



## Sociological Study of Literature on Short Stories by Eka Kurniawan

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v10i8.4878>

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### **Abstract**

This research aimed to describe the sociology of literary works in the collection of short stories *Coret-coret di Toilet* by Eka Kurniawan. The researcher used the descriptive analysis method based on the facts in the short story. Data collection used note-taking techniques to obtain data by reading, understanding, and recording quotations that follow the formulation of the problem. The research results showed that social life phenomena are related to economic, political, educational, and cultural sociology.

**Keywords:** *Indonesian Language Learning; Short Stories by Eka Kurniawan; Sociological of literature*

### **Introduction**

Literature as a reflection of human life can be poured into various forms, including short stories. A short story is a type of literary work in which the description is told or narrated, not as complex as a novel, and the plot is short. Literature is essential to be taught to students so that students are not only familiar with literature but can also learn other lessons from a literary work, like learning from the characters' experiences in literary works.

The researcher chose short stories as the object of analysis because short stories are one form of literary work in which most narrative objects convey human life in society. Therefore, short stories are one of the literary works that can be studied in the sociology of literature. So far, no one has examined the short story by Eka Kurniawan in terms of the sociology of literature, so the researcher aimed to reveal the aspects contained in the short story. It is not the story about *Coret-Coret di Toilet* and *Gerimis Yang Sederhana* that is the main focus in Eka Kurniawan's short story, but more social criticism raised through the use of the terms *Coret-Coret di Toilet* and *Gerimis Yang Sederhana* as metaphors. It is exciting when the term *satan* is used as a figure of speech to describe Indonesian society in the past and, simultaneously reveal what happened at that time, especially among young people.

When faced with the social realities surrounding them, many teenagers feel they do not need to be involved because there are so many social problems related to the nation's next generations. Even those who know, as if closing their eyes, then choose to remain silent and do not want to help solve it. Most of them feel that things will stay the same no matter what they do to try to help. From these things, it

becomes interesting to analyze when there are literary works addressing the socio-economic, political, family, and social life of other people who exist today that are packaged in terms of *Coret-Coret di Toilet* and *Cinta Tak Ada Mati* in a short story. Eka Kurniawan described the existing problems in language accompanied by an exciting plot so that it expected that readers would be aware of problems that occurred in society and needed attention from the public.

## **Method**

This research used a descriptive method. The descriptive method is solving problems investigated by describing or describing the state of the research object based on existing facts. The descriptive method was used because this research aimed to describe the sociology of literature in the short story *Coret-coret di Toilet* by Eka Kurniawan. Based on this, this study objectively described the data in quotations in the short story *Coret-coret di Toilet* by Eka Kurniawan. According to Moleong (2012: 11), the descriptive method collected the data in words, pictures, and not numbers. Thus, the research report would contain data excerpts to illustrate the presentation of the report. The data were obtained from interview scripts, field notes, photographs, personal documents, notes or memos, and other receipt documents. The data in the form of quotations that had been obtained need to be described or explained so that, in the end, it will be known about feminism contained in the collection of short stories *Coret-coret di Toilet* by Eka Kurniawan.

This research was qualitative. Researchers used qualitative research because the results of this research were described and concluded in the form of words, not numbers; this was in accordance with the basic concept of qualitative research. A qualitative approach is a research on a phenomenon described in words and language through sentences and descriptions without numbers. In other words, This research produced descriptive data about the sociology of literature in the short story *Coret-coret di Toilet* by Eka Kurniawan. So qualitative research does not test theories or hypotheses but is process-oriented by relying on the researcher as the main instrument. This is important because, in the process itself, analysis activities and decision-making can occur at the same time.

## **Result and Discussion**

### Sociology of Literary Works

The sociology of literary works is the study of the sociology of literature which examines literary works to social problems that exist in society. Several aspects of the sociology of literary works are as follows.

#### 1. Socioeconomic Aspects

A person's socio-economic status can be seen in his lifestyle, how he dresses, the accessories used, and even his educational background. Usually, people in the upper class will be different from those in the lower class. Socio-economic aspects of society are classified into two kinds: First, upper-class economic society and second, lower-class economic society. People with large incomes will occupy the highest social layer (Soekanto, 2012: 208).

#### Socio-Economic Aspects Short Story of Kisah Seorang Kawan

*“Hidup kami ditopang oleh usaha ayah itu. Ia jual beras, jagung, kacang-kacangan dan yang semacamnya... (2007:88)”*

“The father’s efforts support our life. He sells rice, corn, beans, and the like... (2007:88)” (English translation)

The quote above shows economic activity. The activity was selling rice, corn, and beans. So, the quotation above was categorized in the socio-economic aspect.

#### Socioeconomic Aspects in the Short Story of *Dewi Amor* By Eka Kurniawan

“*Sudah kuputuskan malam ini aku akan menelponnya... (2007:96)*

“I have decided tonight I am going to call him ... (2007:96) (English translation)

*dan di garasi para lelaki tua memanasi mesin mobil atau motor. (2007:99)*

And in the garage, the old men heat the engine of a car or motorbike. (2007:99) (English translation)

The quote "I have decided tonight I am going to call him" above showed the activities of economically well-established people. At that time, if a person had a communication device, he could predict that he would come from a reputable family. Moreover, it could be successful if someone had a car and motorbike. Therefore, the quotation above was categorized in the socio-economic aspect.

#### Socioeconomic Aspects in the Short Story of *Kandang Babi*

“*Selama beberapa waktu ia mencoba mengamen di perempatan jalan, namun hasilnya jauh dari cukup untuk mencapai cita-citanya punya pondokan baru. (Kandang Babi, 2007:115).*”

“For some time he tried busking at a crossroad, but the results were far from enough to achieve his dream of having a new cottage (2007:115).” (English translation)

The quote above shows the effort to have a new cottage. A cottage could help families ease the economy if the children were in the cottage. Therefore, the quotation above is categorized in the socio-economic aspect.

## 2. Socio-Political Aspects

The writer’s view of politics is one factor that influences the creation of a literary work. Authors can deliver their political ideology in literary works, but it is not uncommon for an author to try to refute or oppose an ideology that exists in society. Literary works can also be used to express ideas, suggestions, or criticisms about a policy or rule that has been established and usually use the words of parables.

#### Socio-political Aspects in the Short Story of Peter Pan by Eka Kurniawan

“*Dalam pengakuannya, ia mencuri buku dari perpustakaan- perpustakaan yang tersebar di seluruh pelosok kota, di toko toko buku maupun dari toko loakan. Ia berkata bahwa mencuri buku merupakan tindakan terkutuk, dan ia melakukannya dengan harapan bisa di tangkap sehingga ia akan tahu bahwa pemerintah memang mencintai buku buku dan membenci para pencuri. Tapi dasar malang, ia tak juga ditangkap meskipun sudah ribuan buku ia curi (2007:2)*”

“In his confession, he stole books from libraries scattered throughout the city, in bookstores and second-hand shops. He said that stealing books was a cursed act, and he did it in the hope of being caught so he would know that the government loves books and hates thieves. But poor thing, he was not arrested even though he had stolen thousands of books (2007:2).” (English translation)

The quote above was a socio-political aspect because the sentence above implicitly used the phrase “*he was also not arrested even though he had stolen thousands of books,*” which had a political meaning. This showed that acts of theft were not legally processed because there were political games. Therefore, the quotation above was categorized in the socio-political aspect.

### 3. Socio-Education Aspects

According to Soekanto (2012: 2018), higher education people will also occupy a high position. People with upper-class socio-economic status have more significant opportunities to achieve the education they want, unlike people with lower-class socio-economic status who usually find it challenging to get the education they want because of limited funds. Nowadays, a person’s educational status is seen from the title that follows his name, giving rise to negative things.

In literary works as literary work, the imagination and creativity of the author provide an experience for the reader. With creativity, an author can present the beauty of a series of stories and provide views related to reflections on religion, philosophy, and various experiences about life’s problems.

Educational values are very closely related to literary works. Every good story (including short stories) always expresses noble values that benefit the audience. This is in line with Waluyo’s statement (1990: 27) that the value of literature means the good that exists in the meaning of literary works for life.

Based on Waluyo’s opinion, it can be concluded that education is the excellent value contained in a literary work that influences the reader.

#### Social Aspects of Education in Short story of Dongeng Sebelum Bercinta

“*Pemberontakannya yang kedua ia lakukan ketika menjadi mahasiswi di Yogyakarta (2007:17)*”

“She did her second rebellion when she was a student in Yogyakarta (2007:17).” (English translation)

The quote above was a society whose socioeconomic status was upper class, and a high educational status indicated this. Higher education has a more significant opportunity to achieve the desired goals, unlike people with lower socioeconomic status who usually find it challenging to get the desired education due to limited funds. Therefore, the quotation above was categorized in the social aspect of education.

### 4. Socio-Cultural Aspects

The socio-cultural aspect relates to the habits that are inherent in a society. This culture can be divided into two forms, namely: first, material culture, which includes everything that can be seen or touched, for example, having luxurious houses, cars, and different ways of dressing. The second is a non-material culture that describes how people think and act.

Kluckhohn and Strodtbeck (in Koentjaningrat 2000:78) say that the conception of the content of cultural values that universally exists in every culture involves at least five things, namely

1. the problem of human nature or the meaning of human life,
2. The problem of man's nature or the meaning of relationships between humans and the natural surroundings,
3. The problem of time or human perception of time,
4. The problem of the activity or the meaning of work, work, and human deeds, and
5. Relational problems or human relations with fellow human beings.

These five problems are often referred to as cultural value orientation. Based on the expert opinion about these cultural values, it can be concluded that they are values in a culture that affect each individual.

#### Socio-Cultural Aspects in Short story of *Dongeng Sebelum Bercinta* by Eka Kurniawan

*"Ia sampai sekarang tak habis pikir kenapa ayahnya sesinting itu menjodohkan dirinya dengan sepupunya sendiri bahkan sejak oa masih bau ingus (2007:14)"*

"Until now, he still can't stop thinking why his crazy father arranged for him to marry his own cousin since childhood(2007:14)." (English translation)

The quote above was a habit that was inherent in society. This culture described the way people thought and acted, namely matchmaking or being able to marry cousins. Parents' actions reflected a strong culture, namely matching children from childhood. Based on the people's way of thinking and acting in the quotation above, it was categorized in the sociocultural aspect

#### **Conclusion**

The sociology of literary works in Eka Kurniawan's short stories includes socio-economic, socio-political, socio-education, and socio-cultural aspects. Socio-economic there are three aspects, namely 1) socio-economic aspects in the short story of *Kisah Seorang Kawan*, 2) Socio-economic aspects in the short story of *Dewi Amor* by Eka Kurniawan, 3) Socio-economic aspects in the short story of *Kandang Babi*. One socio-political aspect in the short story *Peter Pan* by Eka Kurniawan. One socio-education aspect in the short story of *Dongeng Sebelum Bercinta*. One socio-cultural aspect is also found in the short story of *Dongeng Sebelum Bercinta* by Eka Kurniawan.

#### **Acknowledgement**

Thanks to Prof, Dr. Sumarwati, M.Pd, and Dr. Elisabeth Nugraheni Eko Wardani, S.S, M.Hum, who guided the research from beginning to end. Thank you to the editors and journal managers who have considered and provided the opportunity for us to publish this research.

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