

SOCIETY'S VIEW OF WOMAN BASED ON THEIR POSITION IN THE SHORT STORY *BOJO* BY JMV SUNARJO

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Abstract: Short story entitled *Bojo* by JMV Sunarjo written in javanese tells of a conversation between a boy and his mother who have different views on the position of women. In social life, women can act as mothers, grandmothers, daughters-in-law and mother-in-law. Through literature, society or individuals show their views on women according to their position in life. This study aims to describe women based on their position from the point of view of society. Qualitative descriptive analysis with a mimetic approach, namely an approach in literary studies that examines the relationship between literary texts and reality, is used as the method in this study. Based on data analysis, the results of the study included (1) women who were positioned as grandmothers were not allowed to work hard by their sons, (2) women who were positioned as daughter-in-law were considered to give different treatment to mother-in-law, and (3) women who are positioned as mothers (widows) may not be remarried by their sons. Based on these three research results, it can be concluded that society's view of women's position as grandmother, daughter-in-law, or widow is carried out differently. With this study, it is hoped that society can be more objective in giving their views on various women's positions and be wiser in responding to differences in women's will in making their choices.

Keywords: society's view, woman, short story, mimetic approach

INTRODUCTION

Women can take more than one position. Women can play the role of mother, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law, and grandmother. An unmarried woman has a different freedom from her position when she becomes a wife. She must obey her husband and maintain the good name of the family. Likewise when a woman becomes a wife, she will have different freedoms when she becomes a grandmother. This happens because in every position, the roles and responsibilities of women are always changing. If in a certain position women do not behave properly, they will receive different treatment from society.

Society has different views on how to treat women. In a society that still upholds patriarchal culture, women cannot express themselves as freely as women in a society that adheres to a liberal culture. This can be seen from various aspects, including education and employment. In a society that still views it as old-fashioned, women don't need to go to high school because in the end they will become wives and only do household chores. In contrast to a more open-minded society. Women can achieve the highest dreams and work in any position they want.

Society's view of women can be seen in literary works. In addition to providing entertainment, literary works also portray conditions that occur in society. For example, the novel entitled *Siti Nurbaya* by Marah Rusli was published by Balai Pustaka in the 1920s. In it, there is a photograph of an incident involving a forced marriage committed by an old man

against a young woman. The general public perceives it as the age of arranged marriages carried out by ancient people so that when in modern times there are still matters of arranged marriages, people will associate it with the Siti Nurbaya era or the arranged marriages experienced by Siti Nurbaya in the novel. This proves that literary works are capable of photographing certain times and influencing people's views.

One example of society's view of women is that women are not allowed to work hard. This is a common view that in choosing a job, women have less freedom. For example, if a woman wants to work as a construction worker, the community will reject it without considering, for example, the woman's reasons and abilities. Society prefers men in doing heavy work. Likewise in the household, women who are grandmothers are usually not allowed to do heavy housework by their children. Thus, in determining their will, women are still governed by the views of society. In fact, women have an independent mind in carrying themselves according to their views and beliefs (Utami & Sholihah, 2021).

In one of the short stories entitled *Bojo* by JMV Sunarjo, it is photographed how society views women based on their position. The novel tells about an old woman character named Yati who feels uncomfortable living in the house of one of her sons, Yuli, who is already married. He is not allowed to do the housework that has become his habit. In addition, he felt that his son-in-law did not like his presence. Yati, who is also a widow, is not allowed to remarry by her children. Through these stories, literary works exist in addition to providing entertainment as well as providing a picture of real life which is wrapped in an attractive way with the imagination and style of language of the poet or author.

This study uses a mimetic approach with a focus on the study of the sociology of literature which examines the relationship between literary texts and life in society. According to Swingewood, to see portraits or phenomena in society according to the time, it can be obtained using literary texts, which he intends as sociocultural documents (Wahyudi, 2013). *Bojo's* short story was chosen because the events in the short story describe the society's view of women's positions, including those of grandmother, daughter-in-law, and widow.

There have been many studies of female characters in literary works. These studies were carried out to enrich insights about the portrait of women in everyday life. The study of society's view of women in the novel *Drupadi* shows that women who are considered perfect by society have physical beauty and high degrees (Hasanah & Sholihah, 2022). With regard to this study in daily life such situations are still found, for example in work in front of the camera it is required to look perfect. In addition to studies in the novel *Draupadi*, studies on the problems experienced by female characters in Indonesian novels 1900-2000 are caused by differences in nationality, patriarchal culture, religious interpretation, and gender construction (Liliani, 2013). The research shows that there are many aspects that influence the way society views women.

This study has similarities and differences with previous studies. The similarity lies in the study of women, while the difference lies in the focus of the study in the form of society's view of the position of women.

METHOD

In providing an overview of the object under study, qualitative descriptive analysis was used as a method in this study. The approach used in the study of the short story entitled *Bojo* by JMV Sunarjo is a mimetic approach. The mimetic approach with a focus on the study of sociology of literature was chosen because it is appropriate to use as a scalpel in studying literary texts related to reality. The data source for this study was a short story entitled *Bojo* by JMV Sunarjo in the 2020 edition of *Jayabaya* magazine and journal. Words and sentences in the short story that show narrative and behavior in accordance with the focus of the study were

collected as data. Furthermore, seven processes were carried out which included (1) identifying words or sentences, (2) coding data, (3) grouping data, (4) extracting data, (5) presenting data according to the purpose, (6) discussing findings, and (7) summarizing data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Society's View of the Position of Women as Grandmothers

Women who are in the position of grandmothers generally have entered old age. In this regard, children usually do not allow their parents to work too hard. This is captured in Bojo's short story. The following presents a quote from the society's view of the position of women as grandmothers.

Nalika arep njupuk pel, dipenggak Yuli anak e lanang sing lagi watara rong minggu iki ngancani. "Mengko lakyo dipel pembantu ta, Bu. Ibu pinarakan wae". (Javanese Language)

Ketika hendak mengambil kain pel, dihalangi Yuli anak lelakinya yang sekitar dua minggu menemani. "Nanti pasti akan dipel pembantu, Bu. Ibu duduk saja." (Indonesian)

When she was about to take a mop, Yuli was prevented by her son, who had been accompanying her for about two weeks. "Later it will definitely be in the maid's mop, ma'am. Mom just sit down." **Bojo/p 28/2**

Based on this quote, a son will not let his parents get tired at an advanced age, by not being allowed to do household chores even though it has become the habit of the mother. In real life, this is natural in terms of children placing their parents well. A son or daughter wants to see his parents healthy in his old age so they can't stand it when his parents are tired of doing household chores.

The treatment of a son towards his parents in the short story shows a portrait that a child's affection for his mother is so great. The amount of affection can be associated with the way parents raise children. The way parents raise children is also related to the way children care for parents. Based on research on parenting of children in Banda Aceh City, the results show that the quality of the relationship between children and parents and the relationship that exists between children and parents will affect parenting of children to parents in old age (Mutia & Irma, 2018). This shows that children who are raised well by their parents in childhood will also treat their parents well when they are adults. This situation can be inversely proportional if parents do not provide good care for their children in childhood, in their old age parents may not get good treatment from their children when they are adults.

On the other hand, there is a survey which shows that compared to boys, girls provide more emotional support in terms of listening to their parents' thoughts and talking to their parents about life (Chu, 2022). The results of this study indicate that the patience level of women is considered higher than that of men in caring for their parents.

Society's View of the Position of Women as Daughters-in-law

Women who are in the position of daughter-in-law sometimes have different views or opinions with their mother-in-law. In this regard, there is discomfort that the mother-in-law feels towards her daughter-in-law. This is captured in Bojo's short story. The following presents a quote from the society's view of the position of women as daughter-in-law.

"Kuwi lak rumangsamu. Wo saiki wae sikape bojomu wis bedo karo pirang ndina kapungkur. Dak wadulana yo ora mungkin kowe ngandel, mesthi yo luwih ngandel marang bojomu. Wong jenenge bojo," unine batine Bu Yati. (Javanese Language)

"Itu kalau menurutmu. Sekarang sikap istrimu sudah beda dengan beberapa hari sebelumnya. Saya keluhkan ya tidak mungkin kamu percaya, pasti ya lebih percaya sama istrimu. Namanya juga istri." bunyi batin Bu Yati. (Indonesian)

"That's what you think. Now your wife's attitude is different from a few days before. I'm complaining that it's impossible for you to believe it, I'm sure you trust your wife more. Her name is also a wife." said Mrs. Yati. Bojo/p 28/7

Based on the quote, the mother-in-law feels that her daughter-in-law is treating her differently. The mother-in-law feels that the good treatment given by her daughter-in-law is only directed to her husband (mother-in-law's son), while not to her. The feelings experienced by the mother-in-law can be caused, among others, by a lack of closeness and differences in understanding. Differences in views between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law are normal in married life. However, if each party cannot accept it wisely, this difference in views can lead to serious conflict.

In contrast to the views of mother-in-law towards daughter-in-law in short stories, findings of research conducted in Pakistan reveal that contrary to Western studies and electronic media, the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law in less studied cultures is significantly positive (Husain et al., 2023). This shows that not all mother-in-law and daughter-in-law have strained relationships and different views. When viewed from the results of the study in Pakistan, a positive relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law shows similarities in views or views that are not much different between the two.

In addition, negative social views can also affect the son-in-law's relationship with the male family so that the condition of the entire family can worsen (Kurniawati, 2018). These negative social views can harm the relationship that exists between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law so that a wise attitude is needed so that the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is harmonious.

Socio-economic factors also influence women's perceptions as daughter-in-law. Families with high social and economic status tend to prioritize the role and position of sons-in-law in the family (Sari, 2019). The research shows that social and economic aspects contribute to society's view of women's position as daughter-in-law.

Society's View of the Position of Women as Widows

The position of women as widows receives various attentions in society. A widow can be positioned as an individual who deserves to be cared for and pitied, and can also be seen as unfavorable. In Bojo's short story, the widow in question is an elderly mother or grandmother who wants to marry, but her family does not allow her to. The following is an excerpt from the society's view of the position of women as widows.

"Adhik-adhik crita jare Ibu arep krama maneh? Mbok uwis ta, Bu, momong putu-putu wae kaya sing dakaturake ing ndhuwur mau lho. Wong yuswane Ibu ya wis 65 taun, mosok kok...," (Javanese Language)

Adik-adik cerita bahwa ibu hendak menikah lagi? Sudah ya Bu, merawat cucu saja seperti yang saya sampaikan sebelumnya tadi. Umur Ibu juga sudah 65 tahun, masa ya...," (Indonesian)

Younger siblings say you want to remarry? Done ma'am, just take care of the grandchildren like I said earlier. Mother is already 65 years old, isn't it...," Bojo/p 28/8

Based on this quote, a married son does not allow his mother, who has become a grandmother and is old, to remarry. The son thinks that the mother should just look after the grandchildren at home and reminds the mother that she is getting old. This shows that the age of women at marriage is still considered by society as an important matter. Society believes that someone who is old and has become an old widow, is better off taking care of her grandchildren at home than remarrying.

In the view of society, widows are viewed differently by society. Based on interview results, the community has diverse views in defining the status of widows in the village and in

general they define widows as individuals they have seen or met based on experience (Suhan et al., 2020). This research shows that to provide a view of widows, it is determined by the experience of the community from what they see or encounter. If they see a widow with bad or deviant behavior, they can define the widow as a woman who has a negative connotation. However, if they see or meet a widow with good behavior, they will also define her as a good woman.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion of the data, it can be concluded that the people's view of the position of women as grandmothers, daughters-in-law and widows is carried out differently. First, women who are positioned as grandmothers can be treated differently by their families, one of which is related to their upbringing of the child. If parents take good care of their children when they are young, in adulthood the children also treat their parents well, including caring for elderly parents. Second, women who are in the position of daughter-in-law can also be treated differently by their families. This can occur due to various factors, including cultural, social, and economic factors. These factors can influence society's view of women based on their position. Third, women who are widowed can be treated differently by the family and society, including based on age and understanding that comes from experience so that in defining a widow, society can classify them into different groups, namely widows are defined as good women, as well as Widow is defined as a woman who has a bad or negative connotation.

Through the short story *Bojo* by JMV Sunarjo, a message was voiced that society needs to view women in a broader schemata so that there are no misunderstandings in understanding the position and treatment of women. With this study, it is hoped that society can be more objective in giving their views on various women's positions and be wiser in responding to differences in women's will in making their choices.

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