A POSTMODERN UNDERSTANDING OF TONI MORRISON'S *SULA*

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Abstract: Postmodern fiction has unique features that distinguish its works from other works of fiction. It often blurs literary genres and break conventional narration. Tony Morrison's novel titled *Sula*, a work that has triggered some critical work, is considered as one of prime texts of this fiction. This article is a report on an investigation of the postmodern features of Morison's *Sula*. It is a descriptive qualitative method using the narration and conversation among the characters. It showed that the novel starts with the paradox and ambiguity in the beginning. The author is able to judge the ethical or moral ramifications and decipher Sula in either an evil or a good person. It also criticizes patriarchy institution, gender displacement, and associative ambiguity.

Keywords: postmodern, black American, Toni Morrison, *Sula*

Abstrak: Fiksi post-moderen memiliki ciri-ciri yang membedakannya dengan karya fiksi lain. Karya ini seringkali mengaburkan genre sastra dan mendobrak gaya bercerita konvensional. Novel karya Tony Morrison bertajuk *Sula* yang mendulang kritik adalah salah satu contoh fiksi post-moderen. Artikel ini melaporkan sebuah penelitian yang mengupas ciri-ciri post-moderen dalam novel *Sula*. Penelitian deskriptif kualitatif ini menggunakan narasi dan percakapan antar karakter dalam novel *Sula*. Novel ini diawali dengan paradox dan ambiguitas. Penulis novel ini mampu menilai konsekuensi etis maupun moral dan menguraikan *Sula* dalam diri orang baik maupun jahat. Penulis juga mengkritik lembaga partriarki, perpindahan gender, dan ambiguitas asosiatif.

Kata-kata Kunci: post-moderen, kulit hitam Amerika, Toni Morrison, *Sula*