

# Javanese Characters Values on Modern Javanese Novels of Post-reformation: A Sociological Literature Analysis

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**Abstract:** Nowadays character education has faced many problems until it has been degraded. So, the characters formation in Indonesia does not maximize. Based on this analysis, an alternative way is needed to overcome the decline in character education. One of the media that can be used to infuse values of character education is Javanese literature. The aims of this research are to analyze and explain more about the Javanese character in the Javanese novel. This type of research is descriptive qualitative using sociological literature methods. In this research, Javanese novel used as the object of research is categorized as modern Javanese novels of post-reformation. The data collected techniques were listening and taking notes and deep interviews with many experts, especially experts of Javanese novels. The data analysis used a content analysis technique. Results of this research show modern Javanese novels of post-reformation that contain values of characters education or Javanese characters relevant to socio-cultural conditions in the modern era. Characters values in these novels include responsibility, hardwork, honestly, and politeness. Therefore, introducing Javanese literature, especially modern Javanese novels of post-reformation indirectly can grow a sense of belonging to Javanese language and Javanese literary work, that is, a form of Javanese local wisdom.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Novel is one of the results of Javanese literature that needs to be preserved. Novel is a literary work that includes a variety of prose that reveals a story containing some supporting elements such as characters, plot, background, point of view, and some other imaginative elements (Wardani, 2009: 16; Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 4). Novel is definitely an imaginative work, in this case, a work written by the author on the basis of his or her imagination, can derive from a process of personal experiences, people's experiences, social conflicts of society, and other literary works. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that some novels are the results of the author's personal experiences that are poured in a novel-shaped writing.

Many types of novels can be identified, including novels of abstract idealism, psychological novels, educational novels, serious novels, and popular novels (Sulaksono, 2016). Viewed from the language use, a novel can be categorized into novel translations and non-translation novels. A novel is translated if it has been adapted using another language. For example, some novels by J. K. Rowling are translated

into Indonesian. Or some of Pramoedya Ananta Toer's novels are translated into various languages, including translated into Russian and English (Tsao, 2012). Meanwhile, non-translation novels are novels that are still original or still use the original language of the author. One of the non-translated novels is a Javanese novel.

The novel in Javanese or subsequently written in Javanese is a literary work produced by several Javanese authors who use the Javanese language. The beginnings of a Javanese are related to the story in several newspapers and magazines. Initially the Javanese novelist was the author of a series of works in several Javanese magazines, such as Panjekar Semangat and Jayabaya (Damono, 2001: 375). In the tradition of writing Javanese novels, various genres of Javanese novels include novel genres of struggles, detective, social problems, emancipation of women, and novels that tell stories about romance or often referred to by the term *panglipur wuyung* novel. In a literary language, a *panglipur wuyung* novel is called a novelty or dime novel. The famous Javanese novelists with a style of *wuyung panglipurare* Any Asmara, Esmiet, Suparto Brata, and many others.

As one of the various literary works, a novel has the vision and message to be conveyed by the author through his work (Carlin, 2011). By analyzing a Javanese novel, the reader indirectly represents a development that features one or more of a social character that is rumic and involves many complex events occurring in society (Stanton, 2007: 90). It can be said every literary work, just like a novel, contains one or more character education that the author wants to communicate to the reader. Character education can be reflected from the nature and character of the characters and the conflicts contained in the series of stories. Therefore, this article discusses specifically and deeply about character education in Javanese novels, especially regarding the value of character education derived from Javanese culture. Javanese language and literature embody the values of Javanese life, such as norms, beliefs, customs, conceptions, and symbols that live and thrive in Javanese society, tolerance, compassion, mutual cooperation, *andhap asor* and humanity, respect, love, and others (Ferzacca, 2002: 97; Joseph and Efron: 2005). Character education extracted from the substance of Javanese language and literature can be a pillar of nation's character education. Thus, it has become a harmonious thing when using Javanese literary works for character education media, especially the character that represents the attitude of the Javanese society (Siegel, 2016: 30).

The approach used in analyzing the values of character or Javanese-related character values is the approach of literary sociology. The sociology of literature seeks to study a literary work by considering sociological or societal aspects. The sociology of literature can be defined as an understanding of literary works by considering the social aspects (Ratna, 2013: 41). By using the approach of sociology of literature, it is expected that the values of Javanese character in the Javanese novels can be explained in more details. As an implication, the results of the study of Javanese's moral values in this novel can be used to teach alternative literary materials of Javanese at formal schools as well as at universities. This is because the Javanese novel materials used in the Javanese literature learning at universities are still lacking. Thus, this research is expected to add a reference to the Javanese novels. In addition, it can also be used as a vehicle for character education to the younger generation.

## 2 RESEARCH METHODS

This is a descriptive qualitative research using a literature sociology approach. The sociology of literature as previously mentioned in the discussion attempts to study literature and its relation to society. This research also outlines Javanese literary works, in this case, the Javanese novels of post-reformation and sought some of the values of Javanese characters as a representation of the attitude and character of the Javanese community. The main source of data is Javanese novels of post-reformation. In particular, the purpose of this research is to describe and explain the values of character education in the post-reformation of Javanese novels. Javanese novels written after the 2000s were selected because they are relevant and almost identical to the present social situation. The data collection phase used the method reference and taking notes and in-depth interviews with some literary experts and Javanese linguists to strengthen the results of the study. The data show content analysis techniques with the following stages such as data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion (Moleong, 2014). To test the validity of data, the triangulation of data sources and triangulation theory are needed.

## 3 DISCUSSION

The study of literary works especially novels is widely undertaken. As Anwar (2009) in his article puts, "History Appearances and Phenomenology in Kadiroen's Hikayat and Student Hidjo". The article mentioned in the literary novel contains the values and historical facts that represent the socio-political situation at the time. The research that specifically discusses the Javanese novel has also been done by Prabowo (2013) in his article "Dynamics of Javanese Novel Writers of 1960-1965: Ani Asmara". In his article, Prabowo discusses one of the authors of a famous Javanese novel in 1960-1965, the Any Asmara. The article outlines that Any Asmara is a novelist who is regarded as a novelist of renewal. He has not followed the rules of the novel authorship that is considered conventional. Any Asmara tends to make novels relevant to the situation and the community at that time.

This study has a novelty compared to some previously reviewed studies. The novelty is judged from the object of his study in the form of post-reform Javanese novels. If Prabowo's research focuses only on Javanese authors in the 1960-1965 era, the

research in particular and in-depth discusses the novels of post-reformation Javanese. The novels chosen to be the source of data in this research are Kinanthi novels, Pisungsun Kang Wingit, and Candhikala Kapuranta. The three novels are written in the post-reformation era, after 2000. The discussion of the three novels in specific is stated as follows.

### 3.1 Kinanthi Novel

The novel entitled "Kinanthi" is written by Margareth Widy Pratiwi. The Kinanthi novel uses a variety of standard Javanese with modern spellings. Kinanthi's novel tells about an inharmonious family. The main character is a child named Kinanthi. She was left dead by his father and abandoned by his mother. Finally, Kinanthi lives and is cared for by his grandfather. Increasingly complicated family problems make Kinanthi also participate in the problems that ensnare his mother.

When viewed from the story, this novel tells about the social problems and background of a family life. Problems in the family can often be solved, but sometimes it cannot be solved because it is too heavy and can even damage a family (Retsikas, 2010). Kinanthi's novel reveals one example of an unbreakable family problem.

The value of character education in Javanese taken from Kinanthi's first novel is the value of responsibility. A responsibility is the attitude and behavior of a person to carry out duties and obligations that he should do to himself and others in the surrounding environment (Suyadi, 2013: 9). Attitude of responsibility in the Kinanthi Novel is represented through a figure of Sumpama, and grandfather Kinanthi. Sumpama is willing to take care of Kinanthi who was left dead by his father and left by his mother. He felt he had a responsibility to nurture and raise his grandson. Responsibility is also seen through Sumpama who is trying to defend Kinanthi even though in the end he must be treated at the hospital for being hurt by the attack of the debt collector's men.

The next character value is the value of politeness. This is reflected in the use of Javanese language that still adheres to the rules of base uploads. Javanese community is known for the speech levels, namely ngoko, krama, and krama inggil. The value of courteous characters in the Kinanthi novel is reflected in the Kinanthi character. When he talks to his grandfather, he uses a variety of krama inggil. The use of manners of krama inggil serves to respect the other people. It is endeared by Endraswara that the

principle of respect includes social rules that play a role in the interaction of Javanese society (2003: 83). In addition, the use of various krama inggil is also a reflection of the attitude of the Javanese Soul of Humility.

### 3.2 Pisungsun Kang Wingit Novel

Pisungsun Kang Wingit novel was written by Top S. Danusubroto in 2002. This novel tells about the story of struggle and romance with the main characters Supriyanto and Tilarsih. Both are lovers from the same village, namely Cisumur Village. Due to economic problems, Supriyanto had to go to Semarang to find work and leave Tilarsih. After a series of problems traversed, then finally Supriyanto and Tilarsih reunited. Although there was something uncomfortable, Tilarsih and Supriyanto make a relationship that causes Tilarsih pregnant out of wedlock. However, at the end of the story Supriyanto and Tilarsih can reunite and build the family with the baby.

The value of manners derived from this novel is the value of hardworking and work ethic. Hard work shows a genuine effort in overcoming the obstacles and problems that are being experienced (Arthur, 2005: 241). Hard work here is seen at the time Supriyanto overcomes the economic problems of his family by working in Semarang. The work ethic is stated by Sulaksono (2016: 72) as a work spirit possessed by a person. A good work ethic attitude was shown by Supriyanto who got him the job he had dreamed of from childhood, to become a teacher. Although in the end he must stop being a teacher for a reason.

Furthermore, it is the unyielding value that is identified as an attitude possessed by a person who has a soul of struggle to obtain something that is the goal of his life. Unyielding attitude in Javanese society can be reflected from the slogan "Rawe-rawe rantas, malang putra". In Pisungsun Kang Wingit nove, unyielding attitude is shown by Supriyanto who wishes to become a teacher and become a partner of Tilarsih. Although a variety of problems is solved, the fighting spirit of Supriyanto does not fade. He remains enthusiastic and focused to fight for what has become his life purpose.

### 3.3 Candhikala Kapuranta Novel

Candhikala Kapuranta novel is a Javanese novel set in Solo area where a strong primordial influence from Keraton Solo exists. The novel was written by Sugiarta Sriwibawa in 2002. Candhikala Kapuranta's

novel tells the story of Munasih, a village woman who is seeking her fortune and working in Solo City. Because of his innocence and being tempted by the lure of much money, Munasih was recruited as unskilled laborers and brought to work in Delhi, India. After several years of working there, he returned to Solo and studied dancing until he became a famous star of *human puppetdancers* in Solo City. This led him to various problems, until he was finally killed by Harja Cakil, the man whom his love rejected by Munasih.

Like other Javanese novels, Candhikala Kapuranta's novel contains some Javanese character values reflected in the characters, storylines, and social conflicts in them. The first Javanese character's worth is honesty. It is an attitude that represents openness, where someone who has an honest attitude will reveal and act in accordance with what should be (Suyadi, 2013: 9). In other words, honesty is behaviors and words based on facts. The honest attitude in Candhikala Kapuranta's novel is reflected in the character of Munasih. When he was taken to Delhi to become a hired laborer, he felt anxious and worried. Her worry is groundless because of anything, but because she still carries the groceries given by her employer. Although not much, in the heart Munasih intends to return the money when his employer expenditures in Java. The honest attitude in the Candhikala Kapuranta novel is a good representation of Javanese society. This honest attitude is in line with the Javanese phrase "Sapa jujur bakale mujur" or who is acting and acting honestly will surely benefit.

The second is the value of the standalone character. This is also reflected in the character Munasih. Munasih who went to Solo City to find work and lighten the burden of people have independent soul. Since childhood he was always trained to be independent, the attitude to do something for his own effort and not rely on others. This makes him able to survive in working in Solo City. His skillful and independent attitude made him feel like his master and was trusted to hold something important. This independent attitude was also seen when Munasih was in Delhi working as a laborer.

A concept of the value of character or Javanese character value is always present in every work of Javanese literature, especially novels. This cannot be separated from the purpose of making a literary work as a means or media to convey ideas and ideas owned by the author. Ideas can vary, ranging from the expression of feelings, visualization of social life, the description of experience that can also be a policy criticism taken by the authorities.

## 4 CONCLUSION

The Javanese novel is one of Javanese literary works of the genre of prose. The Javanese novel is a representation of the social life which the author poured into a narrative writing that has plots, characters, settings, and commands, in addition to some other building elements. Each literary work must have a purpose or message to be conveyed by the author of the work. Literary works in the form of novels contain the values or messages from the author. Javanese novel comes from the author who in fact has a Javanese social-cultural background containing the value of character and character that comes from the philosophy of social life and Javanese culture. Therefore, using an approach of sociology of literature revealed some values of character and manners of Java contained in the Javanese novels of post-reformation. After analyzing some of the Javanese novels written in the post-reform era, some values of Javanese characters or character are found, such as responsibility, courtesy, hard work, work ethic, unyielding, honest and independent. Some of these characters are representations of the character of the Javanese community, in addition to some characters such as mutual help, love, tolerance, and gentlemen. The values reflected in the three post-reformation Javanese novels can be used as examples to the younger generation and society in general concerning good character and manners.

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