



Deconstruction Of The Meaning Of Polygamy In Women's Perspective In The Movie “Atas Nama Surga”

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Abstract

This study deconstructs the meaning of polygamy in the film “Atas Nama Surga” as an act of assertiveness by women who reject polygamy, signifying the importance of maintaining women's strength and dignity. This study emphasizes women's perspectives, providing awareness of the importance of having the courage to speak one's mind. The research method uses a qualitative literature study with movie analysis from the MAXstream platform as primary data, and journals, books, articles, and online sources as secondary data. The results identify the deconstruction of polygamy as a cause of women's suffering, the potential for violence, and as a form of male selfishness. Factors such as experience, knowledge, and economic power influence the emergence of this deconstruction of meaning. The implications include stereotyping men as violent and selfish, polygamy being perceived as material control, and the difficulty of realizing a monogamous marriage. Despite the limited focus on one movie, this research provides a basis for extending the deconstruction to other works.

INTRODUCTION

Polygamy is often judged from a patriarchal perspective, but the movie “Atas Nama Surga” portrays a different female perspective. Patriarchy is a social system that places men in a higher position than women and is reinforced by religious authority and tradition.¹ Not a few cases of polygamy trigger divorce lawsuits by women, as stated by the National Commission on Women (KOMNAS), because women who are victims of polygamy face various inconveniences and injustices.² Although polygamy is a source of disharmony and violence in the family, its practice still exists in society. Some religious figures practice polygamy, such as Ustadz Al Habsyi in 2017 who was sued for divorce for polygamy without his wife's knowledge.³ This shows that the practice of polygamy is often practiced and even justified by religious figures who often appear in the media.

As far as the author's research goes, several aspects focus on polygamy. There are studies that describe polygamy as a guarantee of heaven (Ayu Lestari, 2023; Ana Zahida, 2017; Hafidz Anwar, 2016). As Zahida said, polygamy is considered a practice carried out in accordance with the teachings of the Prophet to help women who need help.⁴ There are also studies on the acceptance of polygamous practices based on religion, where the essence lies in complete submission to God (Wardatun Nadhiroh, 2016; Yulia Hairina, 2021; Ammelita Sari, 2014). Quoting Hairina's view, that the process of acceptance of polygamy can be achieved through self-acceptance as well as surrendering the heart solely to God, this is because it is believed that the husband is able to carry out polygamous relationships well.”[5, p. 202] Another study reveals the impact of

¹Inayah Rohmaniyah, *Gender and Patriarchal Construction in Religious Interpretation* (Yogyakarta: SUKA PRESS, 2020), 22.

²Inayah Rohmaniyah, *Gender and Sexuality of Women in the Battle of Tafsir Discourse* (Yogyakarta: SUKA-Press, 2020), 30, <https://digilib.uin-suka.ac.id/id/eprint/50147/>.

³Wahyu Tri Wibowo, “The Phenomenon of Polygamy of Public Figures (Roland Barthes Semiotics in the Construction of the Meaning of Polygamy Images of Public Figures),” *Academic Journal OfDa'wa And Communication*2, No. 2 (November 29, 2021): 191–92, <https://doi.org/10.22515/Ajdc.V2i2.3360>.

⁴Ana Zahida, “Heaven That Isn't Missed: Polygamy Discourse in Islamic Films,” *Journal of Dakwah Tabligh* 18, no. 1 (2017): 31, <https://doi.org/10.24252/jdt.v18i1.2862>.

polygamous practices on women's mental health. This study highlights how the practice can affect the mental well-being of women involved in polygamy (Andri Vidiyanto, 2017; Fera Fingki Febrianti, 2019; Wahyu Tri Wibowo, 2021). From the existing studies, there is no study on the deconstruction of the meaning of polygamy from a woman's perspective.

The purpose of this paper is to complement the shortcomings of previous studies that pay less attention to the aspect of the meaning of polygamy from the perspective of women. This paper will analyze the practice of polygamy depicted in the film "Atas Nama Surga". In line with that, there are three questions answered in this paper, namely, first, describing the forms of deconstruction of polygamy from the perspective of women. Second, analyzing the factors that cause the deconstruction of polygamy. Third, analyzing the implications of polygamy deconstruction in women's perspective in the film.

The study of the deconstruction of the meaning of polygamy from the perspective of women is important because it can provide an in-depth explanation of the rights and equality of women. In gender analysis, the practice of polygamy is often associated with patriarchal cultural structures that tend to dominate the position of men and place men in a special way, creating discrimination, marginalization, and loss of rights for women. Through the analysis of the film "Atas Nama Surga", it provides a view or awareness that women are not inferior beings that can be controlled, instead women have equal position and rights with men. Therefore, an in-depth discussion related to the disclosure of meanings related to polygamy in the perspective of women seen from the point of view of the mindset and behavior displayed in this film will be carried out in the next discussion.

Method

This study is based on qualitative library research. Primary data comes from the analysis of dialog and scenes in the movie "Atas Nama Surga". Secondary data in this study comes from the author's reading in the form of articles, journals, books, and mass media news on the internet that support information related to the movie. This study will factually describe the phenomenon of

polygamy through elements such as dialog and scenes in the film. This research method combines a literature study approach with film content analysis to present a comprehensive understanding of the research theme.⁵

The research process begins with collecting sources of information from articles and journals related to the research theme. After collecting literature, the researcher reviewed the literature with a focus on the theme that had been determined. In the primary data collection stage, researchers searched for information on the movie “Atas Nama Surga” through the MAXstream platform on the internet. This approach was chosen to gain direct access to the movie. In addition, the researcher also observed the signs that reflect polygamy values in each scene of the movie. The next stage is analysis and writing, where the collected data is interpreted and presented in the research discussion. In the final stage, the researcher draws conclusions based on the findings and data analysis obtained during the research process.

This study uses the Miles and Hubberman interactive analysis method, which consists of data reduction, data display, data verification, and conclusion drawing. In the data reduction stage, researcher details relevant information from the sources that have been collected, including previous literature studies, articles, journals, and the movie Atas Nama Surga. The data display stage is displayed in a more structured form. The data verification stage was conducted to ensure the accuracy and precision of the interpretation. This stage also involves re-examining the information obtained from various sources. The final stage of conclusion drawing where researchers draw conclusions based on the findings identified through data reduction, data display, and data verification.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Forms of Deconstruction of the Meaning of Polygamy in the Film

The female characters in the movie “Atas Nama Surga” portray polygamy as a form of suffering for women. Women reject the subordinate role and status

⁵Rahmadi, Introduction to Research Methodology (Banjarmasin: Antasari Press, 2011), 72-73.

as the second sex, which in turn plays a role in giving rise to various forms of social discrimination." [8, p. 274] Some dialogue quotes that respond to polygamy as a decision that should not be made.

Salwa's mother: "Are you sure you want to be the second?"

Salwa: "Sure, mom is the second one too, nothing happened, it's fine".

Salwa's mother: "You're right son, at first I saw everything was fine. As it turns out, abi created his own paradise. If we are ready to be the second, it means we are ready to accept the third, the fourth. "Can your heart be sincere?"

Salwa: "Mrs. Attar is a good person, she can protect me".

Salwa's mother: "If you believe Attar is like that, you shouldn't have entered their home life".

This scene of "Atas Nama Surga" illustrates that polygamy has the potential for violence that harms all parties involved. The patriarchal discourse that places men in a position of authority in all human relations, both in the public and domestic spheres, results in domination and discrimination against women, especially in the form of violence." [9, p. 744] The film cut at the 44:30 minute mark shows one of the female film characters becoming a victim of her ex-husband's brutal actions after being found to be in a relationship with another man.

In the movie "Atas Nama Surga" polygamy is portrayed as a way to reunite old loves separated by circumstances. The construction of sexuality interprets the practice of polygamy as a way to fulfill men's sexual needs, [8, p. 276] but in the film, polygamy is interpreted as a way for two individuals who once loved each other to be together again.

Naya: "What are you planning? Do you want to ruin our home?". Salwa: "Ruin is not the right word, I just want to find my happiness".

Salwa: "You can buy everything, but you can't buy Attar's heart".

Naya: "Why did you ask Attar for help that time?". Salwa replied: "Because Attar was the only one who could help me".

Salwa: "Do you know that with my condition like this, I backed down, I gave in, and now I'm with Attar, right?"

Factors Driving the Deconstruction of the Meaning of Polygamy in the Film

1. Women's experience in polygamy

Most women actually disagree with their husbands' decision to become polygamous. This experience creates conditions where women are forced to engage in polygamous marriages.⁶ As a result, conflict and tension are always present in their domestic life, becoming the main factor that drives the deconstruction of the meaning of polygamy as an experience of suffering for women. The results show that the system of relations between men and women in society often reflects a patriarchal bias that results in a lack of proportional justice for women.⁷

2. Women's dependence

The existence of a pattern of dependence and women's limited access to sources of authority over their lives and economic resources contributes to the occurrence of violence.[8, p. 212] For example, as illustrated in the film clip at minute 85:45, which depicts the husband buying a house and paying for the life of the wife's parents, it shows the economic dependence and authority of women's power. This creates an imbalance in the relationship, where the husband has more power over his wife. This condition can trigger potential violence because women feel limited in expressing themselves." [12, p. 24].

3. Emotional considerations

One of the motives for the practice of polygamy can arise due to a rekindled relationship with an ex-boyfriend.[13] In this perspective, marriage becomes a symbol of freedom for women to determine when and with whom they will marry, depicting the ideals they desire.[8, p. 147] For example, the

⁶ [10, hlm. 44]

⁷ [11, hlm. 12]

plot of the film depicts that the woman is willing to let go of her husband because she realizes that he has turned away.

Naya: "Do you still love him? Have you ever loved me?". So I'd better let it go, please leave our house."

Naya: "I can't fight Salwa, but I can't fight your love. Your guilt towards her".

Attar: "Yes, we can solve this together, not leave the solution. Naya: "So what if we live in the same house but your heart is divided in two".

Naya: "For that I have no doubt, you're a good father. But this heart is selfish, I can't share you with anyone else. Maybe other women can, but I can't. If that's my shortcoming, I apologize".

Implications of Deconstruction of Meaning in Film

Women's awareness to reject polygamy in the movie "Atas Nama Surga", polygamy is depicted as part of the dominant culture among men. The strong role of patriarchal culture and culture influences men's perspective and behavior towards polygamy.⁸ Some snippets of dialog that illustrate the practice of polygamy.

"Attar you are not the first man to be polygamous, you have the ability to have more than one wife. It could be that Attar is Salwa's soul mate, this is God's way".

"If you don't intend to marry Salwa, why are you helping her?".

The deconstruction of meaning in the movie also has implications for the urgency of seeing polygamy from the side of women and children so that the concept of heaven should not only be for men. As shown in the movie, there is a change in motive from heaven orientation to a focus on power and material control. Heaven in polygamy is represented as an act regulated by religious teachings so that it becomes a means of obtaining heavenly rewards. An example of polygamy motivation whose orientation is other than heaven in the context of the plot of the film featuring the scene of abi Salwa's support for the close

⁸ [11, hlm. 12]

relationship between Salwa and Attar appears when Attar is now a manager in a company, occurring at minute 59:43 this scene highlights the change in Salwa's enthusiasm in supporting their closeness. thus, this cut scene opens up space to interpret if the concept of heaven is used as a shield. Another implication of religious understanding is that it should not be used to legitimize the happiness of one sex but, instead, create suffering with the other.

The movie "Atas Nama Surga" presents the issue of polygamy by placing women's point of view as the main focus. The movie successfully deconstructs the meaning of polygamy in relation to the general meaning in society. The plot of the movie presents the intention of polygamy as a response to sexual violence experienced by women from previous husbands. The help provided is interpreted as a step to protect women. The film also highlights that the motives and meanings formed by men in the context of polygamy tend to fulfill the interests of one party, namely men, such as happiness, acts of worship (hope for heaven), and efforts to avoid violence. Women in this movie show courage by refusing and choosing to seek their own happiness rather than staying in a situation that does not bring sincerity and only brings unhappiness. The movie sharply highlights that the concept of heaven expected by men actually depends on the sincerity of the polygamous woman (first wife). However, the movie depicts the difficult reality of achieving such sincerity, especially the human feeling of jealousy. Furthermore, the film explores the other side of the polygamy issue by providing awareness to men not to get lost in the meanings they themselves create. The shift in the concept of heaven, which is related to fairness, has theological implications that create a new construction in society's understanding of polygamy.

The movie "Atas Nama Surga" thus deconstructs new meanings in the context of polygamy, as described in the discussion contains three important findings. First, polygamy does not guarantee paradise for those involved in it. Second, rejecting polygamy does not mean rejecting Islamic law, because the main key is sincerity. Third, the voice of women as victims should be the measure of determining justice. The concept of fairness in polygamy has shifted, where

the main standard shifts from justice to wealth. This view is in line with the idea of deconstruction, which recognizes the diversity of truths tailored to needs. The process of deconstruction is not a search for absolute truth.⁹ Rather, it is a continuous effort to uncover and open up new meanings endlessly.¹⁰ Regarding patriarchal oligarchic culture, this research highlights male superiority that creates significant changes in the meaning of marriage, shifting its focus to the dimension of sexuality alone.¹¹ The gender perspective on polygamy reflects the power inequality between men and women in society.¹²

The movie "Atas Nama Surga" reconstructs the image of women in the context of polygamy. By highlighting the female actor Naya who dares to voice her feelings, the film shows that women have the right to free themselves from societal norms related to polygamy. In the perspective of deconstruction, the message in the film also emphasizes that women involved in polygamy are not just demeaning or blasphemous, but understand the importance of women's sincerity. The actor Naya represents the deconstruction of the image of women who are depicted as being able to think logically to more independent behavior in expression. Conversely, Salwa's actor, who dedicates herself to creating her own happiness, also shows that women do not have to be trapped in the stereotype of being a man-whore or a home-wrecker. Deconstruction rejects the view of a single truth, because truth has a diversity that is adjusted to the needs.¹³ From the point of view of deconstruction, the findings of this research illustrate that in the future this film can trigger changes in people's attitudes

⁹Rr Suhartini, *The Religiosity of Muslim Professionals in the Perspective of Peter L.Berger's Social Construction Theory and Derrida's Deconstruction Theory in Surabaya Ampel Surabaya City...*, 124.

¹⁰Mangihut Siregar, "A Critique of Derrida's Theory of Deconstruction,"..., 69.

¹¹Anwar Sadat and Ipanang Ipanang, "Dynamics of Polygamy in the Middle of Oligarchic-Patriarchic Culture (Study on Paliwali Mandar and Konawe Sulawesi Community),"..., 139.

¹²Dewani Romli, "Polygamy in Gender Perspective," ..., 112.

¹³Rr Suhartini, *The Religiosity of Muslim Professionals in the Perspective of Peter L.Berger's Social Construction Theory and Derrida's Deconstruction Theory in Surabaya Ampel Surabaya City...*, 124.

towards polygamy and contribute to an understanding of the importance of justice, family life from the perspective of men and also women.

The research findings regarding the deconstruction of the meaning of polygamy in the movie “Atas Nama Surga” provide an interesting contrast to previous research that explored the viewpoints of polygamy perpetrators and victims, as well as its impact on women's mental health. Previous research has shown that polygamy is viewed controversially in society, with its proponents seeing it as a practice in accordance with the Prophet's sunnah to help women in need. Women in that context accept polygamy as a form of submission to God. However, women in the movie “Atas Nama Surga” reveal significant differences, where the female character (Naya) in the movie emerges as a figure who dares to voice her feelings, even taking the risk of losing her husband in order to maintain her sincerity. This comparison provides new insights into the construction of gender in the media, enriching the literature related to the role of women in the context of power in Indonesia.

The implication of deconstructing the meaning of polygamy in the context of gender is the importance of embracing equality and fighting patriarchal culture that constructs women as inferior beings. The movie “Atas Nama Surga” becomes a tool that can make an important contribution to women's empowerment efforts by highlighting the importance of women voicing their feelings regarding polygamy. Recommendations therefore focus on strengthening public awareness of women's rights in the context of polygamy, including supporting open dialog about women's wishes in such relationships. Practical measures could include counseling on women's rights, increasing gender literacy, and providing psychosocial support for women facing polygamous situations. In addition, these recommendations also include efforts to create regulations that support gender equality and protect women's rights in polygamous situations, to prevent power imbalances and discrimination against women. Thus, this research can serve as a foundation for formulating action plans that aim to bring about positive changes in the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment.

CONCLUSIONS

The film “Atas Nama Surga” deconstructs the meaning of polygamy from a woman's point of view, which contradicts the reasons why men practice polygamy, which reconstructs the figure of a woman with her logical thoughts, freer behavior in expression, and dignified personality. This movie shows that the deconstruction process occurs because it is influenced by women's inability to accept polygamy sincerely. Deconstruction also highlights the contradictions in perception between men and women, the contestation of meaning, and the role of emotional factors in determining women's attitudes towards polygamy. This movie illustrates that polygamy is not only interpreted in a single way, but can have diverse meanings and can shift to material search or polygamy standards from the material side. The movie “Atas Nama Surga” is an attempt to create equality for women in expressing their feelings towards the practice. This reflects a change in women's perspective in understanding polygamy where the reconstruction process involves emotional aspects, culture, and individual interpretation.

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