

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION IN SVETLANA ALEXIEICH'S

VOICES FROM CHERNOBYL (2005)

Thesis

Submitted as Partial Fulfilment for the Requirements to Obtain Strata 1 (S1 Degree)



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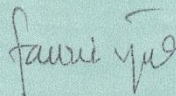
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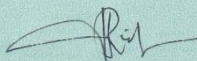
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

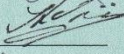
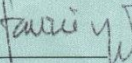
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ABSTRAK

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Skripsi ini merupakan analisa novel *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005) karya Svetlana Alexieich. Analisa ini bertujuan untuk memperlihatkan bagaimana gambaran yang disiratkan oleh pengarang digunakan sebagai strategi dalam menganalisa, membongkar kejahatan yang dilakukan oleh pemerintah Soviet terhadap korban ledakan nuklir di Chernobyl, 1986. Hal tersebut terlihat dari cara pemerintah menyembunyikan kebenaran dan mengabaikan para korban atas ledakan nuklir tersebut. Analisa ini juga dihubungkan dengan konsep *power* dari Michel Foucault. Hasil dari analisa ini menunjukkan bahwa pemerintah bisa melakukan suatu distorsi terhadap power yang mereka miliki..

Kata kunci : Kejahatan, Kekuasaan, Distorsi.

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In this very special occasion, the writer would like to express his deep gratitude and appreciation to the Dr. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A. as his advisor and Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei. Then he also sends his gratitude to Desvalini Anwar, S.S., M.Hum., P.hd., Leni Marlina, S.S., M.A and Devy Kurnia Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum as his examiners who have given their valuable time, advice, critic and correction to this thesis from the beginning up to the end of the writing.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

After World War II, science and technology progressed rapidly. The situation brings a great change to human life. Many experts conduct research that produces many products that can be helped human works. This atmosphere brings great benefits to anyone. The advancement of scientific and technological have an impact on all aspects of life. Science and technology create many new theories, change the mindset of human being as well as produce better qualified product. Many people become more complex. Human ambition has crossed the line and tends to be pointed to criminality. This acondition creates intense competition between one people to another, a group to another group, even between one country to another. The competition make many disputes that rise to destruction. It creates a frightening impact to humans.

The scientific and technological advancement brings positive and negative impact. Generally, this advancement makes the world to be better, but there are still people who use this advancement in the wrong way. The situation gets worse since people have big ambitions, knowledge and power and use them too much. Unfortunately, people who do this thing are people or leaders in the government that understand about the law. They ignore it and make a problem as if it is not danger. It makes them easy to set the rule that make what they have done is something officially. This acts bring the chaos even misery. It shows there is the act of crime.

In this case, the crime is related to the Soviet government. There are many projects are built for the benefit of the state without providing information and the impact of the project. The crimes are known after the project have been damaged and have an adverse impact on the public. After World War II, many countries, like England, France, America, China, Uni Soviet, who tried to harness the nuclear power maximally. Nuclear power does not only provide great benefits but also has terrible dangers. This happens in the Chernobyl, Russia. There was a nuclear explosion that occurred in the Nuclear Power Plant. The explosion was a powerful explosion. It was even bigger than the nuclear explosion in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in the World War II. However, the nuclear explosion is only considered a common disaster by the Soviet government. Many questions emerge about the cause of the nuclear explosion. The government seems to be silent in responding to this problem. This explosion emits a very dangerous radiation for life. The condition brings a poverty to the people who are infected by the radiation. It is the reason why the government wants to cover the crime which is very harmful to the people, not only in Uni Soviet, but the impact of radiation spread out to surrounding countries.

There are some references that can explain the meaning of criminal jurisdiction. According to the Encyclopedia of Psychology and Law (2008: 390), criminal is someone who is involved in illegal activities or has been proved guilty of a crime. Then Jurisdiction, in Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice (2001), is the power to make, enforce, and adjudicate law. While according to Indonesia's Higher Education Directorate in SPEARA (2016),

jurisdiction is the right to use an official power to make legal decisions, or the area where this right exists. In this case, there is difficulty to determine the suspect. This situation can moved as a criminal jurisdiction.

This study analyses about Criminal Jurisdiction which refers to the act of crime which is done by the government. It is done by hiding the truth from the causes and dangers of nuclear explosions to the public. The government only said that situation was under control. The result is a lot of people who suffered terrible suffering caused by radiation that spread to the environment. Then, the government ignore the victims. They do not concerned with this radiation hazard. They do not pay attention to people who consume the foods that have been contaminated by radioactive. They do not provide treatment such as the provision of medicines and decent shelter. They just keep talking that the situation is under control.

The issue about criminal jurisdiction is interesting to be analyzed. The story educates people through the history of nuclear explosion in Chernobyl. It makes people realize that many educated people tend to ignore something that it has related to society. This issue happens in reality and tends to be neglected.

1.2 Chernobyl in 1986

The Chernobyl disaster was the worst nuclear power plant disaster of all time and the only event classified as level 7 (major accident) according the International Nuclear Event Scale (2013). In 1986, there was an accident that caused the Chernobyl separated from Uni Soviet. Chernobyl became the territory

of Ukraine after Ukraine demanded its independence. Chernobyl has a nuclear power plant which is designed to produce. After World War II and the cold war, the development of nuclear power made enormous progress. This led to nuclear experts racing in the processing of nuclear power, especially in the manufacture of weapons.

The accident of Chernobyl can be proved from some references. According to International Atomic Energy Agency (2006) in *Environmental Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident and Their Redemption* on April 26, 1986, the number 4 reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded. The government blamed some workers who tried doing the experiment unofficially and with low power. This problem caused an enormous turmoil. The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant resulted in the release large amounts of radioactive materials, causing serious contamination of local region and trace, contamination throughout Eastern and Western Europe. These released the radionuclides moving through air, water, and foods, caused radiation exposures of the workers involved in the cleanup operations after the accident. Unluckily after the accident, the area still contaminated.

United Nations Scientific Committee on *The Effects of Atomic Radiation* (UNSCEAR) in UNSCEAR 2000 reports on health effect of the accident. According to Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident and Special Health Care Programs (2006):

“The Chernobyl accident caused the death of 30 power plant employees and fireman within a

few days or weeks (including 28 deaths that were due to radiation exposure). In addition to those involved in early emergency operations, about 240,000 recovery operation workers (also called “liquidators” or “clean up workers”) were called upon in 1986 and 1987 to take part in major mitigation activities at the reactor and within 30-km zone surrounding the reactor. Residual mitigation activities continued on a relatively large scale until 1990. In total, about 600,000 person (civilian and military) have received special certificates confirming their status as liquidators.” (p.2)

The quotation above describes the horrific effects of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion. The explanation of this nuclear explosion is hidden by the government. This leads to an oddity in the system of government. The dangers of radiation are also a bitter feeling that must be received by the victims.

Furthermore, this accident also resulted in a substantial release of radionuclides to the atmosphere and caused extensive contamination of the environment. According to the Effects of the Chernobyl Catastrophe (2006):

“180,000 kilograms of highly radioactive material is inside the reactor at the time- an amount equal to 1,000 Hiroshima bombs. 80-90% of the radiation dose received by the inhabitants of the affected areas was and is internal, due to the oral intake of food, especially home produced milk, wild fruits and mushrooms. The contamination through inhalation was important in early days, when high iodine concentration was present in the air. The highest doses were absorbed by the clean up workers (liquidators) and the inhabitants of the most contaminated communities. (p.1)

Radioactive material that is spread to the environment becomes a scary thing. The radiation hazard exceeds the danger of the explosion of the nuclear. This radiation hazard will continue if there is no serious handling of the problem. Radioactive

materials scattered in the environment, such as in water, air and in plants. It causes radiation hazard to be a very easy disease to transmit. However, the government does not seem to take this problem seriously. The government seems to ignore many things in this incident. Many people are contaminated even died and changed Chernobyl to be a dead city.

1.3 Criminal Jurisdiction

There are two key words to form the terminology in this study. They are criminal and jurisdiction. The first word is criminal. According to the the Encyclopedia of Psychology and Law (2008: 390), criminal is someone who is involved in illegal activities or has been proved guilty of a crime. The second word is jurisdiction. According to Indonesia's Higher Education Directorate in SPEARA (2016), jurisdiction is the right to use an official power to make legal decisions, or the area where this right exists. In this study, criminal jurisdiction refers to a crime which is committed by the leader who has authority, power and competence in the country. In this novel *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005), criminal jurisdiction is done by the government toward citizen as the victims of nuclear explosion that happened in Uni Soviet.

1.4 A Brief Description of the Author's Biography

Svetlana Alexievich was born on 31 May 1948, in Stanislaviv in Ukraine. Her father was an ex-service man and after discharged from the army, both her parents worked as school teachers in Belarus. During her school days, she is known to have written poetry and features for the school paper. After completing

her school education, she worked as a reporter with a local newspaper in Narovl as experience in the field was a pre-requisite for higher studies during the time. In 1967, Svetlana Alexievich enrolled in the Department of Journalism at the Minsk University and completed her graduation in 1972.

After graduation, she was assigned work with a local newspaper at Beresa, and here she engaged in tutoring at the local school simultaneously. The following year, she received an offer to work with a newspaper at Minsk. In 1976, she got the opportunity to work with the Neman magazine in Minsk as a correspondent, and was soon promoted as the head of the non-fiction section. During her career in journalism she has experimented in different genres like short stories, essays, news reportage and so on. Her writing style is considered unique; Svetlana Alexievich's works include interviews with real people during the main events of that period. She believes this helps the reader to get a closer understanding of the reality along with preserving the originals.

In 1983, she finished the writing of her first book titled *The Unwomanly Face of the War*. However, it was not published until 1985 as she faced many hurdles with accusations in connection with the pacifism, naturalism, de-glorification of the heroic Soviet woman. In 1985, her second book *The Last Witnesses: 100 Unchildlike Stories* was released. The book was written from the viewpoint of children and women and thus led to a new category in war literature. In 1989, Svetlana Alexievich's book *Zinky Boys: Soviet Voices from the Afghanistan War* was published. The book is about the officers and soldiers who took part in the ten year long Soviet-Afghan war and died. In 1993, she published

her book '*Enchanted with Death*'. This book based at a time when the Soviet Union had disintegrated, and documented stories of attempted and successful suicides of that time period. During the downfall of the Soviet Union, a large number of people were negatively affected due to their inability to forget their communist ideology. This book was later adapted into a film titled '*The Cross*'. In 1997, she came up with the book, *The Chernobyl Prayer: the Chronicles of the Future*'. Contrary to the title, the book is less about the Chernobyl disaster and more about how are people adapting to the new reality. After 1993, no state owned publisher in Belarus published her book while private publishing houses have published only two of her works: '*The Chernobyl Prayer: the Chronicles of the Future*' (1997) and '*Second- Hand Time*' (2013). As a result, she is more popular in the rest of the world than in Belarus.

Her books have been translated into 45 languages and published in 47 countries so far, formed the basis for a dozen plays, and more than twenty of her scripts have been filmed as documentaries. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2015 Nobel Prize in Literature, the 2013 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, the 2013 French Prix Médicis essay; the 2013 Best Book of the Year Prize by the French literary magazine Lire for her book *Time Second Hand*; the 2011 Ryszard Kapuściński Award for literary reportage (Poland); the 2011 Angelus Central European Literature Award (Poland) ; the 2006 National Book Critics Circle nonfiction award for "*Voices from Chernobyl* (New York); the 2001 Erich Maria Remarque Peace Prize (Osnabrück); the 2000 Robert Geisendörfer Radio Play Prize of the German Academy of the Performing Arts

(Berlin); the 1999 “Témoign du Monde award (Paris); the 1998 Best Book on Politics of the Year award of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Bremen); the 1997 Andrei Sinyavsky Prize (Moscow); and the 1996 Kurt Tucholsky Prize of the Swedish PEN Club (Stockholm).

Svetlana Alexievich has created a literary non-fiction genre that is entirely her own. She writes "novels of voices." She has developed this genre book after book, constantly honing the esthetic of her documentary prose, which is based on hundreds of interviews. Her skill at this allows her to intertwine the original voices of her subjects into an artful condensation of a panorama of souls. Some people argue that Alexievich understands the victims on all sides. In her books, she tried to shows the true reality to the victim of war. She imagine the injustice of the government. According to Masha Gassen (2015) in *The Memory Keeper : The Oral Histories of Belarus’s New Nobel Laureate*.

“While Alexievich was working on the book, she came to realize that she was writing a cycle on what she calls the Red man, the Soviet person. It began with the most mythologized event in the formation of the Red man—the Great Patriotic War—and ended with the collapse of the Soviet Empire. “Voices from Chernobyl” was the fourth book in the series. The fifth and final volume, “Second-Hand Time,” is her most ambitious work: many women and a few men talk about the loss of the Soviet idea, the post-Soviet ethnic wars, the legacy of the Gulag, and other aspects of the Soviet experience. Alexievich said, “We are surrounded by victims. Who did it all to them? Aliens? Questions like that come up, but these

are working questions—I only need them in the process.” (p.3)

The quotation above explains that Alexievich knows if there is something wrong in the Soviet government. She tried to show the oddity which makes bad effects to many people. She struggled for the truth of the caused nuclear explosion in Chernobyl. In her writing, she tries to write down about the war and the effect to the people. She only explains that the government must take full responsibility to the accident that happened in the state.

1.5 Voices From Chernobyl

The novel *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005), written by Svetlana Alexievich, reflects criminal jurisdiction. In this analysis, Criminals Jurisdiction is a crime committed by the leader, a representative of the government, who has authority, power and competence in the country that make something illegal appears legal. In this novel, criminal jurisdiction is done by the government toward citizen as the victims of nuclear explosion that happened in Chernobyl, Russia. The accident destroyed many aspects of life. The characters are the victims and the government. The issue of criminal jurisdiction can be seen from the ways the government acts to society who articulate their suffering after nuclear explosion. They feel misery and poverty. They lost their family and villages. They have bad diseases like cancer and tumor. They are invalids. They are isolated to some unknown place without given any sufficient medical treatments. The government calls the victims as Chernobyl refugees. The condition makes the victims believe that they will be end in death. Unfortunately, the government does not admit

themselves guilty and responsible for radioactive explosion.. They just say that it was just disaster. They keep telling that the explosion was not a serious problem. These incongruities make people realize that there is a criminal jurisdiction in the government. However, people are powerless to prove it. The way the government do criminal jurisdiction can be seen from their efforts. They hide the truth of accident and ignore the victims.

The first effort to cover the crime, the government hides the truth of accident. It makes the nuclear explosion of Chernobyl as a closed topic. They have banned the society to talk about Chernobyl. They block the government line if someone asks about the explosion. They also ban the doctors explain about the dangerous of radioactive to the victims. The government just keeps saying that the situation is under control. They control the media. They set the radio and television for not exposing the accident. They put the papers about nuclear explosion into forbidden files.

The second effort is the government ignores the radioactive impact to health. The government does not care about the contaminated area. They neglect to the radioactive that was spreading out into the air, the waters and the plants. They do not pay attention to people who eat the food which has been contaminated by radioactive. They do not prepare the soldiers who go to Chernobyl any protection from radioactive. They even do not concern about the welfare of soldiers and their family.

1.6 Problem of the Study

Criminal jurisdiction emerged as an important issue in Svetlana Alexieich's novel, *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005). Thus, there are some research question used to analyze criminal jurisdiction which are formulated as follow:

1. How far does the novel *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005) expose the issue about criminal jurisdiction?
2. To what extend does the implied author in novel *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005) contribute in revealing criminal jurisdiction?

1.7 Purpose of Study

There are some purposes used to analyze criminal jurisdiction which are formulated as follow:

1. This study aims to find out how far *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005) exposes criminal jurisdiction.
2. This study aims to find out how far implied author contributes in uncovering the acts of criminal jurisdiction

1.8 Previous Study

The analysis of *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005) that focused on analyzing about criminal jurisdiction has not been found yet. However, there are two analysis that give contributions and inspirations in analyzing this novel. They are the analysis about *Construction of Otherness* in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* by Johanna Meuronen and the study about *Society's Trauma* in novel Herta Muller's *The Hunger Angle* by Dauksaite.

The first analysis is from Johanna Meuronen in her Master of Art thesis (2013) entitled *Construction of Otherness* in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The analysis is about how Golding depicts the state as the basis for the growth of otherness. The study focuses on character's experiences such as experience over the innocence, realism over romance, truth over illusion, maturity over naiveté, and hardship over ease. This analysis related to concept of Otherness by Harle (2000). The result of analysis is the main character saved the condition and got the equality in society.

The second is analysis of *The Hunger Angel* (2013) in European Academic Research is entitled *Hunger* in Herta Muller's *The Hunger Angel* by Dauksaite. The analysis is about perspective of trauma. The analysis focuses to the character, especially on the society's trauma. It was caused by the deadly hunger faced by the characters. The analysis related to the concept post traumatic symptom from Farrel (1998) that shows traumatic event in the past can influence the feature of victims. The result of the analysis is the main character as German forced laborer got trauma from his five years' experience in Gulag.

Both of the analysis gives contribution to the topic criminal jurisdiction. The studies use two different novels in different topic and theory. The first study focuses on construction of otherness while the other focuses on traumatic. However, from *The Illusion of America* and *Society's Trauma*, this appears an idea about crime. Unlike the previous studies, this analysis focuses on the acts of criminal jurisdiction under Soviet Government.

1.9 Theoretical Framework

The analysis about criminal jurisdiction in this novel is related to the concept of power by Michel Foucault. According to Sara Mills in her book Michel Foucault (2003:9), the concept of power related to the institution and knowledge. Power also has connection to people who have a position and authority. Power can run well in the government because society assumes that they are leaders and society believes them. This condition is utilized by some people or leaders to get personal gain. They use their power to do some what they want regardless of the bad impact on society. This problem can be categorized as distortion which is related to a crime. Unfortunately, power is used as a protector and makes their distortion is not clear. Foucault in Dreyfus and Rabinow (1983) said that:

Some surface behavior can be understood as a distortion of significances which the actor senses but is motivated to ignore (p. 124)

The quotation explains that the distortion is common thing and it is easy to be done. This situation is supported by the power which makes a distortion tend to be neglected even looks like it is not a distortion. It triggers to a criminality.

This distortion happened in Soviet government. The leaders made some of misappropriation over their power. They lied to society about what was going on in the state. In this case, the nuclear explosion that threatens many people was claimed by the government as the accident. It is easy to do because the government has power to control something based on what they need.

The term of power also can be found in another resource. According to Mills (2003:35), power is often conceptualized as the capacity of powerful agents to realize their will of power to powerless people, and ability to force them to do thing which they do not wish to do. In this context, powerful agents are the leaders in the government who can set anything by using their power. In this analysis, Soviet government used the power to protect them from the worst. Foucault in Mills (2003) explained that:

Power is something which is performed, something more like a strategy than a possession. Power can be seen as a verb rather than a noun. It causes the government has full control to society. (p.69)

The quotation above shows that the government as the leader of the country also uses the power as the fortress. Their power makes them strong to set anything they want. It means in society there is still an unbalance between citizen and the government. Scott in Mills (2003) asks about this problem.

“How do we study power relations when the powerless are often obliged to adopt a strategic pose in the presence of the powerful and the powerful may have an interest on overdramatizing their reputation and mastery? If we take all of this at face value we risk mistaking what may be a tactic for the whole story” (p. 41)

The quotation above explains that the powerful people develop a hidden transcript that is a critique of power behind the back of dominant. They also develop a hidden transcript which consists of the claims of their rule which cannot be openly avowed in front of other people. Scott tries to make sure that when people analyze

the relation of power, the hidden transcript is also analyzed as well as the public performance. The hidden transcript becomes one of distortion over the power which is done by the government.

The use of knowledge also has impact to the power. Foucault describes knowledge as being a conjunction of power relations and information seeking which he terms power or knowledge. He states, in an essay entitled “Prison Talk”, that is not possible for power to be exercised without knowledge, it is impossible for knowledge not to engender power (Foucault 1997:52). It can be said that where there are imbalances of power relation between groups of people or between institutions or states, there will be a production of knowledge. Unfortunately, in this problem, the production of knowledge aims to negative impact. The government who understands about the law tends to ignore it.

In another opinion, Mills Sara (2003:35) explains that power operates the information which results in something being labeled as a fact. For something to be considered to be a fact, it must be subjected to a through process of ratification in positions of authority. In this study, the people who have authority just telling the situation is under control and society just believe it. It is related to the law in government. The law makes what government does is something officially. In this problem, nuclear explosion was just an accident and the society must believe it. This explanation makes many people feel misery even died because there is no enough information about the nuclear accident

Thus, criminal jurisdiction in this analysis refers to the acts which is done by the government toward society. The analysis of this novel is supported by text and context based interpretation. Context based interpretation means that the analysis of this novel is not only focused on the text itself, but also involved the phenomenon that really happens in real world. Meanwhile, Gleen(2007:298) states that the text based interpretation demands concentration on the piece of literature itself, nothing more than what is contained within the text itself is needed to understand and appreciate the text's unchanging meaning. It focuses on implied author.

Implied author is a term coined by Wayne C. Booth in *The Rhetoric* (1961) to designate that source of a work's design and meaning which is inferred by readers from the text, and imagine as a personality standing behind the work. Implied author is not fictional devices which can stand alone. Implied author comes up with the plot, characters, and a multitude of narrative voices, but it also re-invents literary history. According to Tom Kind (1999), there are two ways to understand implied author. They are reconstructing the problem of the text and bringing description and interpretation together.

Reconstructing the problem in the text is the result of doing description and interpretation of the text. According to Kind (1999:3), the implied author is expressly defined as a concept of constructed by reader on the basis of textual features. It is categorized as voiceless and silent therefore fundamentally distinct from the fictional narrator or speaker. It means, after bringing description and interpretation together, the readers make the structure of the problem. In the result,

reader can determine the ideas that will be analyzed. It makes easy in understanding the problem of the study.

Bringing description and interpretation together is one way to understand the text by using implied author. Description and interpretation is used as the strategy to understand the nexus of values and norms in the textual world. According to Kind (1999:4), this concept is taken to donate the strategy underlying the selection and ordering the element of narrative text. By bringing description and interpretation together in this analysis, it is easy to find out the meaning of the text and determine the interpretation of the information in the text in finding the topic. Implied author uses all of the fictional devices to support in revealing the information in that text.

1.10 Methodology

The analysis of novel *Voices From Chernobyl* (2005) is done through text and context based interpretation. Implied author as a strategy is used to analyze the novel. It reveals the way criminal jurisdiction by analyzing the effects of accident toward people. Implied author can be understood in two ways. They are reconstructing the problem in the text and bringing description and interpretation together. This analysis used the concept power by Micheal Foucault and supported by Sarah Mills.

