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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## Violence against Blue-Eyed Women in the Novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine the form of violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character in the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso. Researchers use feminist literary criticism theory. The data source for this research was obtained from a quote from the novel *Nyutrayu*, which describes the violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character. The data collection process uses data collection techniques through literature study, reading techniques, and note-taking techniques. The literature study technique is carried out by collecting, reading and studying books on feminist literary criticism theory; the reading technique is carried out repeatedly in the novel *Nyutrayu*, and the note-taking technique is to record quotes that show data in the form of violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character. Next, data validity techniques are carried out using validity tests and reliability tests. The validity test is carried out by interpreting the data based on the problem formulation and in accordance with feminist literary criticism. Meanwhile, the reliability test was carried out by repeatedly reading the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso and discussing it with colleagues. The data analysis technique is carried out in three stages. First is data reduction, namely data collected and grouped according to the problem formulation. The second is data presentation, namely grouping data into data cards. Third, conclusions and verification are drawn, namely the final conclusion of the data, which is temporary and can change if evidence is found to support the data collection stage. The results of the research show that 1) the physical violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character was in the form of being killed by a group of men, being hit with a broom handle, and being injured by village youths using a machete. 2) psychological violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character in the form of being stalked by villagers, being accused of being a witch, and being threatened with death. And 3) sexual violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character in the form of sexual harassment and rape.

### KEYWORDS

Feminism, Violence, Gender Inequality.

### ARTICLE INFORMATION

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### 1. Introduction

Violence experienced by women generally occurs due to the patriarchal culture that exists in social life. This patriarchal culture is a problem that is still rooted in society. This patriarchal culture places women in second place and is always considered inferior creatures. The patriarchal culture that exists in society is detrimental, especially for women. Dominant power is owned by men both in the domestic and public spheres. In a patriarchal culture, men occupy positions as leaders while women act as workers who serve men. Patriarchal culture is closely related to problems that occur among women.

Problems caused by patriarchal culture include physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence. Violence is an attack or invasion of a person's physical or mental psychological integrity (Fakih, 2010). Violence against women originates from the patriarchal culture that exists in society. Patriarchy is a system of male dominance and superiority, as well as a system of control

over women where women are dominated (Bhasin, 1996). Patriarchy is a social structural system that places men in a position of domination, oppressing and exploiting women (Nugroho, 2023). Furthermore, Fakhri (2010) stated that violence against fellow humans basically comes from sources, but violence against certain genders, for example, women, is caused by assumptions that exist in society. Violence perpetrated by men against women gives rise to various other long-term problems, and in general, these problems will lead to losses and suffering experienced by women as victims (Baso, 2021).

Violence that occurs against women is an act of gender injustice. This violence is due to gender bias in society. Violence caused by gender bias is called gender related violence (Fakhri, 2013). Gender-based violence mostly occurs based on patriarchal principles, so men are always the perpetrators of violence, and women are always the victims (Purwanti, 2020). Violence against women is the action of a man or a number of men by exerting certain force, which results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to a woman or a group of women (Ulfah, 2020). Forms of violence that occur against women include physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence.

Physical violence includes rape, sexual intercourse between family members (incest), beatings and torture, and even more sadistic, cutting off women's genitals (Fakhri, 2010). The physical violence experienced by these women caused injuries, trauma and even death. Furthermore, psychological violence leads to the victim's psyche/mentality; therefore, this kind of violence occurs more often than physical violence (Ahmadi, 2019). This form of psychological violence takes the form of threatening, insulting, degrading, stalking, spying, and causing feelings of trauma. Sexual violence occurs against women not because of their gender but because of gender bias that occurs in society. This form of sexual violence takes the form of rape, sexual harassment, sexual torture, and sexual intimidation in the form of threats.

Violence that occurs against women is also depicted in literary works, namely novels. Basically, literary works are a reflection of human life. In literary works, female characters are also depicted as experiencing acts of gender injustice in the form of violence. The novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso depicts a blue-eyed female character who experiences violence. Blue-eyed women are depicted as descendants of mistresses who know how many generations but still receive unfair treatment from society. Blue-eyed women experience many acts of violence, both physical, psychological and sexual. This happens because of physiological differences; having blue eyes and having strange abilities make them considered witches.

Women are always depicted in an inferior position. Gender bias in society occurs due to biological factors, even though it is actually just a product of society (Wijayanti, 2018). To reveal the existence of domination that causes gender injustice experienced by women in the novel *Nyutrayu*, researchers use feminist literary criticism theory. Feminist literary criticism is a type of literary study that is based on feminist thinking, which seeks justice in viewing the existence of women, both as authors and in their literary works (Wiyatmi, 2012). Furthermore, the focus of analysis in feminist literary criticism is on how women are depicted in literary works, their relationship with men, and their relationship with the social environment (Wiyatmi, 2012).

The importance of this research lies in several things, namely (1) the novel *Nyutrayu*, which depicts a woman with blue eyes. *Nyutrayu* itself means female warrior. (2) depiction of blue-eyed female characters who are independent, tough and brave, such as depictions of female soldiers. (3) the use of blue-eyed female characters who have unique abilities. This ability is usually referred to as indigo. (4) patriarchal domination, which still shackles blue-eyed women. This confirms that women still experience objectification from men. Men think that women are weak, inferior, and easy to control. It is hoped that this research will provide awareness that women and men are equal in life. Women can prove their existence in life. Women should receive protection from men.

## 2. Literature Review

Based on the literature search that has been carried out, the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso is researched with a focus on analyzing gender inequality. The relevant previous research, namely. 1) Journal written by Rosida et al. (2017) with the title "Gender Relations in Willow Trees Don't Weep Novel (2014) by Fadia Faqir: A Feminist Literary Criticism". This research examines gender relations between male and female characters using feminist literary criticism theory. The results of the research are male dominance, discrimination against women, and violence against women. The similarity with the research that will be carried out is the use of feminist literary criticism theory, while the difference lies in the object and subject of the research. The object of research that will be carried out is the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso, while the subjects are the image of women, gender injustice and resistance to gender injustice. 2) Journal written by Nurrahmah (2019) with the title "Gender Injustice towards Women in the Novel *Tempurung* by Oka Rusmini: Literary Feminism Approach". This research examines gender inequality in the novel *Tempurung* by Oka Rusmini using a literary feminist approach. The results of the research are (a) the plot of the novel in the form of a regression plot, the main character is named Dayu and an additional character named Mrs. Barla, the story is set on the island of Bali, the setting is after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and the first Bali bombing of 12 October 2002, and the social background is the condition of Balinese society with his customs. (b) Gender injustice in the form of marginalization, subordination, stereotypes,

violence and workload. (c) The response when experiencing gender injustice is choosing silence, resistance and women's independence. The difference between this research and the research that will be carried out is in the research object and focus of other research. The research object uses the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso, while the focus of other research is the image of women in the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso. The similarity is the use of a feminist approach and research results in the form of gender inequality. 3) Suryaningsih's thesis (2023) with the title "Gender Injustice: Female Characters in the Novel *Perempuan Di Titik Nol* and the Novel *Zeina* by Nawal El-Saadawi". This research examines the gender injustice faced by female characters in the novel *Perempuan Di Titik Nol* and the novel *Zeina* by Nawal El-Sadawi using the perspective of feminist literary criticism. The difference between the research that will be carried out is in the research object and other research focus. The research object uses the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso, while the focus of other research is gender injustice and resistance to gender injustice in the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso. 4) Research from Feri et al. (2023) with the title "Women's Endless Sufferings In Muna Masyari's *Damar Kambang*". The aim of this research is to determine violence against women and the factors that cause it. This research uses a feminist literary criticism approach. The results of the research were physical violence, emotional violence and sexual violence, while the causal factors were patriarchal power and rigid customary law. The difference with the research that will be carried out is in the object and subject. The object of research that will be carried out is the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso, and the research subject is the image of women, gender injustice and resistance to gender injustice. Furthermore, similarities with the research to be carried out are the use of a literary criticism approach and discussion of violence faced by women.

### **3. Methodology**

Research on the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso uses qualitative descriptive analysis with feminist literary criticism. The primary data source in this research is the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso. The novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso is the winner of the POI competition, looking for manuscripts published in September 2022 by PT Pustaka Obor Indonesia (POI). This novel consists of 199 pages and six story parts. Furthermore, secondary data sources in this research are articles, journals and reference books. The data used in this research is in the form of words, phrases, clauses or sentences that contain information related to violence against blue-eyed female characters in the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso.

Data collection techniques through literature study, reading techniques, and note-taking techniques. The library study technique is carried out by collecting, reading and studying books about feminist literary criticism theory. The reading technique is carried out in two stages. The first stage of heuristic reading is namely reading the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso repeatedly for initial understanding and initial observation steps regarding the data. The second stage is hermeneutic reading, namely, reading the text in depth to gain a deeper understanding of the content of the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso. Next, note-taking technique. This technique is carried out by recording quotations in the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso according to the problem formulation in this research. The quotations obtained are then recorded on the data card according to the indicators.

Data validity techniques are carried out using validity tests and reliability tests. The validity test is carried out by interpreting the data based on the problem formulation and in accordance with feminist literary criticism. Meanwhile, the reliability test was carried out by repeatedly reading the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso and discussing it with colleagues. Next, the data analysis technique is carried out in three stages. First is data reduction, namely data collected and grouped according to the problem formulation. The second is data presentation, namely grouping data into data cards. Third, conclusions and verification are drawn, namely the final conclusion of the data, which is temporary and can change if evidence is found to support the data collection stage.

### **4. Results and Discussion**

Based on the results of research conducted on the novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso, it was found that acts of violence were committed by men against women with blue eyes. Men look down on blue-eyed women because they are descendants of mistresses. The violence found in this research was (1) physical violence, (2) psychological violence, and (3) sexual violence.

#### ***4.1 Physical violence against the female character with blue eyes in the novel Nyutrayu by Joko Gesang Santoso***

Women are considered weak creatures who are unable to do anything, are harassed, ostracized and pushed aside, and do not have the right to voice what is on their minds (Abdullah, 2019: 110). Based on this, women are considered inferior people who are under the power of men. The existence of a patriarchal culture that develops in society places women under the power of men. Women are required to submit and obey the rules established by men. If women do not submit and obey, they will experience acts of violence. Within the framework of social power, violence committed by men against women becomes the basis for men's control over women (Bahardur, 2023). Acts of violence committed by men are expected to discipline and have a deterrent effect on women. The following is a quote from the novel *Nyutrayu*, which describes the physical violence experienced by the female character.

After the men planted the blue-eyed woman until only her head remained, the crows might still be able to hear their cursing. Until the man's body disappeared behind the big trees, their curses could still be heard, even though the crows certainly didn't understand what it meant (Santoso, 2022: 3).

In the quote above, the acts of violence committed by men are described as having the heart to bury women alive. The blue-eyed woman was forcibly buried by the men, leaving only her head on the ground. The actions taken by these men resulted in the blue-eyed woman not being able to move freely to rebel or save herself. The blue-eyed woman was unable to fight and defend her own life. The men made the blue-eyed woman unable to move any more by planting her. Due to the actions taken by the men, the blue-eyed woman was tragically killed. What the men did was watched by the crows. The crows were waiting for the blue-eyed woman to stop moving so they could be eaten.

The physical violence experienced by women then takes the form of beatings. Beating is a form of abuse that is carried out intentionally against someone. This act of abuse is often experienced by female characters due to male domination. This beating occurred because women were deemed not to obey the rules or men's wishes for women.

The girl was once hit with a broom handle when she told the broom owner that in two hours, she would die. Obviously, he was angry. The broom handle flew to the girl's head and broke into two pieces. He also once told his teacher that last year, his teacher was a drunkard and liked to play with women. Immediately, a slap landed on his cheek (Santoso, 2022: 67).

Violence against women is the action of a man or a number of men by exerting a certain force which results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to a woman or a group of women (Ulfah, 2020: 51). The quote above describes a little girl who was subjected to violence. The act of violence he experienced was physical violence in the form of beatings. The little girl was hit with a broom handle until it broke in two. This beating occurred when the little girl said things that were confidential to someone, so the person did not accept it and became angry. The little girl was also beaten by her teacher when she said that his teacher was a drunkard and liked to play with women. The teacher immediately slapped the little girl because she did not accept the little girl's statement. The actions carried out by the teacher were also acts of physical violence.

Furthermore, the violence experienced by women was in the form of attempted murder. This action was carried out by men because of anger and revenge due to the incident that killed one of the village residents. The following quote shows an act of attempted murder.

The shiny machete was immediately swung at Lara. At the same time, the woman pushed Lara aside. The machete slash missed Lara's head but managed to hit her shoulder. A scratch opened on Lara's shoulder and began to bleed (Santoso, 2022: 121).

The quote above describes Lara's attempted murder. The shiny machete showed that the machete was very sharp and had been carefully prepared by the young man. It is likely that the machete was sharpened repeatedly until it was sharp and shiny. The machete was prepared to cut Lara's head. The action carried out by the young man was an act of attempted murder due to anger and revenge. The sharp machete was immediately swung right above Lara's head. However, Aran swiftly pushed Lara aside so that the machete wouldn't hit her head. Even though the machete slash missed, the fire hit Lara's shoulder. There was a scratch, and it started to bleed. The wound was not big, but Lara was still injured by the young man's machete.

#### **4.2 Psychological Violence Against the Blue-Eyed Female Character in the Novel *Nyutrayu* by Joko Gesang Santoso**

Patriarchal domination, which shows women as objects, makes women the objects of violence perpetrated by men. Many women experience psychological violence. Psychological violence that is often received or faced by women is in the form of insults, belittlement, shouting, swearing, accusations, gossip, and so on. Psychological or psychic violence is an act that results in fear, loss of self-confidence, loss of ability to act, a feeling of helplessness and/or severe psychological suffering in a person (Wiyatmi, 2012). The following is an excerpt from the novel *Nyutrayu*, which describes the psychological violence experienced by a female character.

Before Lara continued the story, she gave the woman a signal that there were two people stalking them in the distance. Hide behind a big tree. Lara approached the woman's ear quietly. He whispered something which he thought was very, very strange. "You believe that eyes have extraordinary imagery?" (Santoso, 2022: 103).

The quote above describes the behavior of the men who carried out surveillance on Lara and Aran. This surveillance is an act of psychological violence because it results in feelings of fear and trauma. Lara's house, which is at the end of the village and directly adjacent to the forest, is surrounded by large trees. It was the condition of Lara's house that made the two men dare to spy on her

house. The two men hid behind one of the big trees near the forest. Darkness also seemed to be on the side of the two men who were stalking Lara and Aran in silence.

Lara realizes that two men are staking out her house. Lara told Aran that her house was currently being scouted by two men who were behind a large tree in the darkness of the forest. The reason Lara could see the two men was because of her blue eyes. Lara's blue eyes allow her to see from a distance, even in the dark. This is what made him know that there were two men staring at his house, which stood alone, far from where they lived in the village. Aran also has blue eyes like Lara, so Lara says she believes that their eyes are amazing at seeing things far away and in the dark.

The man thought to himself, they were a group of descendants of concubines during the Dutch era. I don't know what level of descent. They are isolated because they are considered to bring a curse. They are considered witches because they have strange abilities (Santoso, 2022: 145).

The quote above illustrates men's thoughts regarding women who were descendants of concubines during the Dutch era. Those who are descendants of concubines, especially women who have blue eyes, will receive discrimination from society. Women descended from concubines will be exiled and considered to bring a curse. The reason states that women descended from concubines carry a curse because of the color of their blue eyes. His blue eyes have a strange power. This strange power will react when women feel pressured by actions taken by men. Many men commit inappropriate actions, which lead to violence against blue-eyed women. When he receives this inappropriate treatment, the power of his blue eyes will make the man unable to move or even go crazy. This is what makes blue-eyed women considered witches. The mention of a witch refers to the behavior of men after looking at the blue eyes of women who are descendants of concubines when they are about to carry out the action. Even though this woman descended from a concubine, who knows how many descendants since the Dutch colonial era, she still has the strange ability to have blue eyes. This power is still stored and passed down from generation to generation to the descendants of other blue-eyed women.

Sawit met the two men. That's right, indeed. The two men wanted Sawit's body right then and there. Sawit tried to refuse, but both men knew that Sawit was afraid of axes. After having an ax blade attached to his neck, Sawit realized that his life was in danger. The ax blade was cold as ice. He swallowed several times. Finally, he took off his clothes himself. Now he surrendered, his body was looted by two people at the same time (Santoso, 2022: 165).

The quote above describes the character Sawit, who received threats from two men. The man came to Sawit's house, which was in the middle of the Palm Oil plantation. Neither of them came empty-handed. They brought axes that had been sharpened first. The two men carried out threats to make Sawit submit and obey their orders. Both of them wanted Palm's body to satisfy their lust. The two men threatened Sawit with an axe. Both of them view Sawit as satisfying their lust. They don't care about Palm's physique; they only care about their lust for Palm.

The cold and shiny ax blade was stuck in Sawit's neck. Sawit, who felt cold in her neck area, immediately knew and understood the intention of the two men to come to her house. With fear, Sawit tried to remain calm because her life was in the hands of the two men. Sawit took off her own clothes to make the two men remove the ax from her neck. The actions taken by Sawit were successful. Sawit volunteered to have her body touched and used as a place to satisfy the two men's desires. Sawit did all this so that her life and that of her child were safe.

#### ***4.3 Sexual Violence Against the Blue-Eyed Female Character in the Novel Nyutrayu by Joko Gesang Santoso***

Women with their femininity tend to be treated as inferior creatures who can be treated according to men's wishes (superior) (Nugroho, 2023). This is what makes men consider women's bodies as their own and can be treated according to their wishes. For example, men easily touch or look at women's bodies. Holding and exploring a woman's body parts without the owner's permission is an act of sexual harassment (Rahayu, 2020). Acts of sexual harassment are not only touching a woman's body; even just looking at a woman's body with lustful eyes is considered sexual harassment. The following is an excerpt from Nyutrayu's novel, which describes sexual violence.

Music started playing. The woman is already on stage. Facing the man's sharp gaze that couldn't be separated from the curves of her body. You pervert! thought the woman. As usual, the woman just mumbled, making mumbled notes. Some of the audience seemed to close their eyes. Others didn't understand the mutterings. Most of them tried to sharpen their vision, enjoying the woman's body with their eyes. Just like someone who is reading, namely stripping the letters! (Santoso, 2022: 17–18).

The quote above illustrates that Aran received unpleasant treatment while at work. Aran works as a village singer. When the music started playing, and Aran was on stage, all eyes were on him. The eyes in question are the eyes of men who are watching a village music performance. Those eyes seemed to bare his body. The men did not take their eyes off Aran's figure. They paid attention to Aran's curves carefully and in detail.

Aran felt uncomfortable with all the stares given by the men. Aran considers men to be perverts who deliberately or secretly stare at women's bodies and enjoy their curves. Aran just mumbled until he harmonized. However, the audience, especially the men, did not pay attention or pay attention to what the woman was muttering. The men remained focused and sharpened their vision to enjoy every curve of the woman's body. They seemed to be stripping Aran, who was standing on the stage. The actions carried out by the men are the same as a reader who enjoys reading material, such as stripping the letters. The actions carried out by the men included sexual violence.

The woman was shocked and almost jumped when she felt her genitals being touched roughly. After that, her breasts were repeatedly squeezed while her back was pushed following orders. Bastard! The woman cursed, but nothing came out of her mouth. A cloth had stuffed all the holes in his mouth. He struggled to breathe while following the savage man who repeatedly touched his genitals and squeezed his chest (Santoso, 2022: 169).

Aran received an act of sexual violence in the form of touching his body. Aran got this sudden feeling that made him startled and almost jumped. The actions carried out by the man were carried out harshly and forcefully. His vital parts were touched roughly, causing pain. Next, the man also touched her breasts many times and even squeezed them. The actions carried out by men are not only limited to feeling and squeezing her body but also pushing her back to follow the man's orders. The men raped her to get satisfaction and an outlet for their lust.

Aran cursed at the men who controlled his body, but his voice could not be heard. His mouth had been gagged with a cloth. This is what makes him unable to scream and curse at the man. Aran struggled to control his breathing when his body was under the man's control. The man also repeatedly touched and squeezed Aran's vital parts. The man enjoyed what he was doing to Aran's body without intending to stop.

In the light of the flashlights brought by the two men, Sawit saw for herself two wild animals enjoying their prey. Sawit's face looked expressionless. He hoped that the two men would immediately succeed in relieving themselves and finish quickly. However, without realizing it, water was coming out of his eyes. A slap landed on his cheek (Santoso, 2022: 166).

Sawit could see the two men clearly from the flashlight. Both of them were enjoying Palm's body to vent their lust and get their own satisfaction. Sawit saw the two men like wild animals eating their prey. The wild and wild nature that Sawit saw in the two men was the same as that of a wild animal. Both of them seemed to be hungry and greedily devoured their prey. Sawit looked at the two of them with a flat face because she felt sad and angry. Palm did not rebel against what the two men did to her body. Her body was completely controlled by the man to complete his lust. Sawit only hopes that the two men will immediately end their lust and get satisfaction with their bodies. However, unexpectedly, tears came out of the corners of his eyes. Sawit's sadness at not being able to rebel and defend herself from male coercion. Sawit was also angry because she could not defend her dignity as a woman. Unexpectedly, a slap landed on his cheek. Sawit received a slap from the man who was having sex with her.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on feminist literary criticism theory, Nyutrayu's novel depicts acts of violence experienced by blue-eyed female characters due to patriarchal domination. Blue-eyed female characters are objectified by men. This is what makes the blue-eyed female character experience acts of violence. Acts of violence experienced by female characters include physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence. The physical violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character is in the form of being killed by a group of men, being hit with a broom handle, and being injured by village youths using a machete. The psychological violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character is in the form of being stalked by villagers, being accused of being a witch, and being threatened with death. And the sexual violence experienced by the blue-eyed female character is in the form of sexual harassment and rape. This research can be used as learning material for feminist literary criticism, especially regarding violence against women. Readers can gain insight into the violence faced by female characters and can use this research as learning material. The results of this research can still be developed and deepened for future researchers.

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