

**HEADING TO ENLIGHTENMENT
IN SHARON M. DRAPER'S NOVEL *COPPER SUN***

THESIS

Submitted as a Partial Requirement for Strata one (S1) Degree



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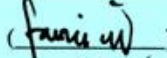



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ABSTRAK

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Skripsi ini merupakan analisis dari novel *Copper Sun* (2006) karya oleh Sharon M. Draper. Permasalahan yang dibahas adalah bagaimana usaha karakter untuk keluar dari perbudakan manusia dengan menimbulkan kesadaran, menggali pengetahuan dan kemampuan diri. Permasalahan dari kajian ini adalah sejauh mana karakter mampu mengungkap isu menuju perubahan (*Heading to Enlightenment*), serta seberapa besar fungsi elemen-elemen fiksi seperti karakter, seting, dan konflik berpengaruh untuk memperlihatkan topik tersebut. Tujuan dari analisis ini adalah untuk mengungkapkan sejauh mana karakter mampu menunjukkan isu menuju perubahan, serta untuk mengetahui peran seting, dan plot dalam membantu karakter untuk mencapai tujuannya. Teori yang digunakan dalam analisis ini adalah konsep *knowledge* dari Jiang dan Patricia Collin, dan *The Ego* dari Freud. Metode yang dipakai adalah *text-based interpretation* dan *context-based interpretation*. Hasil dari kajian ini memperlihatkan perubahan dari diri karakter yang dilakukan dengan cara menggali kemampuan diri, dengan kata lain mereka mampu bertahan dan mencari celah untuk melarikan diri dari perbudakan manusia.

Kata kunci: *heading/head to, enlightenment, awareness, knowledge, and skill*

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Ismaweni Isman

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

In the periods of enslavement, black people were the victims of the system called slavery. Slavery is a legal system to create domestic laborers to work in the plantations and cottons. It is also called racial discrimination, in this case between races; white (superior) and black (inferior). The aim of the slavery is *dehumanization* which means the process of changing human being into a property. The Africans were brought from Africa to be sold to Europe by the hand of the slave traders; they were kidnapped, tortured, forced, and starved. They even had no choice to be treated as human. Moreover, at that time women were the victims who got physical oppression (sexual oppression and harsh treatment) and mental oppressions.

The reality of slavery was barbaric, violent, and brutal. Furthermore, in the dark period of slavery, the slaves were the owner's property. Many young women were forced to fulfill colonials' desire. They had to endure the physical violence that might kill them. However, there were several women who had awareness and begun to develop their strength. Those women who fought and resisted were the pioneer in bringing good changes of the women slaves' life. Their efforts can be seen as heading the female slaves to enlightenments. Enlightenment is a term also known as *Aufklärung* which means a movement from the dark periods. Thus, by developing their awareness many women began to think the important of

knowledge and they seek a chance to escape. They decided to be the survivors in order to change their lives and get freedom.

In this analysis the term enlightenment is seen as the symbol of changing. Furthermore, knowledge is the part of consideration as well as in the era of enlightenment. As stated in Meriam-Webster dictionary (2015) enlightenment means the state of having knowledge or understanding; the act of giving someone knowledge or understanding. Heading to the enlightenment is the changing process of human being who wants to change into the light by using their abilities to resist and try to reach their own pretensions and goals. Thus, the goals will be achieved if they have awareness, knowledge, and skills.

There are several elements are needed in action to head to enlightenment. First, awareness is an inner power that human has to control their mind. People who have awareness know what to do in making decisions; use their mind to resolve problems. Second, knowledge is the important element in act to achieve a goal. Hunt (2003, p 101) says that knowledge provides “an orderliness to our lives which allows us to conceptualize goals, to anticipate and perceive events, and to respond in accordance with the changing needs, purposes and desires.” Knowledge is a tool to lead someone to open the new path in life. Third, skills, the focuses are the cognition, and deal with problem solving. These elements are related to each other. To excavate knowledge and skill the person must has awareness in order to guide and control them.

These days, the term slavery no longer exists, but the acts actually continue to take place up to now. The victims of slavery in the past were mostly

African but today the objects of traffickers can be anyone around the world who wants a work instantly and the word 'slave' has been euphemistically changed into laborer. Ima Matul Maesaroh is the leading figure of woman these days who heads to the enlightenment. Ima was the victim of human trafficking and an Indonesian woman laborer in United States. The way she heads to the enlightenment is by seeking the chance to escape. As she said in her speech in Democratic National Conference (2016):

“When I finally had the courage to escape my trafficker, I found a home at the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking. After I got the support I needed, I found the strength to organize survivors from across the country.”

Since 2012 she has become staff in CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking). In addition, she becomes the representative speaker of American president Barack Obama and one of the speakers who speak up about human trafficking.

Thus, history is an endless topic to discuss especially in literary works. Most of the outstanding writers write literary work with the theme historical fiction like in the work by Sharon M Draper entitled *Copper Sun* (2006). The novel is an interesting work to be analyzed. The story educates and encourages people to get our pretension and goals. The importance of awareness and knowledge are clearly seen through the history of slavery. It discusses the condition and circumstances in the past; it makes people realize the important of knowledge as the essential tool to get out from misery. This work is also incredible in visualize the terrible condition that was faced by the slaves in the past. This condition is reflected through the protagonists in this novel.

1.1.1 Slavery

British involvement in slavery had occurred for over 2,000 years old. Domestic slavery – usually called 'serfdom' – worked in the production of tobacco corps, later, and cotton. Many African were dragged to a new place by slave trader like prisoners. Those prisoners had to be marched to the coast to be purchased. They were sold based on their physical appearance and their ability. The reality of slavery was often brutal, barbaric, and violent; the myth of black people's racial inferiority developed and persisted as a common justification for the system's continuation. There was no opprobrium attached to rape, torture, or beat the slaves to death. The enslaved in the British colonies had no legal rights as if they were not human – they were not permitted to marry and couples and their children were often sold off separately.

Slavery in America began in the early 17th century. The institution of American slavery developed as a permanent, hereditary status centrally tied to race. Slavery is a system widely used by superior to control the inferior legally. According to Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory (1997, p: 530):

Slavery is and has always been synonymous with race slavery, which is the economic and social system in which people of Africa and their descendants became chattel, movable property, and had their labor stolen from them by their white "owners."

The purpose of the expedition of the white to Africa is to find something interesting that was the human power itself. They started to destroy their tribes and selected the creatures according to their ability in doing physical works. While slaves' men were forced as a laborer, enslaved woman endured sexual

terrorism at the hands of their white male masters. For many enslaved African American women, the system of slavery stole both labor power and sexual “purity.”

In 1808, the United States Congress banned the importation of slaves from Africa. At the same time, the high price of cotton and the development of the cotton gin caused the demand for slave labor to skyrocket in the lower South. Between 1808 and 1860, the enslaved population of Alabama has been grown. Slavery could be a system created according to the human power to control the powerless. Thus, Alabama had one of the largest slave populations in America at the start of the Civil War.

1.1.2 Heading to Enlightenment

There are two terms in this study. They are heading and enlightenment. According to Meriam-Webster (2015) heading/to head means a process toward something/ go to, it can be the direction or path.

Second term is enlightenment. As stated in Meriam-Webster dictionary (2015) enlightenment means the state of having knowledge or understanding: the act of giving someone knowledge or understanding. The word *enlightenment* comes from the word *enlighten* which means to give somebody more knowledge or understanding. According to Immanuel Kant in Goldmann (1973, p3):

Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-imposed minority. This minority is the inability to use one's own understanding without the guidance of another.(p3)

In this study, heading to enlightenment refers to the efforts and acts done by the slaves to get their pretension and their freedom. It is done by excavating

knowledge and skills. By arousing the awareness they decide to resist and struggle in order to achieve their goals.

1.1.3 A Brief of Author's Biography

Sharon M. Draper is a professional educator as well as an accomplished writer. She was born August 21, 1948, in Cleveland, Ohio. She entered Cleveland Public Schools in the 1950s, inspired by a home where she was surrounded by books. Draper attended Pepperdine University as a National Merit scholar, majoring in English. Upon graduation in 1971, she returned to Ohio where she married and assumed a teaching position in the Cincinnati Public Schools.

Her literary recognition began when, as a challenge from one of her students, she entered and won first prize in a literary contest, and the publication of her short story, "*One Small Torch*." She has published numerous poems, articles, and short stories in a variety of literary journals. She is the published author of numerous articles, stories (novels), such as; *Tears of a Tiger* (1994), *Forged by Fire* (1997), *Darkness Before Dawn* (2001), *Romiette and Julio* (1999), *Double Dutch* (2002), *The Battle of Jericho* (2003), *Copper Sun* (2006), *November Blues* (2007), *Just Another Hero* (2009), *Out of my Mind* (2010), *Fire from the Rock* (2007), *We Beat the Street* (2005), *Panic* (2013), *Stella by Starlight* (2015), etc. most of her works are the selected work and the winner of the Awards.

She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year, is a five-time winner of the *Coretta Scott King Literary Awards*, and is a New York Times best-selling author. In 2008 she received the *Beacon of Light Humanitarian award*. In

2009 she received the Doctor of Laws Degree from Pepperdine University. In 2011, she received the *Lifetime Achievement Award* for contributions to the field of adolescent literature by The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English. In 2014, she was named Ohio Pioneer in Education by the Ohio State Department of Education. In 2015 she was honored by the American Library Association as the recipient of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime literary achievement.

Her works are mostly about the history that she has been elaborate into fiction called Historical fiction. According to an essayist in the *St. James Guide to Young-Adult Writers*, "Draper's works address the problems African Americans face in a predominantly white society, specifically stereotyping of black males. They also examine the dynamics of African American families and communities. *Copper Sun* received the 2007 *Coretta Scott King Literature award*, was named as one of the Top Ten Historical Fiction Books for Youth by Booklist was nominated for the 2007 *NAACP Image Award for Literature*, and received the *Ohioana Award for Young Adult Literature*. As she said in the interview about her work (2010):

“When writing historical fiction, research is essential, and very difficult. It’s tedious and time-consuming. Every single fact and detail must be accurate and true to time and place. For *Copper Sun*, I spent almost ten years doing research and editing it for accuracy of fact as well as sincerity of spirit. I read dozens of books, listened to transcripts of slave narratives, spent years on the internet, and talked to friends in Ghana who made sure I was telling the story correctly. On my website I have provided a resource page where dozens of websites and books are listed that can give you more information.”

In creating a literary work she dedicates herself into it, she tries her best on her works. Her works is not only about an art of writing but also about history of life. The copper sun novel is a master piece book with meaningful story in it; the story educates readers who read her literary works. She dedicates herself to get the perfect result for her novels and she well-deserved. That is the reason she becomes one of the outstanding writers in America, especially for historical fiction. She was named amongst Time magazine's list as the most influential person in America.

1.1.4 Copper Sun

A novel entitled *Copper sun* (2006) written by Sharon M. Draper reflects the ways characters heading to enlightenment. Heading to enlightenment means the efforts done by the human with all their ability in order to achieve their own pretension and goals. It is represented by three characters, Amari, Afi and Polly. The first character, Amari, is a black teenage girl who has been captured and sold by the slave trader. The second character, Afi, is an African woman who has been enslaved for such a long time. As the enslaved African woman, both of them must to face the tortures and despairing conditions. Third, Polly, is a white girl who works to pay the debt of her family. The misery of life triggers her to work harder to get a better life and an equal status. They aware of the conditions they face. It is the reason they decide to resist and struggle. In this analysis they are heading to enlightenment by developing their awareness, excavating knowledge and skills.

There are two indications that the characters do to arouse their awareness. First, it can be seen in their spirit and optimism. The first and the second character

believe in efforts and they think more about struggle rather than pain. They believe of the decision they make. They have confidence to see freedom as their future. Second is bravery. They show their desire to learn to gain their strength. They choose to survive rather than surrender. Furthermore, third character realizes her own condition that is the reason of her effort to change her life. Thus, they decide to do the real escaping action from the owner.

There are two other tools are needed in heading to enlightenment, they are knowledge and skills. First character, she excavates her knowledge by learning. She observes people and the language. Second she learns how to trick the slave buyers. She steals information that might help her to find the way to escape. Second character uses her knowledge and skills to help the new comer slaves and motivates them to survive. However, third character uses her skills as a servant to get a good impression. She uses strategies to reach her purpose to get social status. She collaborates with others. She approaches valuable people to get good connection.

1.2 Problem of the study

This study focuses on the action characters do to head to enlightenment. There are two research questions that give contribution to this study to reveal the issue. They are:

1. How far do the characters in the novel "*Copper Sun*" (2006) expose the issue of heading to enlightenment?
2. To what extent do the setting, plot (conflict) support the issue of heading to enlightenment?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to find out how far the characters *Amari*, *Afi* and *Polly* expose the topic heading to enlightenment. This study investigates to what extent the character, setting; plot (conflict) in novel *Copper Sun* supports the protagonists' efforts to reach the enlightenment.

1.4 Previous Study

The analysis of *Copper Sun* (2006) that focused on analyzing about heading to the enlightenment has not been found yet. However, there are some studies that relate to this analysis and give contribution and inspiration in analyzing this novel. The first analysis by Nanda Silima focuses on the exploitation and discrimination of women in patriarchal social system. On the other hand, Ezenwanebe analyzes the women's liberation struggles.

The first analysis by Nanda Silima (2013) entitled "*Subjugation: A study of the women characters in Khalid Hosseini's and Arundhati Roy's novels*". The analysis is about the exploitation and discrimination of women in the patriarchal social systems of the Afghan society and the Indian subcontinent as delineated in the novels of Khalid Hosseini *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and Arundhati Roy *The God of Small Things*. The focus of the study is the female characters share the common bond of subjugation and miserably struggle for their survival. Her analysis is related to the concept hierarchy of sexes by Beauvoir (1997) shows that sex and gender are two different things. The result of the analysis is the characters struggle and search for their identities through acts of transgression even though both the characters did not success bring tangible change in society. Characters

resist and try to thwart the male order but their struggle is overwhelmed by the ideology of the male-dominated social systems.

Another study that gives contribution to this analysis is a journal by Osita C. Ezenwanebe (2010) entitled *Issues in Women's Liberation Struggles in Contemporary Nigeria: A Study of Ezeigbo's Hands that Crush Stone*. This analysis examines some of the issues arising from the character's quest for freedom in one of plays—*Hands that Crush Stone*. This analysis focuses on reconstructing the image of women characters in the hope of freeing them from the bonds of social oppression, making them visible and powerful enough in modern, democratic Nigeria. This analysis used the concepts from Marxist and feminist perspectives by Laily Philip (2006) that is the critical perspective and social movement that revolves around the eradication of sexism, the dismantling of patriarchy and the elimination of violence against women. The result of the analysis is female protagonists seek emancipation outside the confines of traditional culture, dismantling both man and oppressive cultural traditions on their way to freedom.

Both of these studies give contribution and inspiration in analyzing the novel *Cooper Sun* by Sharoon M. Drapper. These analyses have common senses in woman struggle even though both of these journals have different focuses. The first journal is related to the way this analysis has been analyzed. Both focuses on the fictional devices, the character. However, the second journal focuses on reconstructing the image of women in society. Importantly, both of those journals reveals about the struggle of main characters to survive. It is related to the

background and issues of this study that is the woman struggle, especially black woman like the main character in *Copper Sun*.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The study reveals how the characters (women) struggle to free themselves from slavery. In this analysis, that actions are called heading to enlightenment. The term Enlightenment itself is usually related to the era of Enlightenment which means the symbol of movement. According to Goldman in *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment* (1973, p 5):

“One of the basic ideas of the French Enlightenment-the notion that the unhampered advance of knowledge and general education would suffice, without any further action, to bring about the liberation of mankind and to end the great social evils of the day.” (p5)

Enlightenment is a movement from the dark periods to the era of knowledge. However, in this analysis enlightenment means the human spirit to make a good chance to survive, a chance to change life especially for a person who has the awareness to get out from slavery. The correlation between the term enlightenment in this analysis can be seen in the use of knowledge as the essential requirement. Moreover, the purpose is *liberal* or in this analysis use word freedom.

Concept of knowledge based on feminist perspective is considered in this analysis. Jiang (2005, p 56) says that knowledge claims are made from no particular time, location, circumstance, and perspective, and therefore they are true in all situations and from all perspectives. In addition, Collins in her book entitled *Black Feminist Thought* (2002, p 9), knowledge is essential to Black

women's survival, they constructed knowledge of self emerges from the struggle to replace controlling images with self-defined knowledge deemed personally important. Enrique (2014) adds that human being has conceived ideas (knowledge) as weapons that help to fulfill our desire or interests. Knowledge can be thought, ideas, and perspectives used to control human thought and behavior. Thus, knowledge is something that human constructed and created as well. Knowledge is the essential tool to have to survive from slavery.

Knowledge here means understanding about life. There are many ways to discover knowledge; it can be formal and informal education. For example, informal education, it can be discovered from the daily life activities. In those periods none of slaves were able to discover knowledge since they were living in limited space. The awareness guide them realized something important, that was the meaning of being human. One of the ways was by learning and observing the way people behaved. Thus, knowledge and skills can gain their eagerness to trust in efforts. Women with awareness began to carry a hope, influence others in order to see the chance to escape from the trader.

An action in heading the enlightenment by personal are related to *The Ego* by Freud, one of the three abstract categories of mind. According to Freud in Barbara Engler (2013,p,284) states that the ego operates according to the reality principle; that is, it attempts to help the id get what it wants by judging the difference between real and imaginary. In addition, Wicklund (2001) says when people focus attention on the self (aware), they compare the self with standards, try harder to meet standards, and show stronger emotional responses to meeting or

failing to meet a standard. People can think, act, and experience, and they can also think about what they are thinking, doing, and experiencing. Thus, the ego and awareness are correlated each other in constructing the courage of someone to step forward in heading to enlightenment. While the awareness is the capacity to take oneself as the object of thought, the ego helps the person satisfy needs through reality.

There are two components related to self-awareness, there are self control and motivation. According to Craighead (2004), *self control* is the essential component of philosophy related to classic terms such as choice, free will, determinism, and self. Then, he adds *Motivation* as the power of an acquired drive to promote certain kinds of behavior, chiefly those of reaching certain goals. In addition, Freud in Engler (2013 p, 309) says that motivations are driven by survival needs; it refers to what moves us to act a particular way. Those are the main factors to develop self awareness to get out from misery. Both of them are the strength which comes from the inside of the self.

Skill is one of the points the person should have in action heading to the enlightenment. According to Fischer (1980; 477) skill is an attempt to explain a large part of the psychological transformation. It focuses primarily on cognition and intelligence, and it deals with aspect of learning and problem solving. It means skills also related to knowledge, as the provisions in action to head the enlightenment. Skill is the form of knowledge; skills help the protagonists faces the troubles and miseries that come throughout their way.

Thus, heading to enlightenment refers to the changing process of human being with all their ability and will to achieve their own pretension and goals. Awareness, knowledge, and skills are the requirements in heading to the enlightenment. Awareness is inner powers of human being in controlling the way of thinking and it leads the characters to have willingness to learn and realize the reality of life. Skill is the consideration if they face something occasionally dangerous. It is also the form of knowledge. Knowledge and skill is the essential things they must have in escaping periods, which leads them to survive. There are three protagonists as the central of this analysis. They were the victims of the enslavement which means they were sufferings during their youth life, but with the awareness and the life instinct they had, they had courage to see freedom as their purpose to change their future life. In this analysis it is called an action heading to enlightenment.

Fictional devices such as characters, plot, and setting are the tools to adjust in analyzing the novel. First, according to Abrams (1999, p 32-33) characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action. There are three characters that lead the story in this novel, Amari, Afi, and Polly. They were trapped, suppressed, and shackled in the owner authority. But with life instinct they had, they began to realize their condition and seek a chance to escape from slavery. It can be seen through characters' mind, thoughts, and actions to reach the

enlightenment. As human being they started to realize that they deserve a freedom. Thus, they began to excavate their knowledge and skills. Then, they were well-used the chance to escape.

The second device is plot that focused on conflict. The plot (which Aristotle termed the *mythos*) in a dramatic or narrative work is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects. This description is deceptively simple, because the actions (including verbal discourse as well as physical actions) are performed by particular characters in a work, and are the means by which they exhibit their moral and dispositional qualities (Abrams, 1999, p 224). In addition, according to Guerin (2005) conflict can be identified into internal and external conflict. Internal conflict is the conflict within character itself, meanwhile external conflict is the conflict occur between characters and his/her environment. In this analysis, internal conflict can be seen in the way characters mentally restrain the pain. The death of the family and tortures for being slave motivates characters to become the survivor. Internal conflict occurs between the characters and the cruel environment. Being slave is the external conflict that occurs in this novel. The brutality of the owner such as sexual abused, physical and mental mistreated that provoke the characters to have internal conflict.

The third fictional device to discover the meaning beyond the novel is setting. In general setting can be said as situation and condition in the story. As stated in literary devices by Braiman (2007) "The setting can be specific or ambiguous. When discussing or analyzing setting, it is generally insufficient to

merely identify the time and place; an analysis of setting should include a discussion of its overall impact on the story and characters.” In this novel, the characters are surrounded by harsh, mean, cruel, and horrifying treatment of the owner. The past memories and the harsh life that full of miseries lead them to have courage which they can decide their own way to free them from slavery.

The analysis of this novel also supported by text and context based interpretation to bring up the understanding. According to Gleen and Gray (2014:178) text based interpretation is the approach that based on the analysis and interpretation to text itself, which is nothing more than what is whole text about. Meanwhile, context based interpretation in the approach that considers the historical period during which work was written including the circumstances of culture, history, political, and social. Thus, this analysis is not only focused on the text itself but also involved the phenomenon and circumstances which are existed and reflected in the real world which in this analysis are related to the history of enslavement and the way women’s struggle for their rights. Especially black woman who were forced become slaves during the enslavement periods.

1.6 Methodology

The analysis of novel *Copper Sun* is done through text and context-based interpretation. Characters are used to reveal heading to enlightenment by analyzing mind, thoughts, and actions. Moreover, it is done by analyzing fictional devices, such as; plot (conflicts) and setting. Characters and conflicts are used to evoke the way of heading to enlightenment by analyzing character’s reactions toward the conflict. Then, the setting deals with the circumstances and

atmosphere. It gives contribution in process of analysis by giving help in revealing the meaning. Plot and conflicts in this novel give important role to reveals the conflict that characters face. These elements are analyzed based on how characters are struggling and heading to enlightenment. In addition, the Feminist perspective of knowledge and Freud's concept about the ego are giving contribution in analyzing the *Copper Sun* novel.