

Portrait of Women in Palito Ni Si Boru Toba Novel

Eva Solina Gultom ^{1*}

* Corresponding Email: eva_joshgroban@yahoo.com

¹ Language and Literature Department, Universitas Halu Oleo, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

This paper explores the portrayal of women in the novel "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba," highlighting the dynamics and struggles faced by women in Batak society under patriarchal norms. This topic is crucial to understand the broader implications of gender roles, social justice, and identity within cultural contexts. The analysis employs a thematic approach, focusing on character analysis and the representation of women's experiences. By examining the character of Si Boru Toba, the study reveals how women navigate societal pressures, asserting their rights and identities amidst marginalization. The findings illustrate the resilience of women who strive to balance family responsibilities with personal aspirations, emphasizing the importance of solidarity in overcoming challenges. This paper not only celebrates women's courage but also invites readers to reflect on the ongoing quest for justice and equality in contemporary society.

Keywords: *batak toba, society, patriarchy, woman*

INTRODUCTION

Batak society has a social structure that is heavily influenced by patriarchal norms. Patriarchal norms have a significant influence on the social structure of Batak society, shaping various aspects of daily life, social interactions and inter-gender relations. In Batak society, patriarchal norms establish very clear gender roles. Men are usually considered the head of the family and the main earner, while women are expected to fulfill the role of wife and mother who takes care of the household. This limits women's opportunities to pursue education or careers, and prevents them from making important family decisions.

In the Batak social structure, important decisions are often made by men. This is seen in many aspects of life, from family matters to traditional activities. Women are rarely involved in decision-making, even in matters relating to their own lives. This creates inequality in the relationship between men and women, where women's voices are often marginalized. Patriarchal norms also influence the inheritance system in Batak society. Inheritance is usually passed on to sons, while women are often denied the same rights. This can affect women's economic status and their dependence on men, reinforcing the cycle of gender inequality. Although patriarchal norms are still strong, there have been efforts by some women's groups and activists to challenge these

structures. Social changes, such as increased access to education and women's involvement in the workforce, are beginning to change people's views. However, resistance to change still exists, and many women still struggle to gain equal recognition and rights. Patriarchal norms are often maintained through traditions and customs. One example is in traditional ceremonies where women are considered symbols of family honor, but their rights and voices are rarely recognized. This shows how tradition can be a tool to maintain gender inequality in society.

The depiction of patriarchal norms is clearly seen in the novel *Palito Ni Si Boru Toba*. The novel is a collection of stories that show how female characters, such as Si Boru Toba, attempt to balance their family responsibilities and personal aspirations, creating an evocative narrative about the search for meaning and freedom. This novel is particularly compelling due to its rich cultural context and its portrayal of women's resilience and agency in a society that often marginalizes them. It is very clear how women struggle against the stereotypes attached to them. Society often has a narrow view of women's roles, assuming that they lack the capacity to make important decisions in life. However, through the characters, readers are shown that women have great power and potential. They are not only the guardians of tradition, but also active actors in social change. In addition, the novel provides a space for women's voices to be heard, showing that they can be agents of change in their communities.

One important element in the novel is the relationship between women and men. This dynamic is often complex and layered. On the one hand, there is love and understanding; on the other, there are conflicts and tensions that arise due to different views on gender roles. The female characters in this novel often face challenges from their partners, who sometimes do not fully support their desire for independence. However, through these interactions, women demonstrate resilience and adaptability, seeking to build healthy and mutually supportive relationships. Gender issues in "*Palito ni Si Boru Toba*" also reflect broader social changes in Batak society. In the last decade, many Batak women have begun to pursue higher education and careers in various fields. They are often confined to traditional roles that restrict their agency and limit their voices in both family and public life. This marginalization is further compounded by customs and traditions that reinforce gender inequalities, often portraying women as symbols of family honor without granting them substantive rights or recognition (Simanjuntak, 2006). This novel illustrates how these issues happen in many situational contexts. This is seen in the female characters' courage namely Si Boru Toba to go against the norm, as well as their desire for equal rights. Moreover, the novel also explores the theme of solidarity between women. In the face of challenges and pressures from society, the female characters often support each other. They build strong networks and

communities, where they can share experiences and encourage each other. This solidarity becomes an important source of strength for them, helping them to overcome obstacles.

Through its realistic and in-depth depiction of women's lives, this novel not only celebrates their strength and resilience, but also invites readers to reflect on the position of women in society. The novel illustrates how women, despite being bound by tradition, can find ways to express themselves and pursue their dreams. Previous studies have highlighted various aspects of women's roles in Batak culture, but few have delved deeply into the literary portrayal of these issues as seen in this novel. For instance, Gultom (2023) touches on the strength of women in Batak literature but does not explore the intricate dynamics of gender roles depicted in this specific novel. Similarly, Sitorus (2020) discusses patriarchal norms within Batak society but lacks a focused analysis of their representation in contemporary literary works.

Moreover, Hutabarat (2009) emphasizes the importance of solidarity among women in combating gender injustice, there is limited examination of how these themes are articulated through the narrative and characters in "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba." This gap in the literature underscores the need for a comprehensive analysis of the novel, as it offers rich insights into the complexities of women's identities and struggles within the context of Batak society. This research aims to fill that gap by employing thematic analysis to explore the complexities of women's experiences, the interplay of tradition and modernity, and the significance of solidarity among women. Through this examination, we hope to illuminate the transformative potential of literature in advocating for gender equality and social justice. With a rich cultural background, readers are brought to understand that women's struggles are not just individual issues, but are part of a collective struggle to achieve equality and justice. In a broader context, the gender issues in this novel reflect the challenges faced by many women around the world. Societies often have rigid expectations of gender roles, which can limit individual potential. This novel, with all its nuances and complexities, offers a valuable perspective on how women can take charge of their own narrative and fight for their rights. From these standpoints, the researcher puts interest in examining the dynamics of gender roles and the ongoing struggles for women's rights in contemporary societies, particularly within traditional cultures like the Batak. By analyzing the character of Si Boru Toba, the insights can be gained into the broader issues of gender inequality, identity, and social change.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The representation of women in literature is a significant area of study, particularly in societies where traditional gender roles are predominant. In Batak culture, patriarchal norms are

deeply ingrained, influencing various aspects of daily life and social interactions. Several scholars have contributed to understanding these dynamics, providing a foundation for analyzing the complexities of women's experiences.

One pivotal study by Gultom (2023) discusses the strength of women in Batak literature, focusing on the resilience and agency portrayed in female characters. However, while Gultom highlights the significance of these characters, she does not delve into the intricate dynamics of gender roles depicted in "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba." This gap in the literature calls for a detailed exploration of how the novel illustrates the struggles and aspirations of women against a backdrop of patriarchal expectations. Firmando (2021) offers insights into the patriarchal norms that dominate Batak society, emphasizing the limited roles afforded to women. His analysis indicates that women are often relegated to domestic responsibilities, with their voices marginalized in decision-making processes. Although Sitorus's work provides a valuable examination of these societal constraints, it lacks a focused literary analysis that connects these themes to the specific narratives found in contemporary works like "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba."

In contrast, Hutabarat (2009) emphasizes the importance of solidarity among women in combating gender injustice. She argues that collective action and support networks are essential for women to challenge traditional norms and assert their rights. While his research highlights the potential for change, it does not sufficiently explore how these themes are articulated through narrative and character development in literature. This presents an opportunity for the current research to investigate how "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba" illustrates these dynamics among its characters.

Additionally, the impact of education and social activism on women's roles in Batak society is a recurring theme in the literature. Maha (2015) discusses the role of women in social change, arguing that increased access to education empowers women to challenge traditional roles. Riggita (2021) echoes this sentiment, noting that education equips women with the knowledge and skills necessary for active participation in society. These studies underscore the transformative potential of education but often overlook the literary representation of these changes, which is vital for understanding the cultural narrative surrounding women's struggles.

The narrative of women's empowerment through education is further explored by Silaban (2018), who emphasizes the need for educational reforms that enhance women's access to opportunities. His findings suggest that as women gain educational qualifications, they are more likely to challenge societal expectations and pursue careers outside traditional roles. However, while Silaban provides valuable insights into educational outcomes, he does not connect these themes to the literary portrayals of women, leaving a gap that the current study aims to address.

Moreover, Maha (2015) examines the interplay between tradition and modernity in the lives of Batak women, highlighting how these forces shape their identities. She argues that women navigate a complex landscape where they must reconcile traditional expectations with personal aspirations. This duality is a central theme in "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba," where the protagonist grapples with her desire for independence against societal norms that dictate her role. Lestari's research serves as a valuable framework for analyzing the character of Si Boru Toba and her journey toward self-assertion.

The role of women in maintaining cultural heritage is another critical aspect explored by Simatupang (2021). He notes that while women are often seen as custodians of tradition, their contributions are frequently overlooked in discussions of cultural identity. This notion resonates with the themes in "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba," where female characters embody both the strength of tradition and the desire for personal agency. Simatupang's work provides a useful lens for examining how the novel portrays women's roles in preserving cultural practices while simultaneously challenging restrictive norms.

A more recent study by Simanjuntak (2006) addresses gender conflict within families, highlighting the tension that arises when women seek to assert their rights in a patriarchal context. Simanjuntak's findings illustrate the emotional and social struggles women face when their aspirations clash with familial expectations. This theme is evident in the relationships depicted in "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba," where Si Boru Toba's journey reflects the broader struggles of women navigating familial pressures while striving for independence. Simanjuntak's work underscores the importance of understanding these familial dynamics in the context of gender roles.

Despite the wealth of literature addressing gender issues in Batak society, there remains a gap in focused literary analysis that connects these themes to specific narratives. While previous studies provide valuable insights into the societal constraints faced by women, they often lack a comprehensive examination of how these dynamics are portrayed in contemporary literature. The current research aims to fill this gap by employing thematic analysis to explore the complexities of women's experiences, the interplay of tradition and modernity, and the significance of solidarity among women in "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba." In addressing these themes, the research will utilize a framework that combines literary analysis with sociocultural perspectives, allowing for a nuanced understanding of how the novel reflects and critiques the realities of women's lives in Batak society. By examining the character of Si Boru Toba and her interactions with other female characters, the study will illuminate the ways in which women navigate societal pressures and assert their identities.

Moreover, the exploration of solidarity among women in the novel will be framed within the context of social change, as highlighted by Maha (2015). The analysis will consider how the

female characters support one another in their struggles, creating networks that foster resilience and empowerment. This focus on solidarity is essential for understanding the broader implications of women's collective action in challenging patriarchal norms.

METHOD

Research Design

This study employed a qualitative research design utilizing thematic analysis to examine the portrayal of women in the novel "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba." The thematic analysis approach was selected for its effectiveness in identifying, analyzing, and interpreting patterns of meaning within textual data. This method enabled a systematic examination of how women's experiences, struggles, and identities are represented within the context of Batak society's patriarchal structure. The research design facilitated an in-depth exploration of the complex interplay between gender roles, social expectations, and individual agency as portrayed in the narrative.

Research Objects

The primary research object was the novel "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba," focusing on its portrayal of women's experiences within Batak society. The analysis centered on the character development and narrative elements that illuminate gender dynamics and social structures. Particular attention was paid to the protagonist Si Boru Toba, whose journey represents the broader struggles of women in patriarchal societies. The novel's depiction of supporting characters, both female and male, provided additional insights into the complex web of relationships and power dynamics that shape women's lives. The research examined how the narrative elements work together to portray gender roles, cultural expectations, and the potential for social transformation through women's resistance and solidarity.

Data Collection and Analysis

The data collection and analysis process followed a systematic approach that began with multiple close readings of the novel. This initial familiarization phase allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the narrative structure and thematic elements. During the reading process, relevant passages, dialogues, and descriptions were identified and documented, focusing on segments that illustrated gender-related conflicts, character development, and social dynamics. These selected texts formed the primary data for analysis.

The analysis framework consisted of three interconnected phases. The first phase involved initial coding, where significant text segments were identified and coded according to their

relevance to gender themes. The second phase focused on theme development, where related codes were synthesized into broader thematic categories that captured recurring patterns in the narrative. The final phase involved interpretation and synthesis, where relationships between themes were analyzed and integrated with existing literature on gender in Batak society.

The analytical process paid particular attention to character analysis, examining how the protagonist and other characters navigate societal pressures and expectations. The social context was carefully considered, including the portrayal of patriarchal structures and cultural norms that influence character behavior and choices. Narrative elements were analyzed for their contribution to the overall representation of women's experiences, including plot development, character interactions, and symbolic representations that illuminate gender-related themes. This comprehensive analytical approach ensured a thorough examination of how the novel portrays women's experiences within Batak society, allowing for a nuanced understanding of both explicit and implicit gender-related themes.

FINDINGS

Character of Si Boru Toba

The character of Si Boru Toba in the novel "Palito ni Si Boru Toba" is a complex representation of Batak women struggling in a society filled with patriarchal norms. Through her life journey, readers are shown the various challenges and conflicts faced by women in their quest for recognition, rights and identity.

Data 1

Si Boru Toba: *"Mengapa hanya laki-laki yang diizinkan mengambil keputusan? Suara kita juga penting (Why are only men allowed to make decisions? Our voices matter too?)."*

Suami (Husband): *"Kamu seharusnya lebih fokus pada keluarga, bukan pada ambisi pribadi. (You should focus more on family, not on personal ambitions.)"*

Si Boru Toba: *"Tapi aku juga memiliki hak untuk berimpian dan berkontribusi. Mengapa tidak bisa keduanya? (But I also have the right to dream and contribute. Why can't it be both?)"*

The dialog above illustrates that Si Boru Toba's background provides an important context for understanding her struggle. She grew up in a society where men were the main decision-makers, while women were often marginalized. In the initial depiction, Si Boru Toba is confronted with traditional expectations that burden women. She is expected to fulfill the role of a faithful wife and a good mother, who prioritizes family above all else. One of the central themes in the character of Si Boru Toba is her struggle against patriarchal norms. Despite pressure from society to conform to traditional roles, she shows the courage to defy these expectations. In various

situations, Si Boru Toba strives to express her desires and pursue her personal dreams, despite having to face conflicts with her family members, especially men. A concrete example of this struggle is seen when she wants to continue her education or pursue a career. Si Boru Toba tries to prove that women also have the potential and ability to contribute socially and economically. These moments illustrate the resilience and courage possessed by this character, who represents many women who struggle against the restrictions that exist in society. The dynamics of Si Boru Toba's relationships with other characters are complex and layered. In her interactions with men, there is love and understanding, but also tension and conflict. For example, in relationships with husbands or partners, Si Boru Toba often faces challenges when her desire to be independent is not fully supported by her partner. This conflict creates tension that highlights the reality of many women trying to find a balance between love and freedom. In some moments, Si Boru Toba has to choose between following her husband's expectations or pursuing her personal dreams. These choices become critical points in the character's development, showing that she is not only bound to traditional roles, but also has strong aspirations and desires.

Data 2:

Teman Perempuan (Girl Friend): "Kita harus saling mendukung, kita semua menghadapi tantangan yang sama. (We must support each other, we all face the same challenges)"

Si Boru Toba: "Ya, bersama kita lebih kuat. Kita bisa membuat perubahan. (Yes, together we are stronger. We can make a difference)"

One important theme in the novel is solidarity between women. In the face of challenges faced by women in Batak society, the female characters often support each other. They build strong networks and communities where they can share experiences and encourage each other. This solidarity becomes a source of strength for women in facing various obstacles. In the novel, we see how female characters work together to fight discrimination and injustice. This reflects the social reality where women often find support from each other in their struggles. Throughout the story, Si Boru Toba undergoes a significant journey of transformation. From a woman who is initially bound to traditional norms, she slowly begins to find her voice and understand the importance of her rights. This journey reflects the search for identity experienced by many women in a patriarchal society. This character transformation is seen in the way she interacts with the world around her. She begins to speak up, take initiative, and fight for her rights. These moments show that Si Boru Toba is not only a symbol of resistance, but also an agent of change in her community. The character of Si Boru Toba in the novel "Palito ni Si Boru Toba" is a strong representation of the struggle of women in Batak society. Through her life journey, the novel illustrates the challenges faced by women in facing patriarchal norms, the search for identity, and the importance of solidarity between women. With the courage and resilience shown by Si Boru

Toba, readers are invited to reflect on the position of women in society and their struggle to achieve equality and justice. This character represents not just one individual, but also the collective voice of many women fighting for their rights in a broader context.

Patriarchy in the Context of Batak Society

Patriarchy is a social system in which men have dominant power in various aspects of life, including in the family, economy and politics. In the context of Batak society, patriarchal norms are very influential and form a clear social structure in gender interaction. Batak society has a social structure that prioritizes the role of men as the head of the family and the main decision-maker. In this context, men are usually considered the main providers, while women are expected to play the role of wives and mothers who take care of the household. This division of roles creates strict boundaries on what is considered the responsibility of men and women. Women often do not have equal access to education and career opportunities. This limits their ability to participate in important decisions, both within the family and in the wider social environment. As a result, women's voices are often marginalized in decision-making processes.

Data 3:

Ketua Adat (Customary Chief): "Keputusan ini harus diambil oleh para lelaki. Perempuan tidak perlu terlibat dalam hal ini. (This decision should be taken by the men. Women do not need to be involved in this.)"

Si Boru Toba: "Tapi kami juga memiliki pendapat dan pengalaman yang penting untuk dipertimbangkan! (But we also have important opinions and experiences to consider!)"

Ayah (Father): "Warisan ini akan diberikan kepada anak laki-laki. Perempuan tidak perlu khawatir tentang hal itu. (This inheritance will be given to the sons. Women don't need to worry about it.)"

Si Boru Toba: "Tapi mengapa kami tidak memiliki hak yang sama? Kami juga berkontribusi dalam keluarga. (But why don't we have the same rights? We also contribute to the family.)"

Temam Perempuan (Girl Friend): "Kita seharusnya menerima peran kita. Itu tradisi. (We should accept our roles. It's tradition)"

Si Boru Toba: "Tapi tradisi itu seringkali mengurung kita. Apakah kita tidak bisa mengubahnya? (But that tradition often confines us. Can't we change it?)"

In Batak family structures, important decisions are usually taken by men, both in terms of family affairs and customary activities. For example, in the context of inheritance, property is usually passed on to sons, with the result that women are often denied equal rights. This inheritance system reinforces gender inequality, as women become economically dependent on men. While women play an important role in maintaining and managing the household, their contributions are often overlooked in decision-making. This creates a sense of discontent among women who feel they have no control over their own lives. Patriarchy is also maintained through strong traditions and customs in Batak society. Many customary practices emphasize the role of men, while women are often seen as symbols of family honor without significant voting rights. In traditional

ceremonies, women are often used as objects to strengthen family status, but their rights and voices are rarely recognized.

Women's attachment to these traditions can lead to internal conflict, where they feel trapped between fulfilling roles expected by society and the desire to pursue personal aspirations. Although patriarchal norms are still dominant, there have been efforts by some women's groups and activists to challenge these structures. Social changes, such as increased access to education and women's involvement in the workforce, are beginning to change society's view of women's roles. However, resistance to change still exists. Many women are still struggling to gain equal recognition and rights. This shows that despite progress, the fight against patriarchy remains a significant challenge.

Patriarchy in the context of Batak society creates social structures that limit women's roles and rights. Despite efforts to challenge these norms, many women are still trapped in an unjust system. Achieving gender equality requires a deeper change in the way society views the roles of women and men. An understanding of patriarchy in Batak society is not only important for analyzing current social conditions, but also for formulating future steps in fighting for women's rights and achieving social justice. Through education, awareness, and solidarity among women, it is hoped that there will be significant changes in the face of patriarchal norms that are still strong.

Gender Identity and Women's Struggle

Gender identity is the way individuals understand, express and identify themselves in the context of gender, often influenced by social and cultural norms. In many societies, including Batak society, gender identity is often constructed through expectations set by patriarchal traditions and norms. This creates significant challenges for women in their struggle for equal recognition and rights. In Batak society, women are often faced with rigid roles, where they are expected to perform the functions of wife and mother. This role is often seen as the primary responsibility, while their personal ambitions and desires are often neglected.

Data 4:

Si Boru Toba: "Mengapa aku harus selalu mengikuti harapan mereka? Aku juga ingin dikenal bukan hanya sebagai istri atau ibu, tetapi sebagai diriku sendiri. (Why should I always follow their expectations? I also want to be known not just as a wife or mother, but as myself.)"

Ibu (Mother): "Perempuan seharusnya mengurus rumah dan anak. Itu tugasmu. (Women are supposed to take care of the house and children. That's your job)"

Si Boru Toba: "Tapi aku merasa terjebak. Apakah tidak ada ruang untuk impianku di luar itu? (But I feel trapped. Is there no room for my dreams beyond that?)"

Women's identity, in this context, is often tied to domestic roles and family responsibilities. This creates dissatisfaction among women who feel trapped in expectations that do not match

their aspirations. Women's struggle to establish their own identity often involves challenging existing norms. In the novel "Palito ni Si Boru Toba," the character of Si Boru Toba reflects this journey. She strives to find her voice and pursue her personal dreams, despite having to deal with various obstacles. This process illustrates how women not only fight for their rights, but also to gain recognition for their identity as individuals with aspirations and desires. The conflicts experienced by women in their struggle to assert their gender identity often arise from interactions with men. In many cases, these relationships are characterized by the tension between love and the desire for independence. Women often have to negotiate with expectations and demands coming from their partners, which may not always support the desire of independence. In this context, the struggle for gender identity is not just about defying patriarchal norms, but also about building healthy and supportive relationships. Solidarity between women is an important element in this struggle. In many communities, women find support for each other through strong social networks. When facing challenges, they often share their experiences and provide encouragement to each other. This solidarity not only helps them to overcome obstacles, but also strengthens women's collective identity as agents of change in society. Women's struggle for recognition of their identity is also linked to broader social change. In recent years, more Batak women have pursued education and careers in various fields. These changes have contributed to a shift in society's view of the role of women. While there are still challenges such as discrimination and stereotyping, women are beginning to be recognized for their contributions in various aspects of life. The importance of education in this struggle cannot be overlooked. Education gives women the tools to understand their rights and broaden their horizons about the world around them. Through education, women can develop the confidence and skills necessary to assert their rights. This creates opportunities for them to take a more active role in society and contribute to positive change. Gender identity and women's struggles in the context of Batak society reflect the complexity of social interactions influenced by patriarchal norms. Despite the many challenges, women continue to struggle for equal recognition and rights. This process is not only important for individuals, but also for society as a whole, as women's struggle for their identity and rights is part of a broader quest for justice and equality.

DISCUSSION

Solidarity between women

Solidarity among women is a concept that emphasizes the importance of support and cooperation among women in the face of challenges and injustices caused by patriarchal gender norms. In many social contexts, including Batak communities, this solidarity has been a key

element in women's struggle for recognition, rights and power in various aspects of life. Solidarity between women often emerges as a response to the shared experiences faced by women in a patriarchal society. When women are faced with discrimination, stereotypes and rigid expectations, they tend to seek support from fellow women. Through the social networks that form, women can share experiences, knowledge and strategies for dealing with various obstacles. This creates a sense of community and strengthens women's collective identity. In the context of Batak society, solidarity between women can be seen in various forms. For example, in social activities, women often come together to celebrate traditions, support each other, or even participate in joint economic activities. Through this cooperation, they not only support each other emotionally but also practically, such as in small businesses or study groups. These solidarity networks are also important in the context of education and empowerment. Women who have received an education often act as mentors for other women who want to continue their studies or develop skills. Through knowledge sharing, women can help each other to overcome challenges and create new opportunities. Solidarity between women is also seen in social movements and activism. Many women are involved in organizations or communities that focus on issues of gender, human rights and social justice. In this context, they come together to challenge patriarchal norms and fight for women's rights. For example, through campaigns, seminars and protests, women can raise issues that are important to them and demand change.

However, solidarity between women does not always run smoothly. Sometimes, differences in background, social class or outlook can cause tension in relationships between women. It is important for women to overcome these differences and build a deeper understanding of each other's experiences. In this way, solidarity can become a more powerful tool in the struggle against injustice. Solidarity also plays a role in building resilience among women. In the face of challenges, support from fellow women can provide emotional strength and motivation to keep fighting. When women feel supported by each other, they are more likely to take risks and speak up about issues that affect their lives.

In many cases, solidarity between women also creates space for women to explore their identities. In a supportive environment, women can more freely express themselves, share their stories, and find strength in the diversity of their experiences. This helps them to build confidence and identify personal and collective goals. Solidarity between women is not only important in an individual context, but also has a wider impact on society. When women unite and support each other, they create positive change in their communities. This can include increased awareness of gender issues, changes in social norms, and strengthening women's position in decision-making.

Overall, solidarity between women is key in the struggle to achieve equality and justice. By building strong support networks, women can face challenges together and push for necessary changes in society. This solidarity not only empowers individuals, but also creates a greater impact in shaping a more just future for all women.

Social Change and the Role of Women

Social change refers to transformations in the structure and function of society that affect existing patterns of interaction, values and norms. In the context of women's roles, social change is often characterized by shifts in the way women's positions and contributions are viewed in various aspects of life, including education, employment and decision-making. These changes do not happen instantly, but are the result of a long struggle involving various factors, including education, the women's rights movement, and the influence of globalization. In many societies, including Batak society, these social changes have had a significant impact on the role of women.

Education is one of the main pillars in social change that affects the role of women. Better access to education allows women to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to participate more actively in society. Education not only gives women the opportunity to develop their careers, but also helps them understand their rights and raise awareness of gender issues. Educated women tend to be more confident and speak up in various contexts, both within the family and community.

Along with increasing access to education, women are also increasingly involved in the workforce. These changes create new opportunities for women to contribute economically and take a more active role in society. In many cases, women are now functioning as the main providers in the family, which was previously the dominance of men. This shift not only changes family dynamics, but also gives women a stronger position in decision-making. The women's rights movement also played an important role in social change. Through activism and advocacy, women have successfully asserted their rights and fought for social justice. These movements often focus on issues such as gender-based violence, equal pay, and access to healthcare. By raising these issues, women can raise public awareness and push for policy changes that support gender equality.

In Batak society, social change towards women's roles can be seen in the context of culture and tradition. While there are still strong patriarchal norms, there has been a shift in the way society views women's contributions. For example, women are now increasingly recognized for their role in maintaining cultural heritage and contributing to traditional activities. In some cases, women are also starting to be involved in decision-making that was previously dominated by men.

However, despite progress, challenges remain. Many women still face discrimination and stereotypes, both in the workplace and in everyday life. Societies are still often stuck in traditional views of gender roles, which can hinder further progress. Resistance to these changes often comes from various quarters, including families, communities and social institutions. Social change also requires women to adapt to their new roles. In some cases, women face pressure to balance work and family responsibilities. While more and more women are pursuing careers, they are often still expected to fulfill the traditional role of housekeeper. This creates a double burden that challenges women to find a balance between the two roles. Solidarity between women is important in this context of social change. By supporting each other, women can overcome obstacles and strengthen their position in society. These support networks not only help women to share experiences, but also provide collective strength in the face of challenges.

Overall, social change provides new opportunities for women to explore their identities and roles in society. While challenges remain, progress towards gender equality is an important step in creating a more just and inclusive society. By continuing the fight for women's rights and building solidarity, it is hoped that women can achieve a stronger and more influential position in social, economic and political life.

CONCLUSION

The findings from the analysis of "Palito Ni Si Boru Toba" reveal a nuanced portrait of women navigating a patriarchal society. Si Boru Toba's character embodies the resilience and agency of women who challenge traditional norms while fostering solidarity among themselves. The systemic issues highlighted, such as the patriarchal inheritance system and the struggle for personal identity, underscore the need for continued advocacy for women's rights. The novel not only serves as a reflection of Batak culture but also invites readers to engage with the ongoing quest for gender equality and social justice. Through education and being active in the workforce, women begin to gain more equal recognition and rights. Solidarity between women became an important element in facing challenges, creating a network of support that helped them to express themselves and fight for their rights. The social changes that occurred, although still facing various obstacles, showed progress towards gender equality. The novel not only depicts the reality of women in the context of Batak culture, but also invites readers to understand the importance of women's collective struggle to achieve justice and recognition in society. Thus, the novel becomes an evocative narrative about the search for meaning, identity and freedom for women.

REFERENCES

- Baiduri, R. (2015). Paradoks Perempuan Batak Toba: Suatu Penafsiran Hermeneutik terhadap Karya Sastra Ende Siboru Tombaga. *MIMBAR: Jurnal Sosial dan Pembangunan*, 31(1), 51-60.
- Butar-Butar, G. M. (2020). Eksistensi Perempuan Batak Toba Dalam Budaya Dan Agama. *Jurnal Pionir*, 6(2).
- Firmando, H. B. (2021). Status Dan Peranan Perempuan Setelah Berumah Tangga Dalam Masyarakat Batak Toba Di Tapanuli Utara (Analisis Sosiologis). *Jurnal Intervensi Sosial dan Pembangunan (JISP)*, 2(1), 23-38.
- Gultom ES, A. (2019). Peran Hata Poda dan Umpasa dalam Upacara Adat Batak Toba terhadap Pendidikan Karakter. *KABANTI: Jurnal Kerabat Antropologi*, 3(1), 1–5.
- Gultom, Eva. The Sustainable Tourism of Lumban Suhi–Suhi Village Samosir after the Pandemic. *Humaniora*, [S.l.], v. 35, n. 1, p. 24-32, oct. 2023. ISSN 2302-9269.
- Hutabarat, D. A. (2009). Strategi politik perempuan dalam dominasi sistem patriarki batak toba. *Journal of Politic and Government Studies*, 8(02), 191-200.
- Maha, E. C. (2015). *Perubahan Sosial Kultural Pada Perempuan Batak Toba (Studi Tentang Perempuan Batak Toba Yang Tidak Menikah Di Yogyakarta)* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Gadjah Mada).
- Rigitta, P. (2021). Analisis Kedudukan Sosial Perempuan Batak Toba dalam Konteks Kesusastraan. *Jurnal Normatif*, 1(1), 49-55.
- Sianturi, W. N., Hutahaean, G. T., Siregar, G. T., & Hamonangan, A. (2022). Kedudukan Perempuan Dalam Hukum Waris Adat Batak Toba (Desa Untemungkur Kecamatan Muara). *JURNAL RECTUM: Tinjauan Yuridis Penanganan Tindak Pidana*, 5(1), 406-424.
- Silaban, L. T. E. (2018). *Beban Ganda Petani Perempuan di Keluarga (Studi pada Perempuan Batak Toba di Desa Sitolubahal)* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Sumatera Utara).
- Simanjuntak, B. A. (2006). *Struktur Sosial Dan Sistem Politik Batak Toba Hingga 1945: Suatu Pendekatan Antropologi Budaya Dan Politik*. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.
- Simatupang, J. B. (2021). Perempuan dalam Budaya Adat Batak Toba. *Jurnal Pendidikan Tambusai*, 5(3), 10288-10296.