

A Closer Look on the Main Characters' Tendency: "BUMI MANUSIA" by Pramoedya Ananta Toer

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ABSTRACT

A novel is a story that is related to real or fictional events imagined by the author through their observation of reality. The analysis of this present article aims to describe the magnitude of the characterization effect through a character figure and the position of the characters in the novel "Bumi Manusia" by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The method used in this research is character description to explain individual characteristics tendency and the condition of a group more accurately, particularly the characters called Minke, Annelies, and Nyai Ontosoroh; the three most prominent figures. As the lead character, Minke fights against injustice; readers' realize a most valuable lesson, seen in page 12, which says, "My personality becomes more different from my countrymen in general, violating my form as a Javanese person."

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1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, a novel is highly common to consume, especially for people who really like reading (often called "novel lovers") because a novel can inspire readers with its content and can also add insight and knowledge, considering it is "a form of literature that is the most circulated and printed because of its vast community influencing power in society" (Manuaba, 1990). Novel is widely used as a favorite reading material, especially among teenagers and adolescences. More than simply a reading device in which authors may connect readers, novels often inspires readers to give birth to their own ideas and create more novels. The process of writing a novel will be better if the author connects elements in the novel with the elements of human life, so the people who read the novel significantly relates with the fictional characters, become more interested, and feel more involved into the story.

The novel discussed in this paper is titled "Bumi Manusia" which contains elements of life experiences and state of Indonesia around the 18th century where the novel tells the story of the struggle of a character named Minke, a pribumi (native) who was incredibly lucky at the time, indicated in the scene of a conversation between Minke and his mother about a letter from Amsterdam.

Excerpt 1

"Minke, we will fight, dare you, son, Nyo?"

"We will fight, together, even without legal experts we will be the first native to fight the white court." (Minke, kita akan lawan. Berani kau, nak, nyo? Kita akan berlawanan, ma, bersama-sama, biarpun tanpa ahli hukum)". (p. 494)

Minke is considered lucky because he can go to school in an equal place with Europeans. Minke greatly admires Europeans and often forgets his customs as Indonesian people. The existence of Minke in the middle of the European nation is not as smooth and beautiful as we imagine it is because Minke is often ridiculed by Europeans because of his native skin color. Minke's character development is indicated when he becomes an educated person; the story of Minke journey not just ending in racism conflict but a romantic love trip with a beautiful European girl named Annelies.

Excerpt 2

"I'm calling him, Annelies, do answer or not." Minke's mother head down behind the door." (Aku panggil-panggil dia .Annelies tidak menjawab. Menoleh pun tidak").

"We lost, mam," Minke whispered (Kita kalah, ma, bisikku)". (p. 534).

They married, but in the end the Minke and Annelies were separated because this marriage was not recognized by the high court. The interesting thing in this novel is the numerous scenes that readers could not predict because the story ended in separation rather abruptly if not delved deeper, which this paper is trying to investigate. Minke married his idol girl without the blessing of parents whom ultimately had a fatal effect on their relationship. The main character who is more in love with foreign culture than his own is portrayed fatal in this novel, especially in page 199-200 where the marriage is accompanied not with Indonesian song, but the Dutch national anthem *Wilhelmus*. Minke as the main character has a lack of confidence by not fighting for what is his right, especially in fighting for his relationship with the European girl and there is a romance that has no end because of the European girl's departure. Given by readers' response, it may be better if Minke and Annelies' relationship is never severed and the novel offers a solution to it. A good novel is a novel that has intrinsic and extrinsic elements, and this one has a very close relationship with the elements employed, in line with Rostamaji's theory that to design a novel one must be able to determine the elements of the elements first so that the writing goes smoothly."

The novel is a literary work that has two elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic, both of which are interrelated as reciprocal influences in the literature. "Bumi Manusia" examines the intrinsic elements of characterization in the novel. Characterization is the most important element in the sub-novel, because this is a basic rule that must be done before the author writes a novel because the novel's story will turn into an interesting story if it is supported by interesting characterizations/ The characterizations and physical condition that relate to the characters are narrated dramatically, and this can be seen from every deed and word created by the author. "Bumi Manusia" is one of the novels that can inspire many people to foster a sense of nationalism. Every person who reads this novel with care will be acutely aware how precariously low the position of the Indonesian nation compared to Europeans in the 18th century. This novel can also provide knowledge for everyone to always fight for justice, what their rights are, and not to always be under oppression.

2. METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach to describe each characterization character in a novel entitled "Bumi Manusia" by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. This study aims to describe the characters of the main characters and two supporting characters. The element of the characterizations in the novel is analyzed using Bogdan and Taylor's (2004) theory which illustrates the characterization that can be seen from every behavior carried out by the characters.

This data is collected after the reading of the novel

"Bumi Manusia" by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. This study did not encounter any problems in this novel regarding the data collection, though it found only the contents of this novel were not precise in positioning the characters and storylines. The novel's storyline cannot be predicted after reading half of the novel, particularly in page 358 where Annelies is stricken with fear, culminating in the end where Annelies left in page 534 which is the last page in the novel despite the relationship progressing. The end of the story of this novel is very sad because on the other hand Minke succeeded in raising the Indonesian nation's degree, "I have fought the war, only because I guessed the natives would not be able to fight, then they would not fight." The novel stings miserably because the Annelies' departure makes Minke feel hopeless, indicated in the passage, "We lose ma," (p. 534). In this study, the method used is descriptive method to describe each character's characterization in this novel and there is a description of the physical condition of each person who plays a role.

Data is collected based on each character which is then identified according to each character. The characters can be divided into two main figures and supporting figures. The main character is the player who fills the story from the beginning to the end while the supporting character is a player who fills a certain moment, talking about the figure along with expert opinions on the understanding and division of figures. According to Nurgiyanto, this concept of characters in story was put forward in 1995, based on the characters' level of importance and role. Minke is a revolutionary youth about the oppression of indigenous people in the 18th century. The two other supporting characters have a state of character that is easy to learn because their character is very highlighted and easy to understand as can be seen in page 26 which reads, "A white girl, delicate, European-faced haired and indigenous eyes." Thus the reader finds it easier to find out the physical condition of the characters.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This novel tells the story of an indigenous young man from Java, Minke, as one of the young people who was very lucky at that time because Minke got the opportunity to attend a European nation's foundation at that time. The passage "Europe is my teacher. This is your kind of thing" proves that Minke is a pribumi taught directly by the Europeans (p. 534). This paper believes that in this story Minke has a brave character, is smart and likes to write, and he is one of the well-learned indigenous people at that time. Until one day, Robert Suurhof introduced Minke with a Dutch girl named Annelies, a friendly girl different from other Dutch people. Minke confesses to Annelies that he is not native European, and she reciprocated by confessing she does not have parents and has indigenous ancestry too (p. 28).

Excerpt 3

"why you do hide your family name(mengapa kau sembunyikan nama-keluargamu)?", Asked the Dutch

girl. but the Minke continues to deny and try to convince Annelies that him really does not have parents, "I don't have. Really don't have. (Aku tak punya. Betul-betul tak punya)", said minke. answer minke that him not have parents. making the Dutch girl believe in him, "Ohh ... I'm sorry (oh... Maafkan aku)," answered Annelise to Minke. (p. 28).

Excerpt 4

"Natives are also good," Annelies said seriously. "Our mother is also native, you, native Javanese, is my guest."

(p. 30) the answer Annelies made Minke feel relieved.

Excerpt 5

I just breathed relief, thank you (Baru aku menghembuskan nafas lega, terimakasih)."said me.

The state of Minke's social association often mingles with Europeans makes him increasingly admire the Europeans and forgets the Javanese customs he has grown up, to the point even he does not want to wear polite clothes anymore. This makes Minke's father furious because Minke forgets the traditions of his ancestors, meanwhile his mother did not blame the change in behavior experienced by her child since she always supports Minke to achieve his dream so that Minke could find his identity as a native who admired the Europeans. Beginning at the meeting where Minke had fallen in love with a Dutch girl who also had indigenous ancestry, Minke had fallen in love with the beautiful girl during the first meeting, when the first meeting of the Annelies was very polite (p. 30).

Minke impresses her status from the presence of her idol girl and Nyai Ontosoroh (Nyai is the name for *companion* scabies), who is very friendly and kind to Minke. However, the relationship between Minke and Annelise is not approved by Nyai Ontosoroh (p. 31-33). And it's not just Minke who admired Annelies as Robert Surhof, Minke's old friend and brother of Annelies also talked warmly with Annelies. The difference is Minke has a good taste for the Dutch girl while Robert views Annelies with sheer lust, as evident by the passage "heart careful of the filthy native Minke, the land crocodile of the goat class," (p. 159). It was a trial or method by Robert to incite Annelies. But incitement is not in accordance, as seen in what Robert says to Minke, "I don't know if in the end you will marry my sister or not, it looks like Mama and Annelies like you. So you have to remember I'm a boy and tough in this family," (p. 159). In the end Robert regrets the actions he had been doing to Minke, and he apologized by letter to Minke, in which Robert confessed he envies Minke because of Minke's apparent easy access to Annelies, Nyai Ontosoroh, and the house (p. 478).

When the complication of Annelies' illness, because many are negative about Minke and the marriage was without their parents' consent and not acknowledged by the Dutch High Court. So Annelies took to Netherlands, separated in sadness with Minke, as they also did not have the power to support their marriage. At the last minute,

Minke tried to persuade the Dutch girl to not go to the windmill country. Even though the effort made by Minke was in vain because Annelies' determination to return to her country can no longer be stopped. The hollow anniversary was seen by Nyai Ontosoroh and Minke, a gift from Annelies that was unnecessary, and there is no more opportunity given to Minke as his luck runs out.

The main character is the most prominent figure in a story contained in the novel or other related story. In this case the figure is most often highlighted and is told in a story, whether in terms of the perpetrator or as the perpetrator who is subjected to events in the story. As for additional figures in this case additional figures occur in the story loaded with less when compared with the main actor or character. Additional figures only appear when the events in the story relate directly to the main character or actor. In this study, there are 3 main characters who fill the storyline in the novel in which the main character named Minke is always present in every plot, starting from the chapter called 'My Vocation' in pages ranging 9-534, "people call me Minke." Based on the lexical choice of direct pronoun "I" that adorns every plot in the story, this story uses first person perspective. Do not forget the European girl named Annelies and also the not less important actor who filled this storyline named Nyai Ontosoroh. Besides the main cast above, there are 22 other figures who were active in this novel as supporting casts.

Even so, only Minke that always fills all the plots in the story, and it is better for the 22 characters to be active sparsely in this story and included in each plot so that the supporting cast can be more active. It would be nice if Minke and Annelies were not hanging like there is something very interesting in this novel that is very poetic language that makes people feel lost in interpreting words, one example we can see in page 17 which reads "soft skin that glows soft eyes and lips that are good at whispering." This is a very poetic quote in the novel that is difficult for readers to understand. The advantage of reading this "Bumi Manusia" novel is that it can give us an idea of the life of the Indonesian nation in the 18th era, and with the novel we can get experience so we don't too easily trust others, and still maintain our rights even though many are perceived as better.

4. CONCLUSION

This novel is a novel depicted in the late 18th century, with the setting in Wonokromo (p. 22). By reading this novel, we will be in an era when a sense of nationalism is still developing. Minke the main character of the novel acts as an actor in the story that had a character development from focusing on foreign nation, but in the end he had succeeded in improving his own nation. "We lost, ma," said by Minke to his mother showed they have been oppressed. This is on the last page where the Annelies parted from Minke. This is the story of the life

journey of indigenous youth who admire the Dutch nation at this time where the natives are often ridiculed by the company because of the difference in skin color. This novel is historical when the European nation inhabited this country and the division of indigenous businesses in defending their rights in front of the European nation, where it headed to a free and independent glory. The novel makes people's birthright necessary and a person should maintain what is needed and what truly belongs to him, love his own culture, as well as be honest everywhere and under any circumstances. This novel is really good to read because this novel not only tells about a love story but also about the state of our nation at that time.

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