Fall and the Heart" by S. Rukiah Kertapati****Clara Erista Sigalingging¹, Mike Wijaya Saragih²**^{1,2} Fakultas Sastra dan Bahasa, Universitas Kristen Indonesia¹claraesigalingging02@gmail.com²mike.wijaya@uki.ac.id**Article Info***Article History:*Received
12 October 2021
Approved
12 November 2021
Published
12 December 2021**Abstract**

This paper aims to show how the portrait of an Indonesian mother is shown in the translated novel *The Fall and the Heart* (1950), written by Siti Rukiah Kertapati, an Indonesian woman writer during the revolutionary era. In addition, this paper also aims to provide an overview of how the characterization of the mother can influence the other family members' characterizations. This novel tells a story of a small family consisting of a father, mother, and three daughters, namely Dini, Lina, and Susi. The mother is portrayed to have a more dominant role than the father in educating and instilling the values of life to her three daughters. In carrying out her role, the Mother is portrayed to instill female stereotypes into her three daughters. However, the responses of the three daughters are shown differently and bring an impact on each daughter's life story. The present writer uses the theories of characterization, themes, female stereotypes, and also the concept of the mother's role. The results show that the mother's characterization, which is a round character, has a significant influence on the characters of her husband and her three children. After analyzing how the Mother's character affects the other family members, the writer finds that the portraits of the Indonesian mother shown in the novel are a strong and tenacious character, a dominant character, and a source (giver) of blessing for her children.

Keywords: characterization, the role of mother, Indonesian Mother, stereotype

© 2021 Universitas Pamulang

✉ Corresponding author: Clara Erista Sigalingging
Fakultas Sastra dan Bahasa, Universitas Kristen Indonesia, 13630
E-mail: claraesigalingging02@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Talking about Indonesia, Mother in Indonesia has a significant meaning, There are several things that we must have heard before, A Mother day, Ibu Kota, Ibu Negara, Ibu Pertiwi, etc. In Indonesian culture, both in its folklore and history, The mother places in an important position. For example in the Indonesian folktale Malin Kundang, who was rude to his mother, turned to a stone, This also shows the position of the mother who has a strong influence on the child. This important position of mother is also described by Rukiah in the novel.

Rukiah's novel *The Fall and the Heart*, published in 1950, is one of the strongest works written by a woman writer before the 1970s. This novel tells the story of a middle-class woman who lived during the 1965 revolution, her thoughts, emotions, and interactions with her family, lovers, and social environment. The novel gives the story of a small family during the revolution. There is a father as the head of the family, a mother, and three daughters, namely Dini, Lina, and Susi. This small family is whole but is slightly different if in the family it is generally the husband who has power over the house, while in this novel the narrator is Susi that the mother has more power in the house.

The family is the smallest unit as well as the first community for the development of the child. Therefore, the family in society plays a very important and strategic role in building and strengthening the mental and characteristics of children until they grow up as part of the life of the nation and state. What a child gets in the family will affect his physical growth and psychological development.

Mothers are assumed to be individuals who only devote themselves to their families because they focus more on the reproductive area and the domestic dimension. The mother's responsibility is to raise and educate the child directly, in other words, the mother may not delegate this task to other people. Thus, mothers are asked to continue to be around the child to meet their needs. This concept is commonly known as a housewife.

The concept of the role of the mother in the family is poured by Rukiah in this novel. It is interesting to see the role of the mother is quite prominent ignore the role of the father is not visible. Mother's characters in real life and a literary work are always depicted almost the same, namely through the role of a mother in the household, who is always the person in charge of domestic work.

Definition of motherhood is gendered and represents a division of labor that puts women in the home and responsible for the emotional lives of children (Gibbon, 2010). Research conducted by Therriault (2014) with the title *Moms Gone Social: A Critical Thematic Analysis of Mommy Facebooking And Its Effect On Motherhood Identities And The "Good" Mother Ideal* stated that culture also influences the view of society as a whole regarding the responsibilities of a mother. Based on several views related to Motherhood, it is quite interesting to carry out an analysis with the description of the mother as outlined by Rukiah in the novel *The fall and the heart*. This is the reason why the present writer chose this novel because th6e present writer wants to see the strength of the mother's character depicted in an Indonesian work of fiction.

There are several related research project about *The Fall and the Heart* or *Kedjatuhan dan Hati* Novel by Rukiah, there is by some students, like Wirawan Y (2018) titled *Independent Woman in Postcolonial Indonesia: Rereading the Works of Rukiah from Universitas Sanata Darma* talked about This paper discusses the strategic essentialism of gender and politics in modern Indonesia by rereading literary works of Siti Rukiah (1927–96). While Lawrence M.A (2012) titled *Shattered Hearts: Indigenous Women and Subaltern Resistance in Indonesian and Indigenous Canadian Literature from University of Victoria* talked about the position of women for both the post-revolutionary Indonesian and contemporary Indigenous Canadian contexts, There is from Andrieza (2013) who has ever done a research about *Portrayal of Mothers' Role by The Two Major Characters in Our Happy Time*, and there is not any student who has ever done a research about Potrayal of Indonesian Mother in the Translated novel "*The Fall and the Heart*" by S. Rukiah Kertapati.

Therefore, this paper focuses on finding out the following questions, a)How is the characterization of the mother depicted in the novel? b) How does the character of the mother affect the family members, and 3) How is the portrayal of Indonesian mother depicted in the novel.

METHODS

This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods. This type of qualitative descriptive research is a research method that uses qualitative data and describes it descriptively. This type of qualitative descriptive research is usually used to analyze events, phenomena, or social situations and the purpose

of descriptive research is to make descriptive notes about structured representations related to the events being studied. There are several stages in analyzing the novel *The Fall and The Heart*, First, stage of preparation, the present writer read the novel and collection data that can be related to the portrait of Inonesian Mother, and the second stages is data analysis using characterization theory and the concept role of mother and Indonesian mother.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. The Character of the mother

The story was written using the first-person perspective, which is the narrator directly involved in the story as the main character. The Mother is not the main character in this novel, but The mother gives influence so that it can be said that the role of the mother is no less important than the main character. Based on the analysis, the present writer finds that the mother's character can be categorized as a round character. Categorization of this characterization is obtained from the description of the character of the mother which is complex, intact, and often described as having thoughts and feelings that are hard to predict. Not as the main character, but the mother's character managed to show the completeness of her character both verbally and non-verbally through her words.

The mother described as having a strong character, standing firm with her stance even being able to control the whole house, but over time when she failed to hold her first child, Dini who decided to leave The mother's arms and chose to continue living alone outside the city besides the youngest it is Susi who agreed to leave the house, the mother even experiences stress and filled with fear, afraid to hear people's blasphemy against her family. The mother's behavior, which was initially very strong and sturdy, fell with the various situations she experienced.

The narrator, Susi also gives her perspective about the mothers created by her relationship with family members, especially with the mother and how the mother treated the family.

"...Mother would often go away, leaving father and us children alone at home."

"When mother returned home from one of her trips with Lina." (Rukiah 1950:9)

Both quotes above describe the work of the mother's character, who demands her to travel out of town for a long time. It shows that the role of a mother is not only sitting at home doing domestic work, but the character of the Mother also dares to choose what she wants to do, such as choosing a job or activity outside.

In raising her three daughters, the mother measures the values or principles as a woman that she wants to instill in her three daughters.

"For Mother, a woman must be gentle and pretty. She had to glow, to be charming enough in speech and manner to acquire a husband and, after finding one, making sure that he became sufficiently well-off for her to repay her parents for the long and arduous work of raising her." (Rukiah 1950: 10)

From the division of tasks with homework, the mother's character does not take part in the care of the house, could also work reasons underlying it. The mother's character has the power to give each daughter the work responsibilities even though the distribution is not evenly distributed.

The desire of the mother's character here, in the end, she wants her children to be happy and not experience difficulties. However, the focus of Mother's character here is only directed to objects. Mother measures happiness from wealth which she concludes by having a well-established husband and will ensure the life of Mother and her children later. The concept of thinking of the mother's character from Susi's perspective looks like it only focuses on marriage and money until Susi thought that Mother's thoughts were outdated and so unreasonable.

B. Portrayal of the Mother's Character Affects Other Family Members

First, in raising her three daughters, the Mother measures her values or principles as a child and as a woman that she wants to instill in her three daughters. Which ultimately lead to various responses or various reactions from her husband and three daughters, namely Dini, Lina, and Susi.

1. Father as Her Husband

According to Eka Kurniawan in the introduction to the republishing of the novel *Kedjatuhan dan Hati*, he said; first, we will look at a kind of architecture of power in the form of a small family. In this case, the highest authority in the family is the mother. Father was just silently watching the conflict and the condition of the broken relationship in the family members. Father is silent because he has no power over not only his mother but also his children. Until finally, the path that the father took was quiet and always relented.

"Mother became angriest with father, with even Unah and us, when she was apprehensive about money: about not having enough for herself, for our school expenses or shopping (Rukiah 1950:15)

When Mother's anger peaked about this, all family members were silent and did not dare to respond to Mother. Even Father did not do anything so that only the character of Mother issued harsh words to anyone who heard it. The mother's target was the father character because, at that time, the one who should be responsible for the finances and meeting the needs of the house was the father. The step taken by the father's character is to leave the house around without a clear purpose, to avoid the heightened anger of the mother. In other words, the father chooses to run away from the problem instead of solving the problem, but it is not disclosed what kind of work he is doing. Thus, it can be seen that the mother's character is powerful to influence the family, even to the father, who is the head of the family.

The father character becomes desperate because it has become a wound in him and that the father character cannot meet his wife's needs. However, it was indeed difficult to meet financial needs during the revolutionary era at that time. The situation at that time was very stressful for every family.

2. Dini as Her First Daughter

Mother is very obsessed with the values that she wants to instill in her three daughters. Dini is no exception. She wants her to be a beautiful and gentle woman to captivate her heart but seems to want to go against her mother's wishes. Dini instead acts far from what her mother wants. The Mother mocks Dini and even compares her to Lina, who fulfills Mother's proportions as a woman. There is no visible effort from Mother to improve her relationship with Dini without thinking about Dini's feelings. Mother even mocks Dini's physique and tells her to take care of her body, hurting a woman's heart greatly, especially as an older sister.

"Dini! You're so fat," she might say. "Why don't you stop eating so much or go off to the mountains to lose some weight. Why can't you be slim like Lina?" (Rukiah 1950:11)

Mother said Dini was very strict and there would be no man who wanted her. It is made Dini feel safe to live without a husband because she would not feel threatened if she was around men. Dini has no aspirations to get married and thinks she doesn't have the skills to attract a man and rule his heart.

"I don't want to get married and besides, who's going to want me as stubborn and ugly as I am? If Lina wants to marry before me it's all right, I have no objection. All I want is a chance to find my ideals. (Rukiah 1950:13)

The present writer finds that the mother's stubbornness in her stance also decreases to her daughter, who is firm in her stance until she leaves the house.

3. Lina as Her Second Daughter

According to Kurniawan E. (2017), Lina is an obedient person who gets abundant rewards: Adored and made a favorite child by the mother. She is the true inheritor of the values of this family and will certainly carry on these values. According to Susi, Lina is most liked by Mother because she is the sweetest, most able to tell stories, and can sometimes rebel against anyone when her wishes are not fulfilled, similar to Mother's character." If Lina was slim and pretty, the very kind of woman mother wanted her to be that to was mere happenstance" (Rukiah 1950:11).

Mother liked Lina's face according to her wishes and made Lina a benchmark for a woman's beauty so that Lina was made an object to be compared with her sisters, especially to Dini, which made Lina arrogant.

Back to the mother's hopes and desires, namely that her child can find a husband who can meet his child's needs so that his son can repay his parents' services. Because many men like Lina, Mother's fear arises if one day all the men don't like Lina anymore, Mother urges Lina to immediately choose to get married to one of the men who want her.

It is interesting that of the many men who like Lina, there is not one that Lina likes. Because of Mother's demands for him to be quick to choose and also Lina's basic nature is that she is an obedient child to her mother so that Mother always loves her and there is never even a part that explains Mother's disagreement with Lina Lina made her choice for Jono, not because of her love for Jono, but because she wanted to remain Mother's favorite child by choosing the man that Mother liked the most

4. Susi as Her Third Daughter

Susi as the youngest child and the narrator have a character in between the characteristics of her older siblings. Vacillates between the desire to fight about Mother's values and the desire to conquer the mother and make her happy. As the main character, Susi experiences various colorful situations based on the Mother's influence on her.

Susi, who always wanted to express her feelings about the damage that occurred in the house due to a mother who did not have love, finally remained silent and kept the promise to herself. The contradictions that always arise in Susi's heart cause her to hesitate to keep the promises she made to herself. The promises he made to himself started from a chaotic situation caused by her mother's character.

Mother increasingly urged Susi to get married. This makes Susi not feel comfortable at home. Susi chose to do activities outside the home. But with that, Susi did not solve her problem. The mother put more pressure on Susi every day. Mother presses attitude resulted from Susi inciting hatred in my heart. The insistence generates hatred because it is an ordeal for someone.

According to Shek (Lestari, 2012), research results say that parent-child communication can affect overall family functioning and psychosocial well-being in children. Clark and Shileds (Lestari, 2012), that means the mother should build a sense of comfort, trust in children and then that communication is better established and that it does not cause hatred or feelings of shrinkage in the family.

The conflict between Susi and her mother did not find a way out, and even there was no change, they both still stood firm with their respective principles. The character Mother Returns vents her anger on the household. As a result, Susi cannot hold back and chooses to leave the house to join Palang Merah and help the soldiers who are still struggling for revolution.

Susi's hatred for her mother does not mean that she has completely forgotten her mother. Like the sentence we usually hear from people who wander far from home, that is, no matter how far we

go, the most comfortable place is at home, no matter how good the food out there is, Mother's cooking is the best. No different from Susi, no matter how much she hates her, she can't forget her or erase her mother from the story of her life.

Once again, Mother's message flashed through Susi's mind, as if although there was no mother by her side at that time, Susi could still hear her advice through the memory of the message her mother had instilled in her. the present writer finds that Susi's characterization is a round character, with the complexity of her life story as the main character. Through Susi's character, readers also find that it is very important to build relationships with parents and listen to their advice because there will be a time when the advice will be very helpful like what Susi did, even though there is hatred, the bond between mothers and children is not easy to ignore.

C. The Portrayal of Indonesian Mothers

The present writer has found several portraits of Indonesian Mothers defined by the character of Mother in this novel, namely:

1. Strong or Tenacious

The portrait of the mother in the novel depicts the mother's character as a resilient or strong character because the mother's character in this novel is presented with a very strong character. The portrait of the mother in the novel depicts the mother's character as a resilient or strong character because the mother's character in this novel is presented with a very strong character. Mother is placed in an important role in this novel, even though she is not the main character, but the character of Mother appears in most of the storylines and is even able to affect the reader's emotions and also the character of Mother is shown to have a clear purpose. When viewed from the side of the role of mother, In addition to taking care of the household, she also often travels out of town. Like the role of mothers in Indonesia, which is often considered multitalented because they can be responsible for household matters or other things.

2. Dominant

The mother's character, which is the portrait of mothers in Indonesia, is the dominant role. In Indonesia, there is a common opinion that develops in society, namely the argument that women who have become housewives tend to be considered helpless and will only become wives who devote their whole life to her husband and children. On the other hand, if a woman has a higher income, significantly if her income exceeds her husband's income, she will tend to dominate and not listen to her husband's words. It is clearly illustrated in this novel, where the father character does not take much of a role in the family to control the whole house. The husband character in this novel is considered a helpless character so that the wife can only decide all decisions in the family.

The mother, who is a housewife, often travels out of town, but it is not explained why, and also she takes care of the children and takes care of household needs. The wife or the mother is described as prioritizing the needs of the house and the needs of her children while her husband is not explained about his work. The dominant mother's character does not have evil intentions for the family because she focuses on wanting the best for her family and children, causing her to forget to give love to the family.

3. Source (Giver) of Blessing

In this novel, it is also constructed that the blessing of a mother greatly influences the lives of Dini, Lina, and Susi. Dini left without the blessing of her mother, until finally she just worked all her life without any clarity, while Lina, who married without love, but with the blessing of her mother, at

the beginning of the marriage there was no happiness in Lina's small family because there was no basis of love. However, in the end, Lina realized and fixed everything until her family was better. On the other hand, Susi chose to leave without her mother's blessing, which resulted in falling in love with a communist and having sex outside of marriage. As a result, she is left by Luk and returns to her mother's choice, namely Par, a man who loves him sincerely, and their family becomes better.

CONCLUSION

The first identification is about the character of the mother in the novel. The mother is not the main character in this novel, but she has influenced every character in this novel, such as Father, Dini, Lina, and Susi. Based on the analysis, the present writer finds that the mother's character can be categorized as a round character. The mother has an attitude of leading in the home, taking care of the family's needs, and raising her three daughters. The mother is described as having a strong character, standing firm with her stance even being able to control the whole house.

The second identification is talking about how The mother affects the family members. Mother's character has her dimensions and values that affect her family. With the principle of life, without affection and living by measuring everything through possessions which causes her husband to have no authority and never even interfere in household matters, the father character becomes a character who has no power. The three children also have different reactions that their mother influences. The first is Dini, who stands to the extreme by rebelling violently against her mother's values until she decides to leave the house and live alone. The second is Lina, who became an obedient child so that she was made a favorite child by Mother and possessed and became the basis of her family's attitude together with her husband, the last one was Susi, who was very gentle but tried to harden her heart against Mother, who ultimately failed, was tortured by feelings of love and longing to protect home and Mother.

The last is about the portrait of an Indonesian mother described by The mother from the novel. The mother's character has peace with Indonesian mothers, which is like being strict or firm in the sense of being able to be responsible and able to lead, besides being dominant and the last one being a source of blessing for her children.

REFERENCES

- Afifa, Y. N. (2009). *Konflik Budaya Tokoh Lelaki Novel Tiba Tiba Malam Karya Putu Wijaya* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Negeri Semarang).
- Amidong, H. H. (2018). *PENOKOHAN DALAM KARYA FIKSI*.
- Andrieza, A. (2017). *Portrayal Of Mothers' Roles As Reflected In Two Major Characters In Gong Ji-Young's Our Happy Time* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Kristen Indonesia).
- Dewi, E. (2011). *Changing Perceptions of " Good" Mothering and Family Roles Among Indonesian Female Domestic Workers*. *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement*.
- Febriasari, D. *POTRET IBU DALAM LIMA CERITA PENDEK PADA KUMPULAN CERITA CINTA INDONESIA*. In *LILITRANS CONFERENCE 2018* (p. 236).

Gibbon, H. F. (2010). Learning to Mother: The Definition of Motherhood by Participants in a Welfare Reform Parenting Class. *International Journal of Sociology of the Family*, 49-63.

Junaidi, H. (2017). Ibu Rumah Tangga: Streotype Perempuan Pengangguran. *An Nisa'a*, 12(1), 77-88.

Lawrence, A. M. (2012). Shattered hearts: Indigenous women and subaltern resistance in Indonesian and Indigenous Canadian literature (Doctoral dissertation).

Maher, J., & Saugeres, L. (2007). To be or not to be a mother? Women negotiating cultural representations of mothering. *Journal of Sociology*, 43(1), 5-21.

Nofitasari (2018). PEMBEDAAN TOKOH DALAM KARYA SASTRA

RAKOMOLE, D. N., PANDEAN, M. L. M. L., & KAROUW, S. S. (2019). Karakterisasi Tokoh dalam Novel Sampai Jumpa di Surga Karya Ipnu Rinto Noegroho. *JURNAL ELEKTRONIK FAKULTAS SASTRA UNIVERSITAS SAM RATULANGI*, 1(2).

Therriault, Bridget G. (2014). Moms Gone Social: A Critical Thematic Analysis of Mommy Facebooking And Its Effect On Motherhood Identities And The "Good" Mother Ideal. Dissertation. Villanova University, United States of America.

Wirawan, Y. (2018). Independent Woman in Postcolonial Indonesia: Rereading the Works of Rukiah. *Southeast Asian Studies*, 7(1), 85-101.

Internet:

<https://www.britannica.com/art/flat-character> / Retrieved May 28,2021

<https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/round-character>/RetrievedMay 29,2021

<https://www.megaessays.com/viewpaper/100302.html>/Retrieved May 30,2021

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02646838.2011.639510>/Retrieved May30,2021

<https://www.gainesvilleregister.com>/Retrieved June1,2021

<https://literarydevices.net/characterization>/Retrieved June 21, 20216