



Social Conflict in Kembang Jepun by Remy Sylado

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Abstract

This research aimed to find out the social conflict that exist in the novel of Kembang Jepun. This research focused on forms of social conflict in novels and the causes of social conflict. This study used a sociological literature approach. The source of data in this research was the novel of Kembang Jepun by Remy Sylado. The results of the study showed that the form of social conflict which showed the existence of child trafficking carried out by Janjte and Kotaro Takimura figures, violence and fights that occurred in Shinju, arrest by police at the Tjahaja Soerabja office. The reason of this social conflict was the greed character of Janjte's figure, Kotaro Takamura, who wanted his place of business to be crowded again and Tjak Broto's writing which was considered to have provoked the community to hate the Dutch government.

Keywords: *Social Conflict; Kembang Jepun; Remy Sylado*

Introduction

Literature is a social institution that uses language as a medium. Language itself is a social creation between literature presenting a picture of life, and life itself is a social reality (Damono, 1979: 1). Literary works describe and reflect the realities of life that exist in society. Yasa (2012: 99) states that the relationship between literature and society supporting cultural values cannot be separated, because literature presents life and mostly consists of social reality (society), even though literary works imitate nature and the subjective world. The author who creates a literary work usually feels or sees the realities of life around his environment.

According to Ratna (2011: 332) literature has a close relationship with society, therefore its relation to society must be examined, as follows: (1) literary works are written by authors, told by storytellers, copied by copyists, all three are members of society, (2) literary works live in society, absorbing aspects of life that occur in the community which in turn are also functioned by the community, (3) literary media, both oral and written, borrowed through community competences, naturally contain social problems, (4) different from in science, religion and customs and other traditions, in literature, it contains aesthetics, ethics and even logic. The community is clearly very concerned in these three aspects, (5) the same as people finding their own image in a work. This shows that literature is a reflection of

culture in the dialectic between the authors and the social conditions that form it. So literature and the reality of life are two things that cannot be separated.

The author as the creator of literary works also cannot escape from the social background that surrounds him. Literary works that are created are usually based on social realities and the author's experiences. This is in line with Pradopo's (2001: 59), literary works are directly or indirectly influenced by the experience of the author's environment.

Sardjono (1995: 10) states that literature is a translation of the journey of human life when humans come into contact with events that occur in their lives. Literary work is a portrait of reality manifested through language. Pradopo (2001: 61) also states that literary works are born in the midst of society as a result of the author's imagination and his reflections on the social phenomena around him. However, literary works do not exist in a cultural vacuum. Therefore, an author creating a literary work cannot be separated from the social and cultural background to create a literary work because the author has been influenced by the system of life that covers it.

Community life is not far from problems. Social situations or conditions that exist in society usually serve as inspiration for authors to create literary works. This approves with Waluyo (2006: 58) which states that literary works are social documents, in which humans are told with various problems.

The *Kembang Jepun* novel was created based on the culture and knowledge of the author about the Indonesian nation which was colonized by the Dutch. In addition, there are conflicts that are presented in the novel, so that the novel can be appreciated and become entertainment for readers. Agree with the statement of Nubaiti (2018: 2) which states that literary work is a social element that can influence and can be influenced by society, because literary works are created by writers to be enjoyed and understood and utilized by the reading community.

The *Kembang Jepun* novel has its own charm because it can portray the circumstances and the situations during the Dutch colonial era. Readers can illustrate how the colonizers treated the natives, as well as conflicts with fellow natives. So this study uses a sociological literary approach to analyze the novel. According to Swingewood (in Endraswara, 2011: 17) sociology of literature is a study of literary works as a socio-cultural document, which reflects an era.

Sociology of literature as a scientific and objective study of humans in society is the study of social institutions and processes (Faruk, 1994: 1). The sociology of literature approach is different from the science of sociology, sociology is essentially a scientific, objective study of humans in society, the study of social institutions and social processes; it seeks to answer questions about how society might be, how it works, how it remains (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972: 11). Like sociology, literature is also very concerned with the social world of man, its adaptation to it, and its desire to change it. (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972: 12). So, sociology and sociology of literature both have a focus on social life in society.

Method

This research was a descriptive qualitative research. Dezin & Lincoln (in Anggito & Setiawan 2018: 7) qualitative research is research that uses a natural setting with the intention of interpreting the phenomena that occur and is carried out by involving various existing methods. The data used in this study were quotations from the *Kembang Jepun* novel which contained social conflicts. The data analysis technique used in this study was the Miles, BM & Huberman (1992: 17-20) model using 4 steps, namely, data collection, data condensation, data presentation (data display), and drawing conclusion (conclusion drawing).

Results and Discussion

According to Sayuti (200: 142) social conflict is a conflict between people or a person and society. The form of the conflict is usually a character conflict in relation to social problems. Social problems are complex problems. So, if humans do not immediately find a way out, it can cause conflict. Conflict arises from individual attitudes towards the social environment regarding various problems, such as ideological conflicts, rape of rights and others. The form of social conflict that occurred in the *Kembang Jepun* novel was in the form of child trafficking and fights either physically or verbally.

The form of child trafficking in the *Kembang Jepun* novel was described in the following quote:

"But, it means we will work together as traders, well, how much do you want to pay for one person on the spot?" (Sylado, 2003: 19)

The above quote showed that the character Janjte offered children from Manado to sell to Kotaro Takamura and become geisha at his place of business called Shinju. Shinju is known as a place of prostitution in the surrounding community. The quote confirmed that Janjte and Kotaro Takamura conduct child trafficking as follows:

"I only need about six people and, their age should not be more than 9 years. It must be charming, soft; there should be no scars of ulcers or scabies "(Sylado, 2003: 29)

"The copra price before Maleise was F 0.02 per kilogram. I ask each person for 2 tons of copra. And don't bargain. Kalua agrees, say yes as long as my feet are still on this Shinju floor. If my legs are out of here, the price will change again "(Sylado, 2003: 20)

"In January 1930, I was here with all six girls before 9 years old and there were no ulcers or scabies and it was charming and soft," said Janjte. (Sylado, 2003: 20)

The above quotations showed that Kotaro Takamura asked Manado girls to work in Shinju, Janjte agreed and gave a price for the one child he brought. Meredith and Fitzgerald (in Nurgiyantoro, 2002: 122) say that conflict is something unpleasant that occurs and or is experienced by story characters, if the characters have the freedom to choose, they do not choose events that happen to him. The reason of the conflict occurred because of the greed of the Janjte character who wanted to have more money for his pleasure. Other unpleasant things experienced by the girls who brought Janjte after arriving in Shinju, the girls brought by Janjte including his own younger sister named Keke, were educated and taught to become geisha. The girls were forced to learn Japanese culture and Kotaro Takamura gave them a new identity. During polishing to be geisha, these Manado girls often got physical violence from Yoko who taught them. This event was illustrated in the following quotes:

.... This is the problem for us. If we pronounce the Japanese wrong, Yoko quickly slashes the rattan into our mouths. We have to utter and speak Japanese fluently. (Sylado, 2003: 28)

The first time which surprised me was Yoko's rattan that slashed my mouth. When eating without making a sound, I was taught that every time I eat, my mouth has to taste noisily ... (Sylado, 2003: 30)

The quote above was portrayed once Yoko taught the girls to become geisha. After the girls became complete geisha, Yoko saw them as rivals and other conflicts aroused in Shinju. Semi (1988: 45) states that conflict in fiction consists of internal conflict, namely the conflict between two desires within a character and external conflict, namely conflict between one character and another or between a character and their environment. Relating to social conflict, the reason of the conflict was because girls from Manado became Japanese girls and worked as geisha in Shinju. This event is in line with Nurbaiti (2018:

12) who says conflict after conflict followed by event after event will increase the conflict. Other events happened in Shinju was in below quote:

The inevitable answer made Janjte not able to hold back his anger, and then stood up to attack Kotaro Takamura by pulling his shirt. He did not think at all that it was not easy to attack Kotaro Takamura, if the attack was only driven by angry instincts and calculating the possible defenses that would be faced. (Sylado, 2003: 31)

"You stole!" he snapped. Well, that's right; this sound is very loud, so that the body is supported in shock. (Sylado, 2003; 100)

Fortunately, when several other geishas were disturbed by the noise and came to the room to watch, Kotaro Takamura stopped this fight. He pulled me away, and then threw him against the wall. When I fell there, he approached me, then pulled my kimono back, and crossed his right hand, he slapped me. (Sylado, 2003: 101)

Apart from the conflicts that exist within Shinju, other conflicts also exist outside of Shinju. This is illustrated in the following quote:

The policeman had brown skin, more Javanese than the Dutch. He entered Tjoa Tjie Liang's room as he used to in this office. Without the usual Javanese manners, he scolded Tjoa Tjie Liang in an unpleasant voice, similar to the sound of a steel saw blunt cutting iron.

"Master was arrested. Stand up quickly, sir. " (Sylado: 2003: 58)

The Dutch police took Tjoa Tjie Liang away, while the entire office, including Tjak Broto, was helpless. (Sylado, 2003: 59)

The conflict above explained that when the police made an arrest at the Tjahaja Soerabaja office, it was because Tulisa Tjak Broto provoked the community to hate the Dutch government. Relations between figures who have different characters, attitudes, interests, aspirations, and hopes are the cause of the conflict. (Nurbaiti, 2018: 13).

Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, it showed that there were social conflicts experienced by the characters in the *Kembang Jepun* novel. The social conflicts contained in the *Jepun* flower novel were child trafficking, violence and fighting. This was due to Janjte's greediness, violence committed by Yoko characters to Keke or Keiko figures to awaken Shinju and made Keke a geisha, fighting were also caused by Yoko's jealousy of Keke when Keke had become a complete geisha, violence was also experienced by Tjak. Broto was arrested because his writing was published in the Tjahaja Soerabaja newspaper.

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