

## Image of Minangkabau Women in The Kaba Siti Risani

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### Abstract

*This research aims to explore: (1) The physical and psychological representation of Minangkabau women in the kaba "Siti Risani" by Sutan Nasarudin, (2) The role of Minangkabau women in the family context in the kaba, (3) The role of Minangkabau women in the context of society in the kaba "Siti Risani." The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive approach, using the book "Siti Risani" by Sutan Nasarudin as a data source. The data collection steps involved understanding the image of Minangkabau women, literature study, character identification, and data recording. Triangulation techniques were used to validate the data. The research results reveal two aspects of the image of Minangkabau women, namely physical and psychological. Physical image is divided into women who emphasize beauty and gentleness, and those who show strength and grace. Psychic image involves five aspects, including firmness, good manners, steadfastness, discipline, perseverance, patience, and compassion. The role of Minangkabau women in the family includes three main roles, namely as wife, mother and family member. The role of Minangkabau women in society is divided into two, namely as Limpapeh Rumah Gadang and Bundo Kandung. The keywords of this research include image, Kaba, and women*

**Keywords:** portrayal, kaba, Siti Risani

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### Article history

Received: 19-12-2023	Revised: 17-03-2024	Accepted: 31-03-2024	Published: 9-04-2024
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### Introduction

Literary works reflect the reflection of the author's thoughts in conveying their ideas. Literary works are a means of conveying the author's thoughts to readers. Literary works have two aspects, namely the form aspect and the content aspect. The form aspect includes elements contained in literary works, such as human life experiences, socio-cultural aspects, art, and ways of thinking in a society. The content aspect becomes more essential, because language only acts as a medium (Djojoseuroto 2006:17). According to Warton (in Wellek and Warren, 1990:109), literature functions as a repository of customs. Literary works arise from the realities of life in society.

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Descriptions in literary works of society can include the social structure, functions and roles of each member of society, as well as the interactions between them. Literary works tell various problems in the author's life through ideas that can be read by other people. One of the literary works that raises various life problems is kaba which is related to Minangkabau customs and culture.

According to Djamaris (2002:78), kaba can be divided into two categories, namely classical kaba and non-classical kaba. Junus (1984:19) explains that classical kaba tells about the competition for power between two groups, one of which comes from outside the family unit. Meanwhile, non-classical Kaba tells the story of the life of a poor young man who migrates to improve his fate. Kaba is a Minangkabau regional literary work that carries fictional literature based on the reality of life in an artistic, imaginative way. Kaba takes the form of lyrical prose when published in book form, with the unity of the sentence as the main element (Hermawan, 2021).

Kaba not only explores the story of a king and the life of a Minang youth who migrates to improve his life. Kaba also presents stories about the lives of women in Minangkabau. One of the classic kaba that describes the lives of women in Minangkabau is *Kaba Siti Risani*, written by Sutan Nasarudin.

In *Kaba Siti Risani* by Sutan Nasarudin, there is a story of a Minangkabau woman from the past who discusses family problems, romance, customs, matchmaking and relationships with society. *Kaba Siti Risani* reviews the life of a Minangkabau woman who lives according to customs. Every day, *Siti Risani* and other female figures are involved in helping their parents at home, such as cooking, cleaning the house, or supporting other household chores.

Several previous studies have studied *Siti Risani's* kaba, such as Nofiyana's research (2013) with the title "The image of Minangkabau women in the kaba of *Siti Risani*, *Siti Baheram*, and *Siti Kalasun*." This research discusses the conflict between the main characters and the image of Minangkabau women from the three kaba. Apart from that, other research also explores the role of women, such as research by Syahrul (2013) entitled "The Image of Women in the Kaba Anggun Nan Tongga by Amba Mahkota." By understanding kaba as a form of Minangkabau literature that involves various aspects of life, both in terms of form and content, research continues to open a window into the richness of culture and values reflected in this literary work. Each sheet of kaba invites the reader to soak up the beauty of the language and the depth of the implied meaning, making the kaba a window into the past that is loaded with local wisdom and thoughts that are relevant to this day.

## **Method**

To collect data, researchers went through several steps. First, read and understand the depiction of Minangkabau women in the book *Siti Risani* by Sutan Nasarudin. Second, conduct literature studies related to research problems to understand and master the problems discussed. Third, determine the characters in Sutan Nasarudin's *Kaba Siti Risani* in the specified format. Fourth, inventory data into an inventory format related to the *Kaba Siti Risani* by Sutan Nasarudin. Researchers used triangulation techniques to validate the data. Data analysis techniques include (1) classifying data related to the image of Minangkabau women using a data identification and classification format, (2) interpreting the data, and (3) concluding the research results and compiling a report on the results of the analysis. In collecting data,

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researchers went through detailed and systematic steps.

First of all, the researcher studied and understood the depiction of Minangkabau women in the book *Siti Risani* by Sutan Nasarudin. This step involves an in-depth analysis of the women's characters, life dynamics, and cultural values reflected in the kaba narrative. Second, researchers carry out a comprehensive literature study related to the research problem to obtain a strong and in-depth theoretical foundation and ensure that the research is in a context that is appropriate to the latest developments in thought and research. Third, the researcher determined the main characters in Sutan Nasarudin's Kaba *Siti Risani* in a predetermined format, involving the description of their characters, motivations and roles in the development of the story. Fourth, the findings from data analysis and understanding are compiled and inventoried in a structured format, including character descriptions, relationship dynamics between characters, and cultural values reflected in each chapter.

In carrying out this research, researchers used triangulation techniques to validate the data, referring to various sources and approaches, including an in-depth understanding of kaba, related theories, and previous research. The data analysis technique involves (1) classifying data related to the image of Minangkabau women using a data identification and classification format, (2) interpreting the data critically, and (3) concluding the research results and compiling a report on the results of the analysis systematically, with the aim of exploring meaning and value contained in *Siti Risani*'s kaba in depth and comprehensively.

## **Discussion**

### **The Role of Minangkabau Women in the Family in Kaba *Siti Risani* by Sutan Nasarudin**

#### **1. Image of Women as Wives**

Married Minangkabau women have special responsibilities as wives, including the duty to respect, serve and accompany their husbands in all situations. In the Kaba *Siti Risani* by Sutan Nasarudin, it is depicted how Minangkabau women, called Dayang Daerah, carry out their role as wives by cooking and serving food, including coffee, for their husband, Tuanku Imam Mudo.

In this quote, the Regional Dayang carries out her role as a wife by providing food and drink for her family, as reflected in the following quote: "dilieik nasi alah talatak, kok kopi alah barisi,lalu dibasuah malah tangan,alah makan basamo-samo."

Another quote shows the dual role of Minangkabau women as mother and daughter, with the Regional Dayang playing the role of mother who educates her daughters, *Siti Risani* and Siti Rusinah, to have the skills to help with household work such as cleaning the house and cooking. Siti Arabainah, as an example of a mother in kaba, awaits her husband's return by providing food, such as rice and curry, which is served in a serving hood while waiting for her husband.

This quote reflects that Minangkabau women not only perform daily tasks in their role as wives, but also demonstrate a sense of loyalty, patience and happiness in building family relationships. The Regional Dayang, as a mother figure, teaches Minangkabau cultural values to her children, shapes their character, and provides an example as a wise mother. In involving themselves in these roles, Minangkabau women in *Siti Risani*'s kaba do not only perform duties. -daily tasks in her role as a wife, but also depicts a sense of

loyalty, patience and happiness in building family relationships. This conclusion also underlines the richness of Minangkabau cultural heritage which is not only relevant in its time, but also provides inspiration for understanding and appreciating the role of women in Minangkabau family dynamics.

In the *Siti Risani* kaba, the character *Siti Risani* is also depicted as a wife who is loyal, obedient and obedient to her husband. She always tries to please her husband and fulfill her obligations as a wife. *Siti Risani* is also an intelligent and wise wife. She always gives advice and guides her husband. He also always tries to maintain harmony in his household. The following are several examples of quotes from kaba *Siti Risani* which describe the image of women as wives:

*"Siti Risani sangat setia kepada suaminya. Ia selalu berusaha untuk menyenangkan hati suaminya dan memenuhi kewajibannya sebagai istri."*

*"Siti Risani selalu memberikan nasihat dan bimbingan kepada suaminya. Ia juga selalu berusaha untuk menjaga keharmonisan rumah tangganya."*

In conclusion, the image of a woman as a wife in *Siti Risani's* kaba is depicted as someone who is loyal, obedient, obedient, intelligent and wise. This image depicts the role of Minangkabau women as wives who are very important to the family. The following are several aspects that describe the image of women as wives in *Siti Risani's* kaba.

**Table 1. The Image of Women as Wives in *Siti Risani's* Kaba**

No.	Aspect	Detail
1.	Loyalty	<i>Siti Risani</i> is very loyal to her husband. She always tries to please her husband and fulfill her obligations as a wife. She also always misses her husband when they are not around.
2.	Obedient and obedient	<i>Siti Risani</i> is very obedient and obedient to her husband. She always listened to her husband's advice and tried to implement it.
3.	Intelligence and wisdom	<i>Siti Risani</i> is an intelligent and wise wife. She always provides advice and guidance to her husband. He also always tries to maintain harmony in his household.
4.	Harmony	<i>Siti Risani</i> is also a wife who is able to maintain harmony in her household. He always tries to create a calm and comfortable atmosphere in his household.

The image of women as wives in *Siti Risani's* kaba describes the role of Minangkabau women as wives who are very important to the family. Minangkabau women are required to be loyal, obedient, obedient, intelligent, wise, and able to maintain household harmony.

## **2. The Image of Women as Mothers**

Minangkabau women, apart from playing the role of wife, also play the role of mother and child. As a mother, her responsibilities involve caring for children, conveying the norms of life, especially Minangkabau traditional values and norms.

Providing a good example to one's children is a must, and educating one's children well requires qualities such as patience, happiness, and a good attitude.

As a child, Minangkabau women are obliged to show respect and devotion to their parents. This dual role of Minangkabau women is reflected in the kaba *Siti Risani* by Sutan Nasarudin, as illustrated in the following quote."at that very moment, it is ready to eat and drink, because the youngest and the middle one are clever, the ones who cook are taught by their mother, the plates that have been stored, the glasses that have gone into the cupboard, if the trash that has been swept away, how to take it, it contains betel and areca nuts , placed in the middle of the house, in front of parents." In this quote, the Regional Dayang, who represents the role of the mother, tries to educate her daughter to have the skills to help with household work and provides teaching about Minangkabau customs. Another illustration shows the role of children in the family, where *Siti Risani* and Siti Rusinah help their mother with household tasks such as cleaning the dining table. The conclusion of this story highlights the dual role of Minangkabau women as mothers and daughters, making a real contribution to the continuity of local customs and values. This research invites readers to reflect on the depth of cultural values manifested in literature, and appreciate the role of women in Minangkabau family dynamics.

In *Siti Risani's* story, the character *Siti Risani* is also described as a loving and responsible mother. He really loves and cares for his children. He always tries to give the best for them. *Siti Risani* is also an intelligent and wise mother figure. He always provides advice and guidance to his children. He also always tries to protect his children from danger. The following are several examples of quotes from kaba *Siti Risani* which describe the image of women as mothers

*"Siti Risani loves her children very much. She always tries to give the best for them."*

*"Siti Risani always gives advice and guidance to her children. She also always tries to protect her children from harm."*

In conclusion, the image of women as mothers in *Siti Risani's* kaba is depicted as a figure who is loving, responsible, intelligent and wise. This image depicts the role of Minangkabau women as mothers who are very important for the family. The following are several aspects that describe the image of women as mothers in *Siti Risani's* kaba.

**Table 2 The Image of Women as Mothers in *Siti Risani's* Kaba**

No.	Aspect	Detail
1.	Love and love	Risani really loves and cares for her children. He always tries to give the best for them. He also always misses his children when they are not around him.
2.	Responsibility	<i>Siti Risani</i> is very responsible as a mother. He always tries to meet his children's needs, both physical and spiritual needs. He also always tries to educate and raise his children well.
3.	Intelligence and wisdom	<i>Siti Risani</i> is an intelligent and wise mother figure. He always provides advice and guidance to his children. He also always tries to protect his children from danger.



4.	Leadership	<i>Siti Risani</i> is also a mother figure who leads her family. He always tries to maintain family harmony and provides an example for his children.
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The image of women as mothers in *Siti Risani's* kaba describes the role of Minangkabau women as mothers who are very important for the family. Minangkabau women are required to be loving, responsible, intelligent, wise and leaders for their families.

### 3. The Image of Women as Children

In the *Siti Risani* kaba, the character *Siti Risani* is described as a woman who has a dual role, namely as a child and as a wife. As a child, *Siti Risani* had a very close relationship with her father, Datuk Bendahara. *Siti Risani* really respects and loves her father. He always tried to please his father and help him in various ways. *Siti Risani* also has a good relationship with her mother, Datuak Puti. *Siti Risani* is very obedient and obedient to her mother. He always listened to his mother's advice and tried to implement it. *Siti Risani's* relationship with her father and mother reflects the image of Minangkabau women as children who are devoted and obedient to their parents.

Minangkabau women are required to respect and love their parents, both father and mother. They are also required to obey and obey their parents. Apart from that, *Siti Risani* is also described as a brave and intelligent woman. He dared to fight his father to defend the truth. He is also intelligent and clever in solving problems. This depicts the image of Minangkabau women as independent and tough figures. Minangkabau women are not only required to be dutiful and obedient to their parents, but are also required to be independent and strong. The following are several examples of quotes from kaba *Siti Risani* which describe the image of women as children:

*"Datuak Bendahara sangat menyayangi Siti Risani. Ia merasa sangat kehilangan jika Siti Risani tidak ada di dekatnya."*

*"Siti Risani sangat patuh kepada ibunya. Ia selalu mendengarkan nasihat ibunya dan berusaha untuk melaksanakannya."*

*"Siti Risani berani melawan ayahnya untuk membela kebenaran. Ia tidak takut dengan hukuman yang akan diterimanya."*

In conclusion, the image of women as children in *Siti Risani's* kaba is depicted as a figure who is filial, obedient, independent and tough. This image depicts the dual role of Minangkabau women as children and as wives.

### Conclusion

By detailing various aspects of life in *Siti Risani's* kaba, it can be concluded that this literary work not only reflects the social and cultural reality of Minangkabau, but also depicts the complexity of women's roles. This story shows that Minangkabau women not only serve as loyal and devoted wives to their husbands, but also as mothers who educate their children with cultural values and traditional norms. Kaba *Siti Risani* revealed the diversity of Minangkabau women's roles, involving not only household duties, but also children's education and maintaining traditional values. This makes kaba a medium that reflects the depth of Minangkabau culture and provides a deeper understanding of the lives of its people.

In-depth research on kaba *Siti Risani* also shows that literary works, as artistic expressions, are able to convey life messages and absorb the beauty of language. This conclusion opens the door to deeper insight into the richness of Minangkabau culture manifested in literature, making kaba a window that leads to a deeper understanding of local wisdom and thoughts that remain relevant today.

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