

STORY FORMULA AND FEMINIST IDEOLOGY IN *EAT PRAY LOVE* NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

Eat Pray Love novel by Elizabeth Gilbert tells the story of a woman's journey to herself in three countries over a period of one year. The countries also visited are Italy, India and Indonesia. Her visit to the three countries was in order to find a balance in her life. This is evident from the interaction between the characters and the conflicts contained in the novel. The journey to the Italian state to explore the arts of fun, deepen the art of meditation and devotion in the country of India and balance the two in Bali Indonesia. Feminist ideology is seen in the main character of the novel as well as some other female figures mentioned in Elizabeth's novel taking the greatest step in her life to end her marriage and find her own life and happiness as a woman. In this novel also told a figure Indian girl named Tulsi who chose to continue his education in the middle of an environment that opposed women to have high education.

Keywords: story formula; feminist ideology.

I. BACKGROUND

In the Study of Popular Fiction, it is said that popular fiction as second-class fiction (or even worse), a kind of cultural detritus is ruled out. So there is a canon of good literary works and placed as serious art. But it is precisely the negative view and not the inclusion of popular literature more widely read by the public is even the only fiction reading for modern industrial society. (1989 : 1-5). Popular literature has a characteristic that has a story formula or plot formula. Cawelty said that a formula is a combination or synthesis of several specific cultural conventions with a more universal story form or archetype (1976 :6). Popular literary works such as romance have been known as entertaining readings. The light and easy content make it easy to digest and understand by the general public. The effects of escape and pleasure are summarized and the formula inevitably makes the readers to continue to dissolve and immerse in the ecstasy of blue-hearted feelings in every sheet of the characters' lives. Elizabeth Gilbert with her work *Eat Pray Love* recounts the journey of a thirty-year-old American woman. She went to three countries within a year Elizabeth was depressed about her marriage. He felt a void in his life. In restoring all this, Elizabeth takes a radical step in her quest for identity. He ventured to sell all his possessions, left his job, left his loved ones, and began his journey

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is literature research. The material object used as research material is a literary work in the form of a novel titled *Eat, Pray, Love*. The problem that will be examined from the novel is the formula of the story and the feminist ideology of the novel story. The data and references used in this study are *Eat, Pray, Love* novels, books, scientific journals, as well as sources from the internet related to the analysis of story formulas as well as feminist ideology. The research method used in this study is a descriptive method that is a way to solve actual problems by collecting, compiling, classifying, analyzing, and interpreting data. The steps of work that the author will do related to the use of this descriptive method are as follows:

1. The author closes reading of the data source, namely the novel *Eat, Pray, Love*. The first Close Reading is done to find out the outline of the story in the novel. Then the second close reading is done to better understand the meaning of words, phrases ,or sentences in the novel so that an important sign or message is found that refers to problems and problem- solving in the novel.
2. After close reading, the author compiles and maps the problems reflected in the novel *Eat, Pray, Love*.

3. The third step after the author compiles the problem formulation is to collect references concerning the theory to be used to analyze.
4. After finding the right theory to analyze, the author classifies the excerpts in the novel as important to support analysis.
5. The fifth step is to analyze the novel by answering the pre-compiled problem formulation.
6. The next step is to conclude the analysis that has been made.
7. The last step is the presentation of the analysis results.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

FORMULA ANALYSIS

To get the analysis of the formula must first know the content of the existing story. The existence of a synopsis or "sequence" is very useful to facilitate the process of finding formulas in each novel. Sequence search is important because a story relates to events that occur in a linear sequence at a given time (Kenney, 1998:9) The story formula in eat pray love novel: A. Elizabeth was depressed and devastated by an unhappy marriage. B. Elizabeth decides to end her marriage and chooses to divorce. c. Failed to have a love affair with his lover and again depressed. Decided to leave his job, his family, and loved ones. He sold all his possessions and decided to travel abroad alone. d. Start the journey in three countries beginning with the letter I, namely Italy, India, and Indonesia. The first destination country is Italy. She knits happiness and enjoys life by trying many culinary and visiting beautiful places. F. Further continuing to India, Elizabeth learned the art of devotion, meditation, and learned yoga. In India the main figure learns about matters related to religion. Arriving in Bali Indonesia, the main figure learns local customs and art to balance worldly and spiritual life. Finally met a widower of Brazilian citizenship and ended up knitting love. From the sequence above, it can be concluded that the formula in *Eat Pray Love* is the quest for happiness and life balance of the main character of the novel that goes through a long process. Elizabeth had to experience many things until finally

getting her life balance and happiness in Bali. The formula used in romance fiction is the story of seeking happiness and true love in the life of the main character who dominates the course of the story.

IDEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

The author through this novel uses female characters to represent a feminist ideology. Women can choose their way of life, express their desires and live their own lives, regardless of people's scorn about the concept of life that women choose.

Oh, but there are so many reasons why this would be a terrible idea. To begin with, Giovanni is ten years younger than I am, and—like most Italian guys in their twenties—he still lives with his mother. These facts alone make him an unlikely romantic partner for me, given that I am a professional American woman in my mid-thirties, who has just come through a failed marriage and a devastating, interminable divorce, followed immediately by a passionate love affair that ended in sickening heartbreak. This loss upon loss has left me feeling sad and brittle and about seven thousand years old. Purely as a matter of principle I wouldn't inflict my sorry, busted-up old self on the lovely, unsullied Giovanni. Not to mention that I have finally arrived at that age where a woman starts to question whether the wisest way to get over the loss of one beautiful brown-eyed young man is indeed to promptly invite another one into her bed. This is why I have been alone for many months now. This is why, in fact, I have decided to spend this entire year in celibacy.

(Gilberth, 2006:7)

The author through the main character presents her feminist ideology. The main character takes decides to end a monotonous and unhappy married life. The main character wants to break away from her husband who makes the most of his wife's good career. The main

character dares to make decisions to divorce her husband and choose another standard of living that according to the main character makes her life happy.

The spring of 2003 brought things to a boiling point. A year and a half after I'd left, my husband was finally ready to discuss terms of a settlement. Yes, he wanted cash and the house and the lease on the Manhattan apartment—everything I'd been offering the whole while. But he was also asking for things I'd never even considered (a stake in the royalties of books I'd written during the marriage, a cut of possible future movie rights to my work, a share of my retirement accounts, etc.) and here I had to voice my protest at last. Months of negotiations ensued between our lawyers, a compromise of sorts inched its way toward the table and it was starting to look like my husband might actually accept a modified deal. It would cost me dearly, but a fight in the courts would be infinitely more expensive and time-consuming, not to mention soul-corroding. If he signed the agreement, all I had to do was pay and walk away. Which would be fine with me at this point. Our relationship now thoroughly ruined, with even civility destroyed between us, all I wanted anymore was the door. (Gilberth, 2006: 35)

I'm lucky that at least I have my writing. This is something people can understand. Ah, she left her marriage in order to preserve her art. That's sort of true, though not completely so. A lot of writers have families. Toni Morrison, just to name an example, didn't let the raising of her son stop her from winning a little trinket we call the Nobel Prize. But Toni Morrison made her own path, and I must make mine. The Bhagavad Gita—that ancient Indian Yogic text—says that it is better to live your own destiny imperfectly than to live an imitation of somebody else's life with perfection. So now I have started living my own life.

Imperfect and clumsy as it may look, it is resembling me now, thoroughly. (Gilberth, 2006: 113)

Through the character of Tulsi, a young Indian girl, the ideology of feminism is also clearly displayed. Tulsi is said to have refused to marry young, and chose to live independently and continue her education. Through this Tulsi character the author wants to give an overview of the attitudes and independence of women. It is told in the novel that Tulsi rejects the matchmaking of her family. This shows a woman's courage to determine her future.

Tulsi and I have been talking a lot about marriage lately during our walks. Soon she will turn eighteen, and this is the age when she will be regarded as a legitimate marriage prospect. It will happen like this—after her eighteenth birthday, she will be required to attend family weddings dressed in a sari, signaling her womanhood. Some nice Amma (“Aunty”) will come and sit beside her, start asking questions and getting to know her: “How old are you? What's your family background? What does your father do? What universities are you applying to? What are your interests? When is your birthday?” Next thing you know, Tulsi's dad will get a big envelope in the mail with a photo of this woman's grandson who is studying computer sciences in Delhi, along with the boy's astrology charts and his university grades and the inevitable question, “Would your daughter care to marry him?” Tulsi says, “It sucks.” (Gilberth,2006:215)

Elizabeth's life journey inspires Tulsi to achieve her goals. The Tulsi character's desire to travel abroad and settle in Hawaii, as Elizabethan figures show that a woman can do extraordinary things in her life such as traveling abroad, getting out of the pressures of her life, and starting a new life.

Tulsi's cousin who got married last week is only twenty-one, and her older sister is next on the marriage list at age twenty, which means there will be huge pressure after that for Tulsi herself to find a husband. I asked her if she wanted to ever get married and she said: "Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo . . ." . . . and the word drew out longer than the sunset we were watching over the gardens. "I want to roam!" she said. "Like you." (Gilberth,2006:217)

IV. CONCLUSION

The conclusion that can be drawn that the formula used in romance fiction is the story of the search for a character who seeks happiness in his life. In the novel *Eat Pray Love* is the existence of feminism ideology. Through the female characters in the novel, which demonstrates the independence of women, women's freedom to make their own life choices. Female figures are depicted trying to achieve a better future without being bound by rules that curb their wishes and expectations.

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