

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 proof 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 shattered 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' (Krippendroff, 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 Utama 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

AStaga 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 / Karena hak-hak mereka kaugerogoti
(Candra, 2015: 213)

Because you are not full-hearted 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 prisoner image indicates the anti-climax of AS carrier. Some poets have different perspectives about her fate. However, as a woman, they still have empathy. The lines of two poetries shows their compassions.

Lekaslah menulis agenda di hari tua dan
rambut ubanmu: (Nuraini, 2015: 109)

Hurryly, write the agenda for your old
days and gray hair

Bernaung dan merenunglah kau di sana /
Minta ampun dan bertobatlah / Untuk
ketenangan hidupmu setelah nanti
kaulangkahkan kaki / Keluar dari jeruji besi
(Ismail, 2015: 79)

Be ensconced and mediate / Ask for
forgiveness and repent / For your serenity of
life / after being free from jail

That's the complete images of AS portrayed in anti-corruption poetry written by Indonesian women poets. The celebrities and politicians have fans and supporters who will always expect the goods related to their idols. Consequently, they should obviously be able to show their good attitude and behaviour, so their fans don't admire the wrong people. When the idols are not able to fulfil that kind of condition, or even violate norms, ethics and law, the admiration will change into the great abhorance. These reflects the expressions of female poets in terms of admiration and disappointment.

The corruption involving AS and other female politicians are not actually expected by many people. The appearance of female politicians is expected to be the cure of corruption case sequences. In the family environment, women can implant anti-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

- Anedo, O. A. 2011. The Place of Poetry in Contemporary Chinese and Igbo Politics. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations* Vol. 5(6), pp. 271-282, June 2011.
- Astuti, T. M. P. 2008. Citra Perempuan dalam Politik. *Yinyang: Jurnal Studi Gender & Anak*. Vol.3 No.1 Jan-Jun 2008 pp.3-16.
- Azzubri, M. 2011. Pemberdayaan Perempuan dalam Membangun Budaya Anti Korupsi. *MUWAZAH*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Desember 2011.
- Campbell, D. E., Wolbrecht, C. 2006. See Jane Run: Women Politicians as Role Models for Adolescents. *The Journal of Politics*, 68(2), 233-247.
- Candra, T. 2015. "Tak Salah". dalam *Perempuan Menentang Korupsi*. Surakarta: Forum Sastra Surakarta.
- Dollar, D., Fisman, R., Gatti, R. 2001. Are women really the "fairer" sex? Corruption and women in government. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 46(4), 423-429.
- Goetz, A. M. 2007. Political Cleaners: Women As The New Anti-corruption Force?. *Development and Change*, 38(1), 87-105.
- Halimatusyadiyah, I. 2015. "Tak Secantik Parasmu". in *Perempuan Menentang Korupsi*. Surakarta: Forum Sastra Surakarta.
- Ismail, E. H. 2015. "Putri yang Terjerembab" in *Perempuan Menentang Korupsi*. Surakarta: Forum Sastra Surakarta.
- Krippendorff, K. 2004. *Content Analysis: An Introduction To Its Methodology*. California: Sage Publication Inc
- Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M. 1984. *Analisis Data Kualitatif*. (Terj. Tjetjep Rohendi Rohidi). Jakarta: UI Press.
- Mukarom, Z. 2011. Strategi Komunikasi Politik Perempuan di Lembaga Legislatif. *Jurnal Ilmu Dakwah* Vol. 5 No. 2 edisi Juli-Desember 2011.
- Mulyono, I. 2010. "Strategi Meningkatkan Keterwakilan Perempuan". *Makalah* disampaikan dalam Diskusi Panel RUU Pemilud Hotel Crown, Jakarta, 2 Februari 2010.
- Nuraini, Iin. 2015. "Mengenang Matinya Perempuan Berkebayu" in *Perempuan Menentang Korupsi*. Surakarta: Forum Sastra Surakarta.
- Paxton, P., Kunovich, S. 2003. Women's political representation: The importance of ideology. *Social Forces*, 82(1), 87-113.
- Rendra, W.S. 1982. "Saya Punya mental Juara" in *Horison* No. 11, 1982.
- Roelie, Maria. 2015. "Tersedak di Wisma Atlet". in *Perempuan Menentang Korupsi*. Surakarta: Forum Sastra Surakarta.
- Rohmah, M. 2015. "Mbak Angie: Kukirim Puisi untukmu Pengusir Sepi". in *Perempuan Menentang Korupsi*. Surakarta: Forum Sastra Surakarta.
- Srestha, A. P. 2000. "Protest Poetry: The Voice of Conciences". *CNAS Journal* Vol 27, No 2 (July 2000).
- Sulaiman, A. I. 2010. Realitas Politikus Perempuan sebagai Komunikator Politik. *MIMBAR*, Vol. XXVI, No. 1 (Januari - Juni 2010): 59-70.
- Susilo, D. 2016. Perempuan dan Korupsi: Wacana Media dalam Berita Tindak Pidana Korupsi Perempuan (Women and Corruption: Media Discourse on News Reporting about Women's Corruptor). *Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan*, 23-24 September 2016.
- Tresnawaty, B., Astuti, D. R. 2015. Political and Self Presentation (A Case Study In Efforts Imaging Of Women Politicians). *Prosiding International Conference of Democracy and Accountability 2015*. Surabaya: FISIP Universitas Airlangga. 199 – 202.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 2010. *Partisipasi Perempuan dalam Politik dan Pemerintah*. Jakarta: UNDP Indonesia.
- Wängnerud, L. 2009. Women in Parliaments: Descriptive and Substantive Representation. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 12, 51-69.