

## REDEMPTION IN THE NOVEL *THE MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE* BY ORHAN PAMUK

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### Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah; 1. Untuk menemukan sejauh mana novel *The Museum of Innocence* (2010) yang di tulis oleh Orhan Pamuk menunjukkan penebusan atas segala kesalahan masa lalu yang telah di lakukan oleh karakter utama di dalamnya. 2. Untuk memperlihatkan seberapa jauh karakter, setting dan plot (konflik) di dalam novel membuktikan tindakan-tindakan yang di lakukan oleh karakter utama sebagai bentuk dari penebusan terhadap dosa masa lalunya.. Penganalisaan terhadap novel ini di lakukan melalui interpretasi terhadap teks dan komponen-komponen fiksional seperti: karakter, seting dan plot (konflik). Hasil penganalisaan menunjukkan bahwa karakter utama di novel ini melakukan dua cara untuk menebus dosa masa lalunya yaitu, menemukan kembali jejak-jejak masa lalunya dan menjaga kenangan tentang masa lalunya.

Kata Kunci: mistake, guilty, redemption, memory

### A. Introduction

The feeling of guilty is a crucial situation in people's life. This feeling exist when people consider that their action has violated normative standard in society. According to Merriam Webster dictionary (2011), normative standard defined as standard of behaviors and accepted within a particular group or society. These factors especially can be seen from daily life interaction and communication between members of the society.

People tend to find their own ways to reduce the feeling of guilty. This effort can be reflected from personal self punishment. They have to do their own redemption in order to control their feeling of guilty. Redemption in Psychology encyclopedia (2010) defines as the phenomenon of being saved from the undesirable condition of bondage or suffering experienced by the psyche or soul

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that has arisen as a result of unskillful or immoral actions generically referred to as sins.

An analysis about redemption is written by Lehtie Chalasie Thomson (2011) entitled "A moral Wilderness": Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. He compared two concepts of sins and redemption from puritan and Hawthorne perspective. In this analysis, redemption is represented by two characters; Dimmasdale and Hester. Dimmasdale's redemption is he tries to be a better man and emphasized his works. Hester as the center of the story isolates herself to represent her redemption.

The novel "the Museum of Innocence" (2010) is written by Orhan Pamuk. Orhan Pamuk is a Turkey most prominent novelist. He won Nobel Prize for literature in 2006. This novel exposes the redemption as the central issues. In this novel, the fact of redemption is represented by the protagonist, Kemal Bey. He is a businessman in Turkey. He lives in the era of transformation of Turkey; from Islamic into democratic nation. The protagonist does the redemption after realizing his mistakes; failing to fulfill his promise to his girl and doing adultery. There are several significant actions that are done by the character to redeem his sin. It can be seen from two major actions; searching the traces of memory and keeping memory.

In searching the traces of memory, the character displays monotonous activities through two important actions. Those are done by; visiting Merhamet Apartment, dreaming and walking around Istanbul Street regularly. During his visiting to The Merhamet Apartment, he just lays, dreaming and touches the object or even isolates himself in a memorable room. Then, he walks around Istanbul Street regularly. In doing this action the protagonist ignores all the people and society around him. He just thinks about his girlfriend and sometimes creates his own imagination about her. Radically, he decreases his communication with his friends, connection and family.

In keeping memory, he built a memorable building that is represented by a museum called 'the museum of innocence'. This museum is the physical representative of his passion to do the redemption. The museum contains of the private collection of object that existed in his affair with his girl. He collects the object that he has and arranges them in the museum. He also collects the objects from another people in Istanbul and arranges them in his museum. He even stole the objects from his girlfriend house and put it as his collection. All of the objects are exhibited in the museum and exposed to the visitors.

In this study, redemption becomes the main issue to be analyzed. The definition of redemption in this study has close relationship with the psychological area where Mc Adams (2001) introduced his theory of redemption. He delivered that redemption sequence as a transformation of bad events into good outcomes. They argued that redemption in modern era is more positively associated with self report measure of life satisfaction, self esteem, and sense of life coherence.

Moreover, this study also exposes the connectivity between the feeling of guilty and the implementation of redemption in people's life. The feeling exclusively has close relations to morality standard in society. Krech in Minderop

(2010) states that the essential circumstances evoking guilt involve the perception of one's in a situation as divergent from the right or moral or ethical action required by the situation. Situation emerges as the essential factor that lead people to an action against morality standard.

To reduce the feeling of guilty, people create their own way. These ways are involved in one term called redemption. Mc Adams (2001) introduced the redemption sequence as a transformation of bad events into good outcomes. Moreover, they argue that redemption in modern era is positively associated with self report measure of life satisfaction, self esteem, and sense of life coherence.

Nostalgia can be an option to reflect the process of redemption. Based on Mc Adam theory, Baden et all (2004) conclude that a redemption sequence has close relation with positive emotion. They also added that nostalgic episodes are characterized mostly by redemption rather than by contamination sequence.

The form of this analysis is text-based interpretation. Guerin (2005) says that text based interpretation focuses on the work itself. It signifies that the meaning of the whole story is found in the text by examining the interrelationship of the formal elements such as theme, characteristics, setting and language.

Fictional devices involved in the analysis of the novel are focused on character, plot and setting. Madden (2003) said that characters which the author draws on literary work brings readers to life and lets him to get know them as people reality. While analyze the characters, it is important to focused on the characters attitude, thought and statements.

Another vital element in analyzing a literary works is setting. Madden (2002) said that setting in fiction is the location and atmosphere of the story. It has direct and indirect impact on the character and conflict. To analyze a literary works it is impossible to ignore these elements.

The other element is conflict. Robert (1999) stated that conflict is not only between protagonist and antagonist but may occur within the characters own mind. In this analysis the conflict that is faced by protagonist is how he tries to reduce the feeling of guilty because of his past mistake through his personal redemption.

This study is intended to reveal redemption in the novel *the Museum of Innocence* (2010) by Orhan Pamuk. This study also will explore to what extend characters, setting, and conflict give contribution in revealing the effort to do redemption.

## **B. Research Method**

The analysis of this novel is done through text-base interpretation. It is focused on analyzing the fictional devices; character, plot, and setting. Character and setting are inseparable because they are interrelated each other. Characters are used to explore several characteristics of redemption by analyzing protagonist act and behavior. Then, setting deals with condition, situation and atmosphere that make up the stories in the process of analysis. Meanwhile, conflict plays an important role in order to reveal redemption in the stories. Moreover, these elements are analyzed based on the concept of the feeling of guilty by David Krech and the concept of redemption by P. Mc Adams.

## **Redemption**

Redemption becomes the main issue in this novel. This issue has close relation with the feeling of guilty as a basic factor that lead people to do redemption. The issue of redemption can be revealed through two major actions from protagonist, those are:

### **1. Searching The Traces Of Memory**

Searching the traces of memory is the first major actions of redemption from the protagonist. This action can be seen from his monotonous daily activities. In this case he keeps doing the same activities everyday to search the traces of memory of his good time with his Fusun. Those activities are Visiting Merhamet apartment, dreaming and walking around Istanbul. These three actions reflect his effort to recall his memory with the girl in those places.

Visiting Merhamet Apartment is the first action of redemption by protagonist in order to find the traces of his memory. The apartment is a place where he spent almost of his time with his lover. In visiting the apartment, he tries to reduce his feeling of guilty by waiting for lover even though he knows the girl will never come. It can be seen from the following quotation:

Everyday I went to Merhamet Apartments at the customary hour, to begin my wait. Having realized that getting there early only aggravated my pain, I resolved not to arrive before five minutes to two. I would go into the apartment trembling with impatience, and during the first ten or five minutes hopeful anticipation would ease the pain, an excitement wreathing my head down to the tip of my nose even as my heart ached and my stomach cramped.

The text describes how the protagonist finds a pleasure in his monotonous activities. He organizes and comes there on time everyday to replace his guilty into a pleasure. The utterance *and during the first ten or five minutes hopeful anticipation would ease the pain* explains that how his effort finally reduce a little bit of his guilty. His feeling guilty had eased considerably during the visiting to the apartment. Moreover, in running his unusual activities, his feeling changes into happiness and comfort. Furthermore, it seems that he becomes a masochist in running his activities. The utterance *an excitement wreathing my head down to the tip of my nose even as my heart ached and my stomach cramped* exposes he tends to do an activity that will hurt him. He realizes he will suffer because of the activity but he have to do this to relieve his guilty. He feels pain and excitement at the same time. This excitement comes from his successful effort to replace his guilty and pain into pleasure. The conflict arises as a result of his unacceptable toward his pain. This feeling finally guides him to do an action to release his guilty. This action also implies the beginning of his redemption. The setting refers to the atmosphere of the apartment as a memorable place with his girl. This condition leads him to choose the apartment as a place to do his redemption.

Dreaming is another action of redemption in protagonist activities. He tries to remember every single moment with his girl. He has dreams about the time that he has spent with his girl. He has his memorabilia toward his past time. It can be seen from the following quotation:

As I lay in bed, stalking to sleep, a few image from that cold gray morning come back to me. As they paraded before my eyes, they seemed both very familiar and very strange, as memories do when they find their own way into dreams: I remembered the tricycle, and I remembered going outside with Fusun, watching silently as lamb was slaughtered and then taking a ride in car.

The quotation confirms how the protagonist cannot forget his precious time in the past. The repetition of the word *I remembered* implies that what he had done in the apartment only imagining and dreaming. He could not find another option to share his desire to the girl. This condition leads him to repress his desire and implies it in his redemption. As a result, everything that has relations to his girl brings him back into his memory and nostalgic. In this case, the apartment becomes the main reason for him to release his guilty. The setting refers to the apartment situation that has essential relations to his story. To reduce his guilty he sent back himself into his past memories in order to find peaceful after what he did in his present.

Another action of redemption is walking around Istanbul Street regularly. By doing so, he tries to get back the past happiness in his life. He visits one by one the street that he ever walked together with his lover.

The moment I woked up I shaved and went for a walk. I took the long way back, passing in front of the Technical University's 115 years old Taskisla Building, where Fusun was taking her exam.

The quotation explains the mental condition of the character. He has been trapped in his past time and keeps everything about his girl. He always remembers the time, street and places where his girl ever stay or live in. In this phase, he hesitates and reduces the feeling of guilty almost at a same time. Moreover, the utterance *passing in front of the Technical University's 115 years old Taskisla Building, where Fusun was taking her exam* signifies the protagonist's behavior after he left by his girl. He regularly visits all of the memorable street and building. His feeling of guilty leads him to find a way to decrease the feeling. By having nostalgic through the memorable things, he tries to accept his mistake or even make his guilty disappeared.

## **2. Keeping Memory**

The second action of redemption is keeping memory. This action can be seen from his museum. The museum is the physical representative of his passion to release his guilty through redemption. There are several indicators that can be

categorized as his redemption. It can be seen through the object in the museum and his effort to collect the object.

The museum contains the private objects of his affair with his lost girl friend. He arranges the object in the museum as a symbolic obsession toward his past life. It seems that he tries to create his own world by using the collections, as supported in the following quotation:

Fusun was wearing the earrings of which one is displayed at the entrance to our museum. We walked down the street together. We turned off Valikonagi Avenue into Emlak Avenue, which was not so crowded.

From the text it can be understood that the passion of the protagonist to create the museum in details. These details also can be a media to elaborate almost of his past time to the visitors. It is supported by the existing of jewelry of the girl in the museum. The utterance *Fusun was wearing the earrings of which one is displayed at the entrance to our museum* proves his totality to pay attention to every small things related to his past life. It means that, a small thing from his past life can reflect a big and important event. Moreover, the position of the earrings implies how the object has a special part in his story life. The objects also can be as a media to represent the identity of the girl. The conflict in his mind arises because he blames himself after he lost his girl and realizes that he breaks the normative standard. This situation leads him to find out many objects and arranged them in the museum. This action shows his effort to release his guilty by collect the object in his museum.

Another collection in the museum that can be seen as a symbol of his redemption is the painting of the girl's apartment. He tries to find a possible way to bring the atmosphere and situation in the apartment by using a painting. He gather several artists to paint every details of Fusun's apartment into a canvas.

I commissioned this painting to exhibit right here in our museum, providing the artists with all the necessary details, and while it offer a fine impression of the orange lamplight cast onto the interior of Fusun's apartment, and the chestnut tree shimmering in the moonlight, and the depth of the dark blue sky beyond the line of rooftops and chimneys of Nisantasi, does it also, I wonder convey to the visitor the jealousy I acknowledge as I beheld that view?.

The text shows the implementation of redemption by painting every part of the apartment in details. His obsession toward his girl can be seen from his effort to give the sense of reality into the painting. He tries to make the painting as real as possible. This action also supported by his action to use many impressive colors in the painting to convey the real atmosphere of the apartment. Furthermore, by creating the painting in details he can feel the realness of the apartment. This situation guides him to represent the apartment into a canvas as a way to solve his internal conflict. Through the painting he tries to deliver his feeling and the reality of the apartment.

Another point that can be seen as his action to do redemption is his effort to search the objects from the others. He collects the objects from another people in Istanbul.

From the middle of June 1976 to the beginning of October, we went to see more than fifty films at the summer cinemas, whose tickets stuns I displays here, along with the lobby photographs and advertisements I was able to acquire in subsequent years from Istanbul's collectors.

The quotation above reveals his effort to finds a physics representative from his period of life. He needs to fulfill his obsession to complete his liberation toward his feeling of guilty. These can be seen from the way he identified the important object in his life. He meets many collectors in his hometown only to find the memorable objects. The utterance *whose tickets stuns I displays here, along with the lobby photographs and advertisements* proves his intention to finds all the objects even he has to ask many collectors and spent so much time. This action emerges as a result of his regrets toward his life in the past. As a result, this feeling influences his attitude and behavior. To establish his condition he tries to get many objects to reduce his regret and sadness.

### C. Conclusions

The novel *The Museum of Innocence* (2010) by Orhan Pamuk reflects redemption. It is exposed through text based interpretation by focusing on fictional devices such as character, setting and conflicts. The protagonist in this novel has a mistake in his relationship with his girl. To redeem himself from the feeling of guilty he chooses to search the traces of memory and keep memory. He tries to do redemption in order to control his internal conflict. He visits the same place everyday such as apartment, street and build a museum to decrease his guilty. This conflict emerges as a result of his unacceptable toward his past mistake. He falls into regrets and self blaming before he reduces it by creating his personal redemption. Moreover, in this analysis, setting becomes a crucial factor which is support the main topic. The setting emphasize in two parts which are Merhamet apartment and the road in Istanbul. These two points, both atmosphere and situation, influences his way to reach his redemption. He prefers to do the same activities everyday to decrease his feeling of guilty.

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