

## THE STUDY OF FEMINISM IN THE NOVEL NAYLA BY DJENAR MAESA AYU

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### ABSTRACT

**Keywords:**  
feminism;  
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**Abstract:** This research aims to determine (1) the narrative structure of novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu, (2) the role of women figure in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu, (3) the struggle of women figure in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu. This research uses feminism study with qualitative research. The data was collected by using library research. The library method was used at finding out the data in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu and in other literature which supports this research. The analyzed data are narrative structure, the role of women figure and the struggle of women figure in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu. The data were analyzed through the stage of reduction, presentation and data collection. The subject of this research is the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu, the object of this research is the narrative structure, the role of women figure and the struggle of women figure in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu. The result of this research refers to (1) The Narrative structure in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu was include figure, characterization, plot and background. (2) The role of women figure in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu was found in the social domain, domestic and public. (3) The struggle of women figure in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu was manifested by struggling in maintaining in the status as women, the struggle in maintaining the gender. The form of feminism was described in the novel *Nayla* as never surrender, not dependent to the parents, and behaves deviate. Novel *Nayla* to present the relationship of gender that leads to a superior. Novel *Nayla* as the main character show business to make a women who has the dignity of which is equivalent to the men. Based on the results of analysis and advice for women in order to improve the quality of the field of education, domestic, and the public so that gender equality can be achieved.

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### Introduction

Feminists are people who believe about feminism (Sugihastuti, 2010: 62). The criticism of feminist literature is a literary critique which focuses on the analysis of women. Feminist literary criticism provides a view that female readers and critics bring different perceptions, meaning, and conjectures to the literary reading experience. One of the most common problems in our society is the rebellion against the systems that place of the female position position on subordinates. However, now days, female who are considered always do the housework area have begun to be intrupted. This is happened because the educational background of female has become something to be reckoned. The high education will bring the female to achieve a good career and support the needs of the household.

Some people still consider those females do not need to be highly educated because they will take care of households in time. Then, this kind of view creates injustice for female. Therefore,

female are expected to fight for their rights to get a decent and equal education with male. One of the novels tells about the is Nayla Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu.

The content of Nayla Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu is closely related to the reality of society that female consider to be weak, and their weakness is used by men to exploit them. Besides that, there are also many issues of female's emancipation which express that the rights and obligations of Eastern female, especially Indonesia, are lower than male. The novel was adopted by Djenar Maesa Ayu is the resistance against unequal gender that shows female is also strong, and not only male who always entitled to control women

This study examines 1) narrative structure of Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu. 2) the role of female figure on Nayla Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu. 3) the struggle of female figure on Nayla Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu. The study is done by identifying and analyzing the main dan supporting character in Nayla Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu using feminism theory.

Theoretical review of this study is feminism theory. Feminism is an effort of female to gain equality between male and female (Kamus Umum Bahasa Indonesia, 2001:405). Feminists are also identified with someone who has a bad view in society both in economics, education and culture. Critical Discourse Analysis is used to analysis this study. Discourse analysis will describe the meaning of strong relations which is found in a text. The discourse for public consumption is not something that can be seen in the raw situation but otherwise the contrary discourse in the public context is a discourse which is reorganized and contextualized to be equal to the particular form of expression that is being used

The purpose of this study is to find out the narrative structure of Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu, the role and struggle of female figure on Nayla Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu.

## Methods

The study about Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu was conducted from May 2017 until April 2018. The study was focussing on narrative structure and feminism study especially the role and struggle of woman in getting their right. This research was a qualitative research in the form of document. The data which is obtained about the value of feminism on the Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu was analyzed by using feminist theory and critical discourse anlysis.

The method was used by researchers to examine the existence of feminist studies on the Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu was the library method (library research) that uses library resources in the form of books, articles, journals, and other literature competent for this study. The instrument in this study was the researcher herself (human instrument). This study used tools namely stationery to record, notebook to write data, and flash disk as data storage. The technique of data analysis used in this research was qualitative descriptive analysis with non-interactive or flowing data as further technique analysis. The analysis of this novel was presented informal and formal.

## Result and Discussion

This study examined 1) narrative structure of Nayla novel by by Djenar Maesa Ayu 2) The role of female characters in Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu 3) The struggle of female figure in Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu.

### A. Narrative Structure of Nayla Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu

Narrative structures of Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu were theme, character, characterization, plot, setting, and point of view.

#### a. Theme

Nayla novel focuses on the struggle of a character named Nayla which shows her existence in life surrounding.

## **b. Character**

The characters in Nayla novel are Nayla, Juli, Father and Mother, Ben and the Queen.

## **c. Characterization**

Nayla is the main character who is very afraid of her mother figure because she will be tortured by her mother if she makes small mistake. She is a drunkard, drug user, bar worker, prostitute, and lesbian. July is Nayla's lesbian couple. He stands himself to be a protector and a material giver to Nayla. Mother is a monster figure for Nayla because when she makes a little mistake, her mother will torture her by beating Nayla. However, mother is a strong woman, she never cries when her partner leave her. Dad is an irresponsible man for abandoning Nayla and his mother. Dad married again with the Queen who becomes his stepmother which brings Nayla into rehab. Ben is Nayla's longest male partner, but eventually they break up because Nayla does not want to rely on men. Queen is the second wife of her father. Nayla has a lazy and selfish attitude but still strong. Nayla has love but strong attitude. Nayla's father has a stubborn attitude. The attitude of Queen is described as having good character. It is shown when Nayla's father is alive, but when Nayla's father is dead then she become bad and cruel. In this novel there is a character uncle Indra, Uncle Indra has a cunning attitude. The last, Ben's character in the novel is forgiveness person and Juli is curious person.

## **d. Plot**

The development of plot by Djenar Maesa Ayu in the Nayla novel is a mixed plot, the forward plot which varied everywhere in the story leading to flashback the story. The story begins when Nayla is a child and then end when Nayla is success as famous author.

## **e. Setting**

The setting of story is described in several places, in the first part is Nayla's home. Then, in the home of Nayla's father after he lived with her father and stepmother. Further, at the rehab, the July home, and the discotheque where Nayla works. The social background which described in Nayla novel is free and irregular metropolitan life.

## **f. Point of View**

In this story, the author uses a third-person perspective, since the whole story, the author is not part of the story. In this Nayla novel, the author does not take the role as storyteller which knowing everything. The author which knowing everything explains the circumstances or feelings of the characters in the novel. He is able to jump from one scene to the other scene at the same time.

## **B. The Role of Female Figure in Nayla Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu**

The role of female figure in Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu is showed as the main character, that is, the figure of Nayla. Nayla's journey as the main character shows the effort to realize the figure of women who have the dignity and equal to the men

The struggle of Nayla can be observed through various factors that are displayed in the story. These factors comes from herself, family, and environment. Nayla's journey through these various factors indicates a process which is used to realize her ideals as a dignified and educated woman. The factors affect the personality of Nayla comes from within her which is influenced by two factors namely direct experience factors and terms of reference. The factors of experience directly derive from the mother who is rude when Nayla was teen. Then, Nayla wet in the bed at night, she would be punished by her mother. Further, Nayla was punished without a reason by her mother and hearing Nayla's reason why she done.

In the Nayla novel, there is a desire of a woman which is illustrated when a wife who is determined to fulfil her life without relying on her husband. It shows that women's willingness are able to equalize gender with men in terms of self-sustaining living and not always expecting help from a men. Women can serve men as her father which prove that women are not weak.

The arbitrary treatment of men to women relates to the loyalty of a husband to his wife and the disrespectful treatment of a father to his daughter. However, the female figure are shown trying to confront and anticipate all possibilities with the attitude as woman or wife that try to be strong and clever to look for happiness for herself without any help from men. Getting the success for happiness with her intelligence shows that women can play in loyalty role.

*"Hampir tiga bulan saya terkurung dalam barak itu, hanya melakukan upacara pagi, menjahit, mencuci, mengepel, dan menyapu. Heran, kenapa cuma keterampilan itu yang mereka bekali ke wanita".* (PTW/2017/ hal 21). From the quote said that the women only used to do in the kitchen as a housewife although they are highly educated The woman's job only cook in the kitchen and provide special treatment (treating her husband rightly).

*"Gimana kamu bisa ngatur orang lain kalau ngatur diri kamu sendiri aja gak bisa. Tidur kurang. Ngerokok gak berhenti. Aku udah bilang berkali-kali, wanita harus bisa rawat diri".* (Maesa Ayu, 2012: PTW/2017/ hal 40). The quote explains that a woman should be able to take care of herself, adjust herself to be better.

*"Persoalannya tak hanya sebatas perbedaan alat kelamin. Tapi represi terhadap alat kelamin wanita telah membuat mereka kesulitan mengenali tubuhnya sendiri. Persoalannya tak hanya sebatas perbedaan alat kelamin. Tapi mitos!"* (PTW/2017/ hal 78). According to the quote, the author wants to point out that there is such a myth in our society. In the quote is clearly shown an element of feminism, the author as a figure try to change the view of the reader (the public) about the paradigm that only men who can control the life. And women can't recognize their own bodies because of the differences.

*"Karena Anda wanita. Kenapa wanita tidak bisa mengatakan kebenaran? Karena wanita tidak dibiarkan tahu kebenaran".* (PTW/2017/ hal 84). The quote gives an illustration that the women are not allowed to know the truth, because only the men are used to having a right to know the freely truth.

*"Syarat-syarat menjadi wanita yang mudah mendapat laki-laki sudah merakyat secara turun menurun. Bahwasannya wanita harus perawan, harus pandai mengatur keuangan, harus sabar, harus bisa memasak, harus bisa memberi keturunan, harus pandai memuaskan suami diranjang".* (PTW/2017/ hal 85). In the quotation # shows that there are the demands of criteria that women must be fulfilled if they want to be a wife who make them in complicated position. It seems like the women who determine the completeness of household. The existence of the criteria mentioned in the quotation above shows a very clear about the differentiation of gender between women and men. Men are always positioned in the simple condition, comfortable, and dominate women.

*"Saya wanita, tapi saya tidak lebih lemah daripada laki-laki".* (PTW/2017/ hal 90). *"Ibu memang orang yang kuat. Tak akan pernah saya sekuat Ibu".* (PTW/2017/ hal 111). From the quotation presents figure of woman who does not want to be labeled weak. Women are not weaker than men. Women have equal position with men. Women are not weak and they can be as strong as men. Women are not weak people who can be dominated by men.

The feminism was presented in this aspect is the story which is presented vulgarly and focused on the element of sexuality in feminist context. Nayla novel wants to break the concept which notion that over this time the status of women is lower than men, because reflecting from the beginning of the creation of women is destined to serve men. The most prominent result in Nayla's novel is the strong ideology of feminism. The rejection of the patriarchal world view looks very prominent and reaches the fundamental stage of thinking. This novel presents issues of association, the reality of contemporary life, and about the struggle of women in claiming their rights. The problems are interconnected. If we see from the concept of feminism which refer to the problem of gender preconception. Gender preconception is caused by mistaken assumptions about sex and gender. In the community there has been an affirmation of a misplaced understanding of gender. What the thing is called gender because socially constructed culture is considered as God's nature. The Gender is not the creation of God, but only the creation of society. The people think that there is a gender beside of sex in society in different region. In the novel Nayla the natures of women are placed in a weak and unfavorable position. Once a woman gets disrepute for sexual harassment she

will fall forever, unlike a man who has unlimited satisfaction. In this novel it is as if men have infinite authority. Women are automatically positioned as weak and defeated beings. The men are not responsible about his act of ruthlessness. Such conditions are long-standing socio-cultural constructions. Gender prejudice became very established because it was institutionalized by an ancient custom that has been passed down from generation to the next generation. The Custom views women as creatures that are inferior to men.

In addition, injustice also occurs in terms of social coating. The social coating system is the male coating system. In *Nayla* novel, the character of Nayla who works in the night job and does unusual thing for women such as drinking alcohol and goes to night club, this reflects that social coatings are not all dominated by men. The Gender prejudice against the women who can only do domestic work, in this short story show that women can do work outside the home to show his existence as the figure "Nayla". The condition of women seems to have to bear the entire burden while the men seemed free and free to do whatever which is constructed by Nayla figures in this novel. In relation to the feminist idea, the novel *Nayla* uses a liberal feminist perspective. In liberal feminism it is explained that the subordination of women is rooted in the limitations of law and custom. The intended subordination is from the public. The Society considers women to be scientifically lacking in weak intellectual and physical abilities then deemed unworthy of role in the public sphere. The Legal and state laws and regulations as well as norms convened in orally in the traditional responsible for women's oppression and subordination. In the novel, it explains that the female character experienced injustice and subordination, but from that then on one side has the same rights with others. Although in reality in women's liberal feminists are considered less intelligent and have a weak physical.

From some quotes were taken in *Nayla* novel, the content of radical feminism is very obvious. In this novel the main character discuss many issues of sex. In radical feminists, it is also known as sexual freedom. There is a bisexual concept that is someone who can like men and women, but more focusing in the relationship of lesbianism. In the *Nayla* novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu are also use the approach of radical feminism. In the novel, *Nayla* has experienced about sexual harassment which got from her mother's boyfriend and her mother's persecution make her feel that kinds of love from her mother she get from a woman named Juli who is a lesbian. So that makes *Nayla* feeling about love to Juli is a form of her love towards his mother to foster a sense of love. Their lesbian behavior plays as important value in this approach because of the freedom of sex or so-called heterosexual.

### **C. The Struggle of Female Figure in *Nayla* Novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu**

The struggle of female figure in *Nayla* novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu is described by a female character, the female character in the novel is fighting against male domination by presenting an independent, domineering, even cruel and disciplined figure in her child's eyes. In *Nayla* novel, Djenar Maesa Ayu presents women are more dominantly in relation to men both in the public sector and in the domestic sector. It is illustrated by a mother who survives and raises her female child without a husband. Even if the mother associated with men who are not her *sauaminya*, they only used as a source of money. In the novel also appears point emphasizing on the daughter (*Nayla*) to be independent. Some quotes describe the dominant woman, even having desire to dominate men.

#### **a. The struggle of Female in Psychological Field**

In the *Nayla* novel, there are many psychological problems of female characters. The Behavior are related to psychiatric symptoms which is a phenomenon of frustration or disappointment. The Social reality, psychological reality, religious reality, are the problem in this novel. Specifically the psychological reality in this novel is the presence of certain psychic phenomena experienced of by the main character when responding or reacting to self and the environment. For example, the appearance of a psychic phenomenon is a young woman who must leave her mother from the age of thirteen to learn to live independently. *Nayla*, the name of the main character of the story, experienced a sense of disappointment when she remembered the figure of his mother who threw himself into the House of Naught Children's and Narcotics. Since then she has become

frustrated. In living life, Nayla begins to deal with various conflicts / inner contradictions, both against himself and the reaction to his surroundings. Inside the characters sometimes arise a negative perception of the meaning of life. From the various phenomena experienced of the character of the story, emerged the mental strength and new understanding how to make sense of life. Due to the continuing conflicts of various conflicts, it was has finally resulted in a change of attitude on the character of the story. He eventually dissolves in the nightlife, working as a lighting stylist at a nite club. What is done by Nayla, the character of the story is as a form of escape from the family environment so that over time he was swept away in a new environment that all-glittering that is always haunting his life. Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu is very interesting when it was examined with a psychological approach, especially in the analysis of frustration. This novel has advantages in which the main character of the story is able to be strong to face the various phenomena of life despite there is many conflicts.

#### **b. The Struggle of Female in the Field of Relations and the Role of Gender**

The struggle of female in the field of relations and gender roles is described in the female characters that are appeared in the beginning which take a role in the public domain. Women in the public sector are described as night club lamps. Domestic role is also run by the mother of Nayla, besides her as a worker, she has double role which is run by Nayla's mother. The rejection of male domination also appears in the choice of July and Nayla to become lesbians, who choose sexual orientation towards fellow women. The views of Juli and Nayla figures on minor men, bringing their choices to lesbians, are in keeping with the belief that radical feminism sees male-female relations as oppressive, so women have to fall into that relationship. They reject the myths which is created in the patriarchal culture for the sake of men, in addition to choosing lesbian relationships, the characters of July and Nayla also come to the consciousness to reflect on and reject the myths created in patriarchal culture for the benefit of men. Radical feminism states that a patriarchal gender relationship leads to oppression of women, because women are placed in an inferior class compared to the male class on a gender basis. Therefore the women should exercise control over their bodies and lives.

In the Nayla novel, it presents a gender relationship that leads to a superior woman, a woman who tries against the patriarchal cultural power. The form of feminism described in the novel besides the things mentioned above is never give up, do not depend on parents, and behave deviant.

#### **c. The Struggle of Female in Maintaining the Dignity**

The struggle in maintaining the dignity of women can be seen in Nayla character who has a very stubborn way of thinking so that she has a strong principle in a view that her ~~she~~ thinks is right. She does not seem to believe that true love is exists, so the impact of her disappointment leads to the nature of lesbian. The nature of Nayla who does not trust a man can come from the view of her father. Though herself had admitted that his father had given her little happiness in her life but Nayla still kept her thoughts.

The novel which is appointed by Djenar Maesa Ayu is a very frontal gender that shows that a woman is also strong, and not only men who are always entitled to control women. Djenar shows a straightforward way of thinking a woman who is very stubborn without hiding herself to cover his conscience. But this character is very rare when viewed from the eastern culture, so the view Djenar this becomes very interesting to understand the adults, about how one can think in its own way without doubting his actions, though the negative side is the action done by the character does not reach the solution direction true, thus causing the Nayla character to commit wrongdoing is considered true because he feels the reason behind it. Though the action of Nayla figure is only an outlet that will not be able to ease facing the problem, and when Nayla acts the wrong way, then new problems will come and continuous problems will not be solved.

#### d. The Struggle in Maintaining Gender

The struggle to defend gender is shown in the lives of female characters in this novel. The Gender differences is not really matter if they do not give birth to gender inequalities. The Lesbianism is a way out for a woman who does not want her to feel injustice when dealing with the opposite sex. Lesbians also occur because of a lack of attention and high traumatic races from people around them like parents (father or mother). In the Nayla novel, there is also the fact, in the quote below, *"Saya sudah memilih untuk menjadi lain karena hidup saya tak sama dengan mereka"* (PTWMMG/2017/ hal 4). According to the quote, the character Nayla explain that she had become another personality caused by someone named July. Nayla explains that July is a woman who has a feminist soul but many have body stature and more attitude toward the masculine or male. July is lesbian but the abnormality is not genetic factor. Nayla belongs to the category of psychosexually hermaphroditic, or a bisexual. Previously Nayla is a woman who has a normal sexual orientation. Characters of her arise due to a psychological conflict that affects the psychological. Her introduction with July became an important factor affecting the transition process. July give her feeling to the affection and comfort she did not get from his parents. Because of her childhood very rarely feel such affection, Nayla's love to July became excessive. Here we can see that Nayla's tend to be emotional than sexual.

*"Tak pernah saya mencintai satupun laki-laki. Tidak sebagai ayah, tidak sebagai kekasih. Saya pernah mencintai wanita. Mencintai ibu. Tapi sayangnya, ibu tidak pernah belajar mencintai saya. Ia lebih belajar mencintai kasih-kekaihnya, bersama Juli saya merasakan kehangatan kasih yang pernah ingin saya berikan kepada ibu."* (Maesa Ayu, 2012: 5). *"Saya juga punya pacar. Bukan laki-laki, tapi wanita. Yang laki-laki cuma hit and run. Mereka makhluk yang menyebalkan, sekaligus menggiurkan. Tapi urusan perasaan, saya lebih merasa nyaman dengan wanita. Entah benar atau salah saya menukan Ibu di dalam dirinya"* (PTWMMG/2017/ hal 54-55). Based on the quote, it is clearly present that the traumatic feeling is experienced by Nayla become the reason of being a lesbian, the lack of attention her mother gave as a child caused her to feel surrounded by the feelings that made her need the comforts of those around her now and that can be given by a woman named July. The psychological pressure inside him grew when he was forcibly inserted into the care of naughty children and narcotics. Nayla never understood why she was put there. My mother put her there because she found Nayla drunk and influenced by drugs. Though Nayla just trying to find peace with his friends. Plunged in that place for Nayla as it came out of one hell and into another hell. Nayla can be considered a feminist woman, because she is a woman who wants to escape from the oppression and injustice she has endured. Nayla has a strong concept to describe equality between women and men in the social and educational fields. His struggle for high education to achieve the equality with men can be done well. Nayla as the main character of the story in this novel was able and strong to face the various phenomena of life despite the many conflicts in it. On the other hand, through the characters in the novel, the authors want to convey a moral message to the reader that the importance of education and good skills to improve the future. Nayla wants to prove everyone that she is not a weak woman. In addition she also wants to prove that women are not less great when compared with men. And finally Nayla can realize equality between woman and man.

### Conclusion

The conclusion of the study about Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu focused on narrative structure in the form of theme, character, characterization, plot, and setting. The role of female figure in Nayla novel can be seen in the efforts of women to manage their families, educate children, and improve the family life to be better. The role of women in the family is still more in domestic territory. The role of women in the field of education is still considered very minimal. The Women in this novel are considered to have a marginal, inferior, and only complementary position. With these assumptions about women's position encourage women to be advanced and modern. Along with the increasing prosperity and education of women due to the industrialization of women will be able to

become a figure that really inspires to people to fight for their rights. The female character of Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu show up a strong side of her for struggling, hoping to equal position in all fields with men. Nayla position as the main character in the novel is to prove everyone that has weak female figure. In addition it also wants to prove that women are also entitled to get a good position in order to get job which make better life.

The struggle of Nayla figure was to work in order to fulfil the needs of her life. Although Nayla had little knowledge of her career but Nayla was still trying to get a job. Working will create a double role for women, but it opens opportunities for women to show that they are not only working in the domestic field. In this novel the feminist movement is considered quite successful. Feminist in this novel is very strong because this novel tells the main character of the female sex and all life around her. The women described by Djenar Maesa Ayu are not only fighting for their right life but also fighting for a decent life for women. Djenar Maesa Ayu offered a rebellion with a thought, that women should also get a decent job to improve their future.

Based on this study, the researcher gives some suggestions for lecturers, in teaching Indonesian language and literature is expected using the results of this study as teaching materials in learning. The Lecturers can use Nayla novel by Djenar Maesa Ayu as a means to motivate students, because in this novel is so many values of struggle that need to be imitated by students to continue to learn and pursue ideals. For women, is expected to overcome the problems faced in everyday life by continuing to struggle in demanding the rights of women. Women should be powerful figures who can inspire to fight for what should be the women right. For the community, they should be aware of women and men position must be equal, where no one can feel injustice.

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