AFGHANISTAN CIVIL WAR IN
“KITE RUNNER” NOVEL BY KHALED HUSSEINI ;
HISTORICAL APPROACH

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Abstract
This journal point on the analysis of history in “Kite Runner” novel by Khaled Hosseini in 2003. Many countries ever happened civil war, then the author pour it into literary work, it likes Afghanistan civil war in this novel. The story in this novel told about the beauty of Kabul was replaced by disturbance of the conflict that destroyed Afghanistan. Furthermore, the object of the research is history of Afghanistan civil war in “Kita Runner” novel by Hosseini in 2003 viewed from H. A. Taine phrase. As basic concept and framework thinking, the researcher used elements of race, milieu and moment from historical approach purposed by Taine in Guerin et al (2005). Qualitative descriptive method used as method presenting result, also used primary and secondary data as method to collect data. The researcher found that Afghanistan civil war in this novel is real history occurred in Afghanistan from 1978 until present. From the analysis, it can be concluded the novel of “Kita Runner” by Khaled Hosseini in 2003 is compatible to analyze by used historical approach.

Keywords: civil war, Afghanistan, kite runner, historical approach.
INTRODUCTION.

Civil war is one of the most destructive conflict in social life. Many countries that ever happened civil war. Land dispute, ethnic, culture and religion are the reasons for the civil war. Even though it destroys all things around it, such as land, building, people and another in environment. They still do it, even they ruined it for many years. The phenomenon of civil war is battle between Pakistan with Israel. The background of the civil war is land dispute. Pakistan suffers from conflict and war during its modern history until present. Besides that, some of civil war in another country had found the escape. Finally, the writer retells the story into a literary work.

The literary works have respective genre. One of them is history genre. History genre is compatible to analysis with historical approach. Indeed, historical approach is approach to analyze literary work which the writer elaborate the moment that occurred in the past. Then, the reader understand the message of the literary work as the history in something whenever it was.

One of influencer in historical approach is H. A. Taine. Taine explained about it in his book entitle history of English literature. In his book, he created three element to analyze

One of histories that recorded in literary work is Afghanistan civil war. As the impact of the events that destroyed the Afghanistan, an author Afghan-American present with the first phenomenal creation. He wrote the history about forty years ago into a novel entitle “Kite Runner” that publish at USA in 2003. The New York Times news give positive commented about this novel, his creation is very brilliant when explain about the history and has a very unique way of presentation in the story, Hosseini (2003). Another people also give good comment, they said that this novel is real portrait of Afghan thirty years ago, Hosseini (2003). Because of that, this novel became ranked first as bestseller novel in New York Times version. Finally, this novel adapted into the movie with the same title by Marc Forster in 2007.

“Kite Runner” novel is brilliant story that got idea based on experience of author in his childhood in Kabul. This
novel is combine story of two boys with beginning conflict in Afghanistan. It marked by the fall of the monarchy system and Soviet intervention, that event as background that change life of Amir as main character. It describe big moment when civil war in Afghanistan and how people avoid from conflict area, trauma that continues to haunt and struggle to survival. Indeed, this novel told stories with quite sensitive issues. Therefore, the existence of civil war portrayed in “Kite Runner” novel made the researcher interest to analyze with historical approach.

The researcher got good review to analyze history in “Kite Runner” novel by Hosseini from previous researches. The first is thesis by Faqih (2017) entitle social conflict as portrayed in khaled hosseini’s novel the kite runner. He analyzed “Kite Runner” novel by Hosseini 2003 by used sociological approach by Marxism. He focused to social conflict in Afghanistan that illustrated through three characters. The methodology of this research is qualitative descriptive. The result of this research is the conflict social caused by differences religion and ethnic history in Afghanistan. Then, economic power and individual interest also became the background of social conflict in this novel.
The primary data in this research is same with this journal. Therefore, this thesis became the good review for the journal.

The second research is journal by Murtini (2019). This journal under tittle fakta sejarah dalam novel Pandir Kelana. This journal explained about expression of Pandir Kelana in his novel like “suro bulldog”, “kereta api terakhir”, and “kadarwati wanita dengan lima nama”. The result of the analysis are showed message in every novel to appreciate the services of heroes and remembering the past, and human aspect. The third research is thesis by Dimas (2017). This thesis under tittle stephen crane’s thoughts on american civil war soldiers as reflected in “The Red Badge Of Courage”. This thesis focused to America civil war in novel by Stephen Crane in 1895. This thesis analysis the history in novel used theory H. A. Taine. He used qualitative descriptive in concluded Crane is figure that anti-war of civil war in America. It proofed from the idea the author of drawing of the hero figure in the war. Certainly, previous research aforementioned have given new knowledge to do the research.

Those previous research have given good contribute in this journal. There are some similar and different between those previous research. The similarity of first previous
research is same primary data, it analyzed about “Kite Runner” novel by Hosseini. Then, the similarity of research second and third previous research are analyzed history in some novel and use the same theory. In this journal, the researcher tried to analyze history of Afghanistan civil war in “Kite Runner” novel by Hoseini in 2003. This novel is history novel that describe clearly about civil war in Kabul, Afghanistan that occurred from 1978 until present. Finally, the researcher found some big moment that proof its history. Therefore, this novel is compatible to analyze with historical approach by Taine.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This traditional approach is used to analysis historical aspect in the story. This approach helps the critic and readers to understand all of the events and forces that might affect the author as he or she is composing the literary work, and it give a more comprehensive understanding to the literary work itself. Based on the history also, the author got idea and develop the story into the great plot of story to make reader more respectful to hero or remember the important event in the past.

Taine (2016) explained that the character might be fiction, but the events really happened in the past. Taine
(1871) also explained that literary works in history genre will show psychology of people that most sensitive. Because it would be build contravention if viewed from different point of view. This terminology developed by Hippolyte Adolphe Taine from his book entitle history of English literature in 1871. He was a French critic, historian, and historicist criticism. Taine purposed the phrase race, milieu and et moment. This terms became spread in critical approaches to literature. At simpley, this terms can be mean in English as nation, environment, situation and time.

In book Guerin, et al (2005) entitle a handbook of critical approaches to literature, they concluded historical approach more simple. There are three terms of Taine to analyze history in literary works. Then, it could be discuss in this journal. They are race, milieu, and moment. Therefore, the review of Guerin, et al (2005) would be theory review in this research. The three terms in historical approach:

1. Race

   Race related to every individuality aspect, where the story take place. The place that appropriate between story and real life.

2. Milieu
Milieu is social environment of the main character occupation. The facts are obtain through the profession from. The occupation that appropriate between story and real life.

3. Moment

Moment is the list of actual event recorded by story which really happen in the past. The event that appropriate between story and real life.

RESEARCH METHOD

Creswell (2014) said that qualitative method is method in analyzing literary work that focused in explain data descriptively. Furthermore, the researcher analyze the novel in approaches that dominant explained by describe descriptively. Thus, the researcher used qualitative method in analyzing this research. Then, the object of research is necessary to get finding or result of analysis. Object in this journal is history of Afghanistan civil war in “Kite Runner” novel by Khaled Hosseini in 2003. After that, in analyzing the novel, the researcher certainly used the method of collecting data. There are two method in collecting data, those are primary and secondary data. Primary data is source of data from “Kite Runner” novel by Hosseini and secondary data is
all review that give good contribute into this journal, such as journal, thesis and article related with the novel and approach.

The researcher used intrinsic element and extrinsic element in analyzing data in this journal. Creswell (2014) explained that intrinsic element is element from novel itself, like character, plot, theme, setting, conflict and point of view in the novel. Then, extrinsic element is theory that use in analyze the novel it certainly historical approach. In presenting result analysis, the researcher described and explained the moment all of civil war in the novel. Therefore, the researcher used qualitative descriptive method to presenting the result analysis in this journal.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The following is the result of analyze in this journal. It is history Afghanistan civil war in “Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini in 2003 with historical approach by Taine that summarized in Guerin, et al (2005). This novel is history drama genre that publish in USA in 2003. The background of the story got from experience of the author when he live in Kabul, Afghanistan. There are many conflict with some ethnics that cause of some matter. It likes national humanities, religion and factor economy. Therefore, Hosseini poured this historical story into the novel entitle “Kite Runner” novel.

Hosseini described situation in Kabul carefully. He explained detail of them around year the 1970s. It begin from
fall the monarchical power, then, entry some rebels like Uni Soviet and Taliban. After that, it begin civil war, many violence, and murder, also female slavery occurred at there. Afghan people still survives even though their power economy was weak. Afghan people, especially Hazara people would not be safe to stay at Kabul, because they would be dead murdered by Taliban. Moreover, there is transition of empire to some ethnic, but it actually made thing worse. It continued until the building was destroyed, there was no usual activities like past. Also, the people left Kabul to another country for safe beloved people and their life. Therefore, all of that event made Afghanistan collapse.

The three element in historical approach representation in the novel “Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini:

1. Race

The term race related to every individuality aspect, where the story take place, Guerin, et al(2005). The race found in the novel “Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini is showed in the quotation below:

a. Afghanistan

“I work always. In Afghanistan I work, in America I work. Thank you very much, Mrs. Dobbins, but I don’t like it free money” (page. 162).

The quotation above found in chapter two paragraph four. There is keyword at that
quotation, it is Afghanistan. Those quotation is utterance from Baba, Amir’s father. He explained that he always work, he work in Afghanistan: the origin place. After the conflict begun, they went to America to safe life and he worked there. Thus, the first of race in this novel is Afghanistan.

Another quotation found in chapter two and second paragraph:

“In Afghanistan, I had only seen the ocean at cinema. Sitting in the dark next to Hassan” (page.188).

Afghanistan is keyword at quotation above. It is statement of author as first narrator. He told that he seen ocean in the cinema because his place is far from ocean and they only play around Amir’s house.

b. Islamabad

Next, race found in this novel are Islamabad and California. It showed in quotation bellow:

“It was 7:30 in the evening in Islamabad, roughly about the same time in the morning in California. That meant Soraya had been up for an hour, getting ready for school” (page.405).

The quotation above showed that character in this novel ever stayed in Islamabad, Pakistan. Islamabad is keyword for race in this term. Those quotation is utterance of the author as first
narrator. It told about time in Islamabad and California is same. Another quotation that character ever stayed in Islamabad, it proof at chapter twenty and first paragraph: “Then I advise you to get a good immigration lawyer. Omar Faisal works here in Islamabad. You can tell him I sent you” (page.414).

The keyword of the quotation at second sentence, Islamabad. It strengthened by word here. It means the character had been in Islamabad. Therefore, Islamabad is one of race in this novel.

c. California

Next race is California, America. It showed at third quotation that had explained above. Then, another quotation that proof it is chapter seventeen and paragraph three: “I had a good life in California, pretty Victorian home with a peaked roof, a good marriage, a promising writing career, in-laws who loved me” (page.279).

The quotation above is utterance of Amir as main character. Based on that quotation, the researcher knew that he safe in California. He went to California when he child to avoid conflict in Kabul, Afghanistan. Based on the quotation aforementioned, it found that race in this novel are Afghanistan, Pakistan and America.
2. Milieu

Milieu is social environment of the main character occupation. The facts are obtain through the profession from, Guerin, et al (2005). The researcher found milieu in the novel “Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini. There are two of milieu, those are merchant and beggar. These are list occupation of character and surrounding communities:

a. Merchant

“If you listen hard, you might even have heard the call of the fruit seller passing through Wazir Akbar Khan with this donkey: Cherries! Apricot! Grapes! In the early evening you would have heard azan, the muezzin’s call to prayer from the mosque in Shar-e-Nau” (page.330).

The quotation above found at chapter twenty one and paragraph four. That quotation is utterance the author to the reader, he describe the situation and the activity in Kabul when it still peaceful and safe. The author told about the traditional seller in Kabul who sell the fruit by donkey and he go around the city. The keyword of that quotation is seller. Based on that quotation, seller is merchant that sell the fruit. Therefore, one of milieu in this novel is merchant.

“The bazaar was empty quickly, the merchants finishing up their haggling for the day. I trotted in the mud between rows of closely packed cubicles where you could buy a freshly slaughtered pheasant in one
stand and a calculator from the adjacent one. I picked my way through the dwindling crowd, the lame beggars dressed in layers of tattered rags, the vendors with rugs on their shoulders, the cloth merchants and butchers closing shop for the day” (page.85).

The keyword in that quotation is merchants. It add to stronger that one of occupation in this novel is merchant. The quotation above describe situation in bazaar when the main character tried to found Hassan. He looked for any place, one place is bazaar then the author explained detail situation at there.

b. Businessman

There is quotation that proof businessman is exist in this novel is found at chapter three and first paragraph: “So Baba proved them all wrong by not only running his own business but becoming one of the richest merchants in Kabul. Baba and Rahim khan built a wildly successful carpet-exporting business, two pharmacies and a restaurant” (page.19).

The quotation above told by the author as first narrator. He told about Baba as Amir’s father who the richest merchants in Kabul. He run his business in three part with Rahim Khan and it made he be richest man in his city. Here, business man is occupation of one character in this novel, he is Baba. Therefore, businessman is milieu that found in this novel.
c. Servant

There are two character that have occupation as servant. It found at chapter four and first paragraph: 
“As for the orphan, my grandfather adopted him into his own household and told the other servant to tutor him, but to be kind to him. That boy was Ali” (page.30).

Based on the quotation, it found that Ali adopted as the servant. The keyword are household and servant. It told by the author as first narrator, he explained that Ali adopted when he child and he tutor to be a servant in Amir’s house. It proof that one of milieu in this novel is servant. Another quotation corroborate that Ali is the servant is found at chapter four and first paragraph:

“Hassan stayed home and helped Ali with the day’s chores: hand-washing dirty clothes and hanging them dry in the yard, sweeping the floors, buying fresh naan from the bazaar, marinating meat for dinner, watering the lawn” (page.34).

The quotation above told by the author as first narrator in this novel. It explained the daily activities of Ali as servant in Amir’s house. Based on the words of washing dirty clothes, sweeping, buying naan in bazaar, serve dinner and take care for the yard are activities that usually do by a servant in big house like Amir’s house in this novel. Then, there is
keyword helped. Hassan helped Ali to do his activities as a servant and Hassan helped him. It realize that Hassan and Ali is the servant in this novel. Therefore, the next milieu in this novel is servant.

d. **Beggar**

The next milieu that found in this novel is beggar. It found at chapter seven and second paragraph:

“I picked my way through the dwindling crowd, the lame beggars dressed in layers of tattered rags, the vendors with rugs on their shoulders, the cloth merchants and butchers closing shop for the day” (page.85).

Based on the quotation above, it found beggar is exist in this novel. There is keyword beggars at that quotation. It showed that beggar is not only one but many and it explained that beggar always stay in every bazaar. Those quotation told by the author as first narrator or main character or Amir in this novel. He describe situation around his self at there. Therefore, beggar is one of occupation in this novel. Then, the researcher also found it at chapter four and second paragraph:

“We took strolls in the musty-smelling bazaars of the Shar-e-Nau section of Kabul, or the new city, west of the Wazir Akbar Khan district. We talked about whatever film we had just seen and walked amid the bustling crowds of bazarris. We snaked our way among the merchants and the beggars,
wandered through narrow alleys cramped with rows of tiny, tightly packed stalls” (page.33).

The keyword in quotation above is beggar also. It found at third sentence that told by the author. He describe situation at the bazaar when Amir and Hassan finish watched the movie in the cinema. There are words snaked our way among, and following word beggars. It knew that situation in bazaar is many merchant and beggar, it describe that beggar along the bazaar street. And another quotation showed that beggar exist in this novel is: “Rubble and beggars. Everywhere I looked, that was what I saw. I remembered beggar in the old days to. Baba always carried an extra handful of Afghani bills in his pocket just for them; I'd never seen him deny a peddler” (page.306).

The quotation above make stronger that beggar is one of milieu in this novel. There is keyword beggar in the first and third sentence. This quotation told by the author, it told when Afghan had destroyed by the big conflict. Based on this quotation, the researcher found that beggar is exist at before and after civil war or conflict in Afghanistan in this novel.

3. Moment

a. Monarchical power was lost

The researcher found the moment showed the history in this novel. It was disappearance
monarchical power in Afghanistan. It proof at chapter five and fifth paragraph:
“They weren't shooting ducks after all. As it turned out, they hadn't shot much of anything that night of July 17, 1973. Kabul awoke the next morning to find that the monarchy was a thing of the past. The king, Zahir Shah, was away in Italy. In his absence, his cousin Daoud Khan had ended the king's forty-year reign with a bloodless coup” (page.44).

Based on that quotation, it found the keywords monarchy was a thing of the past. Here, the author tried to explain that power monarchy in Afghanistan was lost when the king was away in Italy and it replaced by Daoud Khan. It could be compare with the real life that showed at journal by Nafisah (2019). She explained that Daoud took over the rules but didn’t proclaiming as king, he made Afghanistan a republic and abolished monarchy.

b. Civil war

After monarchy power was lost in Afghanistan, some conflict was risen until civil war occurred at there. It found at chapter fifteen and third paragraph:
“Rahim Khan told me how, when the Northern Alliance took over Kabul between 1992 and 1996, different factions claimed different parts of Kabul."If you went from the Shar----e----Nau section to Kerteh---Parwan to buy a carpet, you risked getting shot by a sniper or getting blown up by a rocket------if you got past all the checkpoints,
that was. You practically needed a visa to go from one neighborhood to the other. So people just stayed put, prayed the next rocket wouldn't hit their home” (page.250).

Quotation above told by a person to Amir. He told situation at Kabul when civil war begun. He would not be safe if he do the fault things in enemy’s eyes. It explained that occurred shooting by gun and bomb. The Northern alliance took over Kabul but situation was getting worse in Kabul. It proved at journal by Nafisah (2019). She explained that rebellion occurred in every place in Kabul. Civil war then ensued and spread. Deputy prime-minister Afghanistan, Hafizullah Amin, seized the power from Taraki. After that, instability Afghanistan made Amin overwhelmed because facing democratic-party also rebellion was happened everywhere. Another quotation that showed civil war in Kabul is found at chapter sixteen and second paragraph:

“A few weeks later, the Taliban banned kite fighting. And two years later, in 1998, they massacred the Hazaras in Mazar-i-Sharif” (page.268).

The keyword from the quotation above is massacred. It strengthened from article Human Right Watch by Sharif (1998). It explained that Taliban had been succeed in August 1998, to cut some place in Afghanistan that made them got
control of almost every major city in Afghanistan. That news directly shared to the world after moment the Taliban forces captured the city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

c. Transition of power

Transition power also occurred when civil war happened everywhere in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, Afghanistan increasingly untidy after the transfer power empire. It showed at chapter fifteen and second paragraph:

“By then------that would have been 1995------the Shorawi were defeated and long gone and Kabul belonged to Massoud, Rabbani, and the Mujahedin. . . . Kabul in those days, Amir jan, was as close as you could get to that proverbial hell on earth. Allah was kind to us, though. The Wazir Akbar Khan area was not attacked as much, so we did not have it as bad as some of the other neighborhoods” (page.266).

The quotation above told about transition power of Afghanistan to Massoud, Rabbani and Mujahedin. The keywords are Kabul belonged to Massoud, Rabbani and Mujahedin. There is proof in article by Moslih (2014). He said that tribal and ethnic proved too much and interference of outside after transfer power. He also add that a bloody war
happened everywhere irregularly. Furthermore, the quotation that proof Afghanistan more wretched found at chapter twenty second and first paragraph:

“Just east of it was the Bala Hissar Fort------the ancient citadel that the warlord Dostum had occupied in 1992------on the Shirdarwaza mountain range, the same mountains from which Mujahedin forces had showered Kabul with rockets between 1992 and 1996, inflicting much of the damage I was witnessing now” (page.307). The keywords from quotation above are Mujahedin forced had showered Kabul with rocket. It knew that breakage of Afghanistan severer when power was transferred. Then, following sentence by Amir as character that utterance quotation above, he said that much of damage at there. Therefore, transition of power is one of history moment that found in this novel.

d. Afghanistan collapse
The researcher found that Afghanistan had collapse. After passing many moment that made Afghanistan more damage, the author describe situation and condition that illustrated Afghanistan was falling apart. It found at chapter twenty and second paragraph:
“Rubble and beggars. Everywhere I looked, that was what I saw. I remembered beggars in the old days to” (page.306).
The quotation above told by the author as first narrator. There is keyword at the first word, it is rubble. In this quotation, author conveyed about condition in Kabul after civil war. Many building rubble and widespread poverty. It made many people beg is the worst occupation but they was forced to do it. Another quotation showed that Afghanistan was collapse found at chapter twenty and second paragraph:

“Farid had told me on the way there that Karteh---Seh had been one of the most war---ravaged neighborhoods in Kabul, and, as we stepped out of the truck, the evidence was overwhelming. The cratered streets were flanked by little more than ruins of shelled buildings and abandoned homes” (page.314).
The keywords from quotation above are one of the most war ravaged neighborhoods in Kabul. And it follow explanation by author as Amir and as first narrator. He said that the evidence was very much in front of him. Then, the author described condition deterioration of Afghanistan after that civil war. In addition, this moment is final moment in the story of “Kite Runner” novel by Hosseini
because the civil war was continued until present. Indeed, it proved from BBC News (2015) said that the civil war in Afghanistan has continued until now. Moreover, BBC News (2015) also concluded that now Taliban control many place in Afghanistan after international militia left them in 2014. Therefore, Afghanistan carry on long and bloody conflict.

The researcher found proof in each term. “Kite Runner” novel by Hosseini is really told about history civil war in Afghanistan that occurred from 1978 until present. After analyzed by used historical approach by H. A. Taine that summarize in Guerin, et al (2005), the researcher can notified proof history in this novel. The first term is race. The race in this novel are Afghanistan, Pakistan and America. The second term is milieu. The milieu in this novel are merchant, businessman, servant and beggar. The last term is moment. The moment in this novel are monarchical power was lost, then civil war begun, after that power had transfer to other ethnic, and finally Afghanistan was collapse.
Based on the analysis above, it knew that there is important history of the world that explained detail in this novel. Even though, the author keep character fiction to make the story more interest. Therefore, history in this novel give impact to the main character that made his personality changing after he left Afghanistan to America.

IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the researcher found some things that complete the term from historical approach in “Kite Runner” novel by Hosseini in 2003. There are three terms by Taine that concluded in Guerin, et al (2005), those are race, milieu and moment. All those terms already analyzed in this novel, then it showed this history novel describes about real history civil war in Afghanistan. It strengthened by some article, journal and news that researcher used as the review to proof that the history really happen in real life. Hosseini created this novel connected the fiction with history wonderfully. Besides, he explained all about the civil war in Afghanistan to remember the reader about human right in the world. Because Hosseini (2003) said that each people need decent life like the others. He also add that peace is important to save
the life and our beloved people. Therefore, “Kite Runner” novel by Hosseini in 2003 is applicable to analyze with historical approach.

REFERENCES


