

## Portrait Of Poverty and Social Crime in The Short *Story of Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer

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### Abstract

The story of Blora by Pramudya Ananta Toer is a short story that describes the social reality of the people of Blora. The short story tells about the condition of the people of Blora during the colonial era who experienced poverty. Poverty is one of the factors in the condition of society that gives rise to social crimes. This study aims to reveal the facts of social problems that occur in the Blora community and find ways to overcome these social problems. This study uses a descriptive method with a sociological approach to the theory of Wellek and Warren. The data of this research are in the form of words, sentences, or dialogues that contain the facts of the story on the plot characters and the background about poverty and social crime in the short story entitled Stories from Blora by Pramudya Ananta Toer. The data collection technique was carried out by means of heuristic reading which included classifying, analyzing, and interpreting the data. The results showed that the descriptions of poverty and social crimes contained in the short stories appeared to occur in real terms in the Blora community. Both problems arise because of a causal relationship. Poor conditions in a society will lead to any crime to fulfill their needs. The benefit of the research is as an addition to knowledge to the reader regarding solving the problem of poverty and social crime in the Blora community.

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## INTRODUCTION

The problem of poverty is a comprehensive social problem. In almost every world, poverty is a complex social problem. As a problem that cannot be solved easily, solutions to this problem must continue to be explored. The solution to this problem is to provide awareness about social problems faced by the community. One of the efforts to raise awareness about poverty can be done through literary works. Literary work is a story that reflects the social reality that occurs in society. Literature can also be used as a social document and has the ability to record traces of life in its time. Literature contains a description of the life of social reality. Based on this social reality, the author can present the story well (Sulistiyana, 2014).

Literary work is an imaginative and creative work of the author presenting life and social realities that occur in society and has noble values (Wiyatmi, 2006). In other words, literature has a very close relationship with society (Murhuda, 2018). Literature can be seen as a social phenomenon related to the norms and customs that occur in a particular society. Literature is said to be a social phenomenon. This phenomenon occurs because of the process of human creativity. Literary works are born based on the author's imagination in ideas, feelings, and knowledge that are transmitted into written form Djojuroto (Muslim, 2021).

Literature is considered as a social document or a reflection of society that is able to transform the reality of life in society. For this reason, the study of sociology of literature has a close relationship with social aspects that occur in society (Haryadi, 2018). To find out the close relationship between literary works and society, literature can be analyzed through a sociology of literature approach with a focus on the sociology of the author, the sociology of literature, and the sociology of the reader.

The study of literature through the sociology of literature approach is to see how the relationship between literary works and reality is, how much the literary work reflects social

reality (Nasution, 2016). This social reality has a fairly broad meaning, namely everything outside of literary works and those referred to by literary works. This fact refers to the social structure of society which is used as the object of the creation of literary works. A researcher will not be able to study literary works without knowing the social structure of the society. Ahmadi (2019) explains "literature is a function of the social structure of its time, a structure without which literary works cannot be properly analyzed without the knowledge of its institutions" (literature is a function of the social structure of its time, a structure without which a literary work cannot be analyzed properly without knowing the institution).

Literary works are created not only to be enjoyed, but also to be understood and utilized through messages that contain messages or advice. One of the literary works that is often studied is the short story. Short stories are a form of literary work that is full of values. These values reveal words that are praised and reprimanded, visions of life that can be embraced and avoided, and what is claimed (Suryadi, 2017).

In this study, the object of study is a collection of short stories, *Stories from Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer, who is dubbed the author of realism through a sociological approach to literature. This short story is used as the object of study because it clearly describes the social conditions that occur in the Blora community. The study was conducted through a sociological approach to literature, namely assessing the text as a mirror of society. Studying a text is not done through an analysis of the structure of the text, but directly into the social aspect (Arumndani, 2022).

The researcher analyzes a collection of short stories entitled *Stories from Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer based on the substance of short stories literature which is a representation of poverty and social crime in the Blora community. This is clearly described by the author through stories presented based on the realities of people's lives. In addition, the author himself is interested in analyzing the

literary work of a collection of short stories entitled *Stories from Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer, because the author feels that judging by the many works of Pramudya Ananta Toer, only a short story entitled *Stories of Blora* raises the reality of poverty and crime that occurred during the revolutionary era.

Poverty is defined as a condition of a person who is unable to meet his own needs in accordance with the standard of living and is unable to utilize his mental or physical energy (Rachmat, 2018). During the revolution, many people in Blora were unable to fulfill their daily needs in the form of clothing, housing, or food. Poverty is divided into four forms, namely (1) absolute poverty, (2) relative poverty, (3) cultural poverty, and (4) structural poverty (Suryawati, 2005).

Based on the causal effect of poverty, crime emerges. Crime occurs due to several factors, namely economy (poverty), family, environment, lack of religious knowledge, competition, and others. Situmeang (2021) says that the causes of crime are influenced by environmental factors, family environment, economy, social, culture, defense and security and technological inventions. Crimes can be committed due to several factors, including (1) not being able to control their emotions or ego impulses, (2) the desire to obtain needs that cannot be met, and (3) the inability to control someone who is involved in crime, theft, or theft. robbery, corruption, even murder.

The research that has relevance to this research is the research conducted by Nabila (2018) entitled "The Immoral Crime in the *Drupadi* Novel by Seno Gumira Ajidarma". The problem discussed by the researcher was about immoral crimes. This study uses a descriptive method to explain in detail and in depth about a social problem contained in the novel entitled *Drupadi* by Seno Gumira Ajidarma. The research approach used in this study is the sociology of literature.

Furthermore, the relevant research conducted by Muflikha, et al (2014) entitled "Social Problems in the Novel *Tears of Tjitanduy* by Bambang Setiaj." This study aims

to describe social problems, the pillars of character education, and the reader's reception of social problems in the novel *Air Mata Tjitanduy* by Bambang Setiaji. The research uses a sociology of literature approach by examining social problems that exist in literary works. The results of the research are the social problems of poverty, education, and the reader's perspective on the novel.

Subsequent research conducted by Ardias (2019) entitled "Social Conflict in the Novel *Aku Tak Buta* by Rendy Kuswanto" discusses social problems. The results of the analysis of this study indicate that the social conflict described in this novel has three problems, namely the form of social conflict, the causes of social conflict, and the resolution of social conflict. The reader is able to understand the forms of social conflict, how to solve it, which is contained in the novel because I am not Blind by Rendy Kuswanto in depth and can take lessons from the human side.

Based on the results of previous studies, researchers found gaps to examine social problems that exist in society. The problems studied have differences with previous research. If the problems in the previous research discussed issues of education, immoral crimes, this research focuses on poverty and social crimes that appear in the short story *Stories from Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer. In connection with this statement, the researcher uses a sociology of literature approach to obtain a picture of poverty and social crime in the Blora community which is reflected in the collection of short stories.

Through a study of the short story *Story from Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer, this study aims to (1) describe the poverty that occurs in the Blora community, (2) describe the social crimes of the Blora community, (3) describe how to solve poverty and crimes that occur in the Blora community. . This research is expected to provide benefits for understanding the study of the sociology of literature related to poverty and social crime in short stories. This can be used as a reflection footing in shaping human character who understands the noble values in life.

## METHODOLOGY

The focus of this study is the description of the facts of society about poverty and social evil in the short story *Stories from Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer. The approach used in this study is a sociology of literature approach that focuses on texts and symptoms of social interaction. Sociology of literature is an approach that starts from an orientation to the universe. According to Supriyanto (2020), the sociological view of literature is that literary works are seen in relation to reality to what extent the work can reflect reality. The sociological approach to literature emphasizes the social aspect of society. Faruk (Nafiyah, 2016) states that there are three paradigms that are the basis in sociology, social facts, social definitions, and social behavior. The data collection technique in this study was carried out by studying literature using heuristic reading. The data analysis technique in this study was carried out using hermeneutic reading techniques.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Stories from Blora* as a collection of short stories describe the condition of the people of Blora who experienced misery during the colonial period. The misery includes a lot of poverty, social crime, injustice, and other social problems. The results of research on the description of poverty and social crime in a short story entitled *Stories from Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer are explained in three ways, namely (1) the form of poverty is caused by the social dynamics experienced by the characters, (2) the form of poverty that results in crime. social problems experienced by the characters, and (3) how to overcome poverty and social crimes that exist in the life problems of the characters in the short story. The description of poverty and social crime can be presented as follows.

### 1. Poverty Overview

In this study, four forms of poverty that occur in the people of Blora are described in the short story *Stories from Blora* by Pramudya Ananta Toer. First, absolute poverty, namely income below the poverty line or not enough to meet clothing and food. Here is the proof of the quote.

*“Siti terus berjalan di dalam kabut tipis itu. Ia belum tau mana arah yang ditujunya. Karena itu ia berjalan dan berjalan terus seperti orang-orang lainnya yang melarikan diri,..... dan ia ingat juga kemiskinan yang harus dideritakannya. Badannya yang kurus oleh menyusui dan oleh kurang makan itu terus melangkah-langkah jua.” (PYTD : 91)*

Based on the quote above, it can be found a picture of poverty experienced by a character named Siti. She was unable to provide for herself and her family so she ran away from home emaciated by her fate due to breastfeeding and lack of food. This is what shows absolute poverty because the character is seen to be lacking in meeting his needs so that he is emaciated

Second, relative poverty is a poor condition due to the influence of development policies that have not reached the entire community, causing inequality in income. This is evident in the quote below which describes the policy of electricity development in the Blora community which has not been comprehensive so that every house lives in darkness. Here is a quote that shows relative poverty.

*“Aku masih ingat, waktu itu aku menangis terus. Karena rumah kami masih jauh dari aliran listrik, bila malam datang murunglah suasana rumah kami. Bunda membawa aku ke luar rumah.” (YSH : 7)*

Third, cultural poverty refers to the problem of a person's or society's attitude caused by cultural factors, for example there is no attempt to improve the level of life, lazy, wasteful, and not creative even though there is help from outside parties. This poverty can be seen in the figure of Kek Leman who lives in poverty and does not try to improve his standard of living. He is still guided by laziness and the excuse of not having anything to support his performance. Here is the proof of the quote.

*“Dan kek Leman berkata tenang dan jujur. “Aku seorang pemalas. kalau aku rajin, apa aku kerjaakan?” ia tertawa berlahan melalui hidung. “Aku tak punya sawah. Tak punya ladang. Pacul pun tak punya aku hanya punya golok. Saban hari kuasah”.... “kalau ada orang memanggil aku untuk menggantinya meronda aku dapat dua setengah sen. Kalau aku tak punya golok setajam itu aku tak dipanggil orang untuk menggantikannya.” (YMD : 28)*

Fourth, the form of structural poverty, namely the poor situation caused by low access to resources that occurs in the socio-cultural and political system does not support the liberation of poverty, and even causes poverty to flourish. This is illustrated when the Dutch colonized the people of Blora and confiscated all the crops so that the people of Blora lost access to sources of income. Below is proof of the quote.

*“...Dan kemiskinan itu mencapai puncaknya: jepang datang. Buruh tani tak mendapatkan hasil semula. Jepang menyita hasil panen kaum tani dan buruh tani hanya mendapat bagian yang paling kecil.” (HYTD: 115)*

Based on the description of poverty above, the short story of Story Dari Blora by Pramudya Ananta Toer is more dominant. poverty occurs due to colonialism from other countries who want to control indigenous wealth, so that many Blora people experience misery and poverty that is full of oppression. The forms of poverty that are clearly described are absolute poverty, poverty, cultural poverty, and relative poverty.

## 2. Overview of Social Crime

In this study, there are five types of descriptions of social crimes. First, a crime without a victim is an act that does not cause suffering to the victim due to the crime of another person. Even though there are no victims of this crime, such an act is classified as a crime because it is considered a despicable act by the community or groups of people in power with all kinds of problems. Examples of such crimes include gambling, drunkenness, drug abuse, and so on. In fact, criminal behavior is very self-defeating. The following is an excerpt

of evidence that shows the description of crime regarding one form of crime without a corps. This crime is described by the character of Mr. Mustache whose life is deprived so that he commits acts of gambling and robbery to fulfill his needs.

*“Kakek nenek pak Kumis tadinya orang kaya juga seperti petani-petani yang lain. Sampai pada pak Kumis harta benda itu telah terkikis. Dan ini membuat pak Kumis jadi buruh tani yang sellau kekurangan, dan karena badannya besar dan kuat. Akhirnya ia menjadi perampok di hutan-hutan antara Blora-Rembang... akibatnya, ia selalu pergi. Tiap bulan, paling lama tigahari ia tinggal di rumah. ia datang hanya untuk menyerahkan uang hasil perampokan saja dan bertemu dengan kaawan-kawannya seperjudian.” (HYTD : 118)*

Second, organized crime is a group of criminals who are planning to make efforts to get money and power by avoiding the law. Organized crime is a crime that transcends national borders committed by a group with a wide network. This is reflected in the crimes committed by Inem's father and brother as police officers who committed acts of corruption. Here is the proof of the quote.

*“Semua orang tahu belaka, bapak inem jadi penjahat. Tapi tak seorangpun berani mengadukan ke polisi. Dan tak seorangpun dapat membuktikan dia seorang penjahat. Karna itu ia tak pernah ditangkap polisi. Lagipula saudara-saudara emak si Inem hampir semuanya jadi polisi. Malah ada yang jadi agen kelas satu. dan Pak Inem sendiri pun pernah jadi polisi dan dipecat kaarena menerima suapan.” (Inem : 41)*

In addition to the quote above, this form of organized crime is also illustrated in the group of police officers confiscating school books, bank cooperatives, school grounds which were tampered with by force so that the community and children could not carry out their activities properly because all business doors were closed by the police on orders. invaders. Here is the proof of the quote.

*“Penyitaan buku-buku karangan ayah oleh polisi, koperasi dan bank yang gagal, murid yang menipis, duplikator yang tak pernah diputar lagi, mesin tulisan yang tak brdekatan seperti biasanya, lapangan sekolah yang diruyaki rerumputan, dan*

*sebuah warung koperaasi pusat yan gterletak disudut kota tempat yang sering kukunjungi bersama ayah dul, itupun harus ditutup pintu dindingnya” (KLD:82)*

Third, white-collar crime is a crime that refers to the crime of high-ranking or high-status people in the context of their work. These crimes lead to fraud that can harm society. This form of crime is reflected in the people of Blora who were discriminated against by the Dutch. All property was confiscated and the community had to carry out forced labor without being paid. This was done by the Dutch to control Indonesia's wealth. This causes great loss to society. Here's an explanatory proof of the quote.

*“Belanda datang ke kami bukan untuk mngangkat engkau semua jadi pegaawai tinggi. Mereka datang untuk untuk minta uang dari kita uang yang dinamanya pajak. Dan bila kita tak mau membayar, barang-barang kita dirampas, dan bila tak ada barang boleh dirampas, kita harus menjalani kerja paksa di penjara. Sungguh bijaksana kaum samin itu. mereka tak mau membayar pajak untuk selama-lamanya.” (KLD: 70)*

Fourth, blue collar crime is a crime committed by people with low classes. Crimes are depicted in the community, such as robbery or looting, stealing clothes, and stealing sandals. Therefore, society considers this crime as a nuisance that can be detrimental. This form of crime is illustrated in the quote below which was experienced by the character Kek Leman who was ordered by someone else to kill with his machete. This is done for the sake of getting money.

*“Seperempat jam kemudian ayah kembali. Air mukanya kusut.” Apa yang terjadi? Ibu menyerangnya dengan pertanyaan. “ah, Kek Leman,” jawab ayah sambil duduk di kursinya. Untung martil yang dipergunakannya. Yang dihantamnya masih bisa larike kelurahan.”apa betul kakek Leman si tua itu?” ayah mengangguk. Diapakan orang ia sekarang? Dipukuli. Tapiuntungnya ia tak menggunakan goloknya” mengapa pake martil? Ibu bertanya,” waktu pemeriksaan dia bilang. Golok ndoro, Cuma golokku yang memberi aku penghasilan selama ini. aku tak*

*boleh mempergunakanya untuk berbuat durhaka. Jadi kupergunakan martil.” (YMD : 35)*

Fifth, corporate crime is a type of crime committed on behalf of the organization with the aim of increasing profits or reducing losses. This crime is depicted in the father figure who is always being spied on by the Dutch so that he does not establish education and other positive actions to improve a higher standard of living. In fact, other countries don't like it when our society becomes smarter because the smarter we are, the harder it is for that country to control our wealth. Here's the proof of the quote

*“Sementara itu, bila ayah sedang di rumah, sering lewat polisi dengan mata menyelidik ke rumah kami dari atas sepedanya. Tapi mereka tak berbuat lebih jauh daripada menjiratkn pandang. Aku tak mengerti apa maksud polisi itu berbuat seperti itu. Danwaktu kutanyakan pada bunda, mengapa ia berkata menerangkan :”nereka suka ayahmu tak berbuat apa-apa. .... “mereka tak suka banyak di antara bangsa kita yang mengerti dan bisa baca tulis.” (KLD : 74)*

From this discussion, it can be concluded that the social crimes that occurred in the Blora community described in the short story were caused by economic factors. It is found that many people commit crimes of robbery, gambling, and murder solely to fulfill their daily needs. That it is from poverty that all these social crimes arise so that it disturbs other communities.

### **3. How to Overcome Poverty and Social Crime.**

Based on the problems of poverty and social crime depicted in the short story Story from Blora by Pramudya Ananta Toer, the following will discuss how to overcome these two problems.

#### **a. Poverty Reduction Efforts**

According to Law No. 25 of 2000 on National Development Planning, poverty reduction efforts can be pursued through two strategies. First, protecting a family or community group experiencing temporary poverty. This is illustrated in the excerpt below

which tells about the father figure trying to protect families who have not been able to circumcise their children by organizing mass circumcision for poor families and communities.

*“dan Ayah pun mrencanakan akan mngadakan ini tiap tahun dan memberi kesempatan pada kawan-kawannya yang miskin untuk sama-sama menyunatkan anaknya.” (Sunat :57)*

Second, efforts are made by helping people who experience chronic poverty by empowering and preventing new poverty. The form of solving problems regarding poverty can be understood from the Kajan figure who invites the community to work seriously so as not to starve. Here is the proof of the quote.

*“Dikala Kajan mentereng jadi pegawai, kawan-kawan yang sebaya denganya seorang demi seorang jatuh di medan kelaparan. dan ia tak ambil peduli. Gampang saja ia menetapkan harga mereka yang mati kelaparan itu. “tentu saja dia mati kelaparan. Kalau orang mau bekerja dengan sungguh-sungguh ia tak kan mungkin bisa mati kelaparan,” dari penilaiannya itu diiakn oleh seluruh isi rumah.” (HYTD : 119)*

The next strategy is implemented by three programs that are directly directed at the poor. These efforts include providing basic needs, developing a social security system, and developing a business culture for the poor. Below is also a way to overcome poverty, namely by saving expenses and always looking for work wherever there is an opportunity. This is illustrated by a farm laborer who is willing to work anywhere to meet the needs of his family.

*“Orang main berbiak. Dan orang-orang pensiunan terdorong keinginan menghemat belanja yang tidak menghasilkan sesuatu apa di dunia ini slain duduk bermalas-malasan di kursi goyangnya telah menduduki daerah kami. Orang-orang yang tadinya mempunyai sawah berbahu-bahu setelah dua tiga turunan, sawahnya telah menjadi ciut dan ciut. Akhirnya petani-petani di daerah kami yang kaya-kaya lenyap dari muka bumi. Daerah pertanian yang lebar menjadi kerdil. Dan dengan sendirinya kemakmuran jadi seret. Tani kaya jadi tani miskin. Tani besar jadi tani kerdil. Tani kecil kehilangan sawahnya jadi buruh tani yang tiada bersawah. Dan*

*bila sawah tak memerlukan tenaga manusia lagi, mereka menguli dikota.” (HYTD:114)*

## **b. Efforts to Combat Social Crime**

In general, this effort is divided into two, namely using penal and non-penal lines. First, the penal line is an effort to overcome crime through criminal law. This effort is a countermeasure that focuses on repressive nature, namely actions taken after a crime has occurred. This action is carried out by enforcing the law and imposing penalties for crimes that have been committed. In addition, this method is an action taken in the context of tackling crime to the act of coaching and rehabilitation. This effort is illustrated in the quote below discussing Kek Leman who committed the crime of murder and was later sentenced. This effort is made to provide a deterrent effect on criminals.

*“Tiga bulan kemudian meniup-niup berita: kakek Leman dijatuhi hukuman tujuh bulan dan harus menjalani kerja paksa di Malang. Di rumah Aayah bilang pada Bunda: “betul juga dugaanmu. Bukandia yang jahat. Ia mendapat sepuluh rupiah untuk perbuatannya itu ddari seseorang”..... “berita bahwa kakek Leman mencoba membunuh orang betul-betul menggoncangkan pendapatku terhadapnya “ (YMD: 36)*

Second, the non-penal path. Efforts to overcome the non-penal path can be referred to as a path that is carried out without involving criminal law. This effort is a form of countermeasure that focuses on a preventive nature, namely the action is in the form of prevention before the occurrence of a crime. Here is the proof of the quote.

*“Keadaan sudah jauh berbeda. Panen yang tak jadi di masa menunai yang lalu mncekik para pejuang dan pegawai-pegawaib yang turut melarikan diri. Mereka yang tadinya aktif di masa pemerintahan republik, sekalipun di daerah gerilya masih juga kembang kempis oleh ketakutannya sendiri, karena mereka itu tidak bersenjata.” (HYTD : 123)*

This non-penal prevention has the main objective of dealing with the conducive factors that cause a crime to occur, which includes

social problems or conditions that can directly or indirectly lead to and even foster criminal acts. The quote above describes how to overcome the occurrence of crime by preparing to fight the fear of crime.

Based on this discussion, this research has a novelty from previous research, namely discussing the problem of sociology of literature about the forms of poverty and social crime and how to overcome these two problems. The purpose of this study is to find and analyze the forms of poverty and social crimes that occur in short stories. The benefits of this research are as an addition to knowledge to the reader regarding the resolution of social problems of poverty and social crimes that occur in the Blera community. This research can find solutions to the problems of poverty and social crimes that occur in the community. The solution is to eradicate poverty so that social crimes do not occur. Then social crimes must be given a deterrent legal action for those who violate it.

## CONCLUSION

The results of this study can be concluded that in the short story entitled Story of Blera by Pramudya Ananta Toer is a literary work that describes social reality, namely a picture of poverty and social crime. The reality contained in the collection of short stories is in the form of absolute, cultural, relative, and structural poverty. Meanwhile, the forms of social crimes described include crimes of theft, robbery, colonization, corruption and so on. Both of these social problems can be overcome using two ways, namely penal and non-penal. Based on this, it can be concluded that poverty is the main factor that causes social crimes to occur.

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