

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to discuss issue of sacred sex in the novel *Eleven Minutes* by Paulo Coelho. The novel illustrates Maria, the main character, who decides to be a prostitute. The issue that will be discussed in this study is the interpretations about sacred sex for Maria and how it is different from society's point of view. The different perceptions toward the discourse of sex cause some conflicts appear. Therefore, this study explains how the discourse of power relation in the issue of sacred sex works between Maria and the society.

This study applies qualitative method; therefore, the writer will analyze the issues by elaborating dialogues, events, and conflicts in the novel and applies the theory appropriately to the discussion. The writer applies discourse of power theory by Michel Foucault since its topic relates with sexuality discourse. Besides, the writer also applies theory of ideology by Louis Althusser, mainly about Ideological State Apparatus (ISA) in supporting the role of institution in the novel (represented by the existence of church).

By applying the theory, the writer finds that the church, as part of society, has power to spread its doctrines to society and create the regime of truth. However, the power of ISA in influencing its society through its doctrines does not work in Maria's character. In this case, it might be argued that Maria does a resistance toward those doctrines.

Key words: power, sex, sacred sex, resistance, truth, sexuality discourse