How to Analyze Local Wisdom Contains in the Novel Series and their Relation with the Author’s Society

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ABSTRACT

The literary is a type of an original work by the author, as an impression of the life combined with the power of imagination and the creative ability which is also supported by the experience and the observation of life. The authors who live amidst society appreciate and know the intricate details of that secular society presence. This research discusses the method to analyze local wisdom contains in the novel series and their relationship with the author’s society. The sample novel series used in this study entitled Full Moon (Padang Bulan/PB) and Love in the Glass (Cinta Dalam Gelas/CDG) by Andrea Hirata, one of Indonesia’s novelist. The analysis combines the analytic-descriptive techniques, the content analysis, and the hermeneutics. The local wisdom and their contradiction can be traced and uncovered in light of the author’s idea, which represents his society. Methods apply in this study can be easily applied to other similar stories which can help the readers understand the purpose of the story. Besides, the conflicting interest and the local wisdom can be compelling to be studied, while we can take the real lessons and the knowledge of another culture and their perspective to solve the issues of their life. This manuscript will help many of the analysis to traces, not just the explanation but forget the true wisdom contains in every stories and matter.

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the methods for communicating in the aesthetic. The word also represents the cultural and moral values shared by its users. Thought as an early idea, language as elocution, and morals as something comprehensive in literature, blend into one [1]. Writing is a universe of thought and an instrument to pour the author’s mind in the form of language. Semi [2] declares that the substance of literary works is the result of fine art that uses human and life as the object, and the language as its medium. The literary work is a type of inventive procedure by the author, as an impression of being. It is the combination of the imagination and the creative ability which is also supported by the experience and the observation of the author’s life — these musings related to their environmental conditions. The authors who live amidst society are individuals who know and comprehend the intricate details of the human society presence. According to Laurenson & Swingewood [3], the writer (author) as an ordinary individual who is a member of society is engaged in the battle with the question of the life of the social values that he experiences regularly. All whole existence of the organization manages such things as love, bliss, suffering, and others, which will apply without being bound by the time and place [4]. That is, through the process of creative and imaginative, the literary (novel) produced by the author to express the various problems that arise in life (especially social community), in addition to other functions.

It is related to the community life as a source of inspiration for the author, Wellek and Warren [5] claim that the study of thought applies through the various disciplines, such as the philosophy, the scientific theory, the theology, and the literature. Particularly in the field of research, examining the writer’s contemplations is an effort to comprehend and express the importance implied in a literary work. The issue of the undefined purpose in the works of literature emerges if that begins to denote on the face of the literary works vaguely. Furthermore, it is likewise exemplified such as Dostoevsky’s novels and drama. It contains the ideas that are embodied in plots, characters, and scenes, as well as in the phrases and the expressions, to be examined semantically [6]. The amount and variety of life problems experienced by the author make the content of their literary work more perplexed and vary. The more intricate the issue of life experienced by the creator, the more bewildering the limit and the substance of thought in the theoretical works — the per-
plexion caused by the culture and customs which adopted by the author to bring the story background more reliable and understandable. They often insert their local wisdom based on the adopted cultures and traditions accidentally. Unfortunately, not all of the literary work is easy to understand, especially for the great storyline and depictions derived from the creativity of writers, such as the novel. Since each writer has different writing styles and presuppositions, the imagination that arises in the reader’s mind will be different, even though books are one of the most frequently used and preferred media in language and culture learning. These different interpretations can make the real purpose of the novel unspoken (commonly referred to as misinterpretation, especially for the elusive novel that is difficult to understand when the readers cannot following the plot of the story, even though the author’s expression embodied in the book is the consideration that analyzes. It is an obligation, especially for students of literary studies, to interpret the meaning of a novel as the author’s intent. This study aims to help solve the problem, with the methods of literary that can be applied to make it easier. The goal is to increase the readers’ comprehension for the novel they’ve read which can prevent misunderstanding and misinterpretation due to the bias significance.

DISCUSSION

The novel series entitled Full Moon (PB) and Love in the Glass (CDG) by Andrea Hirata are good examples to discuss. The local wisdom refers to the various perspective, science, and life skills, embraced by the communities to solve multiple issues and needs. The arrangement of fulfilling the necessities of the district includes the elements of religious life, education, economic, technology, deontology, social organization, language, communication, and art. The local wisdom in the novel series is a conceptual idea that has the character grow and develop, living in the society in their consciousness, and relate it to their sacred, profane life continuously. With the mixed cultures and languages used, crucial issues such as gender equality and unusual sexual behavior that is considered taboo by tradition present character’s internal conflicts that are not easily understood by readers. Local wisdom tucked into conduct and speech of characters is not easy to understand because of the language and culture mixing. What makes these works interesting to study is the main female character point of view which written by the male writer (andro-text), which adds the bias in understanding the meaning of local wisdom contained in the novel series. Literary techniques are the techniques that authors use in their written text to help convey or heighten senses. Rather than writing in everyday language, authors give more emphasis to their ideas by utilizing literary techniques to make them stand out. There are many techniques in analyzing a story. The analysis in this study uses the combination of the analyzing-descriptive methods, the content analysis, and the hermeneutics analysis [7], [8], [9], [10]. The analysis of the text is the most substantial way of determining the purpose and analyzing what written in the book or article. While the narrative technique uses to help the reader feel almost as if they are a part of the scene or event description. The description is useful because it helps readers engage with the world of the story, often creating an emotional response. It can help a reader visualize what a character or a place is like [11]. As an analysis method, the content analysis uses a set of categorization and replicable opinions from the data (text, sound, or images) to their meaning. Hypotheses may be about the messages within the documents, the writer (s), the audience, and time these are apart. Text can be defined broadly as books, book chapters, essays, interviews, discussions, and articles, photographs, historical documents, speeches, conversations, advertising, theatre, informal conversation, or any existence of communicative language. Since it can be applied to examine any occurrence of recorded communication, today text used in a variety of fields, ranging from marketing and media studies to literature and rhetoric, ethno- and cultural studies, gender and age issues, sociology and political science, psychology and cognitive science.

Additionally, it reflects a close relationship with sociology and psycholinguistics and is playing the development of artificial intelligence [12]. Hermeneutics describes the interpretation of meanings – explication, analysis, commentary. Initially applied to the translation of the Bible, Hermeneutics comprises accurate readings and exegesis (review on how the implications implemented) [13]. The three methods of analysis are the choices in this case study because of the suitability of their use with the contents contained in the novel series. First, we review the contains and stories associated with the method. Then, we assess how the methodology applied in the literature regarding research themes, data sources, and methodological refinements. Although all of it has been used to research topics across the subdomains of literary research, they have yielded particularly impressive results.

The novel series of PB and CDG published in 2010 are works assembled into a type of literary work of inspiration. The inspirational literary work is a persuasive work of fiction that presents stories about the children or people, as well as the main characters in the stories whose are the extraordinary characters, unwavering, and able to create astounding spirits and creativity. In another sense, the inspirational literary work is a literary work that profoundly touches the hearts of its perusers to act more and related the proper messages in it. Through this novel, Andrea Hirata presents his story with the protagonist of a Malay woman named Enong, a 14-year-old girl, a sixth grader of Muhammadiyah Primary School in the East Belitung, who influences and shapes the mindsets of both her poor parents (especially the father), that learning English and aspiring to be an English teacher is a provision for the future. After his father’s death, Enong quit from her school to support the life of his mother and her three younger sisters. Amid the life of the community who are dominated by Malays ethnic followed by the Sawang and the Chinese, Enong became the first woman to be a tin miner in her district. Enong continued her education through an English course institution and completed it with the fifth best graduate results (which at the same time by the author, Enong’s name changed to Maryamah bint Zamzami). Enong divorced Matarom, her
husband, upon learning that Matarom had a wife and his wife was pregnant. Amid society forbidding women against men under Shari’ah law, Maryamah continues to perform and “melt the ice” due to the ban by fighting, and even winning the chess game against men. The summary of the novel series of PB and CDG is the first picture to understand and explore the existence of the author’s thoughts related to the local wisdom. The home-grown sense in question packaged conventionally and innovatively. Conventionally, Andrea Hirata offers a unique form of the local knowledge and innovatively offers the dynamic local wisdom.

An Unique Local Wisdom

The unique Malay identity in the Belitung community is a representation of an Indonesian society dominated by the Malay tribe. The author’s thoughts related to the uniqueness in question appear in the following quotation.

“Whether Yahnong will not go to work, or she?”
(PB, Page 2)

The quote above is a question form addressed to Zamzami, the father of Enong who is the eldest daughter in the family. Yahnong is a greeting that arises from the acronym of the father’s name and the name of the eldest child (A(YAH) E(NONG) or Enong’s Father). Malay traditions in expressing affection for the eldest child is to combine those two words. The process of acronyms to become a form of greeting for Malays is unique. Such uniqueness is the local wisdom of the East Belitung. Another singularity also appears in Malay customs to name children, which reflected in the following quotation.

“If the name of the eldest son is Murad, then the seven siblings below him are Munzir, Munaf, Munir, Muntaha, Munawaroh, Mun ‘im, and Munmum.”
(PB, Page 9)

The names of the eight children have similar and rhythmic sounds. The ease of the parents in naming their many children lies in the call of Mun, whereas on the other hand, it is unthinkable to the parents that when calling on one of the children, for example, to which Munir is addressed and only called Mun, then all seven children will respond to the call. The Malays are very pleased with such naming of their children. Another uniqueness which is also a part of the life of the Malay ethnic community is the habit of delegating the responsibility of family survival to the eldest when parents (especially father) die as shown in the following quotation.

“Suddenly losing the pillars, the family of Shalimah stumbled. Having no capital, skills, and another family who can be asked for help - because all of them are low-income families - makes this family broke. The husband is the only backbone of their family, and it came out after he is gone.”
(PB, Page 24)

“While Enong cannot sleep for nights. She wondered what people always said about the eldest child. However, she does not even fully understand what the meaning of the word responsibility is. She was afraid to imagine the effect of that word. Does she have to work? How should she live a family, a mother; and three siblings? Does she have to quit school? She loves school very much. She was confused because she was too small to deal with such a problem. Now she understands why at that time many mourners looked at her.”
(PB, Page 25)

Giving responsibilities to the eldest child related to family survival is a Malay custom. Enong, a little girl who’s in primary school still, was forced to quit school for a responsibility that hereditary prevailed among the Malays. Feelings of pity and great hope addressed to Enong, as in the following quotation.

“Now she understands why at that time many mourners looked at her.”
(PB, Page 25)

A little girl became the center of the mourners’ attention by looking at her, a sympathy for the aftermath of her father, Zamzami. A statement that raises a sense of pity and a great hope of responsibility to be taken over as the eldest. Similarly, other habits that are still classified as unique to the Malay community in Belitung, such as greeting adult sons who have not married with the words Bujang (CDG pages 110, 129, 148), or Bujang Lapuk (CDG page 91), welcoming Boi for unmarried boys and girls (CDG page 117, 118, 119, 133, 136, 143), gather in a coffee shop while spending time playing chess (CDG page 115).

The Figure of the Society presents by the Author

The thought of authors related to the Malay community in Belitung, in addition to having a unique habit also has a habit of expressing something innovative. The unusual habits contain cultural nobility, while the form of innovative expression is a positive dynamic process in the framework of acculturation. The habits of Melayu people who experience acculturation is a manifestation of the dynamic local wisdom. In other sentences, the habits of society when faced the actual dynamic reality, leaving no custom identity, the process of dynamizing into the global era cannot be denied; as in the following quotation.

“From now on, do not worry anymore, Nong. Dad will get you a dictionary. One Billion Word Dictionary of the English!”
(PB, page 12)

The role of a father in supporting the wishes and ideals of a child is absolute. The figure of Zamzami as a devout father of religion, even to the Shari’ah, is considered a better reader of the Qur’an than reading Latin letters (PB, page 3), ambivalent with the ideals of Enong, his daughter, to becoming a language teacher English. Father’s support for Enong to learn and deepen her English proficiency is one of the authors’ thoughts that puts the current situation forward. Learning English, although it is a favorite subject for Enong, still does not eliminate the characteristics of Enong as a religious figure to teach. It shows through appearance, as in the following quotation.

“At 10 o’clock, Enong’s competitors arrive. They are young girls with plump bodies and full lips. The full makeup of women on television, the haircut of today, dressed like a clown, blushing. While Enong, her clothes are like people who want to recite the Quran khatam. The hijab is worn.”
(PB, page 33)

The author show contrast by displaying two different sides regarding the existence of women. The appearance of modern women contrasts with the appearance of innocent and
poor traditional women. The first type belongs to secular women, while the second is sacred. Especially for the sacred type, its presence displays religious values (reciting the Koranic Quran and using the hijab). Religious symbols (hijab) inherent in the existence of women, is a habit that explores the spiritual value for Malay women.

"After the morning prayers, she wrapped his veil around tightly, packing hoes, bows, and bicycles, kissing his mother’s hand, holding her sisters for a moment, then emerging with joy as she whistled national anthems toward the banks of the lake. Sometimes she whistled the English-language children whom Mrs. Nizam once taught her: If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands. She is the first female miner in the history of tin mining. She is not more than 14 years old."

The figure of women who are impoverished and obedient to carry out these religious orders are women who dropped out of school (primary school), family lovers, hard workers (first tin miners in Belitung), but love English lessons is a picture of traditional Malay women in Belitung. Women who aspire to be an English teacher (not a religious teacher), by not leaving the status of religious Muslim women. Some of the outstanding habits of the Malay community in Belitung based on the author’s thoughts in the novel series of PB and CDG. The author presents the dynamic local wisdom in the form of innovative thinking.

The environmental condition of society as a reality and local wisdom composed in the novel series entitled Full Moon (PB) and Love in the Glass (CDG), can be traced and uncovered in light of the author’s idea. The choice of this novel series is due to the feminist aspirations portrayed by male authors (andro-text), which is not easy to understand (especially for a particular culture). On the other hand, the novel series which has a continuous story feature of the women existence in the midst of Malay, Sawang and Chinese ethnic groups in Belitung Island contains the value of local wisdom and gained appreciation as a phenomenal novel that cites a social life that represents the life of the people in those community. Local wisdom in the author’s mind usually reflects in the habits of life by the society that has lasted long and become the values prevailing in a society so that become the guidance and part of life that can not separate with the attitude and the behavior of the individual which observed. The decision of this original game plan is a result of the women’s activist yearnings depicted by the male creators (andro-text). Then again, the game plan which has a highlight reliable story of the ladies presence amidst the Malay, the Sawang and the Chinese ethnic get-togethers in the Belitung Island contains the estimation of the neighborhood insight and got gratefulness as an astonishing novel that alludes to a social life that addresses the life of the general population in those group. The local wisdom as the author’s idea in the novel series is a conceptual idea of character which grows and sustainably develops that lives in a society in the consciousness of the society, functioning to regulate the life of the society from the nature related with the consecrated to the befouling. The local wisdom in the creator’s mind generally reflects the propensities for life by the overall population that has sustainable and transform into the absolute qualities in an overall population. To do so into the course and the part of life, that can not separate with the perspective of mind and the conduct of the person which shows.

The author origins represent clearly in the novel series mention above. The author always uses his own culture as the background of his work. As the comparison, the infamous Destination Unknown by Agatha Christie uses the Moroccan as its background only tells the surface of the Moroccan Culture. Agatha Christie, which is not the Moroccan but visits there several times, does not know the characters of the Moroccan people, so it will not represent there. The detail backgrounds probably represent the author’s culture to empower the story more. It will help the readers to imagine the story quickly. The plot can be used to recognize the author’s culture also. Language and culture presents can be used to determine the author’s culture and society type. In this case, the unique inter-cultural life presents in detail by the author can bring the characteristics of the author’s culture itself as present in the line above. Therefore, the points can help the student to determine the local wisdom contains in the story and relate it with the author’s society, or even culture.

CONCLUSIONS

Since each writer has different writing styles and presuppositions, the imagination that arises in the reader’s mind will be different, even though books are one of the most frequently used and preferred media in language and culture learning. These different interpretations can make the real purpose of the novel unspoken (commonly referred to as misinterpretation, especially for the elusive novel that is difficult to understand when the readers cannot following the plot of the story, even though the author’s expression embodied in the book is the consideration that analyzes. The goal is to increase the readers’ comprehension for the novel they’ve read which can prevent misunderstanding and misinterpretation due to the bias significance.

The environmental condition of society as a reality and local wisdom composed in the novel series entitled Full Moon (PB) and Love in the Glass (CDG), can be traced and uncovered in light of the author’s idea. The choice of this novel series is due to the feminist aspirations portrayed by male authors (andro-text). To analyse the stories, firstly review the content and romance associated with the methods. This story contains the mixture of cultures and languages, which is related to the faith and the customs in the community described. The hermeneutic analysis uses to support this back ground. The results show the background conditions of Belitung where the mixture of three cultures, namely the Malay, the Sawang, and the Chinese, is boldly written in this story. The Chinese culture makes the protagonist face the financial conflict and act as the family backbone and make her the build a new perspective on social life, which results in the change of her sexual orientation. In another side, the Malay and Sawang culture which is strongly related to Moeslem, forbid any form of unusual sexual orientation. When the issue arises, the analysing-descriptive technique uses to describe what conflicts may appear around the community and inside the protagonist herself. Last, the content analysis was done to
get the real purpose of the story and what local pearls of wisdom contains in them. The local beads of the sense of the stories can be traced due to the use of the story. The local sense referred to include the unique local wisdom and the dynamic local wisdom. We conclude that this method can be easily applied to other similar stories. It can help the readers understand the purpose of the story more accessible. Besides, the conflicting interest and the local wisdom can be compelling to be studied, while we can take the real lessons and the knowledge of another culture and their perspective to solve the issues of their life. Many of the analysis traces the explanation only and forget the real pearls of wisdom contains in every stories and matter. This study aims to help solve the problem, with the methods of literacy that can be applied to make it easier.

REFERENCES