

The Social Dynamics of the Characters in a Short Stories Collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang* by Ahmad Tohari

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Abstract

This study aimed to analyze a short stories collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang* that contains a variety of living spaces that grow and develop in a civilized environment. The short story collection had presented various social problems. The social problem was the social dynamics of multiple things that did not follow cultural values or human behavior habits in general. The purpose of this study was (1) to describe the shape of social dynamics that appeared in Ahmad Tohari's short stories collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang*. (2) to describe the social dynamics problems experienced by the characters in Ahmad Tohari's short stories collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang*. This research used the sociology of literature approach. Data collection in this study used the study of literature and the first level reading technique, namely heuristics. The method of analyzing data had done by hermeneutic reading. The study results showed that a short stories collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang* contained (1) five forms of social dynamics, namely slow changes, small changes, significant changes, desired changes, and unwanted changes. (2) there were two problems: the increase or decrease of the population and the community conflict in the social dynamics of the collection of short stories from *Mata yang Enak Dipandang*.

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INTRODUCTION

The literary work that appeared as an imaginary world was imaginative, whether the literary work was in the oral or written form. Literary works are fictitious or fictitious works. Although the real world had inspired literary works, the author must have worked them out through his imagination, so the reality of literary works cannot be expected to be the same as real-life (Noor, 2009).

Literature was a social phenomenon. This phenomenon occurred due to the process of human creativity. Literary works were born out of an author's imagination in ideas, feelings, and knowledge transmitted into written form Djojuroto (in Muslim, 2021).

Aryanto and Nuryatin (2017) claimed that a significant literary work could help their readers to become humanly cultured (*cultured man*). Literary works described the life order and the company's behavior by creating literary works (Muawanah and Supriyanto, 2016).

Literary works should contain a moral message in the story, both the characters' attitude and behavior, because that is where the reader was expected to get wisdom. Morality in literary works can be seen as the mandate and message of I'anah (in Setyatmoko and Supriyanto, 2017).

Literary works are created not only to be enjoyed but also to be understood and exploited, particularly in messages containing mandate or advice. One of the literary works that are often studied is the short story. A short story was a form of literary work that clearly explained values. Values that express words that are praised and reprimanded, visions of life can be embraced and avoided, and what is claimed (Suryadi and Nuryatin, 2017). Putri, Sundusiah, and Agustiningsih (2021) asserted that literature reflected social reality. Literature was fundamentally a reflection of existence, the relationship between literature and society, or the study of literature as a social portrait.

Short stories were a prevalent form with the readers, but at the same time, short stories

were often overlooked in academic circles. One possible reason was that short stories were not sufficiently respected as an art form (Matarneh, 2014).

An author had the subjectivity to evaluate and observe the reality of influential literary works (Annisa & Indiatmoko, 2017). Raharjo, Waluyo, and Saddhono (2017) stated that science fiction literary works tell various problems of human life in their interactions with themselves and their interactions with God.

The authors hope that their literary works will be appreciated, understood, and reflected by the readers (Christiani and Nuryatin, 2015). The roles between the characters are linked together to produce an integrated story. In a storyline, characters tend to influence other characters. Interested characters also had the opportunity to influence other characters (Ulfa and Nuryatin, 2021).

This study used the methodology of the sociology of literature. The sociology of literature reviewed something concerning society. Through studying sociology, an individual would gain an insight into how human beings adapted to their environment, the mechanisms, socialization, and cultural processes that place people in their respective places (Fauziyah and Sujati, 2019).

Sociology, literary works are considered an attempt to recreate human relationships with kinship, society, politics, religion, and others because they allow them to become an alternative aesthetic aspect of adapting to changes in a community (Wahyudi, 2013).

The appearance of sociology literature and literary practice had developed in the 1970s and culminated in the 1980s, but sociological research appeared a little on literature novels (Singer, 2011).

The concept of sociology of literature is based on the proposition that an author wrote literary works and the author was a *salient being*; it was a being who experienced sensations in the empirical life of their community (Orong, 2017). Sociology literary works evaluated text as a mirror of society. Studied of a text did not

proceed through an analysis of text structure but directly onto social aspects (Umam, 2019).

The problems experienced by human beings were so complex. A literary work would try to reflect these issues so that it could touch the readers' hearts. These aspects of life included the social dynamics that occurred in society. Dynamics meant being able, always moving, developing, and knowing how to adapt adequately to circumstances.

According to Rangkuti (in Ratna, 2002), dynamics was something that moved and changed. The company's dynamics meant was a company that was still moving and undergoing change. According to Soekanto (2013), social change was all changes in the social institutions of a society that affected the system between groups in society.

Social dynamics are caused by behavior that did not appropriate to the norms and values held by the community or group (Soekanto, 2013). Social dynamics could influence human life and the occurrence of social interactions. The occurrence of social interaction created and grew different forms of human behavior patterns in society, both individuals and groups.

The social context of the community can be classified according to the size of the prevailing social strata was primarily based on the size of wealth. The rich people belong to the highest strata of society. Second, based on power. The people who have power occupy the highest strata of society. The third was based on honorary. The most respected people usually have the control to take first place. Fourth, based on knowledge. People who have a high knowledge always get first place in society (Soekanto, 2013).

Understanding individual social behavior can be done through the quality of the dynamics of personal social interactions in daily life. Stansfeld Sargent stated that individuals control one or another significant aspect of the environment regarding needs and goals, disappointments and feelings, and their genuine involvement. It led to personality development through a dynamic social learning process (Agus, 2010).

Social dynamics could occur in social groups. Social groups' experiences changed due to the training process and information from patterns within the group due to external influences. Unstable conditions in social groups occurred due to individual problems or parts of the groups, so it caused the imbalance in the groups (Soekanto, 2014)

This study discussed the social dynamics character in the literary works of a short stories collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang* by Ahmad Tohari. The reason for choosing this collection of stories is that it discussed the symptoms of social interaction in the form of social changes experienced as changes in the situation, changes in-group members, and changes that occur in the social and economic case lived by the characters. Characters as actors in the story are linked to various problems.

Perubahan dalam masyarakat terjadi akibat masyarakat menganggap bahwa sesuatu dalam hidupnya sudah tidak relevan atau memuaskan lagi sehingga perlu dilakukan perubahan (Huda dan Niasih, 2019).

Due to unstable conditions in groups or individuals, social dynamics caused the changes.

METHOD

The focus of this study was the social dynamics characters in a short stories collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang* by Ahmad Tohari. The analysis used in this study was a sociological literature approach that focused on text and symptoms of social interaction. The sociology literature was something concerning society through studying an individual would get a description of adapted to their environment (Fauziyah and Sujati, 2019).

Technique in collecting data in this study was done in literature studies and heuristics methods.

The data analysis technique in this study was done using a hermeneutic reading technique.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of research on dynamic social in a short stories collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang* by Ahmad Tohari described in two ways: social and caused of dynamic social that experienced by the characters. Slow changes, small changes, significant changes, desired changes, and unwanted changes. The causes of social dynamics consisted of increased or decreased population and community conflict within the casual factors and the figures of social context behind emergences of social dynamic problems.

The Form of Social Dynamic Characters in a Collection Short Stories of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang*

a. The Social Dynamic Characters Form of Slow Changes

The changes that took a long time and a series of small changes that followed one another are called slow changes. The slow change took place alone without any particular plan or will. These changes occurred due to community efforts to adapt to the new conditions that occurred in line with the growth of society (Soekanto,2013). Social dynamics form of slow changes had shown in the following quotation short story of Salam dari Penyangga Langit.

"apa hajat Pak Marja kali ini?"

"selamatan untuk anaknya yang mau berangkat jadi TKI di Korea. Dan Kyai Tongat yang akan memimpin tahlilnya.

(tentu saja Kyai Tongat, karena orang tua itulah yang paling fasis dalam memimpin tahlil. Dia juga tidak pernah lupa mengirim hadiah pahala bacaan kitab bagi para nabi, para wali, dan para arwah leluhur. Juga menghadiahkan pahala bacaan Kitab kepada para mailaiat penyangga langit.) (SDPL,158)

Markatab tahu ternyata tahlilan tidak selamanya disukai orang. Gurunya sendiri tidak membenarkan tahlilan dan suka menyindir-nyindir orang yang melakukan kebiasaan itu. Tapi di kampungnya tahlilan jalan terus, hadiah pahala bacaan kitab buat para nabi, wali dan arwah para leluhur jalan terus. (SDPL:159).

The quotation short stories of Salam dari Penyangga Langit could be known that Markatab's character is amazed by the cultural tradition that still survives in his village. A tradition aimed to assign the reward of reading books of angels who supported heaven by sending prayers (tahlilan). This cultural tradition was a slow change that occurred due to community efforts to adapt to new needs, circumstances, and conditions that arise in line with the growth of society.

b. The Social Dynamic Characters Form of Small Changes

The small changes occurred in elements of the social structure that did not directly affect (Soekanto, 2013). The social dynamics in the form of small changes are shown in the following quotation from the short stories of Kang Sarpin Minta Dikebiri.

"Ya, wong gemblung itu sudah meninggal?" kata Dalban dengan enak. Wajahnya tampak tanpa beban. "Bagaimana aku tak menyebut iparku itu wong gemblung? Coba dengan. Suatu ketika dikilang padi, orang-orang menantang Sarpin: bila benar jantan, dengan upah lima ribu rupiah dia harus berani membuka celana didepan orang banyak. Mau tahu tanggapan Sarpin? tanpa piker panjang Sarpin menerima tantangan itu. (KSMD:78-79)

"...Kang Sarpin doyan main perempuan dan tabiatnya tidak lagi ditutup-tutupinya. Dia dengan mudah mengaku sudah meniduri sekian puluh perempuan. "saya selalu tidak tahan bila hasrat birahi tiba-tiba bergejolak," kata kang sarpin suatu saat" (KSMD:80)

"Mas mungkin saya harus dikebiri"

Saya terkejut. Dengan kang Sarpin bicara dengan mata terus menatap saya. (KSMD:82).

The quotation short stories of Kang Sarpin Minta Dikebiri could be seen that his neighbors know that Kang Sarpins' characters were people who have no shame and love playing with women. He slept with dozens of women, but he never slept with a woman who still had a husband. Kang Sarpins' action was a small change that did not affect the community because it believes that the actions undertaken were reasonable for wong gemblung like Kang Sarpin.

c. The Social Dynamic Character Form of Significant Changes

A process of industrialization in an agricultural society was a change that would have a meaningful impact on society (Soekanto, 2013). The social dynamics in the form of significant changes are shown in the following quotation from the short story of Mata yang Enak Dipandang.

"Tolol? Aku sudah puluhan tahun jadi kere. Sudah puluhan anak jadi penutanku. Tetapi baru bersamamulah aku sering tak dapat duit. (MYED:13)

"Kang, aku sudah membawa kamu ke mana-mana. Kamu sudah kuhadapkan ke semua orang, ke semua penumpang. Jadi, kalau kamu ta dapat duit, kamu sendiri yang tolol, kan?" (MYED:13)

The quotation from a short story of Mata yang Enak Dipandang showed that the blind Kang Mirta was relying on the inconvenience as work to fulfill his daily needs and Tarsa as his guide when he asked for alms. The significant change faced by Mirta and Tarsa was unemployment. The physical limits of Mirta and Tarsa made them unable to choose a job other than the begged.

d. The Social Dynamic Form of Desired Changes

The desired changes are expected or planned changes from those who want to change society through pressure to make the changes. Subjects who wanted to change were a person or group of people who have public confidence as a leader of one or more social institutions (Soekanto, 2013). The desired changes are shown in the quote from a short story of Penipu yang Keempat below.

"Pak, maaf saya mengganggu. Saya baru kena musibah, uang saya dicopet orang. Padahal saya harus membeli obat untuk istri saya yang baru mel..."

Mendada lelaki Cikokol itu menghentikan kata-katanya. (PYE,36)

"Eh Bapak, saya kira siapa,"katanya sambil nyengir. Akupun ikut nyengir".

"maaf, pak, saya telah menipu bapak dan mencoba akan mengulanginya". (PYK,37)

"Ah, Bapak. Daripada mendengarkan cerita yang bukan-bukan, lebih baik bapak kuberitahu alasan mengapa aku terpaksa jadi penipu".

"usul sampean baik juga. Tetapi bolehkah saya minta jaminan bahwa cerita sampean nanti bukan omong kosong"

"Demi Tuhan, saya akan bercerita yang sebenar-benarnya" (PYK,37)

In the quotation from a short story of Penipu yang Keempat, we can see that character "aku" was almost deceived for the second time. But this scammer was aware that the scammed person was the same. The desired change occurred in the "lelaki cikokol" character, with the pressure he had to face because he was surprised to chew again. Finally, this lelaki cikokol told the character "aku" because he was forced to become a cheater.

e. The Social Dynamic Form of Unwanted Changes Dinamika

Unwanted or unplanned changes were changes that occurred unintentionally, took place outside the framework of public supervision that can lead to social consequences not provided for by the community. Unwanted changes significantly influenced the desired changes (Soekanto,2013). The unwanted changes are shown in the quotation from a short story of Bila Jebris Ada di Rumah Kami below.

Jebris kembali ke rumah ayahnya karena diceraikan oleh suaminya. Orang bilang, keberuntungan telah berakhir. Sar yang menjadi tetangga terdekat sangat merasakan kebenaran apa yang dibilang orang. Jebris sangat berat menghidupi diri, anak serta ayahnya sudah sakit-sakitan, karena dia tak punya penghasilan apapun. (BJADK,26).

"Pasti Jebris kena razia lagi", ujar Sar.

"Lagi?"

"Kang Ratib, jadi kamu hendak mengambil Jebris dari kantor polisi?"

"Ya. Dan kuharap kamu tidak keberatan. Juga bila kamu tidak keberatan; Jebris kita ajak bekerja di rumah kita.

"Andaikan dia mau; apakah kamu tidak merasa risih ada pelacur di antara kita?"

" Yah,ada risihnya juga. Tapi itu jalan yang bisa kita tempuh." (BJADK,28)

The quotation from the short story of Bila Jebris Ada di Rumah Kami showed that Jebris' character was forced to sell herself due to economic needs after being divorced from her husband. Unwanted changes can be found in Jebris' character. Jebris was forced to prostitute himself since he divorced her husband. Life was hard to support for her son and her father, who were sick because they had no income. Jebris's job renders the surrounding residents, until the nearest neighbors of Jebris, Sar and Ratib, tried to convince her to work together so that Jebris leaves for her work.

The Problem of Social Dynamic Characters in a Short Story Collection of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang*

a. Increased and Decreased Population

The rapid growth of the population causes changes in the structure of society, particularly in social institutions. In contrast, the decreased population is caused by transmigration (Soekanto, 2013). The dynamic social problem of increased and reduced population is shown in a quotation from a short story of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang* below.

"Akan kucari penumpang-penumpang yang matanya enak dipandang. Ayo, Kang Mirta, kita jalan." (MYED,14)

"Pecuma mengemis di kereta api utama. Kau sudah berpengalaman. Jadi, turutilah apa yang kubilang. Tunggu saja kereta kelas tiga." (MYED,15).

Based on the quote of the short story "Mata yang Enak Dipandang" it can be seen that the population increased in large cities divides uneven work. It is experienced by Tarsa and Mirta characters, who choose to beg because they have no more capabilities to work in other fields. The social context of Tarsa and Mirta characters in the short story of *Mata yang Enak Dipandang* was the social context on poor society or people who did not reach. It is shown in the quotation below.

"Ya perolehan hari ini memang sangat sedikit."

"Itu salahmu. Kukira kamu tolol, tak pandai mengemis."

"Tolol? Aku sudah puluhan tahun jadi kere. Sudah puluhan anak jadi penuntunku. Tetapi baru bersamamulah aku sering tak dapat duit, jadi siapa yang tolol?" (MYED, 15).

The quote showed that Tarsa and Mirta came from a lower-class society (poor). Therefore, the cause of social dynamics in increasing and decreasing populations can occur in communities with low education and poverty. Economic factors became the cause of the increased and reduced population in the community.

b. Conflict of Community

Conflict of community was the cause of social and cultural changes. Conflicts occurred between individuals and groups or groups and groups. The cause of social dynamics in the form of conflict is shown in the quotation of the short story *Bila Jebris Ada Dirumah Kami* below.

"Ketua RT pun banyak memberi nasihat agar Jebris berhenti melacur. Ketika mendengar nasihat ketua RT. Jebris juga hanya mengangguk-angguk. Dari mulutnya terdengar "ya. ya". Tetapi sore hari Jebris kembali berangkat naik bus terakhir dan pulang menjelang pagi dengan bus pertama. Sesungguhnya tidak pernah ada hansip atau pengurus RT yang mencoba mengtikkan Jebris. Para hansip dan sebagian besar pengurus RT, yang sebenarnya tidak keberatan Jebris menjadi pelacur." (BJADK,22).

Based on the quotation, it can see that Jebris was facing the conflict community because of her work as a prostitute. This conflict occurred because residents feared that Jebris's actions stained the surrounding environment. On the other hand, residents also understand that Jebris did this work for her son and her father was sick. The social context of jebris's character in the short story of *Bila Jebris Ada di Rumah Kami* was the social context of the community that comes from a wealthy society. It is shown in the following quote.

Pada usia enam belas tahun, Jebris kawin dengan pedagang yang membuka kios kelontong dekat terminal. Jebris diboyong dan harus menyesuaikan diri dengan gaya hidup suaminya yang nyantri. Setiap hari Jebris mengenakan kebaya panjang dan kerudung. Gelang dan kalung emas besar. Pada

tahun kedua, Mendol lahir. Orang bilang, Jebris anak yang beruntung. (BJADK,25).

The quote showed that Jebris came from an average community class, as indicated through Jebris had married a wealthy person. Social dynamics of community conflicts in the form of prostitutes could occur in the rich levels of society. It happened because there were factors that caused was economical.

CONCLUSION

The dynamic social characters in the short story collection of Mata yang Enak Dipandang explained five forms of social dynamic: slow, small, significant, desired, and unwanted changes. There were two problems in social dynamic: increased and decreased population of community dan the conflict of society, the causes factor, and the social context of social dynamic problems.

The changes that occurred determine personality development through a dynamic social learning process. Social dynamics occurred due to unstable conditions in groups or individuals that caused the changes to occur.

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