

Hypocrisy in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*: An Islamic Analysis

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Abstract

This article is taken from a research entitled *Hypocrisy in George Orwell's Animal Farm: an Islamic Analysis*. It is intended : (1) to describe the concept of hypocrisy in the view of Islam, (2) to describe the traits of a hypocrite in Islamic view, and (3) to reveal the hypocrisy of the characters of the novel.

The research is categorized as library research in which the data are taken from books, journals, and other relevant data. This is also a descriptive qualitative research with Islamic approach. The base and concept of hypocrisy are from the verses of the Holy Qur'an and the hadiths of the Messenger Muhammad (sas).

The results of the research are: *First*, the definition of hypocrisy is a pretending to be what is not; to feel what one does not feel; especially pretense of virtue, piety, etc. *Second*, The traits of a hypocrite are: (a) when he/she speaks he/she lies, (b) when he/she promises he/she breaks his/her promise, and (c) when he/she is entrusted he/she betrays. *Third*, the behaviors of the characters of *Animal Farm* that represent hypocrisy are: (a) Napoleon, the main character, always lies and changes the black into white, (b) Napoleon always breaks the agreement among the animals, and (3) the pigs betray the power they have entrusted.

Keywords: *hypocrisy, Animal Farm, islamic analysis*

A. Background

Hypocrisy is something commonly found in our daily life though nobody likes the hypocrite. Hypocrisy always refers to dishonesty, betrayal, malice, duplicity, and other disgraceful behaviors. Hypocrisy tends to harm others and to reward his/herself. Hence, no one likes to make a friend of him/her.

Hypocrisy phenomenon also occurred since the early period of Islam, even since the Prophet Muhammad era (Ilyas, 2007: 96-97). The medinas who used to be Jews and Christians who felt pressured by the presence of Islam tried to find a way to save themselves. They pretended to convert to Islam. It made them to be hypocrites. Artificially they behaved as if they were loyal muslims, deep in their hearts they still loved their previous religions. This brought other misconducts such as: lie, betrayal, and breaking the promise. These misconducts were harmful for Islam at that time.

Animal Farm is a literary work by George Orwell which is colored with hypocritical behaviors of the characters, especially the main character. The novel which is first

published in 1960 is a fable. The characters of a fable are mostly animals which are able to speak, to think, and to behave like humans. The main characters which are animals) are: Napoleon, Major, Snowball, and Squealer. They are pigs. Another character is Boxer, a horse.

The story begins with a rebellion by the animals, the dwellers of the farm. They rebel the owner of the farm, Mr. Jones, who is a man. The animals, led by pigs, fight and drive out Mr. Jones, who is a man and the owner of the farm. The animals think that men always exploit animals and what they have produced. To the animals, men are unfair. Animals work, men consume. Cows produce milk, eggs, meat, and men consume them. The animals desire to manage their own life. The animals think that they will be more prosperous and treated well if the administrators are the fellow animals. Then, men are expelled and animals rule the farm.

Problem arises when the animals are going to elect who will lead them. Some of the pigs are considered as groundbreakers and contribute for the success in expelling men from the farm. Here and now, some intrigues and conspiracies play a big role. Previously, they are, pigs, unified in expelling men. Now, they fight one another roughly and deceitfully to gain the power. Here, their original temperaments are seen obviously. The prominent deeds are those that expose falsehood, denial, and betrayal.

We can look the falsehood when the main character, Napoleon, always turns back the real facts and tries to make the animals sure that what he did is the truth. He managed it with his spokesperson named Squealer, which is also a pig. The untruth appears when the agreement which states that no animals shall kill any other animal. But, when Boxer, a horse, is sick, Napoleon sells the horse to a slaughterhouse. Boxer is a horse that supported the farm with all of what he had, even with his life. He is sold to a butcher. When other animals protest Napoleon's decision, he said that he did it for the goodness of the farm and other animals (Ali: 2002).

A betrayal, as a sign of hypocrisy, performs when Napoleon betrays his comrades in arms. Napoleon banishes Snowball from the farm. Even, when Snowball is not in the farm anymore, Napoleon scapegoats Snowball as the actor of a misconduct. Some of the characters' deeds, especially the main characters', reflect some hypocritical behaviors or hypocrisy.

There are some verses in the Holy Qur'an and some hadiths describing hypocrisy. It means that it is possible a literary work containing some hypocritical deeds, such as *Animal Farm*, is analyzed using the verses of Holy Qur'an and the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (sas). This is what we call as Islamic approach.

According to Subhan (2010:93), the foundations of Islamic approach are the verses of Holy Qur'an which consists of 30 sections and the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (sas). Hadith can be defined as the sayings or actions of Muhammad or his companions, together with the tradition of its chain of transmission. Because this research applies Islamic approach, the verses of Qur'an and the hadiths of Prophet Muhammad (sas) become the concept base or the theory to analyze the literary work. In this case, the topic will be discussed is the concept of hypocrisy in the view of Islam, the traits of a hypocrite, and the hypocrisy of the characters of *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

B. Hypocrisy in the View of Islam

Hypocrisy means pretending to be what one is not; to feel what one does not feel; especially pretense of virtue, piety, etc. The root of hypocrisy is hypocrite meaning a

person who pretends to be what he or she is not (Webster's Dictionary, 1995: 665). Ibnu Katsir (in Ilyas, 2007:95) defines *nifaq* or hypocrisy as showing the good sides and hiding the bad sides.

Kauma (2000: 100-106) wrote some imageries of a hypocrite according to Qur'an. First, a hypocrite is like pieces of timber propped up (unable to stand on their own). It is based on verse 4 in *Surah Almunafiqoon* meanings that:

"When thou lookest at them, their exteriors please thee; and when they speak, thou listenest to their words. They are as (worthless as hollow) pieces of timber propped up, (unable to stand n their own). They think that every cry is against them. They are the enemies; so beware of them. The curse of Allah be on them! How are they deluded (away from the Truth)!"

It implies that a hypocrite is just like a timber that can do nothing. They physically exist, but other people are not interested to take advantages from them. It might be there is one who wants to cooperate with them, but the one is doubtful after considering their traits which are harmful for his/her life.

Second, a hypocrite is like a man who kindles a fire as stated in *Surah Al-Baqaraa* verse 17: "Their similitude is that a man who kindled a fire, when it lighted all around him, Allah took away their light and left them in utter darkness. So they could not see." It means that a hypocrite actually has a fine understanding on Islam. It is like the light of fire. But, the light is then lost and he/she falls down into a darkness. Third, a hypocrite is just like a deaf, mute, and blind person. It is stated in *Surah Al-Baqara* verse 18: " Deaf, dumb, and blind. They will not return (to the path)." (Ali, 1991)

Fourth, a hypocrite is like a rain-laden cloud from the sky as stated in *surah Al Baqara* verse 19: "Or (another similitude) is that of a rain laden cloud from the sky: in it are zones of darkness, an thunder and lightning: They press their fingers in their ears to keep out the stunning thunder-clap, the while they are in terror of death. But Allah is ever round the rejecters of Faith!". A hypocrite listen to the verses of Allah in the Holy Qur'an, but his/her listening is just like the stunning thunder-clap. He/she is not really afraid because of his/her piety. He/she is only afraid of the warning of Allah for the hypocrites.

In a book of hadith of Bukhari and Muslim which is digested by Al-Mundzir (2003:21) in hadith no. 27 it is stated the three signs of a hypocrite:

"On the authority of Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (sas) said: The signs of the hypocrite are three: when he speaks he lies, when he promises he breaks his promise and when he is entrusted he betrays the trust."

The hadith above explains the signs of a hypocrite. They are about the behaviors of human beings. It tells about what they say and what they do, how they fulfill what they promise, and how they keep the trust. We can't value someone in a short term, but it needs a long observation.

C. Research Method

This research can be categorized as a library research. The data are taken from some sources like the novel itself, books, journals, and other sources like internet. It applies descriptive qualitative analysis in which this research tries to describe the concept of hypocrisy in the view of Islam (Qur'an and hadith of the Prophet

Muhammad). Qualitative means that this research also tries to reveal the signs and behavior of a hypocrite. Some of the data or information are taken from the researcher's previous research on the same literary work published in the journal LITRAYA Vol.3 No. 2, April 2005 under the title *A Portrayal of a Tyrant as Seen in Orwell's Animal Farm*.

The implementation of Islamic approach in this research is based on a confidence that it is important and possible to apply Islamic values in literary criticism like other theories such as psychology, sociology, feminist, etc. In the view of the researcher, Islam has sufficient values that can be treated as a theory. And it is one of the ways to realize what we call Islam as *rahmatan lil'aalamiin*.

The employment of Islamic values in literary criticism can be also a part of islamisation of science. This idea appears from a premise stating that the contemporary science is not *value-free*, but *value-laden* (Husaini, 2013:247). However, we are aware that it is not easy to realize the premise. At least we have tried to start to do something which are not popular yet in the academic environment.

D. Hypocrisy in *Animal Farm*

This sub-chapter will reveal the behavior or signs of the character of *Animal Farm* by George Orwell based on the three traits of a hypocrite as stated in the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (sas).

First, Napoleon, the main character always says the untruth and tries to turn the black into white. To make his job easier, he recruits a special staff whose job is becoming the spokesperson of Napoleon. His name is Squealer. His task is to convey to the audiences, the common animals, that everything done by his leader is never wrong. Even, if his boss does a wrong deed he has to try to find away, to manage the wrong sentences and actions look like something true.

One day after the rebellion, after the pigs doing the milking and resulted five buckets of milk, one animal asking what they will do with the milk. One of the pigs answers that the milk will be processed to be cream like in Mr. Jones era. However, the milk is only consumed by the pigs. When other animals protest the special treatment for the pigs, one of them replies that what they do is reasonable. The pigs think, manage, and take responsibilities of the farm and the prosperity of the dweller. So, it is logical if pigs get different right from other animals.

"Day and night we are watching over your welfare. It is for your sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed I our duty? Jones would come back! Yes, Jones would come back! Surely, comrades," cried Squealer. (Orwell, 1962: 24)

Another example is the case of Snowball expelled from the farm by Napoleon. Snowball is also a pig which is also Napoleon's comrade in arm when they forced Mr. Jones to drive out from the farm. Here, Squealer again runs his duty in turning the black into white. Under the command of Napoleon, his chief, Squealer tells a treachery to other animals that Snowball is expelled from the farm because Snowball is a criminal. Snowball is a dangerous individual for the future power of Napoleon. Napoleon scapegoats Snowball when the windmill was broken by the hurricane. He made a rumor that Snowball is the one who broke the windmill.

Second, Napoleon always breaks his promises. It can be seen from the agreement among the animals which is called *The Seven Commandments*. They are:

“Whatever goes upon two legs, is enemy. Whatever goes upon four leg, or has wings, is a friend. And remember that in fighting against Man, we must not come to resemble him. Even when you have conquered him, do not adopt his vices. No animal must ever live in a house, or sleep in a bed, or wear clothes, or drink alcohol, or smoke tobacco, or touch money, or engage in trade. All the habits of Man are evil. And above all, no animal must ever tyrannize over his own kind. Weak or strong, clever or simple, we are brothers. No animal must ever kill any other animal. All animals are equal.” (Orwell, 1962: 6)

The quotation above is the seven agreements among the animals that then is called *Animalism*. The core of the agreement is that all animals are equal. All the animals are not allowed to imitate Man’s ways such as the way man sleeps, smokes, drinks alcohol, and wears clothes. The other important thing is no animal tyrannize others or kill others. They approve these agreements during the struggling era of expelling humans from the farm. However, after the animals cope the farm and the pigs command the farm, some changes appear. What they have agreed now alters. The pigs modify the contract. They put themselves as the highest class of dwellers of the farm. This is in contradictory with what they have settled in which animals are equal. The pigs argue that they are the highest class of animals because they are responsible to the management of the farm, they are the cleverest animal, and so that they need no to do a rough jobs.

Slow but sure, the changes come. The commandments they arranged which are called as *Animalism* now they break. When other animals complain why the pigs sleep on the bed, they add the words *with sheets*, so that the agreement changes to be “No animal shall sleep in a bed *with sheets*.” In the alcohol case the same case also happens. The pigs drink alcohol by adding the agreement with *in excess*. So, the agreement alters to be “ No animal shall drink alcohol *in excess*.” The climax occurs when the pigs change the *Animalism* point on equality by adding some words to be: “All animals are created equal, *but some animals are more equal than others*.”

Third, the pigs betray the trust. One of the betrayals is the abuse of power. The pigs treat and facilitate themselves more than other animals. They stay in a house of the farm which used to be dwelt by humans, whereas other animals keep staying in the barn. Moreover Napoleon stay in a house separated from the farm. When Napoleon appears in front of the public, he puts himself like a king. He has special bodyguards. They are dogs which are ready to attack whoever threatens their commander. Napoleon also consume special menu in a special venue. He is called not only as other common people do. He asks other to call him with special way: “Our Leader, Comrade Napoleon.”

Those three things prove that the pigs, the main characters of *Animal Farm*, do not keep the power which is on them. They do not view a power as a way to make their people prosperous. The pigs lead the farm for themselves and leave their people behind.

E. Conclusion

From the theory and discussion on hypocrisy it can be concluded that:

1. Hypocrisy means pretending to be what one is not; to feel what one does not feel; especially pretense of virtue, piety, etc. Hypocrisy can also be defined as showing the good sides and hiding the bad sides.

2. The signs of the hypocrite are three: when he speaks he lies, when he promises he breaks his promise and when he is entrusted he betrays the trust.
3. The behaviors of the characters of *Animal Farm* that represent hypocrisy are: (a) Napoleon, the main character, always lies and changes the black into white, (b) Napoleon always breaks the agreement among the animals, and (3) the pigs betray the power they have entrusted.

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