

Reactualizing the Economic Spirit in Javanese Literature Based on the Javanese Local Wisdom

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Abstract: To increase the economic necessity in the globalization era, everyone should have a high spirit of work to comply with daily needs. In fact, an economic spirit in the general society especially Javanese people is still low and must be increasing. This descriptive qualitative research aims to describe and explain about the relationship between the Javanese literature and the economic spirit of Javanese people. The data from this research are mainly concerned with the “Mintaraga Gantjaran” text written by Prijoehoetomo. The data were collected by a note-taking technique using the “Mintaraga Gantjaran” text which is related to the topic of the research. The data were analyzed using a content analysis technique in the form of a literature approach. To test the data validity, this research used a triangulation technique. The research result shows that Javanese literature, in this case the “Mintaraga Gantjaran” written by Prijoehoetomo, contains values of economic spirit pertaining to the economic condition in this modern era. Re-actualizing the values of economic spirit in Javanese literature not only increases the work ethic of Javanese society, but also improves a sense of ownership toward Javanese literature that contains values of Javanese local wisdom.

1 INTRODUCTION

The economic condition of Indonesian society has long been a main concern considerably. In fact, almost 10% of the total population of Indonesia remains below the poverty rate. In addition, Indonesia's economic growth is relatively low, only about 5.011% in 2017 (www.bps.go.id). This condition, if left uncontrolled, is going to get worse. Some unavoidable causes of this worsening economic condition include geographical conditions, lack of public facilities and infrastructure such as hospitals, and places to organize economic activities amid the weakening entrepreneurial spirit of society (Phung, et al., 2016: 75).

To re-address this phenomenon of weakening economic growth, some steps are necessarily taken to support all parties. In terms of the government concern, a regulation can foster economic activities, so that the state trade is more likely to focus on and side with the people (Greenfeld, 2006). However, this condition is still far from expectations. The economic policy in Indonesia seems unfavorable to people, for example, the price of basic necessities is high, so that Indonesian people find it difficult to meet their needs of life. To supervise economic policies, the

government can take advantage of meeting people's and investors' demand of the commodity. Within a framework of existing economic regulations, the government is in favor of the people who indirectly trigger economic activities to support economic transactions. Pro-people economic policies can also suppress the game and monopoly of companies that own high capital (Palazzo, 2016).

The weakening economic condition of Indonesian people is not only caused by external factors (regulations, economic climate, and big shareholders), but also internal factors (the lack of economic enthusiasm) to develop creative economy. This results in a less developed economic condition of Indonesian society. To solve this complicated problem, the government can push people's economic spirits to generate PNPB and KUR programs and boost the entrepreneurship spirit of Indonesian society, though, in reality these government-launched programs are still less effective.

Another way to improve the economic spirit of Indonesian society is to actualize the values and economic spirit in Javanese literary works. Javanese literature contains values that are very complex and relevant to various problems existing in the community, especially the Javanese community (Rahmat, 2016: 75). Javanese literary works, as

proposed by Susanto (2011), are relevant to modern Javanese literary works of capitalism, while postwar work of world II is more likely to reflect the dominance of technology and network of global capitalism. One of the Javanese literary works in question is a novel.

A novel is a literary work in the form of a prose that is longer than a short story. In a novel are problems of complex figures based on the underlying customs (Sulaksono, 2016: 17). Just like a literary work, a novel has a structure. The structure in a novel consists of elements of the builder who build the novel, as well as elements of storytelling that encapsulate the social conditions recorded in the author's memory (Prabowo, 2013: 93). The structure includes (1) theme, (2) plot/groove, (3) characterization, (4) setting or setting, and (5) point of view.

As a miniature of life stories, a novel contains either values or messages for the readers to digest (Rodgers, 2007: 480). The messages in a novel are extremely varied and, of course, concern with social issues (Anwar, 2009: 391). Not only does the author infrequently convey messages related to economic problems, but also related values of social life. In the Prijohoetomo's *Mintaraga Gantjaran* novel, these values are set to re-actualize economic spirits in which the author of this novel is expected to foster the spirit of economic activities for Indonesian citizens.

2 METHODS

As this is a descriptive qualitative research using an interdisciplinary literary approach, its structural analysis aims to analyze the in-depth structure and content of literary works in detail. The object of research is the *Mintaraga Gantjaran* novel written by Prijohoetomo. Referring to the object of research, the method of collecting data is note-taking. In addition, it also added in-depth interview method with literary experts and economic experts. The data are derived from three ketoprak manuscripts using a content analysis technique, along with data of reduction stages, data presentation, and data verification (Sutopo, 2002). To test the validity of data, a data triangulation technique is used, namely a triangulation of data sources and a triangulation of theories.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis in this research is called a structural approach. This literary analysis uses a structural approach that attempts to analyze the elements in a literary work, as well as its interrelated mechanism. On the one hand, it deals with the relation of elements with the totality of meaning (Ratna, 2012: 91). The structural approach not only analyzes the intrinsic elements of literary works, but also the extrinsic elements of the work (Wellek & Warren, 2014: 24). The intrinsic elements in literature are themes, characterizations, plots, backgrounds, points of view, language styles, titles, mandates, and interpersonal relationships. The data analysis in this research focuses on the analysis of values and economic spirits found in the Prijohoetomo's *Mintara Gantjaran* novel.

From the storyline points of view, this novel contains the inspirational stories of a puppet. The transformation of such puppet stories is intensively found in the aspects of characterization and flow (Nurgiyantoro, 2016). The storyline and characterizations in the novel become a transformation of the puppet story entitled *Begawan Ciptohening*. It tells about the story of one of the Pandavas, namely Arjuna who meditates to obtain weapons of destruction that will be used in the Western War, (Cohen, 2007).

Points of analysis in this novel are related to some values of economic problems. First, it is a bold economic value and, in this context, deals with a steady heart and great confidence (Sulaksono, 2015: 118). The bold representation of values can be viewed from the brave Arjuna's karate, King Niwatakawaca of the Ima-imantaka State. Although the king is famous for his miraculous powers, he has no fear at all.

The second value is the leadership. A leader must be able to lead himself, or herself before leading others. A good leader should always think about the fate of people, peace, religion, and welfare of the nation (Sutarjo, 2006). In this novel, the value of leadership seen in the footage of King Darmawangsa describes how Arjuna meditates to get weapons from the Gods. This reflects the nature of King Darmawangsa which reflects the nature of a leader who must protect his people from external attack.

The third value is gotong royong (a mutual cooperation value), a reflection of the social life that must always help each other (Khristianto, 2016, 95). In Prijohoetomo's *Mintaraga Gantjaran* novel, Arjuna is willing to help the Khayangan Kingdom and the mediator of Bathara Indra, who at that time, faced an attack from enemies of the Ima-imantaka kingdom.

Arjuna's willingness to provide assistance greatly reflects a social protection of the community, which is to uphold the attitude of mutual help and mutual assistance to each other.

Some values found in this novel are associated with the economic spirit among Javanese people contextually. First, it represents courage of Javanese people to start a business or economic activities to improve their lives (Roy, 2003). When someone will start a business, he or she must have strong confidence that his or her business will succeed. If someone is hesitant to start a business, then he or she certainly will never start a business, so the economic situation will no longer good.

Leadership is a value that connects with the ability of management. An entrepreneur must have good management skills (Greenfeld, 2006). Enterprises without good management skills are nonsensical. Management in this case not only deals with financial management and business management, but also concerns with human resource management (Astaman, Wahyono, & Wardoyo, 2016). Furthermore, it is important to re-actualize gotong-royong values in the Javanese society. If someone will start a business in the absence of a mediocre capital, he or she can use a principle of mutual effort by looking for business partners to cooperate with. By doing so, the existing business partners can help run business easily that both benefit financial or capital practices, as well as the implementation of businesses. Thus, if the three values in this novel can be re-actualized and socialized in the success-obsessed Javanese society, they can add to people's business and economic spirits. If the spirit of doing business community is good, then surely their economic life will improve.

4 CONCLUSIONS

A low economic activity of Indonesian people is one of the triggered factors for the low interest and the spirit of doing a business. However, it can be mitigated if the government sets to generate economic regulations that favor and benefit the people. In addition, another way to spark the economic spirit of Javanese society is by way of re-actualizing economic values behind Javanese literary works. Mintaraga Gantjaran is a Javanese literary work in the form of a novel that contains several economic values, each of which epitomizes the value of courage, leadership, and gotong-royong (a mutual cooperation value). These three values are highly relevant to the economic activities of Javanese society. By

actualizing and socializing them fully, the spirit of the public in running a business triggers the improvement of an economic situation. In what follows, to introduce Javanese literary works to the community, it is necessary to foster the love and pride of the work of Javanese literature that becomes an integral part of local wisdom of Javanese culture.

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