

THE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN MEDIA: MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION AND THE PROPAGANDA OF WESTERN FEMINIST

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Abstract

The background of this writing is stimulated by the consideration of the author about the general opinion constructed by the western media about Islam teaching violence and injustice to women. The media, by using its power, has done building a discourse triggering experts debate. Alleged unreasoned stigma has harmed the existence of women. Therefore, an effort is needed to answer that the media construction, particularly about polygamy and injustice to women is wrong. The long questions about the definition of Muslim women are the parts of a radical feminist perspective that might need to be fixed. The phenomenon in the society about prejudice conflict between the western and eastern world through history should produce objective ideas without a certain interest's domination. By approaching the issue with the hegemony of media theory in the sight of radical feminist, hermeneutical theory, and Islamic communication, thus, the author wants to contribute thoughts about Islamic teaching which respects women's dignity. The concept of media hegemony should be understood as a condition where individuals behind the mass media dominate a certain lifestyle or a certain mindset. This lifestyle and mindset then are spread to the society by using the media itself (Altheide, 1984). The media has promoted the propaganda and feminist spirit which have planted the wrong perception to the world. This kind of unclear and incomplete mindset causes negative prejudice so that it has become the consideration of the Muslim community. Islam teaches the overall aspect of life for both men as the leader in the family and women as the responsible partner to educate the generation. Women in Islam are placed in the most honored degree and most protected in many ways, for example, by wearing hijab, Islam teaches that the honor of women should be protected. Islam also teaches women should stay home longer because they are responsible to educate the children. It is a sacred mission. Women in Islam are also the queens demanded to have a certain ability to do multitasking activities such as educating, managing the household, being the husband advisor and being economically independent and the achievement of the husband's career is parallel to the role of a wife in the household. The sentiment sparked by radical feminist to Islam has ripped off the values taught in the Holy Quran. In this case, language has been the power to reveal the truth boldly. The messages delivered to western movies about promoted fears are untrue.

Keywords: Muslim Women, Massive Propaganda, Western Feminist

Introduction

The western's stereotype and cynical thought to Islam have led people to some open discussions about the understanding of the religion and its teaching without the distortion of interests and meanings limited to media framing.

When the euphoria of democracy along with the spirit of reformation and the will to put on the effort to the political right of women has spread to the public space, thus these movements have encouraged the concern to struggle for equal rights. These have been produced and constructed actively in media and spread by using massive propaganda and civil rights organizations. Many kinds of research include gender-biased contents that have issued the topics related to physical, psychological or social violence to women.

The issue of gender equality dominated by western thoughts has spread to the private environment of Muslims. This phenomenon causes the non-existence of the border between men and women in their social status or even social role. The liberal feminists teach absolute freedom without limit. This is logical because of the problematic weak faith and narrow-minded religious thoughts become the trigger for those foreign ideas easily penetrating the thought without any filter.

Generally, Islam views men and women in the fair position, without differences. Each gender is God's creature which is burdened by the responsibility of worshiping God and carrying out or performing His command. Almost all Islamic laws are applied equally to both genders.

This is one of the proofs for equal interpretation of law:

Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do. (Surah An Nahl: 97)

For that reason, the discussions about a constructed opinion by media and Islamic teaching about women should be opened to fix the accusation and prejudice to Islamic teaching.

Theoretical Analysis

a. Media Hegemony

Hegemony originated from Ancient Greek language which is *eugemonia* means 'to lead'. Roger Simon stated that "hegemony is not a relation of domination by using power, but it is a relation of an agreement by using political and ideological authority. Or, in simple language, hegemony is the organization of consensus," (Roger, 1999).

The hegemony theory was the most important political theory in the 20th century. This theory was stated for the first time by Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937). Gramsci can be viewed as the most significant political thinker after Marx. His idea about hegemony influenced by philosopher Hegel is brilliant. It is assumed as the foundation of an alternative paradigm to traditional Marxism about the paradigm base-superstructure. His theory appeared as critics and alternate form to the previous approaches of social changes. Those approaches were dominated by class determinism and the traditional Marxist economy.

In this case, hegemony can be concluded as the deliberated movement of ideology in the life of communities. The movement is designed by certain groups (capitalists) that utilize the knowledge and technology as tools for gaining profits. The people are given concept in their mind to be needy to the technology. Without consciousness, people are being oppressed in any field such as economy, politics, and education (Hasyim, 2016).

The media hegemony needs to be understood as a condition of domination owned by individuals at the backstage of mass media. It is all about life style and mindset (Altheide, 1984).

b. Radical Feminism

This ideology has a foundation that views the oppression of women occurs for the sake of the patriarchy system. A woman's body is the main object for the oppression held by men's domination. Therefore, this ideology addresses the issue of body and reproduction rights, sexuality and sexism, women's power relation and the dichotomy of private and public issues.

Radical feminists do not see the difference between personal and political purpose, sexual and biological elements. In analyzing the cause of the oppression of women by men, radical feminists assume that it originated from the sexuality of men itself and its patriarchal mindset (*Asropah, Feminisme Radikal, Journal. Upgris.ac.id*).

Symbolic Language, Myth, and Western Thoughts on Islam

The approach used for this research is semiotic analysis. This shows that media texts usually bring certain interests and fault which are wider and more complex (Fiske: in Alex Sobur 2001:95). The analysis shows the result of the language's power. It is the power to define all things assumed to be not on the side of feminists and feminism. Language with radical interests is used to favor the ideology and what it fights for at the back of presumably super sensitive gender issues to women in the world.

Many sentences and quotations in this novel describe and explain the journey of life and the struggle of radical feminists through a long and full process of inner dialogues that drain knowledge and reach the human soul in the inner process to accept the truth. In the rhythms of dialogue that set various

atmospheres, all the elements broken down the incomplete definition of Muslim women and the injustices that are heavily promoted by the western media.

The hatred of feminists and Jews against Islam has been stripped naked shown by defaming the values in the Qur'an regarding the rules of polygamy which are understood to only bring about pieces of incomplete Islamic values. Language, in this case, becomes a strength as a weapon to reveal truths without mercy by holding such beautiful, elegant and authoritative discussion.

The Western media which have been actively promoting, giving the signs and symbols, as well as public opinion about identical violent Islam values, can be the teaching of polygamy and violence to women itself. Thus, the western feminists' analysis cannot be separated from the view of western liberal ideology. It is logically because the media itself is being absorbed in the mindset of society to understand a phenomenon.

Media which as an active text industry has constructed the general opinion about Islamic teaching without learning about the Islamic study. However, they try to comprehend using western liberal spectacles. These are being the tools that significantly guide and pierce the thoughts in compiling the flakes of understandings that are never been complete. These subjective working connotations are the manifestation of the influence of experience, environment, and organizations they are living in.

In the second stage of significance, there is a myth which is the relation between a sign and its content. Myth is viewed as how a culture explains or comprehends some aspects of reality or natural phenomenon. Thus, myth is a product of social class that has operated with a certain dominance (Sobur: 2001: 128). The active myth was formed by the western world by using its hegemony. This myth constructed identical violent culture deliberately in a fundamental wholesome.

The most dangerous thing is that if the myths inside the texts are being issued or dominated by a very powerful being. Society becomes helpless and there is no more freedom to think and analyze because myths have fused and become a trusted ideology. This ideology will be actively implanted in a deep force that underlies their direction and importance in saying words and assuming.

Because ideology is a place where the myths are in it. Myths will continue to be nurtured in ideology, where those myths that limit their way of thinking and behavior. This will continue to be kept alive and maintained continuously from generation to generation. These myths cover all the ways to see through the real Islamic teachings.

The mixed between the Islamic teachings and the myths become the tools that mass media use to master the mindset of society. These western liberals control the media to set the goal of implanting ideology and myths. The democracy that they presumably promote is only used for that goal of ideological interests.

They limit the western world to learn about the real Islamic teachings freely. Democracy becomes stuck and a dysfunction. Democracy is far from its valued but only allows people to comprehend their ideology.

These are several examples that show the author of this novel trying to fix the point of view about women in Islam:

No.	Symbols in Sentences and Words	Meanings, Ideology, and Power	Idea/adverb
1.	<i>... seen a group of women activists or more popularly known as feminists, handing out piles of campaign brochures. Of course, about the main ideas of their ideology.</i>	<i>Feminists struggles over their radical ideas</i>	<i>Their main idea is that slam violates women's rights.</i>
2.	<i>A young girl socializes and offers their ideology, especially for women. His oration sounds convincing. The collaboration between pain, anger, protest and questions that lead to implicit statements. Among his speeches, the chants of other members shouted</i>	<i>The emotions in conveying ideas and arguments about equality</i>	<i>Demanding justice and human rights</i>
3	<i>"Then the orator girl confidently blew questions that seemed to hypnotize the</i>	<i>Building opinions and suppressing emotions</i>	<i>Raising the issue of injustice, which</i>

	<i>young girls. "Are you satisfied with your current situation, O women ?!"</i>	<i>with the power of propaganda</i>	<i>actually is the existence of negative sentiments of the Western world to Islam using the ideas of feminism</i>
4	<i>"Eradicate all forms of polygamy that afflict women, free women from the veil and old-fashioned traditions! Free the women from the restraining religious morals! " She exclaimed, staring intently at some Turkish Muslim women who happened to be passing by. ... they are part of the demographic identity of Germany. Turkish Muslim women passed by the activists, while glancing back without showing any sympathy.</i>	<i>Feminist propaganda to discredit Muslims.</i>	<i>Destroying the teachings of Islam through the politics of justification under the gender bias</i>
5	<i>... Maybe they were offended, for the painful attack from the oration in the public area. But they chose not to argue and kept walking away while whispering among themselves small. "Let the women choose their own lives, despite being lesbians!" But we only campaign that women are free to be what they want. That is not a crime. Broaden it up. We are feminists, fighting for the fate of women!</i>	<i>The strategy of feminists in fighting for their rights even though it violates the democracy of a person's right to adhere to the rules of her religion.</i>	<i>West was with hatred towards Islam Voice and promoting LGBT ideas that are very much against Islamic teachings</i>
6	<i>The sound came from a building that has a simple dome, but looks very firm. The yard is quite shady, conveying the coolness of a harmonious environment. More than that, actually Charlotte's conscience is voicing an honesty. She felt the coolness that radiated not from the trees and the weather before night. There is something ... I don't know, which made her heart dissolved in the melodious echo. The lights of the building began to light up, making Charlotte a little sad. Crowded Malay descendants with bright yellow-skinned brown looks reverently approaching the building. Worship. Shaking hands with brotherhood. Like a bee that approaches honey. Like the ants colony that came to his queen, "Is that radical attitude?"</i>	<i>The picture of the harmony of Islam and its teachings inspires humanity and has instilled a deep spiritual journey.</i>	<i>An ideological war was raging inside Charlotte</i>
7	<i>A few moments later, it was seen Berliners of Indian descent and also some white descendants joined in</i>	<i>Reinforce that Islam is a compassionate teaching regardless of race, class</i>	<i>The answer to aspects of Islamic ideology and</i>

	<i>chatting around the building. One of them said a greeting in Arabic to their friend. They shook hands and embraced a descendant of the Malay race, and came in together. The building was called the Al-Falaah mosque, an Indonesian community mosque in Berlin,... name IWKZe.V</i>	<i>and skin color. The subtlety, submissiveness and lordship of Islamic teachings can be felt even by non-Muslims</i>	<i>peace contrasts with those promoted by liberals regarding identical Islam with violence</i>
8	<i>Mystical sound that echoed through the tower. Submission of people who led to the revival. Brotherhood-filled community attitudes, regardless of background. Deep reverere.</i>	<i>The subtlety, submissiveness and lordship of Islamic teachings can be felt even by non-Muslims</i>	<i>Brotherhood-filled community attitudes, regardless of background. Deep reverere.</i>
9	<i>His eyes wandered into a memory. "Previously, the Alfalaah Mosque did not have land. We rented on the ground floor of a building on the corner of the street Feldzeugmeistersrasse. Even before it used to be a nightclub and next to a massage parlor. "Oh, interesting history. So, this mosque is new?" Charlote elaborated on his connection to listening to the story of his new friend. Indonesian Muslimah named Ratna nodded.</i>	<i>Rational Islamic teachings have been accepted by some Berliners</i>	<i>The presence of Islam provides positive things to replace disobedience that has existed in the area.</i>
10	<i>"Indonesian people are all persistent here. Finally, with the togetherness and spirit of brotherhood, the Al-Falah Mosque stands tall on its own land. Here in the city of Berlin, "he said, looking intently at the Al-Falah Mosque building. Ratna smiled. "Not only Kartini, we have Cut Nyak Dien and many more ...</i>	<i>The grandeur and solemnity of the mosque in the spirit of kinship and solidity portrays Islam as a just and respectful religion of women.</i>	<i>That Islam is not a radical religion. The hatred of liberals by promoting Islam and violence has actually brought many non-Muslims who want to know Islam thoroughly and are interested in this religion.</i>
11	<i>"Every mosque in Germany has the Moschee Tag der offenen program. One time you have to take part in an annual open house that provides as much information as possible to these German non-Muslims</i>	<i>Islam is a religion that is open to anyone who wants to get a deeper study about it</i>	<i>The openness of information to the non Muslims</i>
12	<i>"Yes, we must purify ourselves with water before we enter the mosque and start praying." "Oh yes, of course, ablution. "Charllotte follows Ratna to the women's ablution area. He saw the way Ratna performed ablution, then</i>	<i>Islam prioritizes physical and mental cleanliness. There is regularity in the concept of Muslim life manifested in prayer.</i>	<i>Introducing prayer as the main worshipping activities of Muslims</i>

	<p><i>followed her. They then stepped into the mosque, in the lines of women. "Sit in the back row of Charllotte if you want to see. Soon the Asr prayer will begin. "Why don't you line up with men?" Some female worshipers turned towards Charllotte. Their views imply objections to the protests she made inside the mosque. Now please calm down, prayers will start soon.</i></p>		
13	<p><i>She was amazed to see the rituals of the Muslims who are so organized and in harmony. Her heart kept wandering, dancing in solemn and solemn atmosphere in the mosque. "</i></p>	<p><i>The solemn worship of Muslims has entered her heart and evoked emotions that are difficult to interpret.</i></p>	<p><i>Charlotte has begun to get a picture of Muslims</i></p>
14	<p><i>... suddenly in Charllotte's mind there was a very opposite whisper. Discordant voices began to ring, pouting. These are the terrorists who look down on women. Do not be lulled by rites that do not have any meaning! Look what this religion has passed down, an injustice! Especially for women. This religion restrains, tortures women very cruelly. Forcing to cover their heads with heavy, hot hijab. While the men are free to enjoy women as lust slaves! Marriage without limits, commit violence with punches legalized by their holy books!</i></p>	<p><i>Charllotte's inner war about Islam, that she had been familiar with through the West and the Liberals with what she witnessed and felt.</i></p>	<p><i>Feminists who have assumed Islam has committed injustice have begun to recede in Charllotte, there is an anger and determination in the inner journey to convince herself.</i></p>
15	<p><i>Charlotte does not realize that discordant voices in her head are the result of various instant information coming through various media; Newspapers, television and books. Everything all this time entered into the realm of his mind with blind absorption. Without critical questions, also without an objective filter. In the case of Charlotte, the social environment contributed to the propaganda nature. The voice in his mind reverberated so loudly, dismissing all the solitude and beauty that was captured by Charlotte's heart</i></p>	<p><i>Charllotte began to realize a variety of instant information coming through various media; Newspapers, television and books. Everything all this time entered into the realm of his mind with blind absorption. Without critical questions, also without an objective filter. In the case of Charlotte, the social environment contributed to the propaganda nature. The voice in that mind echoed so loudly.</i></p>	<p><i>The experience of spiritual journey of the real picture makes her aware of finding the truth</i></p>
16	<p><i>"How was it, Charlotte? have you seen the way we worship, prayers?" This is the first time I've seen it, "Charlotte nodded. "Oh yes, I want to say</i></p>	<p><i>The concept of God as a creator and God of the entire universe has entered into Charllotte.</i></p>	

<p><i>goodbye, thank you for inviting me. This is a cool experience for me. "No need to thank me, I didn't invite you. But He, the Most Perfect, Almighty God. Allah (God) invited you. Charllotte was stunned by Ratna's words. Her heart stopped beating for a few moments. There was something she could not understand with reason. And unable to sue her either. "Hmm, ok. Allah. So that is the name of your God. "Not only our Lord, but your God too, Lord of the entire universe. "Ratna smiled. His face implies incomparable authority when glorifying the name of Allah</i></p>	<p><i>Her heart seemed to stop beating for a few moments. There was something she could not understand with reason. And not able to anyway suing it.</i></p>
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Sumber: Lilik Sumarni; Analisis Semiotika Representasi Muslimah Dan Nilai-Nilai Agama Islam Dalam Novel Ratu yang Bersujud Karya Madavi.

God is the Lord of the entire universe. Understanding of the Essence of God.

Conclusion

Based on the above study, it can be concluded:

1. The discussion above shows that the form of representation of the Muslim women is indeed included in the Prostrating Queen novel. It describes the understanding of Charlotte's propaganda with the spirit of feminism has already implanted the false prejudice to the world regarding how to view the Islamic teachings. It also causes the constructions of general opinion to become further from the truth itself. The Islamic religion has managed all the rules and laws regarding men's and women's way of life. Women in Islam are placed in a very respected level of status and very well protected, particularly by commanding the women to cover their heads with hijab. Islam protects the honor of women, even they are suggested to stay at home more not because they are not allowed to work or have activities outside. But it is women's honorable responsibility to educate the children at home. Thus the next generation will capable of not only applying science but also the social intelligence and mature spiritual understanding. In Islam, women are highly demanded to have more than one ability and being multitasking. No matter how high is the status of her man, he still needs her advice and management.
2. The power and hegemony of the media in constructed images are also included in this novel. Many sentences and quotations in this novel describe and explain the journey of life and the struggle of radical feminists through a long and full process of inner dialogues that drain knowledge and reach the human soul in the inner process to accept the truth. In the rhythms of dialogue that set various atmospheres, all the elements broken down the incomplete definition of Muslim women and the injustices that are heavily promoted by the western media. An idea submitted by Roland Barthes explains the external theory which consists of denotation and connotation. Denotation is a real meaning extracted from signs while connotation is a second signification that is subjective as the consequence of the involvement of the reader's emotion and feelings. In this case, to fully understand the meaning of contents in the novel, readers will have their perspective under the connotation they receive.
3. The image and prejudice of Muslim women in the novel are described vividly by using dialogues playing with inner self and thoughts within the various characters. This novel at least has exhibited the way the Western world views the Islamic world. It also shows the illogical fear if Islamic teaching promoted by the Western world.

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