Female Politician Image in Indonesia Anti-corruption Poetry Frame

Chafit Ulya and Nugraheni Eko W.
Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, Indonesia
chafit@staff.uns.ac.id

Keywords: Female politician, anti-corruption poetry, Angelina Sondakh.

Abstract: Female delegations on politics in Indonesia currently get increased rather than the previous times. Female politicians began to hold various strategic positions on legislative and executive. Some of them were able to prove themselves through their achievements, but the rests were arrested in connection with corruption cases. One of female politicians who was quite prominent related to her achievement as well as corruption case involvement was Angelina Sondakh. The research aims to describe and illustrate Angelina Sondakh’s image in Indonesia anti-corruption poetry written by Indonesian female poets. The method of research employed content analysis with poetry collection of PMK 5 Women Opposing Corruption (Perempuan Menentang Korupsi) as the object of research. The result shows three images of Angelina Sondakh including celebrity, politician and prisoner. These images represent the feeling of Indonesian female poets about Angelina Sondakh who are admired and also abhorred.

1 INTRODUCTION

Female delegations on politics in Indonesia currently get increased rather than the previous times. The validation of Law Number 12 Year 2003 about affirmative action in terms of 30% quota for female becomes the starting point of this change. It is also supported by the validation of Law Number 10 Year 2008.

In many countries, the existence of female politicians contribute to strengthening the position of women’s interests (Wängnerud, 2009, p. 51). Besides articulating the aspirations of women, female politicians are expectedly able to decrease corruption case. Female politicians have the higher moral nature and assumed propensity to bring this to bear on public life, and particularly on the conduct of politics (Goetz, 2007). Thus, the greater the representation of women in parliament, the lower the level of corruption (Dollar, Fisman, and Gatti, 2001). Moreover, female politicians may improve the quality of representation in the parlement not just by their public service, but by their contributions as role models to future generations of female citizens (Campbell and Wolbrecht, 2006). Consequently, female politicians have the strategic position on politics.

In Indonesia, the situation seems different. The political party only makes female politicians as a means to increase polls and to fulfill law. The recruitment process merely considers their popularities. A major result of this, there are many female politicians from artist. It certainly makes citizens in doubt. However, this situation doesn’t reflect Angelina Sondakh (then abbreviated into AS). She is a female politician who can be a role model by Indonesian women (Susilo, 2016, p. 1425).

Many people had big expectation about her. Her participation in legislative was expectedly able to strengthen female delegations on politics. However, their expectation were shuttered as AS was arrested in connection with corruption case. Consequently, her image as popular idol destroyed. Moreover, it contributes the extreme fury of public. Therefore, this paper is intended to reveal AS images revealed in poetry collection of Women Opposing Corruption.

2 RESEARCH METHOD

The research deployed ‘content analysis’ (Krippendorff, 2004, p. 18). The research tried to describe the implied meaning of them. The sample was obtained by using purposive sampling. It is obtained six poetries related to Angelina Sondakh from poetry collection of Women Opposing Corruption. These poetries were analyzed systematically by using interactive analysis model which consist of three stages including data
reduction, data display and conclusion (Miles and Huberman, 1992, pp. 15-21).

3 DISCUSSION

The poetry collection of Woman Opposing Corruption is the fifth book published by Poetry Movement against Corruption (Gerakan Puisi Menolak Korupsi, abbreviated as PMK). Poetry often become a means against injustice, corrupted constitutional system and other social inequality problems in terms of political and social contexts. For example, there is W.S. Rendra who often criticized the government of new era through his poetries. This protested poetry can change political system (Srestha, 2000, p. 259) or can be used as an effective means for uniting nation (Anedo: 2011: 281). Besides, poetry still become a means to combat or at least to refuse corruption.

There are three images of Angelina Sondakh revealed, including (1) celebrity image; (2) politician image; and (3) prisoner image. The beginning of AS celebrity image coincides with her success in being elected as Putri Indonesia 2001. Having predicate as the former of Putri Indonesia, her appearance and ability can not be doubted. Her enchanted physical appearance makes AS admired by male and female. In the poetry entitled “Not as beautiful as Your Face” (Tak Secantik Parasmu) and “Miss Angie: I Sent Poetry to Chase Your Loneliness” (Mbak Angie: Kukirim Puisi Untukmu Pengusir Sepi), celebrity image of AS is clearly portrayed.

Paras cantik putri Indonesia / Bodi seksi bukan hanya di mata kaum pria (Ismail, 2015: p. 79)

Beautiful face of Beauty Peageant of Indonesia / Sexy Body is not only on the eyes of Men

Perempuan paruh baya itu / Dengan senyum manis / Rambut lurus berkilat-kilat / Cantik dan anggun penampilannya (Halimatusyadiyah, 2015: p. 107)

That middle-aged woman / With sweat smile / Shining straight hair / Beautiful and classy appearance

Wajah ayu hidung mancung bathuk kinong-kinong, kinclong pasrah / juga matamu kuyu, memandang hakim satu persatu: lemah (Rohmah, 2015: p. 146)

Beautiful face pointed nose, shiny defencelessly / and your lusterless eyes, looking at judges one after another: weak

The lines above show that AS is an idol. Her physical perfection become the important point to participate in politics. She was elected as the house of legislative (DPR RI) member of Democratic party in 2004 and elected again for 2009 – 2014 period. Moreover, she occupied the Vice of General Secretary of party stewardship structure and Budget Committee of the house of legislative. Her participation in politics expectedly gives possitive contribution, particularly in raising women prestige.

In addition, politician image is discovered as the following “Violating Princess” (Putri yang Terjerembab) poetry lines.

Ketika kau naik tahta dalam arena kekuasaan / Kebanggaan kaum perempuan penuh harap / Bisa merubah citra menjadi perempuan perkasa / Kau cerdas berpendidikan tinggi basutan luar negeri (Ismail, 2015: 79)

When you ascend the throne on the power arena / The prestige of women is fully expected / Able to change women image as strong / you are smart, high educated graduated from foreign country

The appearance of female politicians from celebrities have definitely ever been doubted. People assume that celebrities only rely on their popularities. This stereotype indicates that there is only the small number of female politicians who can be considered capable and qualified in committing their roles. The rest are only considered luck to be elected, or due to popularity factor (Tresnawaty dan Astuti, 2015, p. 200). However, this stereotype doesn’t affect Angelina Sondakh. She doesn’t participate in politics due to her beauty. By publishing book entitled Beauty, It not my Basis to Be Commission X of the House of Legislative (Kecantikan, Bukan Modal Untama Saya di Komisi X DPR-RI), she clarifies that she becomes the house of legislative due to her competence and professionalism.

Gender ideology strongly affects the number of women in national legislatures (Paxton and Kunovich, 2003). At least, the competence and professionalism have been quite trustworthy. Female politicians will get acknowledgement, strength, bargaining value if they have quality, potential and ability (Sulaiman, 2010, p. 69). In some cases, the factors of appearance of female leader in politics (politician) are patriarchy culture, family bonds, martyrdom, social class, life style, historical context,
prison experience and the general election system (Astuti, 2008: 4). In accordance with Millbarth concept, women participation in politics rely on apathy, spectator, gladiator and critics (Millbart cited in Mukarom, 2011, p. 605). In relation to this, AS proves herself as gladiator.

However, the glorious celebrity and politician images make her priggish about many expectations borne. As the result, there are many disappointment expressions of women poets as the following lines.

Bukan sebagai ratu sejagat pengharum prestasi bangsa / Tetapi sebagai bagian tikus-tikus penjarah kebun sejahtera (Ismail, 2015: 79)

Not to be queen of universe raising nation reputation / But to be rat, looter of prosperous garden

AS taga lukisan rautmu penuh coretan hitam penuh debu wahai cantik berbintik (Roelie, 2015: 136)

Dammit, the painting of your face is full of black stretch, full of dusk, oh pimple face

Karena kau bukan putri yang punya hati nurani / Karenah hak-hak mereka kau gerogoti (Candra, 2015: 213)

Because you are not full-harted princess / because their rights you loot

The big faith of women addressed to AS is not able to take responsibly. On her career peak, she was exactly arrested in connection with various corruption cases, including Hambalang, athlete building and university laboratory tools provision cases. These corruption cases simultaneously impair women legislative image. Consequently, this directly affects legislative general election result in 2014. Compared to 2009, women delegation in legislative decreases, from 18.2% in 2009 into 14% in 2014 (UNDP, 2010).

The appearance of female politicians is expressed by poetry collection in terms of ignoring corruption values to their children. Moreover, they also play role to prevent their husband in corruption involvement by showing empathy, affection, and good household maintenance, not much demanded material fulfillment (Azzubri, 2011: 470).

Therefore, female politicians are disappointing 51% women in Indonesia. One of disappointment is expressed by poetry collection in terms of ignoring corruption. It will become a document recording corrupted behaviour, especially related to politician women.

4 CONCLUSION

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that female politicians play the important role on expressing women aspiration and preventing corruption. These expectation was carried out by politician women as well as Angelina Sondakh. However, some politician women behaviours broke this big expectation by involving corruption case. Women expressed their disappointment by many ways, anti-corruption poetry was one of them. In their poetries, female politician’s images were simply expressed, including celebrity, politician and prisoner images. We don’t know what corruption involvement behind is, but it clearly breaks women struggle for women emancipation. These anti-corruption poetry represented women poets’ disappointment of politician women betrayal.
REFERENCES


Female Politician Image in Indonesia Anti-corruption Poetry Frame

169