
THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAREY'S *TRUE HISTORY OF THE KELLY GANG*

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Abstract

This study aims to find and to describe social problems that focus on the struggle for human rights violations in the novel of True History of the Kelly Gang. The objective of the research is formulated as follows: 1) to reveal the types of human rights violations occur in the novel *True History of the Kelly Gang*. 2) to know how the main characters struggle to retrieve his human rights. Based on the objectives, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method in manner. The research focuses on Peter Carey's True History of The Kelly Gang as a primary source data and the supporting data were collected through sociological approach. The researcher focused on the struggle of main character to retrieve his rights. The result of the study showed that Ned struggled to get his rights in different way, he do revenge by replying to what the squatter and police had done to Ned. The implication of this study is expected to give information to the reader at literary work and to give helpful reference for other researchers as well as a contribution for the people who are interested in learning sociology of literature especially for the English literature students.

Keywords: Human Rights, Social Condition, Violation

INTRODUCTION

Literature has a broad scope, so that literature can get experience and broaden the insight of readers about things that happen in the world through literature. Novel one of literary works, the novel is long prose that contains human life and its surroundings, also displays the character and attitude of each character in it — a novel one of the literary works that are well known by literary lovers. With the increasing interest of novels, this work continues to develop and has various types such as inspiring novels, horror novels, comedy, romance, and others. The novel has two elements that make it more structured, namely intrinsic element and extrinsic element. The intrinsic elements in the novel, there are several kinds, such as themes, characters and characterizations, plot, language styles, settings, points of view and message. Besides intrinsic elements, in the novel, there are also extrinsic elements. The extrinsic elements included are politics, social,

culture, religion, and others who take values outside of literature, making them more colorful. (Darmono, 1978: 18)

Through the presentation of different human values, making literary works has social functional either individually or in groups in society. Literary work is a very close connection to the authors. The author is also a society that has a social role in society so that his works are very closely related to social events and problems that occur in society. Because of that, literary works that they sometimes create an experience of his own life or work based on his imagination, of course not be separated from social reality that is happening in society.

Every human has their rights since the birth which God gave to his servants. Therefore, not all of them can take it away, and no power can take the rights of someone. Event that difference in skin color, gender, culture, language, and rich and poor people still have their respective rights. In this world,

there are laws regarding human rights that are regulated by their respective countries and can protect the rights of every people in the world. Some examples of human rights that all people have the right to have it, for example, the right to life, religious rights, the right to be free and so on. However, even though there are laws regarding human rights, we still often get human rights violations, for example between citizens and employers regarding land disputes, murder, take away someone's freedom, persecution, and so on. (Davidson, 2008: 33)

The researcher chooses *True history of the Kelly Gang* by Peter Carey as the object of the research because this novel contains human rights violation. There is a few researchers took this novel as an object for their research, this is a historical novel, so there are so many exciting things we can find in this novel. Furthermore, the researcher attempts to analyze human rights violations in the novel by using the sociology of literature approach to know more the social conflict in this novel.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1 Sociology of Literature

Sociology of literature is an approach to the study of literature. We can interpret literary sociology as the study of relations between society and literature. The sociological approach to literature holds attention in the viewpoint of literary documentaries, by relying on a view that literature is a portrait or picture of social phenomena. Social phenomena that are real and which often occur in everyday life can be photographed and documented. Understanding the social aspects contained in literary works must also be a sociological approach. From this perspective, it can be concluded that the basis of the sociological interpretation of literary works is to dismantle the hidden meanings of literary works as social symptoms. With positive thinking it is said that writers are the conscience of the people

who aim to show a social life with the principle of truth. (Faruk, 1994: 30)

The sociological approach to literature is a relationship between literature and society. Literature is an expression of society, meaning literature is an expression of people's feelings. That is to say, and the community must inevitably reflect and express life (Wellek and Warren, 1949: 90).

According to Wellek and Warren (1949: 90-92), the real relationship between literature and society can be examined through:

- a. Sociology Author
Concerning the problem of the author as a producer of literary works. Defeating social status, author's social ideology, and order authors outside of literary work
- b. Literary Sociology
Regarding the existence of the work itself, which contains the contents of literary works, goals, and other things implied in the literary work itself, and which relates to social problems.
- c. Reader Sociology
Concerning the reader and the social influence of the work, namely the extent of the social impact of literature for the reading.

Some of the meanings and opinions above conclude that a literary sociology approach is an approach to literary works by not leaving the aspects of society, including the background of the life of the author and the reader of literary works.

Literary work as a work of imagination that is born not on the loss of the soul but also on the reality that occurs around the author. This certainly cannot be separated from the elements that build the literary work which includes intrinsic elements (elements that make literary works from within) and extrinsic elements (elements that build literary works from the outside) — included in the study of the sociology of literature.

In literature and society, literary works contain the expression of society, so that

unwittingly literary works are a mirror of the surrounding community. This is also said by Wellek and Warren (1949: 98):

Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and meter are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature "imitates" "life"; and "life" is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary "imitation."

2. Life struggle

The opening of the tap of democracy and freedom of speech has opened voices and ideas which have tended to be silent because they were suppressed by repressive actions by the authorities. Now, every person is free to express his will without fear of being punished, imprisoned, and suppressed by certain parties which are an extension of the authority, including the freedom of the poor in fighting for their rights.

The struggle of someone who is classified as inadequate they experience discrimination in various fields of life, for example, in the fields of education, economics, politics, and so on. Conversations and struggles for rights arise because of awareness, association, and flow of information that makes a person more critical of what befalls them. Rights fighters who end up experiencing psychological problems, but they are strong enough to fight for their rights. The other struggles they often experience are struggles for survival.

3. Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. Since its

adoption in 1948, the UDHR has been translated into more than 500 languages – the most translated document in the world - and has inspired the constitutions of many newly independent States and many new democracies. The UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols (on the complaints procedure and the death penalty) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol, form the so-called International Bill of Human Rights (UN-Declaration of Human Rights).

Therefore human rights violations are acts of violation of humanity either committed by individuals or by state institutions or other institutions against the rights of other individuals without any basis or juridical reasons and rational reasons that become the basis.

Human rights violations can be grouped into two types, namely gross human rights violations and minor human rights violations. The crime of genocide and crimes against humanity are included in serious human rights violations.

a. Mass murder (genocide)

The definition of genocide is any action carried out with the intention of destroying or destroying all or part of a group of nations, races, ethnicities, and religions by carrying out acts of violence. Severe human rights violations include: 1) Massacre (genocide), 2) Arbitrary or extrajudicial killings of the court decision, 3) Torture, 4) Forced disappearance, and 5) Slavery or conversion is carried out systematically.

b. Cases of minor human rights violations: 1) Beating, 2) Persecution, 3) Defamation, 4) Blocking people from expressing their opinions, and 5) Killing someone.

3. Research Objectives

The objective of the research is formulated as follows: 1) to reveal the types of human rights violations occur in the novel *True History of the Kelly Gang*. 2) To know how the main characters struggle to retrieve his human

rights. This research expected to give information to the reader at literary work and to give helpful reference for other researchers. Besides, the study expected to give contribution for the people who are interested in learning sociology of literature especially for the English literature students about human rights in the novel.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study aims to find and describes social problems that focus on human rights violations in the novel *True History of the Kelly Gang*. Based on the purpose, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method and sociology of literature method.

Primary data in this research, the researcher used Peter Carey's *True History of The Kelly Gang*. The novel was published in 2000, 401 pages and published by University of Queensland Press.

Supporting data are sources of data obtained from the results of research or studies conducted by other people contained in various libraries also taken from external sources besides the novel to support the primary data. The secondary data consist of books, journal, online articles, a thesis related to the objective of this research.

The researcher used the sociology literature approach as the research technique. Then the intrinsic element of the researcher analyzes especially the character and background. After that, classify data using the sociological theory of literature by Wellek and Warren. After analyzing social conflicts, the author continues to analyze human rights violence.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher uses the theory of sociology of literature by Wellek and Warren to identified social problem in the novel. Based on an analysis of social problems in the novel *True History of the Kelly Gang*, this famous with the social problem is the

existence of human rights violations. It can be seen through the quotation in the novel.

The struggle for human rights

After analyzing the novel, the researcher finds the main character's struggle to regain his rights. The struggle that he does is located in the following quotes of Ned's conversation with the Hare police:

I told him he better tear up that warrant for my cousin Tom Lloyd.

He cleaned out his pipe with a queer silver instrument he might have been a surgeon. He used a silver studded leather pouch to hold his baccy he said he would arrest Tom Lloyd and keep him forever if he so desired he also said Tom Lloyd had been harbored by my mother so her selection could now be taken from her under the Land Act of 1865.

You got no evidence of that said I. He answered he would gaol my mother if he so chose and all my brothers and uncles and cousins and he did not care if we should breed like rabbits for he would lock up the mothers and babies too. When he stood up, it was like seeing a tapeworm uncurl in your presence the length of him were sickening to see he was 6 ft. 3 in. Even 6 ft. 4 with dainty feet.

I'll make you regret you ever laid eyes upon Mr. McBean he said and left the room. (Carey, 2000:157)

In the Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on November 10, 1948 there was an article

Article 1: Everyone is born independent and has the same dignity and rights. They are blessed with reason and conscience and should associate with each other in brotherhood. The article states that all people are born free. But if an attack gets threatened, he will find it difficult to gain independence. In this case, the researcher found several sentences that showed the threat. Like when Ned was threatened if he didn't surrender himself to the police, his cousin Tom Llyod would be jailed instead. Ned finally gave up and asked the police to tear Tom's arrest warrant. But Hare threatened again that

he would imprison his cousin for life and would revoke his mother's land permit, not only that, Hare also threatened to imprison his mother, brother, uncle and aunt. By threatening Ned, he could not help but obey his request to protect his family.

This situation made Ned obedient, though the police continued to torture Ned. He must struggle to endure the pain and insults given to him. To protect his family, he was willing to do anything, including giving the police little information about Harry Power. He didn't mean to betray Power, but he had no choice. Here are the sentences about the squatter take Ned and farmer's stock.

In a very bad year even the richest farmers was cutting down saplings to feed their stock they was pressed hard themselves and so harsher than usual to their poor neighbours. Through his connections in government the squatter Whitty had been permitted to rent the common ground and as a result a poor man could no longer find a place to feed his stock in all the drought stricken plains. If you set your horse grazing beside the govt. road it would be taken by Whitty's drones and locked away in the pound. I have known 60 head of horses impounded in one day all of them belonging to poor farmers who was then required to leave their ploughing or harvest and travel to Oxley and when they got there perhaps they didn't have money to release them and so they would have to give a bill of sale or borrow money which is no easy matter. (Carey, 2000:214)

They don't allow poor farmers or Ned to take their livestock unless they redeem their livestock at high prices. Of course, farmers and Ned cannot fulfill these requirements.

Therefore, with all the acts of human rights violations obtained by Ned, making him angry and taking revenge on those who have taken their rights. In this way Ned struggled to take his rights back. Next is Ned's plan to take revenge on the Whitty squatter who has taken his cattle as shown in the quote above.

Don't hurt him cried she I could not bear another loss.

It is Whitty that will have the loss said I and told her how they tortured Dan and stole my horses. It is time they felt a little pain themselves.

Don't do nothing she said you go back to work.

I've given up my job Ma I have come to steal them horses like you wanted. (Carey, 2000: 219)

In this quotation, Ned wants to warn the Whitty squatter, who has forcibly taken his horses and poor farmer's horses.

I knew horses all my life, but it took a Yank to show me what a contrary bugger the horse can be if you go towards it then it runs off if you turn your back it cannot keep from following. George King needed no mare or stallion or oats or whip or halter to start them horses walking he needed nothing but himself and he drew them away from the plains of Myrree and Kilfeera using nothing more than their own curiosity. (Carey, 2000: 221)

The way Ned struggles to get his rights is different, that is by doing the same thing to those who have usurped Ned's rights. Like when Ned was angry with squatters, they constantly took poor farmer and Ned's livestock, only because the cattle approached the government road. As a result, they must redeem their livestock at very high prices. Ned was assisted by George King to take the cattle.

After releasing the horses from his cage, Ned rode the horse to the New South Wales area so that the squats became as difficult as they did the poor and Ned. Ned did that because he wanted the squats to feel the suffering of others because of their actions. And also he wanted to show the officials that he could not underestimate him and no longer disturb the Ned family. Ned only wanted to be free from the injustice and continuous torture they gave to Ned. The next quote is the conversation between Ned and Joe:

I'll tell you what I'll do for you he said I'll go to Benalla and inspect the bank.

He'll inspect some opium I thought.

You don't have to come back Joe you could send word.

Thank you Ned he said engaging himself urgently with his tobacco pouch.

Later while he saddled his bay I stood waiting in the blue night with Steve and Dan. Joe said

we soon would know how the bank were guarded and the most profitable day to rob it I did not expect nothing of him now. When he mounted he done the unusual thing of leaning down to shake my hand. (Carey, 2000: 328)

The next struggle is by rebellion. Ned who had been obedient to the law but the police and officials treated him unfairly. So Ned and his friends rebelled, one of the rebellions that Ned did was by stealing money at the bank. He had planned after the robbery he would use half of his money to free his mother from prison. And their side they used to escape from Australia to America.

With unfair treatment and several false accusations directed at him, Ned changed, which was once obedient to the law, became a rebel. He does this to protect his life and to show officials that he is not an easy opponent for them.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analyzing of the data about social conflict especially human rights in Carey's novel *True History of the Kelly Gang* on the discussion, the researchers concluded that the main character struggles to get his rights he has done by replying to what the squatter and the police did to him. He did it so that they felt what Ned felt and the poor farmers felt.

Based on the benefits of the research proposed, the suggestions that the results of this study should be used as a reference by readers to understand social criticism, especially human rights in the novel *True History of the Kelly Gang*. Besides that, the reader should also be able to gain experience and insights about human rights. Also, the story of the struggle to respond to the treatment of the rich towards the main character.

There are still many alternative studies that can be done on in Carey's novel *True History of the Kelly Gang* by using a different approach, for example, structuralism, semiotic, moral approaches, literary receptions, and so

on. Thus, it is still wide open for future researchers to research the novel *True History of the Kelly Gang* with the follow-up of this research.

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