

## HAVING SELF-RELIANCE IN PURSUIT OF DREAMS IN PASCAL KHOOTH WE'S FROM THE LAND OF GREEN GHOSTS

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**Abstract**— Penelitian ini merupakan analisa novel *From the Land of Green Ghost* (2003) karya Pascal Khoothwee dengan top *Having Self-reliance in Pursuit of Dreams*. Permasalahan yang dibahas dalam analisa ini adalah sejauh mana suku minoritas berusaha untuk memiliki impian agar bisa keluar dari rintangan yang diciptakan oleh pemerintah dan suku mayoritas. Selanjutnya sejauh mana karakter, plot( konflik), dan settingan memberikan kontribusi dalam menggunakan makna. Tujuan dari penganalisa ini untk mendapatkan jawaban sejauh mana novel *From the Land of Green Ghost* memperlihatkan perjuangan suku minoritas untk meraih dan memiliki impian agar bisa keluar dari rintnagn dalam hidup mereka. Hal ini dipresentasikan oleh prntagonist. Prntagonist berusaha untuk keluar dari rintangan dengan cara memiliki self-reliance. Metode yang digunakan dalam analisa ini adalah context-based dan text-based interpretasi, dengan menggunakan teori in pursuit of dream oleh Albert Mensah. Hasil analisa menunjukan eksistensi dalam pendidikan dan pemerintahan, dan mereka juga mampu menjadi subjek dalam hidup mereka sendiri. Akibatnya, mereka berhasil menjadi orang yang berpendidikan dan sukses,

**Keywords**— Self-reliance, pursuit, dreams.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Everybody has dreams in their life; the dreams become the goal that people want to achieve in their life. By having dream, people will have choices of what they want to be. It comes from themselves and depends on their effort to make it come true. Albert Mensah (2005,18) says that you can share your dream with another person and they can help you to realize your dream .... However, the dream come true, the people should have it from their own choice. The choice is influenced by the aim of the dreams itself. Albert Mensah (2005,23) also says that the aim is a way of deciding things in reaching the dreams and without the best aims, the dreaan is just only a dream. The people who have good aim will succeed to reach their dreams.

People face many obstacles when they pursue dreams. These obstacles may be cause by the lack of chance, finance and facilities. This obstacles happen in Burma. Burma is inhabited by large

groups; the first is in government and ethnicity. In government, the government is powerful than Burma's citizen. In ethnicity Burma has two kinds of ethnic groups; (chin, kachin, karen, Mon, Arakan, and Karen). The ethnic minority groups are repressed by the government and the ethnic majority and government create obstacles to prevent the progress of the minority. Those conditions makes minority groups in Burma have difficulties to achieve their dreams. According to Spolsk (2003) in his report, 35% of the minority group can reach their dream and 65% is still under standard of life or poor. All of them are marginalized when they pursue their dreams and in aspects of life.

Aditya Anupkumar (2004) says that:

“ The term “marginal” generally describes the overt actions or tendencies of human societies whereby those perceived as being without desirability of function are removed or excluded from the prevalent systems of protection and

integration, so limiting their opportunities and means for survival”(3).

It can be seen that the term marginal makes the life of minority groups’ deal with survival and limitation in their opportunity when pursuing their dreams.

On the other hand, According to Spolsk (2003) in his report, 35% of this minority groups can change their life by having the dreams. By using their awareness, they can pursue their dreams and overcome all of obstacles. The awareness is the biggest point that should be owned by minority groups to make their life be better. Duval & Wickland (1992) say:

*“awareness posits that the aspect of the self to which people attend is partly determined by external events or conditions that heighten the salience of different facets of the social self (291)*

From the quotation above, it can be said that the awareness is influenced by external even that will affect the aspect of their self. The awareness appears because they want to break marginalized condition. Their awareness motivates and changes them to pursue their dreams. The dream of ethnic minority group is to be an educated person and go out from semiliterate and isolated condition. In addition, the dream of Burma’s citizens is democracy, because they live in totalitarian regime.

Majority and minority group in Burma live in different situation. The majority group lives in prosperity, while the minority group lives in poverty, semiliterate and isolated. The minority group is limited to get education, good job, and pursue their dream. The majority group has more power and can live in the center area while the minority lives in remote area. The minority group is positioned in the most subordinate position in their country. Richard T. Schaefer (1993) said those ethnic minority group statuses in general are:

“The first: Extermination, Elimination of a people; includes genocide or the deliberate, systematic killing of an entire. Second: Expulsion, a dominant group may force a specific minority group to leave a certain area or even vacate a country. Third: Secession, a group secedes to form a new nation or moves to an already established nation where it becomes dominant. Fourth: Segregation, the physical separation of two groups in residence, workplace and social functions. Fifth: Pluralism, process by

which a majority individual or groups keep their separate identity”’. (page 18-34).

These treatment that is obtained by the life of ethnic minority, make them difficult to pursue their dreams. From the question, it can be seen that no one wants to help them to improve their quality; even some people want to destroy their culture and their society. Next, the ethnic majority group. There is no equality of public facility from government to citizens that are from remote area. Those conditions make the ethnic minority group live under poor and uneducated, but the majority group live in prosperity.

In order to pursue the dreams, ethnic minority group of Burma should have self-reliance. Democracy is a dream for Burma’s citizens, because they live in totalitarian regime. Self-reliance is a key to reach democracy. Emerson in Barck (2007) stated that the self-reliance of everyone to break the rules and create something new from their own shakes. If someone have self-reliance they will have desire to study and think cleverly about their life. Their awareness in facing the life will make them do the best. They have power and ability to do something worthwhile and pursue their opportunity. On the other hand, only few of citizens have self-reliance about this conditions. One of them is Aung San Suu Kyi who is a woman and comes from minority group. She is minority group government, because she wants to oppose the totalitarian government. She is able to be a figure that are listened by many people in Burma and foreign country. Unfortunately, the government of Burma disagrees with her. Barbara Victor (2002) says “Aung San Suu Kyi is from Rangoon, she entered politics to work for democracy on 27 September 1988, and was put under house arrest on 20 July 1989. She was offered freedom if she left the country, but she refused”. It can be concluded that the differences of ethnic can not bind someone’s effort to change their life to be better. Thus, every ethnic group can express their voice in their own country.

In pursuit of ethnic minority group’s dreams has been one of the cases that are interested to be analyzed. Yet it also occurs in the literary, *From the Land of Green Ghost (2003)* written by Pascal Khoo Thwe is one of literary work which also exposes about the dreams. The novel shows how the character that is from the ethnic minority proves that he can pursue his dreams.

## **Burma in Ne Win's Regime**

U Ne Win was born in 1911 and died in 2002. He was a Burmese soldier and political leader. He abandoned his original name, ShuMaung in 1941 when he joined a Japanese-supported nationalist military group. Becoming commander of the Burmese Independence Army in 1943, he later turned against the Japanese. After Myanmar won its independence from Great Britain in 1948, he became Home and Defense minister.

In this regime, General Ne Win took civilian posts, and instituted elections in a one-party system. This situation made Democratic Burma's rule end in 1962. Ne Win ruled for nearly 26 years and pursued policies under the rubric of the Burmese Way to Socialism. It made the government of Burma do not allocate enough funds for education but pay more for military. It's shown from SPDC's data, its organization of UNICEF, about Burma in 1999 that spends 40% of its budget on the military, and approximately 1.2% on education. From the data the government only funds 1.2% to education with 1.2%, the government only develops funds in the central city. As a result, there are not enough funds on remote areas.

In Ne Win's regime, all mass media are closed and information is from the government. According to Neumann's research in 2005:

"Between 1962 and 1974, Burma was ruled by a revolutionary council headed by the general, and almost all aspects of society (business, media, production) were nationalized or brought under government control (including the Boy Scouts)".

The government does not only control the information, but also all aspects of society to its citizens in Burma. The citizens only get the information from their government in which the government selects itself the information. Then, the government heads all aspects of society in Burma. It means, the government controls and suppresses its citizens. It makes the Burma's citizens lose their freedom in their life.

From the beginning of Ne Win's regime, there were sporadic protests against the military rule. According to Neumann's research in 2005:

"In Ne Win's regime, many of the protests are killed, some of them are students. It happened in 1962 at Rangoon University, the government broke up demonstrations and killed 15 students. In 1988, Security forces killed thousands of

demonstrators. The country known as the '8888 Uprising'".

It can be seen that the government is totalitarian. Totalitarian government violates their power toward the citizens. If the citizens react or protest to the government's obligation, they will be punished.

Ne Win runs totalitarian governments. The people who oppose the government will be suppressed. Under Ne Win's regime, the new government promotes Buddhism as the state religion and accommodation of tribal separatist movements alarms the military. Then, Ne Win gave full executive, legislative and judicial powers to the military. It caused the country to be isolated from the outside world as the new government pursues its 'Burmese way to Socialism'. Next, all private enterprises are nationalized as the regime introduces a state-controlled, centralized economic system. Foreign businesses are forced to leave the country. The program results in economic breakdown, the emergence of a black market, a rise in corruption and the impoverishment of a rich and fertile agrarian state that was once the largest exporter of rice in the world. In addition, demonstration and protest against the regime are brutally put down, though the military is unable to completely curtail the tribal separatists and communist insurgents.

## **THEORETICAL REVIEWS**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The analysis of this novel related to the concept of pursuit of dreams by Albert Mensah. Pursuit of dreams is the concept of how subordinate can be The One. A sociological minority includes any group in terms of social status, education, employment, wealth and political power.

In pursuit of dreams, it will depend on the people's effort to go out from the conditions of semiliterate and isolated. Based on Albert Mensah (2005). There are seven keys/ways that people have to pursue their dreams, they are: desire, education, working hard, self-reliance, integrity, responsibility, and enthusiasm. This analysis uses three ways, they are: education, working hard, and self-reliance.

The people need to pursue their dreams by being educated people. Being educated. The people have knowledge. The knowledge. The

knowledge helps people to think and choose their live, According to Robert Holden (2005) by having knowledge , people have intellectual , update infomation and criticism in their live. Knowledge helps people be succesful to pursuit their dreams and shows their identity.By having power , the people are able to choose their life. According to Foucault (1999) power is not hierarchy and it is not inherited or given. Thus , everybody has power insides of themself. Power uses as a weapon to reach their existence, dignity , and dream . In this novel , knowledge makes the prontagonist has the power to go out from isolated and semiliterate condition and to be educated person.

The second imporyant way to pursuit the dreams is working hard, working hard is the effort to reach their desire , their goal ad their dreams. Theory of working hard is work ethic. Steven Malanga (1999) says work ethics include not only how one feels about their job ,career or vacation, but also how one does his/her job or reponibilities. This involves attitude , behaviour, respect , communication and interaction: how one gets along with others. Work ethics demonstrate many things about whom and how a person is. Motivation is a process to affect the people's work ethic. According to Heidjachman and Husnan( 2003:197) there are how factors of motivation ; the first to intritic factor that co from their selves. The second es extrintic fa that comes from their environment, in this supported with his motivation to pursue dreams.

The third important wat to pursuit the dream is self-reliance. Self-reliance is a concept all trusting the genuine of self. Robert Richard (1995) says Emerson's idea is about how some must act something by themselves whenever want to change happened in their life, rather imitating what has existed around. Next , " Reliance " is not anti society or anti community Instead, Emerson advocates self-reliance and starting point, as a goal. Self-reliance is a guide undergo life. The ethnic minority group use reliance to show up their resistance toward ethnic majority group and goverment. Self-reliance closed to knowledge, power , ability, and aware self-reliance is the key to pursuit the drew education and self-reliance are needed the

person to pursuit their dreams. Moreover , in order reach his dreams the prontagonist Commit to that uses to make movement democracy in Burma, that becomes the obstacles in pursuing his dream.

The analysis of this novel is supported Context –based and text-based interpretation. I the analysis of this novel is supported by conbased interpretation. This approach sees that is a strong interconnection between the text what outside of it , such as : history and see phonomenon. In this analysis, the text examined based on historicity taht can be to politic and social, the realtion between the and literary works must be seen from perspectives which questioning the objectivity the history itself. Therefore , the interpreting the text should be done by sharper eye which catch all distortion from all perspectives who reveal the most significant problems. The conused in this analysis is its social backgroud dealing with conditoon of Burma.

Second,the analysis of this novel supported by text-based interpretation. May (2002) stated that text-based interpretation for on analyzing literary works in isolation from reader, its context and its author. It means literary work is seen as autonomous body athe process of analysis is happened within the only without regarding the other aspects outer the text . the process of analyzing in order to get the meaning is done by analyzing in order to get the meaning is done by analyzing the sig system that constructs a literary work.

Teh process of the analysis is done by examining its fictional devices. It focuses on character , plot a settig. Ford (2002) defined character as person who is responsible for thought and action within a story or play in a piece of literature. The analysis of the character can be one through their thinking, speaking , and doing. The practice of in pursuit of dreams which is done by the charcter , pascal, uses his awarress to how their existance in the society.

The second important element that support the process analyzing of this novel is plot. Plot is fictional devices. The plot eventually gives contibution to evoke the meaning. The thing that mainly discussed in the plot is conflict. Laura(2002) divides the conflict can be identified into four kinds: man versus man, man versus nature, man versus society and man versus self,

the climax reflects the situation, object and the idea of the protagonist when he faces the unfair condition of his country. Plot is also as an author's selection and arrangement of incidents in particular focus. In his novel, plot focused on the condition of semiliterate and isolated condition that make protagonist has dreams, to be educated person. The climax is seen through the demonstration to the government that conducted by the protagonist. His conflicts are; he versus government and society or majority group.

Another important element that can help in the process analyzing of this novel is setting. The setting helps in revealing the meaning of topic. Foll (2000) divides setting into two classifications. They are physical environment and non physical environment;

“The physical environment, including time and weather condition, may be specifically describe. The non physical environment includes political and cultural influences such as education, social standing, economic class and religious belief. These may be revealed by physical properties, thought, statements, and behavior.”

Time of the story takes place, the political, and the culture influences can be taken as setting. Setting does not only mean place and time in the novel, but also atmosphere. The setting plays as one of important thing to influence the character's conditions. In this semiliterate and isolated that make protagonist has dreams, to be educated person, this setting has direct and indirect impact on character.

## METHODOLOGY

### A.METHODOLOGY

The analysis of this novel is done through context-based and text based interpretation. Furthermore, it is done by analyzing fictional devices: characters, plot and setting. The character, plot and setting are inseparable because they are interrelated each other. Characters are used to evoke in pursuit of dreams by analyzing characters. Then, setting, deals with the atmosphere and temporal environment, gives contributions in the revealing the meaning in pursuit of dreams. Moreover, these elements are analyzed based on concept by Albert Mensah about pursuit of dreams.

## B. Discussion

Burma citizens live in in totalitarian regime. The citizens should obey all the rule of government. The government abuses its power by having control the aspect of citizens life. All these conditions are seen from this novel. The novel title is *from the Land of Green Ghost*, means that the life of Burma citizens is in totalitarian regime. The word Green is representative of army and the word Ghost is representative of army's power. This shows that how the government, especially army, abuses their power and makes the life of Burma citizens live in violence and poor. On the other hand, Burma citizens can go out from this regime by having self reliance. Self reliance is very essential for everyone. They are able to decide what they want to do in their life and what they want to choose.

By having self-reliance, the protagonist has to choose what he wants to be in his life. In order to oppose the totalitarian regime, he has many the overt actions or tendencies of human societies where by those perceived as being without desirability or inclusion are removed or excluded from the prevalent systems of protection and integration, so limiting their opportunities and means for survival” (3)

It can be seen that term marginal makes the life of minority groups' deal with survival and limitation in their opportunity when pursuing their dreams.

On the other hand, According to Spolsk (2003) in his report, 35% of this minority groups can change their life by having the dreams. By using their awareness, they can pursue their dreams and overcomes all of obstacles, the awareness is the biggest point that should be owned by minority groups to make their life be better. Duval & Wickland (1992) say:

“ Awareness posits that the aspect of the self to which people attend is partly determined by external events or conditions that heighten the salience of different facets of the social self “ (219).

From the quotation above, it can be said that the awareness is influenced by external events that will affect the aspect of their self. The awareness appears because they want to break marginalized condition. Their awareness motivates

and changes them to pursue their dreams. The dreams of ethnic minority groups is to be an educated person and go out from semiliterate and isolated condition. In addition, the dream of Burma's citizens is democracy, because they live in totalitarian regime.

Majority and minority group in Burma live in different situation. The majority group lives in prosperity, while the minority group lives in poverty, semiliterate and isolated. The minority group is limited to get education, good job, and pursue their dreams. The majority group has more power and can live in the center area while the minority lives in remote area. The minority group is positioned in the most subordinate position in their country. Richard T. Schaefer (1993) said those ethnic minority group statuses in general are:

“the first: Extermination, Elimination of a people, includes genocide or the deliberate, systematic killing of an entire. Second: Expulsion, a dominant group may force a specific minority group to leave a certain area or evacuate a country. Third; Secession, a group secedes to form a new nation or moves to already established nation where it becomes dominant. Fourth: Segregation, the physical separation of two groups in residence, workplace and social functions. Fifth “Pluralism, process which a majority and minority individual groups keep their separate identity” (page 134).

These treatments that are obtained by the ethnic minority, make them difficult to pursue their dreams. From the question, it can be said that no one wants to help them to improve the culture and their society. Next, the ethnic minority groups in Burma get expulsion and segregate from the government and the ethnic majority group. There is no equality of public facilities from government to citizens that are from remote areas; those conditions make the ethnic minority group live under poor and uneducated, but the majority group live in prosperity.

In order to pursue the dreams ethnic minority group of Burma should have self-reliance democracy as a dream for Burma's citizens because it is a key to reach democracy. Emersil Barack (2007) stated that the self-reliance everyone to break the rules and create some new from their own shakes. If someone has reliance they will have desire to study and cleverly about

their lives. Their awareness in life will make them do the best. Their power and ability to do something worthwhile pursue their opportunity. On the other hand few of citizens have self-reliance about conditions. One of them is Aung San Suu Kyi is a woman and comes from minority group is minority group in government, because she wants to oppose the totalitarian government is able to be a figure that are listened by people in Burma and foreign unfortunately, the government of Burma discuss with her. Barbara Victor (2000) says “Aung Suunky is from Rangoon, she entered political work for democratization, helped form National League for Democracy on 27 September 1988, and was put under house arrest on 23 1989. She was offered freedom if she strategies. The first, he makes organization in his tribe. It is uncovered through the quotation below:

“My entry into politics was by no means as dramatic as that of Aung San Suu Kyi with her speech at the Shwedagon, which it preceded by a few days. It started with my making a speech in Phenkon, standing on a bullock cart on market day in front of a group of peasants and the people from the town. I found I could speak. Speaking in Burmese, I told them what had happened in Mandalay, described how I had seen a peaceful procession of monks and students ambushed by the soldiers, how between fifty and seventy people had been mown down killed or wounded. Above all I tried to give them a sense that we need no longer fear. I had not forgotten when I was berated by my tutor for daring to bring a foreigner to the campus. I wanted to get the, to feel same. I spoke in the torrential monsoon rain and was exhilarated to find that the enthusiasm of the audience was not dampened” (page 172)

the setting refers to independent condition. He could be independent to choose what he wants without the influence of the government. It also shows that he gets motivation from Aung San Suu Kyi that is a leader of Burma democracy. His motivation makes him start to fight against the government. He also has knowledge and self-reliance. All of them make him have the power to make movement for democracy. He could choose what he can do for his country and himself. Next he has the strategy to fight against government by speaking in front of his tribe. The sentence, *I found I could speak. Speaking in Burmese, I told them what had happened in Mandalay*, shows that he

has the power to speak about the government in front of his tribe. He could speak without the government's influence. He also has a strategy to speak in front of his tribe by using their language. By using his mother tongue, his tribe can understand what he talks and makes their relationship become closer.

The second, his strategy to join the rebellion group to oppose the government. The rebellions isolate themselves in a jungle. In the jungle, the rebellions and he start to fight the government. It is clearly in the quotation below:

The enemy was good psychologists. These were terror tactics, and they worked. The oratory had been drowned out by gunfire, although not yet quenched in blood. The commander came down from his position in the line. "Calm down that way just the starter. There is more to come. It was decided to end us away from the immediate fighting zone to the Karenni headquarters as soon as possible.

Cooperation with the rebellions is the best strategy to fight the government and army. They can gather the power and companions to fight them. They use force to defeat the government. Before the students and him self join with rebellions, they only held demonstration to inspire them to have self-reliance. Now, they are using guns to fight the government. It shows that they also have power against the government by force.

The third, his strategy finds companions in a foreign country. It happens because Burma: closed country from a foreign country, he can help his country. It is supported by the quotation below:

"My fears and indecision had gone, and I was resolved not to go home- even if that had been possible- until the outside world. I, a Burmese, knew what was happening. Because of my own previous indifference, I now understood that the outside world might be equally indifferent. What was happening to us, that our story might never be heard. I consoled myself with the thought that at least a few might hear and care. I found myself in the hands of luck and the Holy Spirit with this powerful combination, surely I could not fail (Page 189)

He does not give up to the government. His strategy is giving information to a foreign country, so the foreign country can help his country to go out from this regime. By going to a foreign country, he could tell about what happens

in Burma. The sentence, *I consoled myself with the thought that at least a few might hear and care, shows that, he tries to go to the foreign country to make them understand what happens in Burma, because he can not fight the government by himself. He needs more companions to help his citizens to fall this regime.*

Clearly, the protagonist has proved to the government that the minority group can fight against the government. He has power and strategies to fight them by having self-reliance. The setting refers to be independent that he is able to overcome some obstacles to him. This obstacle does not support him to have freedom in his life. However, this obstacle does not influence his awareness to fight against the government and he overcomes this obstacle. By having his self-reliance, he has a power and strategies to fight the government. Thus, ethnic minority group can make a change for his country and make their government be afraid to them.

## CONCLUSION

The novel *From the Land of Green Ghosts* (2003) written by Pascal Khoo Thwe reflects in pursuit of dreams. The way to pursuit of dream is done by the protagonist in this novel through one way. It is, he can make movement for democracy by having self-reliance.

Having self-reliance has made the protagonist could fight against government. He makes the strategies to oppose the government. Even though, he gets abuse from the government, but he success to make his tribe realize the true condition in Burma. He also cooperates with the rebellions to fight against the government. The setting can be noticed from the image of him that described as the independent man that could decide anything he wants, without the government's influence. He can overcome his entire problem to fight against the government regime. He can speak in front of his tribe, without feeling afraid to the Burma's government. Thus, his ability to define his own self-reliance makes him able to stand up on his own feet.

Through this novel, the people could pursue their dreams by working hard and having self-reliance. By having dedication and discipline in working hard and self-reliance, they could afford to do anything that they want in their life. They could have power to change the unfair

condition. By pursuing of their dreams , they could be what they want in their life. Unfortunately, there are still many people who live under unfair condition, and they do not have willingness to change this condition.

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