

Family Disorganization in Short Stories by Female Writers on the Website *Basabasi.co*

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Abstract

Social problems that are often raised by female writers in literary works tend to be diverse. However, one of the social problems that often appears in literary works by female writers is the problem of family disorganization. This study aims to describe the problem of family disorganization in short stories by female writers on the Basabasi.co site. This study is classified as a descriptive qualitative research type with a sociology of literature approach. The data for this study are sentences or paragraphs that contain the problem of family disorganization in short stories. The data sources for this study were eight short stories by female writers that raised the problem of family disorganization and were published throughout 2024 on the Basabasi.co site. The method of collecting research data used literature studies. The results of the study showed that there were 10 indicators of family disorganization found, namely unclear roles in the family, poor communication, conflict between family members, lack of emotional attachment, inability to make joint decisions, violence in the family, disharmony in parent-child relationships, deviant behavior in the family, and unstable economic conditions.

Keywords: Family Disorganization, Short Stories, Women, Basabasi.co

INTRODUCTION

Although conjectural and imaginative, literature usually contains values that reflect human morality as its object [1]; [2]. In literary works, human nature is often narrated and processed into triggers for social conflict in the story [3]. These conflicts become building elements in a literary work [4].

Through literary works, descriptions of social problems experienced by society can be communicated to the public in the form of beautiful writing [5]. In particular, the object of literary study is not far from everyday human life [6]. This is what sometimes makes readers feel close to the literary works they read because the problems in literature are the social realities of society [7].

One type of literary work that is full of the dynamics of life conflicts is short stories [2]; [8]. As an imaginative work, short stories are usually built from guesses made by the author about the life that inspired the story [9]. These guesses are interpreted in short imaginative works that are usually finished reading in a relatively short time.

In this electronic age, short stories are easier to find on online portals. One literary portal that contains a short story column once a week is the site *Basabasi.co*. Contains short story columns, opinions, essays, etc., the site *Basabasi.co* tends to be more accessible and

features a variety of Indonesian female writers, especially in the short story section. The short stories are usually built from social problems that occur in society.

As a depiction of people's lives, social problems in short stories are very diverse. Starting from problems of love, crime, friendship, poverty, war, and others [10]; [11]; [12]; [13]. In general, the problems that often appear in short stories refer to the problems of love and crime.

But from the results of previous research, the problem of family disorganization is a problem that is often raised by writers, especially female writers [14]. Not only that, the forms of family disorganization found in a story tend to be diverse and interrelated.

Family disorganization is the inability of one or all family members to build good family criteria and in accordance with their respective functions. Not infrequently, family disorganization problems usually cause conflict and can harm one or even all family members [15]. According to [16], family disorganization can cause children to receive less attention and moral teaching from their parents. These family problems are often highlighted by female writers in their stories.

Women are often victims of the concept of family disorganization in society in general. Narratives of women's emancipation or rejection

of domestic violence are also aspects that are often highlighted, especially by female writers [17].

Referring to this background, the research aims to describe the forms of family disorganization that appear in short stories by female writers on the website *Basabasi.co*. The results of this study are expected to be an academic reference regarding the tendencies of female writers in their short stories.

METHOD

This research is included in the type of descriptive qualitative research. This research is classified as qualitative because the research data is obtained naturally and not artificially. The data specifically refers to the literary work being studied. This research is also classified as descriptive research because the discussion of the research will be described in the form of words to describe the answers to the research objectives. The approach to this research uses literary sociology. According to [18]vv, literary sociology research is indeed reflective because it positions literature as a reflection of people's lives.

The data of this study are eight short stories by female authors that raise the issue of family disorganization and published throughout January-December 2024. The source of this research data is the *Basabasi.co* website. The research data collection method uses literature studies, while the data analysis steps include understanding the contents of the short story, identifying indicators of family disorganization contained in the short story. Classification of types of family disorganization based on indicators, research analysis, description of research discussion, and drawing conclusions. The presentation of research data uses an informal method in narrative form.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Referring to the research results, of the nine short stories by female authors published on the *Basabasi.co* site throughout 2024, there were eight short stories that contained the problem of family disorganization in their stories. The eight short stories are, Short Story *Iron* work of Firda SofiaZu (1/3), TA *Suitable Name for Uncle Coki*

by Linggar Rambawati (5/1), short story *House chores* by Yetti A.KA (3/5), short story *That Day The Wind Wasn't Blowing* by Cicilia Oday (13/5), short story *Babe Naim Date Store* by Yessy Monthly (7/19), short story *Mamak's Cupcakes* by Puspa Seruni (16/8), short story *Why Must the Different Die?* works by Atia Syahbani (20/9), and short stories *No Fresh Apples Today* The beginning of the story (1/10).

Specifically, the family disorganization that appears in the eight short stories contains several forms. The following is Table 1, which contains the forms of family disorganization in short stories by female authors on the site *Basabasi.co*.

Table 1. Forms of Family Disorganization in Short Stories by Female Writers on the Website *Basabasi.co*

No	Short Story Title	Forms of Family Disorganization								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Iron									
2	A Suitable Lord for Uncle Coki									
3	House chores									
4	That Day The Wind Wasn't Blowing									
5	Babe Naim Date Store									
6	Mamak's Cupcakes									
7	Why Must the Different Die?									
8	No Fresh Apples For My Brother Today									

Information:

1. Role ambiguity in the family
2. Bad communication
3. Inter-family conflict
4. Lack of emotional attachment
5. Unilateral decision making
6. Violence in the family
7. Disharmony in relationships
8. Deviation in the family
9. Economic conditions

Role Ambiguity in the Family

One form of family disorganization is the unclear role in the family. Roles in this case refer to the status and work of husband, wife, children, and other family members. The work in question is not only related to the status attached, but also habits that ultimately affect other family members.

In a short story *House chore*, there is family disorganization due to mothers who play multifunctional roles without the help of a husband who only focuses on the role of breadwinner. This is evident in Data 1 below.

Data 1

“Mom wakes up every morning at five in the morning (and doesn’t sleep before eleven at night). Prepares breakfast for the family. When Namia appears in the kitchen, Mom asks, Is there anything unfinished? Namia remembers that there are still Math problems that she can’t solve. Dad is already awake, but is lazy in the room while playing with his cellphone...” (**Household Chores Short Story**)

Data 1 shows the mother figure who is socially unemployed, but has a lot of household chores. The problem of family disorganization arises because the husband figure does not help with housework, even with helping the child figure when doing homework. The data shows family disorganization due to unclear roles in the family. The mother's role becomes dominant (in terms of housework), even though she has a husband who should be able to lighten her burden.

Bad Communication

Poor communication is one of the causes of family disorganization. Communication is one of the keys to social relationships. Lack of communication between family members usually results in misunderstandings and even excessive dominance from one party.

In a short story *Iron*, family disorganization problems occur due to poor communication. Here is Data 2 that shows the problem.

Data 2

“I was really afraid to step towards Mother. She was sobbing on the floor of our original flattened house. Father knelt down and held her shoulders,

mother looked up and said, “I set aside my wages for my employer. Every day two thousand. After I felt it was enough, I asked her to buy the same things when she went shopping. It was easier because there were no bills like in a social gathering.” (**Short Story Iron**)

Data 2 shows the child character's misunderstanding of his mother. He thinks that his mother is having an affair because she can afford an iron that is relatively expensive for them. In fact, the iron was obtained by the mother character from her daily work. The lack of good and open communication makes the problem drag on and raises suspicions that lead to misunderstandings.

Inter-Family Conflict

Conflict in this case refers to arguments or tensions that occur between family members that drag on without a clear resolution. Family disorganization problems often arise due to conflicts between family members.

In the short story *Mamak's Cupcakes*, the conflict between families occurs because the eldest child often causes trouble and contradicts his parents. This causes the mother character to feel distrustful and always at odds with her son and daughter-in-law. This is stated in Data 3 below.

Data 3

“Even though we live in the same house, Mamak never wants to eat the food in our house. With her parents' energy, she makes cupcakes to sell and the money is used for daily needs including buying food. Of course, that causes gossip among the residents, as if I am incompetent in taking care of Mamak.” (**Short Story Mamak's Cupcake**)

Data 3 shows the conflict that occurs between the Mamak and the child characters. Mamak is depicted as separating himself from his child even though he lives in the same house. The conflict was also finally known by the residents so that the problem continued to drag on. The Mamak character's attitude did not occur without reason. Since childhood, the child character often disappointed his parents by stealing family property until finally causing the father character to die.

Lack of Emotional Attachment

Family disorganization problems due to lack of emotional attachment usually occur when parents do not pay enough attention to their children. The absence of affection in the family due to excessive social control can actually cause parents and children to become distant.

In a short story *A Suitable Lord for Uncle Coki* shows a lack of emotional attachment between siblings. Here is Data 4 which shows this feeling.

Data 4

“Among his siblings, only my mother still pays attention to my uncle who is almost half a century old. Even my mother has not given up on persuading him to be religious and have a family.” (A Short Story by Tu(h)an That is Suitable for Uncle Coki)

Data 4 shows family disorganization due to lack of emotional closeness between siblings. The character of Uncle Coki who is no longer cared for by almost all of his siblings due to his life choices which are considered inconsistent and abnormal. This life choice resulted in the character of Uncle Coki being shunned by many of his siblings. But he also seemed not to care and enjoyed his life well.

Unilateral Decision Making

One form of family disorganization is unilateral decision-making. This usually occurs due to excessive dominance of one family member. Usually, other family members will feel too controlled and uncomfortable.

In the short story *Why Must the Different Die?* Family disorganization occurs due to unilateral decision-making by the mother figure which disappoints her child. This can be seen in Data 5 below.

Data 5

“Son, you should postpone your schooling and help your mother. Let your second and third siblings succeed first. Later, when they succeed, they can help pay for your schooling.” (Short Story *Why Must the Difference Die?*)

Data 5 shows the dominance of mothers who ask their children to postpone school so that they can wait for their older siblings to succeed first. This action results in family disorganization due to the mother's advice which breaks the heart

of her third child because she feels that her dream must be postponed. The mother's unilateral decision-making results in the child character being disappointed with her mother's attitude.

Violence in the Family

The form of family disorganization that is often raised in literary works is violence in the family. The violence referred to is not only physical violence, but also psychological. This is also directly proportional to the social issue of family violence that is rampant, especially in Indonesia.

In the short story *No Fresh Apples for My Brother Today*, there is family disorganization due to domestic violence committed by the mother figure against her children. Data 6 shows this narrative.

Data 6

“I didn't expect Mom to come back. In fact, I prayed that Mom had been arrested by the police because she liked to curse and hit me. I got tired of being beaten by Mom. She cursed, pulled my hair, and banged my head against the wall. I hoped my head was made of steel so it wouldn't crack even if it was hit, but in fact my head still bled. And even though my head was still dizzy—it felt like the earth was spinning—I still had to scavenge, collect plastic and used cans to get some small change. I also had to pick apples for Sari.” (Short Story *There Are No Fresh Apples for My Little Brother Today*)

Data 6 shows family disorganization in the form of family violence committed by the mother figure to him. In the data, the first child figure is often cursed, pulled, and hit on the head by the mother. The mother also often brings other men to the house. The physical violence committed by the mother figure results in family disorganization that makes the child not want the presence of his parents.

Relationship Disharmony

One form of family disorganization is disharmony in relationships, especially between parents and children. In this case, one party feels unnoticed and unloved.

In the short story *That Day The Wind Wasn't Blowing*, there is family disorganization

due to the child's lack of attention to his parents. This can be seen in Data 7 below.

Data 7

*“The following week, her daughter-in-law and grandchildren finally visited. Handoko still had work out of town and sent his regards to her. After being fed oranges and playing guessing games with her grandchildren, she had to be left again because her daughter-in-law was going to Pilates practice while her grandchildren had to attend piano lessons. Lola was left alone with her again, “So that Mama has someone to talk to and read books,” said the daughter-in-law.”(Short Story **That Day The Wind Did Not Blow**)*

Data 7 shows family disorganization due to the Mother figure who is rarely visited by her children, daughters-in-law, or grandchildren. Handoko, who is the only adopted child of the Mother figure, prefers to bring in a kind of AI human named Lola to accompany the Mother. This makes the Mother feel lonely sometimes because her son makes short phone calls more often than visiting her.

Deviation in the Family

Family disorganization due to deviation in the family refers to the existence of crime, infidelity, or other violations of norms committed by at least one of the family members. This usually results in problems or feelings of pain from other family members who feel betrayed.

Family disorganization in the form of deviation is found in the short story *Babe Naim Date Shop*. This is found in the following data 8.

Data 8

*“Babe Naim was busy thinking about Aunt Atik’s words. Was it true that his wife had a stronger mistress? He looked at himself in the mirror. His hair had turned white and his stomach looked bloated.”(Short Story **Babe Naim's Date Shop**)*

Data 8 shows that Babe Naim's young wife is rumored to be having an affair with a more muscular man. This raises concerns and anger from Babe Naim because he considers himself to be getting older. The affair is included in the family disorganization due to the deviations committed by the wife.

Economic Conditions

Poor economic conditions are often the cause of family disorganization. This economic condition is influenced by a person's ability to fulfill their primary life, both for themselves and their families.

There is family disorganization due to poor economic conditions in the short story *No Fresh Apples for My Brother Today*. This is clarified in the following data 9.

Data 9

*“I should have known that he would not share a single apple with me, unless God came down to the market and reprimanded him, telling him that he would go to hell with hot fire if he did not help a little child in trouble.”(Short Story **There Are No Fresh Apples for My Little Brother Today**)*

Data 9 shows family disorganization due to the economic condition of the older sibling who is unable to buy fresh apples for his younger sibling. He is depicted as disappointed because the owner of the fruit does not want to share and instead chases him away. The older sibling's inability to meet his younger sibling's needs raises additional conflicts that frustrate him, namely having to hear his younger sibling's cries when he comes home.

CONCLUSION

Referring to the research results, it can be concluded that almost all the works of female authors on the site *Basabasi.co* raises the issue of family disorganization in the story. The majority of these problems make women and children the victims. In general, the forms of family disorganization contained in the short story do not only contain one form, but the forms of family disorganization are interconnected and give rise to problems in the story.

SUGGESTION

There is one specific suggestion for future writers. This refers to the topic being researched. Referring to the research results, studies related to family disorganization that are often raised by female writers can be an interesting research topic. Not only in short story literary works, but also in novels or other drama scripts.

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