

ANALYSIS ON SOCIAL LIFE IN THE NOVEL *THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD* BY MARGARETH ATWOOD

SOFIA EVA MONTOL, SANERITA T. OLI, JENIE POSUMAH
Universitas Negeri Manado

Correspondence author: saneritaolii@unima.ac.id

Received: 14 February 2024

Accepted: 28 February 2024

Published: 06 March 2024

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to reveal the social issues in the novel *The Year of The Flood*. Using the descriptive and qualitative research method to gain the data which occurs in the literary work and the type of literary approaches is 'Mimetic Theory' by M.H Abrams in order to analyze the social aspects as the real life reflection. The main dates are mainly from the novel. The supporting data are from the reference books, journals, and articles that related to the research. The findings in the final result, there are five different aspects namely: the environments, feelings, economic factors, crime and faith which were relate and were analyzed using mimetic theory. The characters, setting, theme, and plot by Atwood are imagination of her thoughts and feelings when the novel was written. These results advance the mimetic approach can be applied to utter the social life condition in the novel appropriate with the real life condition.

Keywords: *Margaret Atwood, Social life, Mimetic Theory, Social Phenomena*

INTRODUCTION

Social issues in societies are judged on the basis of moral values arising from the imbalance between cultural development and technological and scientific development in society (Suhadi et al., 2022; Ali, 2023; Ali et al., 2023). Developments in technology and science from century to century have encouraged humans as social beings to continue adapting to their environments and situations. However, not all social creatures are able to adapt well to scientific and technological developments. If the cultural develop unequally, not in accordance with developments in technology and science, then the culture will experience a process of cultural inertia (Kartono, 2017; Alydrus et al., 2021; Ali et al., 2024).

The impact of this imbalance could be a major disaster for society. Pandemics are large-scale outbreaks of infectious diseases that can significantly increase morbidity and mortality over large areas and cause significant economic, social and political disruption. There is evidence that the likelihood of pandemics has increased over the past century due to global migration and integration, urbanization, land-use change, and greater exploitation of the natural environment (Jones, 2008). Literature is the study about phenomena in society created and portrayed by the author, using the creativity and imagination. In Portraying what social phenomena happened in society, the author uses the language to describe it and deliver it into the writing text based on what the author's experiences, observation and completed by his or her feeling to make the story exists in an aesthetic values (Warniati, 2020).

Despite the various problems facing the world including the pandemic, many literary works have been created based on many realities that are happening in the world, including the pandemic problem. Through literature people may interpret the author's message and intention of the author in writing the literary work. An interpretation of a text is justified with the claim that the author intended us to make such interpretation (Montgomery, 1992). In accordance of this condition, Margaret Atwood's *The Year of the Flood* Novel has emerged as the subject of research. The novel describes the effects of the pandemic at various stages from a social and economic perspective. People face many problems in post-pandemic suffering, including discrimination, individualization (Bauman, 2001) and the potential future weakening of social bonds (through fear of other humans as 'carriers of risk'), physical and sexual abuse, economic problems, racism, and relationship problems. Most of the suffering population is concentrated in the lower working class or lower classes. Inequalities in the society and the *world risk society* (Beck, 2009) emphasis the need of research to engage for understanding risk.

There are many different social issues in real life that literature may describe. Social issues typically arise as a result of behaviour that is inconsistent with social norms. Literature has emphasized how this mirrored the changing facets of society. Sociology can be exposed through literature, and there is a strong relationship between literature and culture. This article examines some issues through a social

approach to fictional characters. Fictional characters help explain the conditions of human life when battling the problem of a pandemic and the consequences that have occurred for society after the

RESEARCH METHOD

In research method, there are four point mentions: types of research, method of collecting data, source of data, and method of analyzing data.

Types of research

The research uses the descriptive and qualitative research method to gain the data which occurs in the literary work, According to Williams (2007) the qualitative method allows the researcher to explore and better understand the of the social phenomenon on the novel. Therefore, based on this method, the researcher focused on describing explaining and interpreting the collected data deals with the social phenomenon which reflected by the author in the analysis.

This study was qualitative research. Qualitative research was research studied that investigate the quality of relationships, activities, or materials that are frequently referred to as qualitative research. Qualitative design research procedure is created by descriptions in the form of written or oral words from people who are observed. The major source of the data was the novel entitled the year of the floods by Margaret Atwood. The novel itself has 16 chapters and 284 pages. After collecting the data, the researcher by using Qualitative research seeks to understand in-depth the world of its participants and the meaning behind their words and stories. The last step is the researcher applied the mimetic theory which is focus on the relationship between text and universe. How the texts are actually reflect the real life and explain all the result to the descriptive text.

Method of Collecting Data

This research based on the online library research method, the writer collect some data by reading books, journals, articles and textbooks, which are considered relevant to this research. In collecting data, the researcher would like to read,

summarize, paraphrase and interpret by using note taking methods to show the data clearly and completely.

Source of data

This research uses primary data and supported data. Primary data is the novel written by Margaret Atwood (2009) under the title *The Year of The Flood* as the main data collected and analyzed as the object of the research. The supported data are taken from other relevant online sources from internet.

Methods of analyzing data

The researcher analyzes the data obtained from *The Year of The Flood* Novel by Margaret Atwood by using Abram's literary theory and approach, which named Mimetic Theory. The result of analysis shows and describes that the Mimetic Theory of Abram can be applied in Atwood's *The Year of the Flood* Novel. The first step in using mimetic theory is reading the flood year novel as the object of research, after that researcher began to collect the data related to social conditions, which is divided into five parts, namely: environment, feelings, economic factors, crime, and beliefs. The researcher then analyzed the data descriptively by using mimetic theory.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this novel, Margaret Atwood carries many themes about the environment, beliefs, violence, sexual harassment, and does not forget to add a bit of romance.

There are Toby and Ren as the survivor in the middle of long-term waterless flood. And their social life condition changes a lot. The findings and analysis are mostly about the main character's life and their conflict.

Environment

From the environmental changed factor, Atwood made this story very interesting, starting from the characters in the novel struggling in crisis against current development changes they were facing at that time. The following were

some of the changes in the environment and circumstances of several characters in the novel the year of the flood:

1. *"She's counting on this garden: **her supplies in the storeroom are getting low**. Over the years she'd stashed what she thought would be enough for an emergency like this, but she'd underestimated, and now she's running out of soybites and soydines. Luckily, everything in the garden is doing well: the chicken peas have begun to pod, the beans are in flower, the poly berry bushes are covered with small brown nubbins of different shapes and sizes. She picks some spinach, flicks off the iridescent green beetles on it, steps on them"* (p.17)

Against the backdrop of a current development changes that once ravaged the world, Atwood told how characters in her novels confront food crises during emergencies. There were people who prepared for the crisis in advance from the reality of the current development changes.

In this quote, Toby was relying on the garden. She ran out of pantry supplies. Over the years, she had accumulated what she considered an emergency, all the time when she lived with the gardener, whose thought her how to survive.

But she underestimated it, and almost run her supplies. Toby was one of the main characters in this novel, it turns out that long before the current development changes Toby had accommodated a lot of food supplies, when the current development changes happened Toby was the one who able to survive by living in a spa alone and survived. Plantation produce that she made herself, but Toby began to lose confidence with the reduced food reserves he had.

This implied the fear of starvation situation of Toby if the food supply she had, run out. In the real life condition, there was something we called life necessities, and food was one of the primary human needs. In the case of Toby, starvation was the moment where the primary needs can't be fulfilled.

2. *"She takes her baths in the early mornings, before the sun's too hot. She keeps a number of pails and bowls up on the rooftop, for **collecting the afternoon-storm rainwater**: the Spa has its own well, but the solar*

system's broken so the pumps are useless. She does her laundry on the rooftop too, spreading it out on the benches to dry. She uses the gray-water to flush her toilet". (p.18)

Through this quote the main character was experiencing water shortages, to take a shower in the morning she had to collect water in buckets and bowls on the roof to collect some water from the rain that fell the previous afternoon. Even though the spa actually had it owns, a faulty solar power system caused the pumps to stop working.

Besides that for the need to wash his clothes, Toby had to wash on the roof and dry it on the seat. The water which used to flush the toilet was gray-water. This implied how the condition at that time were not only a crisis of food needs but also a current development changes that caused a crisis of clean water needs.

The writer found that this situation related to the real life condition, especially the current development changes outbreak, everyone felt the effect, where people had to face the crisis of human primary needs.

3. *"This was not an ordinary current development changes: it would not be contained after several hundred thousand deaths, then obliterated with biotools and bleach. **This was the Waterless Flood the Gardeners so often had warned about.** It had all the signs: it traveled through the air as if on wings, it burned through cities like fire, spreading germ-ridden mobs, terror, and butchery. The lights were going out everywhere, the news was sporadic: systems were failing as their keepers died. It looked like total breakdown, which was why she'd needed the rifle. Rifles were illegal and getting caught with one would have been fatal a week earlier, but now such laws are no longer a factor". (p.20)*

Atwood's next explanation described it as if the city had become a dead city, the damage and paralysis of the system, terrible death created crisis afterwards. All rules became useless, in the end everyone had to have their own weapon to guard against fellow human beings who want to survive by justifying violence.

A current development changes that occurred beyond people's expectations took many lives and changed the world in an instant. As happened in the quote above. The current development changes that occurred claimed thousands of victims, and could not be eliminated easily. Gardeners were a cult of people who had notice signs about impending current development changes, a world that suddenly turned horrible with terror, butchery, shadows everywhere, until the system failed because the person operating it dies. All this chaos required Toby to be vigilant and protect himself by carrying a rifle that had been legalized under the chaos.

Through this quote, it was implied how the chaos and destruction that had occurred was the result of a current development changes and was a major factor for increasing vigilance in protecting their selves. In other words, the crime also can happened because of their daily needs can't be fulfilled. According to Ulum (2021), the economic factor was the most dominant factor because the perpetrators of crimes in carrying out their actions were motivated by the inability to fulfill their daily needs.

4. *"There was another minor epidemic, they were saying, but nothing to get alarmed about. **Viruses and bacteria were always mutating**, but I knew the Corporations could always invent treatments for them, and whatever this bug was I didn't have it myself because I'd been in isolation with a double virus barrier protecting me. I was in the safest place I could be". (p.20)*

It turned out that there was still a type of virus that could endanger human life at that time. Atwood seemed to have told the horrors of a growing disease, but in this story, Ren believed that he was immune to the virus. In the quote above, Ren explained that he was trying to prevent the virus from reaching him. He was in an isolation area that he considered very safe, where he could not get infected as long as he lived, but he was already infected. Companies were able to find this virus.

Virus always mutating and people can be infected in the very short time.

From this quote we can find the epidemics still under control so there was nothing to worry as long as Ren still kept herself in the safe place and she understood that keeping herself away from contact with other people was one of the best ways.

5. *“The next day, two bad things happened. First, I turned on the news. The minor epidemic they'd been talking about earlier wasn't behaving in the usual way — a local outbreak, one they could contain. Now it was an emergency. **They showed a map of the world, with the hotspots lighting up in red** — Brazil, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Bombay, Paris, Berlin — it was like watching the planet being spray gunned. It was an eruptive plague, they said, and the thing was spreading fast — no, not even spreading, breaking out at the same time in cities far apart, which wasn't the normal pattern. Ordinarily the Corps would have called for lies and cover-ups, and we'd hear something like the real story only in rumors, so the fact that all this was right out there on the news showed how serious it was — the Corps couldn't keep the lid on.” (p.20)*

Atwood finally discussed how it turned out that the epidemic effect could turn into a pandemic as current development changes in an instant. News about the virus traveled fast, it's true that the media can cover up the facts. But reality at that time was stronger than the power of the media. Everything was openly revealed how the virus spread so quickly.

Nor is it a quote about the female character Ren. Ren, who was alone watching the news and feeling that the localized outbreak that occurred yesterday was still under control, quickly turned into a state of emergency this morning. It was intended for Brazil, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Bombay, Paris, Berlin. As if there were spreading like fire in a faraway city.

From these words, we can see that at that time, the epidemic, which was supposed to be under control, suddenly became an emergency, and the situation changed. The condition of the quote above, had similarity with the cases of SARS 2002. And the writer found that the author had been passed that moment.

Feelings

There was a lot of anxiety, fear, and many kinds of emotions that Atwood create in her novel. She can transfer the feelings to the readers by describing the condition on the characters and situations. As like as some of the feeling on these quotes:

1. *I took a shower — I felt dirty, as if those Pain ballers really had got in, or as if **I had the blood of Mordis all over me.**(p.50)*

Ren, at that time was threatened because the bar where she worked was being attacked by criminals. Her friend was killed by them. Ren worried and tried to calm down herself by cleaned herself up. Then she realized what would be happen. The Sticky Zone was a fortress. No one could get in without the door code, and nobody but Mordis knew that code. That`s what he always said. And hadn't told it: Ren Found that He saved Ren's life. By trying to control herself Ren must survive in the sticky zone. And start to do other things that can reduce the panic. Pray.

By this quote the feeling of loss was so real, Ren was so grateful when she realized that Modris had sacrificed his life to protect her. Human can act different in the different place and time. Like Sarwono (2017) stated that human in a certain place or time can be very different from humans in another place or time. The gratefulness of Ren shows even Mordis was her boss in the club, in the other hand still care of her. But, there were some emotion we could find, the anxiety, the fear and especially the feeling lost of friend of Ren. In that condition Atwood wont the readers can imagine what actually happen at that time.

2. *“Now I was really scared. But **I told myself** that although I couldn't get out, nobody else could get in, and I'd be okay as long as the solar didn't break down. It would keep the water flowing and the mini fridge running, and the freezer, and the air filters. Air filtering was a plus, because it would soon smell very bad out there. And I would take one day at a time and see what came of it”. (p.50)*

Atwood explained that it was clear that the feeling of security could be created by our own self. On how the way you think. When people were able to master fear then a sense of optimism was created by itself.

We could see from Ren`s statement from the quote above that even though bad circumstances were happening to her, the death of a friend in front of her eyes and the conditions that were still very dangerous at that time, Ren would still be safe because the door where she was isolated would not be accessible to other people. Behind the chaos he was saved by the solar system which was still working so there was still food supply in the refrigerator and freezer as well as air filtration which still saved him from the stench of blood outside.

These part shows the self control can make everything feel better. As long as people can control their mind, that means they also can control their feeling of fear. And in the survival moment, the calmness of people will be helped by the surrounding condition.

*3. The worst thing about it was that I couldn't get interested in anyone else. **There was a hole in my heart that only Jimmy** could fill. I know that's a country-and-western thing to say — I'd heard enough of that kind of worldly music on my Sea/H/Ear Candy by then — but it's the only way I can explain it. And it isn't that I wasn't aware of Jimmy's faults, because I was.(p.52)*

From Ren who was disappointed with Jimmy, Atwood also described the romance between the two people which eventually ran aground, but Ren still couldn't replace another person in his heart.

Ren and jimmy had a romantic story back in high school, but Ren felt that his world had been destroyed because of Jimmy. Ren felt that his true love had stopped at Jimmy, who until now still often met him, but recently she found out that it was not only herself who felt devastated but Jimmy too.

This quote illustrated the feeling of disappointment in Ren's love story, who still hoped that his high school boyfriend, Jimmy, came into her life. In real life

condition mostly the high school love story between two people is the most hard love story to be forgotten.

*4. I'm lucky. I'm really very **lucky**. Count your luck, Amanda used to say. So I do. First, I was lucky to be working here at Scales when the Flood hit. Second, it was even luckier that I was shut up this way in the Sticky Zone, because it kept me safe. (p.11)*

In this novel, apart from negative feelings such as disappointment, loss, fear, it turned out that Atwood also has a sense of luck. A feeling of luckiness came over Ren and he realized what Amanda had told her to focus on her luck.

Ren had a best friend that he met when he was little and they were still 10 years old together. Amanda later became his best friend. Amanda always told Ren to always count his luck in his life journey. Ren realized the positive vibes that Amanda gave to her when she was isolated in the sticky zone. She was lucky because by working there, she was isolated there and survived the plague that spread.

This quote illustrated the feeling of relief that one of the characters was finally grateful for in the midst of the chaos the plague was still rampant outside where he was isolated.

*5. "He was a wiry guy with a shaved head and black, shiny, alert eyes like the heads of ants, and he was easy as long as everything was cool. But he'd stand up for us if the clients got violent. "**Nobody hurts my best girls,**" he'd say. It was a point of honor with him. (p.2)*

At this point respect arose because of one's respect for others.

In this quote Ren explained about Mordis who was a manager at Scales and Tails, where Ren worked, Mordis had a charismatic temperament with his thin body and was usually aware of the thing happening around him. Has an easy going character as long as everything in track according to the plot. But, Mordis was the first person to defend the working girls as his employee on some circumstances. Such as violence which constantly came from their clients.

Through this quote Atwood described the feeling of security that Ren and his friends felt with the presence of Modris who was able to help them when they may be harassed or received unpleasant actions.

Economic Factor

The effects of the current development changes that occurred were certainly very closely related to the economic situation of the community. Changing situation occurs in various lives, without exception the economic factor which was getting worse. The existence of strata in society in terms of economic factors also increased the pressure of the situation. The following were excruciating quotes about the state of the economy and their analysis:

1. *"Toby was pleased to learn she'd got the Secret Burgers job: **she could pay the rent, she wouldn't starve.** But then she discovered the catch".*
(p.8)

Atwood described the post-current development changes economic situation from the lower class.

This excerpt, after the current development changes, Toby finally got a job at the secret burger shop, which was run by the masses at the time. Toby no longer had to worry about food and basic needs which were finally met when he got the job. Even though Toby realized she came into trouble caused by her restaurant manager.

The quote illustrates how Toby, who belongs to the lower class of society, must face the impact of the current development changes from economic factors. Toby's life became increasingly difficult until she finally found a way out with another problem.

2. *"I'll be okay," said Toby. She didn't feel okay, she felt scared. But where else could she go? **She lived from pay to pay.** She had no money.*
(p.8)

An economy needs in human life could make people willing to do anything. In order to earn money to continue life, to meet daily needs at least for food and shelter.

As in the quote above, Toby says that she would be fine with Blanco, the restaurant manager who was after her. Blanco was famous for the treatment of sexual harassment against female employees who worked at the restaurant. That restaurant manager who became a threat to Toby, but she brushed aside the feeling of being threatened. Yes, she can't do anything because Toby needs money to continue her life.

From this quote, we could see that there was an effort and sacrifice in the character's struggle to meet the economic needs of her life.

3. *"**She slept on top of garages** whenever she could, or **inside abandoned buildings**, though never on the main floor. Otherwise, in trees: the ones with sturdy forks. Uncomfortable but you got used to it, and best to be above ground level because there'd been some strange animals around. Huge pigs, those lion/lamb splices, packs of wild dogs on the prowl — one pack had almost cornered her".(p.58)*

The current development changes situation that changed everything forced the survivors who survived to continue their struggle to survive. Like Amanda's story in the quote above:

In this quote, Amanda told how she had to move on with life after the world had changed to Ren when they meet in the sticky zone. Amanda had been through and used to unfamiliar situations like sleeping in a tree because many wild animals might attack her if she was on the ground.

From this quote, it could be described that there was an economic paralysis. The Mall building and shops where Amanda isolated herself and kept away from people as much as possible during the current development changes, are no longer operating.

4. *"In the evenings we'd have a few drinks — there were still some unbroken bottles behind the bar and raid the **expensive tinned foods***

Mordis kept for the high-roller clients and also for his best girls. Loyalty Snacks, he called them ; he'd dish them out when you'd gone the extra mile, though you never knew in advance what that extra mile would be. That's how I got to eat my first caviar. It was like salty bubbles". (p.58)

Atwood in his novel clearly described the inapplicability of strata in human life after the current development changes occurred. It turned out that the things that were owned by rich people were not taken to death by them. A current development changes that destroyed humans did not choose which class of people to destroy.

In the excerpt above, after a while they finally enjoyed some good canned food at the bar. Then turned out that after the current development changes, the rich people were powerless. Viruses did not look at treasure. Even though it given to them from Mordis who had died after being killed.

This quote imitated the main character Ren and Amanda had a feeling of gratitude when they could enjoy something real in the normal world that was reserved for upper-class people.

5. "He'd been in the business ever since he was a kid, and when they outlawed the pimps and the street trade — for public health and the safety of women, they said— and rolled everything into SeksMart under CorpSeCorps control, Mordis made the jump, because of his experience". (p.2)

With a background in a current development changes, it also did not rule out the possibility for Atwood to insert the experience of a businessman who turned out to have more experience, being able to try more in managing a business.

In this case, Mordis turned out to had been a businessman since he was a child. He had run many rules before being released. Including regulations on pimps and street trading, regulations made for public health and women's safety. Finally Mordis built the Scales and Tails business based on the experiences he already had.

From this quote we could conclude that the economic condition of someone who is willing to try depends on his experience and desire to continue living with

what he has, especially for Mordis who was apparently still able to develop his business after the regulations and restrictions that came out when he was still a street pimp.

Crime

Current development changes was strongly affecting many aspects not only the economic, environment and social life but also the effect of current development changes strongly increased the crime. The crimes existed because of the people fear of the lack of human needs.

The writer found that the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (2020) has stated that the impact of the long-term current development changes can decrease the criminal activities.

On the Year of The Flood, Atwood showed the crime during current development changes also happen on some of the quotes :

1. *"The trip would be **dangerous**. She'd have to walk to her old pleeb — no transport would be functioning — and locate the tacky little split-level that had so briefly belonged to her parents. Then she'd have to dig the rifle up from where it had been buried, hoping no one would see her doing it". (p.5)*

The post-current development changes that Atwood described this time come from a lower-class woman, Toby, who is an orphan and homeless.

In this quote, Toby Post-Current development changes, the chaos and damage that occurred, one of which impacted the paralyzed means of transportation, Toby tried to find life and chose to walk with the weapons she had stored before for self-defense from criminals. She believed that outside the isolation zone where she had taken shelter there was still a life. But, did not forget too about the danger could come from humans.

From this quote, it could be interpreted that there was a crime that occurred after the current development changes, when survivors like to make friends but must remain vigilant of their opponents.

2. *"Walking that far would be no problem: she'd kept herself in shape. The **hazard** would be other people. The **rioting** was everywhere, according to what fitful news she could still pick up from her phone". (p.5)*

Crime in the midst of a current development changes didn't make Toby afraid. Atwood creates female policy makers like Toby in her novels.

Toby was so brave, and the background of this quote was Toby coming out of the rooftop where she took shelter. After doing her routine of taking a shower with the rainwater he collected in the afternoon the day before. After her troubles by facing the wild boars what was trying to destroy her plantation. As long as her body was healthy, she would not be infected with the plague that still gripped her city at that time. The shotgun in Toby's hand is a shield for him.

From this quote it could be voiced that the courage within to fight fear was very necessary. Robberies that could occur at any time should not prevent us from doing something.

3. *"From somewhere there were **gunshots**. So backyards were already being dug up, thought Toby: hers was not the only rifle".(p.5)*

As a result of the current development changes that occurred, the regulations made in the regions did not apply in an instant. The used of weapons was initially prohibited and not allowed by the local government. But it turned out that all weapons had changed, which were originally a symbol of threat in society, now they had became helpers for self-safety. As stated on the quote above.

The quote stated, Toby got the weapon she hid. Sometimes, she heard gunshots. it was true it was proof that she wasn't the only person with a gun in hand. From this quote it was implied that good and bad circumstances can change people's character. Maybe the people who commit crimes were the ones trying to survive.

4. *"The next morning, **Rebecca signaled Toby** over. "Dora's dead," she said. "Tried to run. I just heard it. Found her in a vacant lot, neck broke, cut to bits. Saying it was some crazy". (p.8)*

The sexual support for women raised by Atwood through this novel, described how women were helpless when they struggle with the choice of life between saving themselves from hunger or, saving themselves from being defended.

As in the quote above, Dora, Rebecca and Toby who work at Secret's Burger deal with threats of violence and sexual silence by the restaurant's manager, Blanco. Finally, after successive events in a row, Dora had to die a horrible death.

From this quote, women became sexual objects, helpless in the face of the realities of life. In fact none of them could help each other while all that was happening can only remind each other before terrible events come to them. Atwood includes physical violence and sexual harassment against women in this novel. And sadly, sexual violence then leads to death.

5. *"She'd been Blanco's one-and-only for less than two weeks, but it felt like years. His view was that a woman with an ass as skinny as Toby's should consider herself in luck if any man wanted to stick his hole-hammer into her. She'd be even luckier if he didn't sell her to Scales as a temporary, which means temporarily alive. She should thank her lucky stars. Better, she should thank him: he demanded a thank you after every degrading act. He didn't want her to feel pleasure, though: only submission".(p.8)*

The sexual harassment and humiliation that Atwood brought up, were the voices of women in the real world. Women were still often used as sexual objects by men. And even physical deformities that do not correspond to what was good in the eyes of the perpetrators were women's problems.

As in this quote, Toby lingering to make ends meet eventually became the manager's next victim. Toby should also feel grateful for not being sold by the manager. Atwood's point here was that women have physical limitations and cannot fight colonialism alone. In addition, the factor of economic needs was also a factor for a woman who was willing to become a prisoner.

The interpretation of this quote was that women, both in the novel and today, still really need support in obtaining gender equality rights.

Faith

Faith, derived from Latin *fides* and Old French *feid*, was confidence or trust in a person, thing or concept. In the context of religion, one can define faith as "Belief in God or in the doctrines or teachings of religion". According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, faith has multiple definitions one of them is "a firm belief in something for which there was no proof". In this novel, Atwood put some of quotes which were content with faith.

According to Atwood's works, she also had a novel contain with the religion theme, the novel was about the Christian theocracy. In this novel Atwood also created the religious impression.

1. **"Praise the Lord and spit,"** said Rebecca. *"I'm too black and ugly for him, plus he just likes the kittens, not the old cats. Maybe you should wrinkle yourself up, sweetheart. Knock out a few of your teeth."*(p.179)

Belief or belief in God is also raised by Atwood through characters, for example in this quote. Rebecca believed in God, there was confidence in the words to the creator which she thought holy and deserves to give thanks. Apart from that there was also a bit of racism about black people raised by Atwood. In this quote, Rebecca said that because she was black, Blanco did not like her. But instead, I'm grateful because it saved him.

The interpretation of this quote said that a person's belief in something that was considered sacred to him can make them grateful and praise what he believed in. While the racism raised the voice of black people who was often felt comfortable in the real world.

From Rebecca's presentation, Atwood raised the theme of racism towards black people who were considered less attractive than white people.

2. *"Last week's bombing attacks on the Rarity restaurant chain— though perpetrated by the **Wolf Isaiahists** alone — gave them an excuse to unleash a sweeping crackdown on all **who have sided with God's Created Earth**".* (p.179)

There were many kinds of beliefs held by people. In the story in this novel, the characters that Atwood tells had several beliefs, Secret Gardeners were people who adhere to the belief that life depends on plants, they cannot consume sinful flesh for them to harm other God's creations. There is also a belief raised by Atwood, namely people who purify one of the animals, namely Wolf Isaiahist.

In this quote, a restaurant was a victim of a bombing because the restaurant provided a menu of food that was a sacred animal for followers of Wolf Isaiahist and the bomb terror they experienced was the result of the Wolf Isaiahist protests.

3. *"She found herself crying with **relief and gratitude**. It was as if a large, benevolent hand had reached down and **picked her up**, and was **holding her safe**. Later, she frequently heard Adam One speak of "being flooded with the Light of God's Creation," and without knowing it yet that was how she felt". (p.32)*

Belief in something that was symbolized and trusted as a savior turns out to be able to bring relief and a sense of comfort. As Toby conveyed in the quote above, Toby found herself being rescued by the gardeners and found them having faith in something they believed in, namely the power or power of God. It was something that he often hears through the leader of the faith they trust, namely Adam one.

From this quote we can interpret that a person's belief in the faith that he had, which he often heard, that was taught to believe, can give a feeling of relief or calm.

4. *"It would be bad for their image to eviscerate **anything with God in its name**," said Adam One".(p.10)*

In every belief that was embraced or trusted there must be a challenge in itself to stick to the belief that they themselves were not easy. Atwood, inserted the problems that might occur in maintaining a belief in the characters of the story.

According to this quote, the name of the God they believed in, the belief they embrace and profess was a name that should not be mentioned in vain. The interpretation of this quote was respect and reverence for something or anything that is believed to be very high.

5. ***"God could have made Man out of pure Word, but He did not use this method". (p.284)***

There are religious people who believe that belief in God must have proof, there were also those who believe that believing in God does not need proof. Through belief also many people learn about knowledge of awareness, acceptance and most importantly the growth of their faith in that holy thing as in the quote above. In this quote which was a statement from a believer and a sect leader of the Secret Gardeners, Adam One, gives an example of the view that in fact the God whom they truly believe was omnipotent and can create humans, but further explanation He stated that it can also God created them from a pile of trash, but instead of doing that God chose to create humans from a complex process of selective and natural selection.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings that had been described in the previous chapter, the writer concluded that the literary theory of Abram especially Mimetic theory could be applied in analyzing Atwood's *The Year of The Flood* novel. By determining the issues or topics on the novel which were been reflected by author. In Mimetic theory the writer found that the perspective of social life on current development changes and post-current development changes as reflected in Atwood's *The Year of The Flood* was influenced by their social condition which was divided by social status discrimination. The writer found the characters, setting, theme, and plot by Atwood were imagination of her thoughts and feelings when the novel was written. The writer also concluded that in getting the connection of literature and society, the relationship between author's experiences of life toward the works created the social phenomenon which was reflected in the society.

REFERENCES

Abrams M.H (1999). *A glossary of Literary Terms*. (7th ed.). Heinle & Heinle.

- Ali, M. I. (2023). Social Life in Willa Cather's One of Ours. *Adjektiva: Educational Languages and Literature Studies*, 6(2), 52-59.
- Ali, M. I., Pabur, H. E., & Wuntu, C. N. (2023). Social Situation Analysis During The Pandemic Outbreak In The Novel The Stand By Stephen King. *ALINEA: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra dan Pengajarannya*, 3(3), 520-540.
- Ali, M. I., Husain, S. W. J., & Tatipang, D. P. (2024). -Exploring Social Dynamics: A Study of Society in Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet:-. *Metonimia: Jurnal Sastra dan Pendidikan Kesusastraan*, 2(2), 167-173.
- Alydrus, N., Wuntu, C. N., & Maukar, M. (2021). Struggle For Reconciliation In The Last Song By Nicholas Sparks. *SoCul: International Journal of Research in Social Cultural Issues*, 1(2), 152-162.
- Atwood, M. (2009). *The Year of the flood* (2nd ed.). Mc. Clelland and Stewart.
- Bardis. D. P (1979). *Social Interaction and Social Processes*. JSTOR.
- Bauman. Z. (2001) *The Individualized Society*. Polity Press. Cambridge.
- Beck. (1992). *Risk Society: Towards on New Modernity*. Sage.
- Beck. (2009). *World at Risk*. Polity Press. Cambridge
- Jones. 2008. Factors in the Emergence of Infectious Desease. *Nature Publishing Group*.
- Kartono. K. (2017). *Patologi Sosial*. Rajawali Pers
- Montgomery (1992). *Introduction to Linear Regression Analysis* (5th ed.). Wiley.
- Suhadi, C. S. S., Wuntu, C., & Mamentu, A. C. (2022). SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION IN MARGOT LEE SHETTERLY'S HIDDEN FIGURES. *JoTELL: Journal of Teaching English, Linguistics, and Literature*, 1(8), 943-957.
- Warniati, D. (2020). M.H Abrams' Literary theories in Jane Austen's emma. *Jendela*, 8.
- Williams, C. (2007). Research Methods. *Journal of Business & Economic Research*, 5(3).