LIBERAL FEMINISM AND RADICAL FEMINISM AS PRESENTED BY THE INDIAN WOMEN CHARACTERS IN RUCHIRA MUKERJEE’S TOAD IN MY GARDEN

A thesis Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to obtain the Sarjana Sastra Degree in the English Letters Study Programme.

by

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English Letters Study Programme
Faculty of Letters
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Semarang
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A thesis on
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THIS THESIS IS DEDICATED TO:
MY BELOVED MOTHER IN HEAVEN,
JOSEPHINE TINA KUSMARTINAH
MILAGROSS WEBB
(1948-2006)
THE MAIN THING FOR THE POWERLESS IS TO HAVE A DREAM
BY HABIBA (FROM FATIMA MERNISSI)

True, a dream alone, without the bargaining to go with, does not transform the world or make the wall vanish, but it does help you keep ahold of dignity,

Dignity is to have a dream, a strong one, which gives you a vision, a world where you have a place, where whatever it is you have to contribute makes a difference.

You are in a harem when the world does not need you.

You are in a harem when what you can contribute does not make a difference

You are in a harem when what you do is useless.

You are in a harem when the planet swirls around, with you buried up to your neck in scorn and neglect.

Only one person can change the situation and make the planet go around the other way, and that is you.

If you stand up against scorn, and dream of a different world, the planet’s direction will be altered.

But what you need to avoid at all cost, is to let the scorn around you get inside.

When a woman starts thinking she is nothing, the little sparrows cry.

Who can defend them on the terrace, if no one has the vision of a world without slingshots?
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ABSTRACT

Literary products such as poetry, short stories, dramas, and novels are important especially in teaching people about life and society and how to deal with many things which could happen in it, such as: wars, death, love, and even conflicts in someone’s life.

One problem in this life is the struggle of women to achieve the equal rights as men have. Women are placed in the second class in the society. They started to struggle in order to have the same rights as men have. Megha Lahiri and Damyanti Misra, the characters in Ruchira Mukerjee’s *Toad in My Garden* represent the spirit of women who want to be independent, in which they do each in a different way. Based on the background mentioned above, the writer is interested in analyzing a novel by Ruchira Mukerjee, entitled *Toad in My Garden*.

To analyze the problem of social culture and conditions in the novel, the writer uses feminism approach. Feminism approach theories by Simone De Beavoir and Mary Wollstonecraft will explain the spirit of Radical Feminism and Liberal Feminism which is reflected in the character of Megha Lahiri and Damyanti Misra. The theories will explain and guide us to understand what the characteristic of Radical Feminism and Liberal Feminism are, and how women should do for getting their own identities as women in the patriarchal system.

This thesis finds that women should articulate their minds, wills and opinions to achieve their identity in a right way. Megha Lahiri and Damyanti Misra reveal their minds, wills and opinion through their own characteristics. Megha Lahiri and Damyanti Misra are the representation of Liberal feminism and Radical feminism. They show the spirit that marks the feminism movement in the future.
ABSTRAK

Karya-karya Sastra seperti puisi, cerita pendek, drama, dan novel sangatlah penting dalam mengajarkan pada seseorang mengenai kehidupan dan bermasyarakat dan bagaimana mereka menghadapi berbagai macam hal yang mungkin saja terjadi didalamnya seperti: peperangan, kematian, cinta, dan bahkan permasalahan yang terjadi dalam kehidupan seseorang.

Salah satu permasalahan didalam kehidupan ini adalah perjuangan kaum perempuan untuk mendapatkan hak-hak yang sama sebagaimana yang dimiliki oleh kaum pria. Megha Lahiri dan Damyanti Misra sebagai tokoh wanita dalam novel karya Ruchira Mukerjee yang berjudul *Toad in my Garden* mewakili semangat kaum wanita untuk menjadi wanita yang mandiri, yang mereka raih dengan menggunakan cara mereka masing-masing. Berdasarkan pada latar belakang ini, penulis merasa tertarik untuk menganalisa sebuah novel dengan judul *Toad in My Garden* karya Ruchira Mukerjee.
