



SOVEREIGNTY OF LIBERALISM IN ANTHONY DOEER'S NOVEL "ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE" (2014)

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Abstract

This study analyses the Anthony Doers' All The Light We Cannot See (2014). This research raises the issue of sovereignty given by liberal ideology. The purpose of this research describes sovereignty that can be seen from two aspects: personal liberty and social liberty. Literature elements, such as character, conflict and setting are used in this analysis. This research analysis uses text and context based interpretation. These elements contribute to describe the extent to which character shows individual freedom and social freedom given by liberalism ideology. This study is associated with the concept of Liberalism by Leonard trewlawnny Hobhouse. The results of the analysis show that even though the character has shortcomings but through the liberal understanding given, the character is able to work like normal people and inspire others.

Key words: Sovereignty, liberalism, ideology.

A. INTRODUCTION

In the beginning of 19th century, there was one outstanding ideology, Liberalism. Liberalism is an ideology which has a concept of giving freedom to everyone. French who has Liberalism as an ideology offers the power for each citizen and guarantee them to be free. It allows the citizen to think, to express their thought and to have a choice. This concept gives a chance to get education in order to increase their intelligence. By having knowledge people are able to conceptualize their goals and their awareness. People, in this case, can think more critically and precise their thought. Moreover, citizen can govern and defend their live. Liberalism teaches the society to be more creative. They develop their skill till they are to be an independent society. In this case, the citizens are capable to make their own choices. Liberalism, furthermore, guarantees its societies with equal rights and independency.

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Liberals have chance to be creative and have their own method to run their life. Liberalism provides its members with sovereignty. There are some definitions about sovereignty. In Collins Cobuild Advanced (2015), *sovereignty* is defined as an independent state or country and not under authority of any other country. While, in Speara (2016), Indonesia's Higher Education Directorate, Ministry of Education and Culture, *sovereignty* is defined as complete freedom and power to govern. Every people has right to gain the sovereignty, since Liberalism guarantee them. Basically, the state that uses liberalism is characterized by the absence of pressure. This concept allows the citizen to have self-government. Shortly, the government is only the instrument to reach the rights as human being. This sovereignty of Liberalism involves the personal and social liberty.

Liberalism provides its people with personal liberty which gives freedom to people to think and to express their ideas. The purpose of giving this personal liberty is to build an independent society. This independent society can be built by given the people chance to gain knowledge. This chance is provided by liberalism in order to build awareness. Moreover, those people have ability to determine their own decisions. The people sustain that they are equal. The people in this liberal system feel free since it guarantees their liberty, such as liberty of speech, liberty of writing, liberty to conduct discussion and liberty in religion. Even though the people have disability and they are in lower position but for this ideology people have the same chance. The basic of this ideology is people are equal and have opportunity to prove that they are capable.

By giving the personal liberty, the liberalism indirectly gives social liberty to its people. People in this liberal ideology have capability to adapt easily in new circumstances. Moreover, people are born and remain free and equal in rights. Since they have a chance to get knowledge, it helps them to survive and struggle. Indirectly this ideology builds strong, smart and independent society. This ideology gives prosperity to all of the citizens including the disable ones.

The sovereignty of Liberalism is portrayed in the novel *All The Light We Cannot See* written by Anthony Doer. The novel is interesting to be analyzed since the narrative reveals that citizen has power to get knowledge and awareness. The citizen has power to think in order to realize the knowledge which they have can hold their principal. Liberalism offers to its member this chance. Hence, getting power is not a simple thing but people can hold the power if they run the rules. The rules are not to oppress the others.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The analysis of novel *All The Light We Cannot See*(2014) by Anthony Doer is done through text and context-based interpretation. Fictional devices such as character, plot (conflict), and setting are used to analyze this novel. To evoke the acts of sovereignty of liberalism, characters reaction toward conflicts are used in this analysis. Then, the setting deals with circumstances and atmosphere. It gives contribution in process of analysis by giving help in

revealing the meaning. Plot and conflicts in this novel give important role to reveal the conflicts that characters faced. Those elements are analyzed based on how characters proves that liberalism gives he personal and social liberty.

C. DISCUSSION

This chapter analyzes the sovereignty of liberalism in Anthony Doer's Novel *All The Light We Cannot See* (2014). The protagonist, Marie Laure L'Blanc, through her characteristic shows the Sovereignty of liberalism. There are two main points discussed in this chapter. The first is personal liberty and the second is social liberty.

2.1 Personal Liberty

The protagonist, Marie Laure L ,Blanc, is a woman who inspires the society through her knowledge. She has freedom and the awareness to make a decision. Then, the protagonist proves to be equal even though she has disability—blindness with her knowledge. The disability does not impede her to gain knowledge. She loves to challenge herself to become a hard worker and proves that all human is equal. She is independent and never gives up holding her principal.

The protagonist shows that she struggles to gain knowledge through her sense of touch, smell and hearing. She suffers from cataract but this does not prevent her way from gaining knowledge. It can be seen in following quotation:

“But her father's model of the same intersection smells only of dried glue and sawdust. Its streets are empty, its pavements static; to her fingers, it serves as little more than a tiny and insufficient facsimile. He persists in asking Marie-Laure to run her fingers over it, to recognize different houses, the angles of streets. And one cold Tuesday in December, when Marie-Laure has been blind for over a year, her father walks her up rue Cuvier to the edge of the Jardin des Plantes.” (p.30)

The text above explains that the protagonist struggles to gain knowledge. The setting here refers to the condition of the protagonist who is blind since 9 years old. In that moment, her sense does not sharpen like people who get blind since a baby. She struggles to strengthen her senses in order to ease her live. She survives to recognize and identify the things through her senses. She practices to use her sense of smell and sense of touch. Then, the conflicts arise in the process of practices when she uses her senses. However, she can release her conflict since she accepts her condition. First is the sense of smell which uses to help her to recognize things. She learns to identify the object by using the sense of smell. She practices to differentiate the environment and the objects around her with her sense of smell. By doing a lot of practices she can distinguish different object. such as, the road which is a lot of dust and pollution. She can memorize the goods in her house which have familiar scent. Hence, she keeps her practice in her memory. The limitation makes her keep learning. She also uses her sense of touch

to determine the object.

Second is the sense of touch, it is an ability to feel something by touching. She learns to recognize the object through her fingers. The utterance “*run her fingers over it, to recognize different houses, the angles of streets*”, shows that she tries to adapt with the environment by actively use her fingers. Her sense of touch is guided to recognize and memorize the building and the street. She learns to characterize the shape from any object. She touches the objects and keeps in her memory. The conflict arises in the process of memorizing the environment since; it is not easy to distinguish the different objects. However, she works hard and tries to prove that she is capable to notion any object. She is a woman and disable but it do not stop her to be independent. This proves that liberal gives liberty to every people.

Another quotation shows about her sense of touch. It is emphasized that she trains her fingers to identify different objects. She becomes better to distinguish one object from another in her environment. It indicates in the following quotation:

“With her free hand, she opens the novel in her lap.
Finds the lines with her fingers.” (p.249)

The text describes that she learns to be confidence which brings a change for her life. The setting refers to the good condition which she can govern herself. She does not fear to run her live any longer since her senses become stronger. She learns braille to help her read the novel. The internal conflict appears in the process of learning to read braille book. She needs to familiarize her fingers with the words even it is hard she keeps learning and motivated herself. She can release her conflict by accepting her condition. She works hard to use her finger in doing her activity. She believes that she has ability to read the novel. Then, she starts to be familiar with her condition which uses her sense to recognise the good. This phrase, *Finds the lines with her fingers* shows that there is no hesitancy through her action. She tries to habituate the way of reading a braille book.

The next quotation gives the explanation about her struggles and becomes success in her life. She believes that there is nothing impossible for blind people. This proves that she is a person with strong intention and belief herself. It can be seen in the following statement:

“Marie-Laure LeBlanc manages a small laboratory at the Museum of Natural History in Paris and has contributed in significant ways to the study and literature of mollusks: a monograph on the evolutionary rationale for the folds in West African can cellate nutmeg shells; an often-cited paper on the sexual dimorphism of Caribbean volutes. She has named two new subspecies of chitons. As a doctoral student, she traveled to Bora Bora and Bimini; she waded onto reefs in a sun hat with a collecting bucket and harvested snails on three continents.” (P.328)

The text above explains that she has a big intention to prove that she is equal with other people. She shows her capability in her workplace by showing her ability to handle any situation. The setting refers to the condition that she needs to advance her concentration and improve her accuracy. This phrase, “*manages a small laboratory*” shows that she becomes success to work in museum through her persistence. She is trusted since she has knowledge to handle the laboratory. She has unlimited access to use all the facilities which provides in her workplace.

Furthermore, she is able to work in museum which has specimen from various segments of natural history. She has contributed to the development of science since the museum gives the same chances. The words “*has contributed*” means that she capable to work like others. The disability does not give her limitation. She has an effort to prove that she is able to work in laboratory. The words “*literature of mollusks*” means that she braves to challenge herself because these invertebrate are not easy to get and to examine. The habitat of the mollusks is in difficult place to reach such as humid, runny, and dirty. In other words, live in the place full of mud and moss. The mollusks are not easy to identify because of the size and shape. She can handle the conflict through her faith that knowledge can through her senses. She makes it sharp all of her senses. This confirms that sense of touch and smell are related which supports her works. Then, she proves that she has proficiency to analyse and grouped different kinds of mollusk. This proves that she is good in her field.

She demonstrates her ability and her capability since her sense of touch become sharpen. This utterance *She has named two new subspecies of chitons* shows that she establishes her knowledge through her outcome in research about mollusk. Her achievement proves that she has freedom and prosperity. Then, she reveals competence and courageous to try something new. The phrase *she traveled to Bora Bora and Bimini* explains that she is a brave person. She an effort to work maximally even of physical condition. She loves to challenge herself through this job and has a good communication skill. Her effort becomes a key for her to hold out.

In summary, personal liberty is pictured from the setting that refers to the difficulty situation in which the character struggle to gain knowledge by using her senses. She has disability since 9 years old. The protagonist struggles to activate her senses since her senses do not sharp like others. She survives to sharpen her senses. She uses her sense of smell, sense of touch and sense of hearing to help her to recognize the object. In addition, she sharps her senses to help her in distinguish the object and adapt the circumstance. Then, her blindness causes the internal conflict, since she is fear and not ready for the condition. However, she gets support to prove that she is equal. She forces herself to work hard and practices. She has an effort to use her senses even there is mistakes and fail. Moreover, she can handle her conflict by changing her fear into spirit and she accepts her condition. She realizes that she has opportunity to prove that she is capable to change her life. She is different from others, but it is not an obstacle for her to develop her potential.

2.2 Social Liberty

The protagonist has ability to adapt to new circumstance and socialize with others. She is well- behaved and her actions do not harm others. By using her knowledge, she is able to encourage the others. She is able to protect and rebuild the spirit of others. People trust her to fight together and endure this life.

The quotation shows that she can adapt in new circumstances. She pays attention to the society in rebuilding their life. She begins with her relative. She starts by motivating her uncle to survive in his life. It can be seen in following statement:

“Because Etienne has stopped feeling nauseated in the afternoons; his vision has stayed clear, his heart untroubled. Indeed, it has been over a month since he has had to curl up against the wall in his study and pray that he does not see ghosts shambling through the walls. When Marie-Laure comes through the front door with the bread, when he’s opening the tiny scroll in his fingers, lowering his mouth to the microphone, he feels unshakable; he feels alive.”(p213)

The text above shows the setting here refers to the bad situation in which her uncle surrenders in his life. He feels empty and desperate to do anything. However, the protagonist comes to his life which brings the motivation and gives the positive effect. She brings the happiness into his life through her personal liberty. She asks him to make a relation with the society. She has an effort to make a better life to her uncle. The utterance “*he feels unshakable; he feels alive*” shows that her uncle can release his problem after she supports him to make a change.

Another quotation shows more explanation about her uncle who is grateful since the protagonist come to his life. It appears in the following statement:

“Etienne,” Marie-Laure whispers, “are you ever sorry that we came here? That I got dropped in your lap and you and Madame Manec had to look after me? Did you ever feel like I brought a curse into your life?”
“Marie-Laure,” he says without hesitation. He squeezes her hand with both of his. “You are the best thing that has ever come into my life.” (276)

The text above shows that the effort from the protagonist to build her uncle’s awareness. She makes her uncle realize that his life is not the end. The setting here refers to the good condition in which she brings the spirit of life. Her uncle feels better when she presents in his life. She brings a new life for him. She rebuilds her uncle spirit of life. She wants her uncle realize that there is no curse in this life. She asks her uncle to survive and keep fighting to get a better life. She gives the

motivation to her uncle to run his life. She makes her uncle to have relation with the society. It means that there is strong motivation which she gives to the family.

The protagonist cares not only to her uncle but also to the society. She continues to give the knowledge and spirit to the society. She supports the society to have a better life since the people have the same chance. It appears in the following:

“She lowers the bucket. “What is your name? He tells her. She says, “When I lost my sight, Werner, people said I was brave. When my father left, people said I was brave. But it is not bravery; I have no choice. I wake up and live my life. Don’t you do the same?”

He says, “Not in years. But today. Today maybe I did.” (p. 299)

The text above shows that she encourages other people to face their problem. She gives the motivation to others to build their spirit and make changes. The setting here shows the good situation in which she can lead others to not being upset. She realizes that she cannot leave others in despair. She wants to awaken the society since they are able to change their life. Hence, she teaches the society to take advantages from the opportunities to be better. She emphasizes the society to make a change and be brave to face their life. She shows her enthusiasm and strength in facing problem and not to give up.

The next quotation shows that the way of the protagonist governs the society. People trust her to control the situation. She leads people in a gentle and good manner even though they make mistakes. It appears in the following quotation:

“They go down the ladder and clamber out through the wardrobe. No soldiers wait in the hall with guns drawn. Nothing seems different at all. A line comes back to Marie-Laure from Jules Verne: *Science, my lad, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to make, because they lead little by little to the truth.*” (p.211)

The quotation above explains that she believes that the prepared plan might have setbacks. The protagonist, however, convinced that people can learn from the mistake to improve the future. The failure becomes a conflict to her. She believes that problems and obstacles further strengthen people. She convinces everyone that make mistakes or have problem are not the end, yet it is the beginning for them to rise. Since, the mistake teaches them to be better in the future. This utterance "*mistakes which are useful to make, because they lead little by little to the truth*" show that make mistakes help people to discover who they are. She believes that their plan is working and the mistakes which make during the process as a lesson for the future. The mistakes are not leading them to the failure but give the lesson. Instead, the failure is the beginning of the success. It proves that liberalism gives the liberty to all of the people. There is no judge from the state to the members. Liberalism asks their people to learn from the mistake.

Hence, in social liberty people realize that believe each other and unite together can bring the prosperity. She motivates other to be better in live. She proves that she can learn from many ways. In addition, she transfers her knowledge to the society. In another words, the society acquire the same chance and right. It can be seen in the basic of liberalism. This ideology supports the members to make decisions and express their thought. Then, liberalism gives the liberty to each member to run their life. Liberalism gives the liberty to all of the people. There is no judge from the state to the members. Liberalism asks their people to learn from the mistake.

D. CONCLUSION

Personal liberty is pictured from the setting that refers to the difficulty situation in which the character struggle to gain knowledge by using her senses. The protagonist struggles to activate her senses since her senses do not sharp like others. She survives to sharpen her senses. She uses her sense of smell, sense of touch and sense of hearing to help her to recognize the object. In addition, she sharps her senses to help her in distinguish the object and adapt the circumstance. Then, her blindness causes the internal conflict, since she is fear and not ready for the condition. However, she gets support to prove that she is equal. She forces herself to work hard and practices. She has an effort to use her senses even there is mistakes and fail. Moreover, she can handle her conflict by changing her fear into spirit and she accepts her condition. Then, in social liberty people realize that believe each other and unite together can bring the prosperity. She motivates other to be better in live. She proves that she can learn from many ways. In addition, she transfers her knowledge to the society. In another words, the society acquire the same chance and right. It can be seen in the basic of liberalism. This ideology supports the members to make decisions and express their thought.

People are able to grow and succeed when they want to. The opportunity appears in every person who wants to change their life. The society can get education and make decisions. We do not need to be perfect to show our capability. Since, perfection is not the key to be successful but it can be achieved with the persistence and sincerity. The good process makes the perfect result. Hence, perfection will not be achieved without effort and hard work. Since, liberalism provides the human need and supports every people to evolve their passion. In addition, liberalism provides freedom to the member to govern themselves. Thus, every people have their own sovereignty and liberalism supports them to run their life which gets the better life.

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