**ABSTRACT**

**Rachmawati, Dewi**. 2014. *The Marriage Life of Afghan Women Reflected trough The Main Characters in Khaled Hosseini’s* *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Thesis. Undergraduate Program. Mercu Buana University of Yogyakarta. Advisor: Restu Arini, S. Pd., M.Pd.

Keyword : The Marriage, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

This thesis analysed a novel written by Khaled Hosseini, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The writer talked about the marriage life of Afghan women during 1974-2003. It told about the life of two women in Afghanistan, Mariam and Laila. It was very interesting because their experiences were strongly influenced by the Afghanistan tradition and Islamic Law.

In order to analyse this novel, the writer formulated two problems related to the study. First,How the characteristics of Mariam and Laila were depicted in Khaled Hosseini’s *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.The second problem dealt with how Khaled Hoseini’s *A Thousand Splendid Suns* reflected the marriage life of Afghan women through the main characters.

To answer the problems, the writer employed the socio-culture- historical approach. She used library method to collect the data from the books and the other references. Theories of character and characterization, the history of Afghanistan, the history of Taliban Regime, the history of Soviet Occupation, the history of Mujahedeen regime were also used to to analyze this novel.

This study revealed the characteristics of Mariam and Laila. Mariam was described as brave, thoughtful and uneducated girl. She was the reflection of women who lived in rural areas. On the contrary, Laila was described as a brave and smart girl. She was the reflection of Afghan women who lived in big cities. Here, the writer also found the marriage life experiences as the reflection of most Afghan women’s life. Mariam and Laila experienced forced marriage, underage marriage, polygamy and abuses. All of those issues were commonly happen in Afghanistan. Islamic Law and tradition gave influence to what happen in Afghanistan. However, people in Afghanistan sometimes used Islamic Law or tradition as their reason whereas the actual fact was not totally the same. In addition, the government in Afghanistan made their own conditions so that those types of marriage could be done legally.

It was recommended for the future researcher to explore what made Rasheed as a husband to be abusive to his wives, Mariam and Laila. They could use socio-cultural historical approach and theory of Family Abuse in order to analyze this topic. It was also suggested for teachers to use *A Thousand Splendid Suns* as the materials in teaching Intensive reading II.

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Kata Kunci : The Marriage, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Skripsi ini menganalisa sebuah novel Khaled Hosseini, *A Thousand Splendis Suns*. Penulis membicarakan tentang kehidupan pernikahan para wanita di Afghanistan pada tahun 1974- 2003. Novel ini bercerita tentang dua orang wanita di Afghanistan, Mariam and Laila. Ini sangat menarik karena pengalaman mereka sangat dipengaruhi oleh tradisi masyarakat Afghanistan dan hukum Islam.

Untuk menganalisa novel ini, penulis memformulasikan dua permasalahan. Pertama, bagaimana karakateristik Mariam dan Laila digambarkan dalam novel Khaled Hosseini, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Kedua, bagaimana novel Khaled Hosseini menggambarkan kehidupan pernikahan dari para wanita Afghanistan melalui tokoh- tokoh utamanya.

Dalam analisis, penulis menggunakan pendekatan socio-culture-historical. Metode kepustakaan digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data dari buku- buku dan referensi lainnya. Teori watak dan perwatakan, sejarah Afghanistan, sejarah Rezim Taliban, sejarah penjajahan Soviet dan sejarah rezim Mujahedeen juga digunakan untuk mengalisa novel ini.

Studi ini mengungkap karakteristik dari Mariam dan Laila. Mariam digambarkan sebagai orang yang berani, pemikir dan tidak terpelajar. Dia adalah gambaran dari wanita yang tinggal daerah terpencil di Afghanistan. Sebaliknya, Laila digambarkan sebagai wanita yang berani dan terpelajar. Dia adalah gambaran dari wanita yang tinggal di kota-kota besar. Disini, penulis juga mengungkap kehidupan pernikahan Mariam dan Laila sebagai cerminan wanita Afghanistan. Mereka mengalami pernikahan paksa, pernikahan dibawah umur, poligami dan pelecehan. Semua permasalan tersebut biasa terjadi di Afghanistan. Hukum Islam dan tradisi setempat berpengaruh terhadap apa yang terjadi di Afghanistan. Mereka menyalah gunakan hukum Islam dengan membuat peraturan mereka sendiri agar bisa melakukan pernikahan tersebut secara resmi.

Peneliti berikutnya bisa menganalisa Rasheed sebagai seorang suami yang menjadi sangat melecehkan istrinya, Mariam and Laila. Mereka bisa menggunakan pendekatan socio- cultural historical dan teori pelecehan dalam keluarga untuk menganalisa topik ini. Para guru juga disarankan untuk menggunakan novel A Thousand Splendid Suns sebagai materi untuk mengajar Reading intensif II.