

Who The Best Mother is: Motherhood Ideology in Little Fires Everywhere (2017) = Menakar Kriteria Ibu Terbaik: Ibu dan Ideologi dalam Little Fires Everywhere (2017)

Fatiyyah Mukminah, author

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Abstrak

Pada era yang mengedepankan persamaan dan pemberdayaan, persitegangan antaribu masih kerap kali terjadi. Salah satu faktor pemicu yang melanggengkan persitegangan adalah gagasan tentang ideal motherhood berikut kompetisi yang terjadi akibat mengkritisi diri sendiri maupun ibu lainnya lewat dasar teori sifat keibuan. Untuk memahami lebih lanjut terkait fenomena friksi antaribu, makalah ini menelaah representasi ideal motherhood pada novel Little Fires Everywhere (2017) karya Celeste Ng. Tulisan ini mengupas bagaimana novel tersebut mempermasalkan gagasan dominan tentang ibu lewat penggambaran latar dan relasi antartokoh. Novel tersebut disajikan lewat sudut pandang orang ketiga serba tahu dan struktur naratif yang menempatkan dua tokoh ibu dalam central conflict dan dua tokoh ibu lainnya pada shadow conflict. Pengkajian terkait relasi antar-tokoh ibu maupun dengan lingkungan sekitarnya menunjukkan bagaimana gagasan dominan membentuk sisi psikologis, mendorong para tokoh ibu ini secara internal, sekaligus mengarahkan pola interaksi mereka. Selain itu, hubungan mereka dengan karakter anak perempuan masing-masing menawarkan perspektif tersendiri bagi perdebatan terkait ideal motherhood. Analisa terhadap struktur naratif juga memperlihatkan sudut pandang baru terkait apa yang menjadi dasar bagi teori sifat keibuan (ideal motherhood) dan pendekatan terbaik bagi konflik yang dimulai dari perdebatan ibu ideal tersebut.

.....The hostile tension between mothers is observed to still exist even in this era of equality and empowerment. The idea of ideal motherhood and the competition that includes the process of assessing oneself and others seem to be the gas that perpetuates this clash. In order to better understand this friction phenomenon between mothers, this study aims to investigate the representation of ideal motherhood in a novel by Celeste Ng titled Little Fires Everywhere (2017). The article analyzes textually how this novel problematizes the idea of dominant motherhood ideology through its depiction of setting and characters relation. The novel presents a narrative structure of two central mothers and two shadow mothers that unfolds through an omniscient point of view. An exploration of the interrelation between the mother characters, both with each other and with the surrounding environment, provides a portrayal of how dominant motherhood ideology shapes and drives them internally as well as molds their pattern of interaction. Furthermore, their relationship with the daughter characters also offers further insight into the discussion. The overall examination of the narrative structure then presents a new perspective regarding what constitutes as the idea of ideal motherhood and how the friction regarding the ideal should be best approached