"Freedom to Learn in Education, Social, Religious, Culture, and Language Perspective"

# ASPECTS OF MORALITY IN THE NOVEL RE: BY MAMAN SUHERMAN AS TEACHING MATERIAL FOR LITERATURE IN HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstract. Literature is a reflection of the process of life that the author (literati) is trying to express to the public (readers). In the disclosure of life processes, often literati bring up social problems that may be acquired through sensing the surrounding reality and immersing them in literary works. In describing these problems, the branch of literary science that studies them is literary sociology that tells about literature and social (society). Sociology explains how the author describes the reality of his life. One of the parts is about the morality aspect. This research seeks to describe the morality contained in the novel Re: by Maman Suherman by using the study of literary sociology to relate it as a teaching material for literature in high school. The method applied in this study is descriptive qualitative. Data is obtained from a series of processes in the form of reading and taking notes. Later, the data were classified and analyzed according to the theory of study of literary sociology. The aspect of morality raised in the study is bad *morals (immoral/ ammoral)*. This aspect of poor morality will later become an example for learning literature in high school. The results showed that bad morality in Maman Suherman's novel Re: includes crime, slurping, and delinquency of children.

**Keywords:** morality, literary sociology, novel re: by maman suherman, literary teaching materials.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Literature is a reflection of the life processes that the author (literati) is trying to express to society (the reader). In the disclosure of such life processes, often the literati brings up about the aspects of morality that are likely to be obtained through sensing the surrounding reality and rendering it in literary works. Because basically, literary works are the result of creative activities in the form of skills based on human expression in the process of life and produce a work in the form of writing or oral that has aesthetics or beauty in describing existing life through imagery (Sumardjo & Saini, 1986; Wellek & Warren, 2016; Winarni, 2009; Wardianto, 2021). Literary works are built from a set of bunches and symbols that have meaning and state at a convention (Wardianto & All, 2021).

In describing these problems, the branch of literary science that studies them is literary sociology that tells stories about literature and social (society). Through the interpretation of literary sociology, the author's literary work can reveal itself to raise all kinds of problems that exist in the community. Literary works are a reflection of society. Thus, it is undeniable that literary works are born not far from the social problems that occur in society. A literary work is a story made from the observations of the author in the surrounding environment, with the object of the literary work being man and his life and the medium is language.

Sociology of literature is a branch of literary science that is influenced by the environment of the society to which the author comes. Literary sociology talks more about the author with his social life. In this issue, literary texts can be spelled out as epoch-captioned. Sociology constantly

seeks to find a connection between literature and realitywhich exists in society in various ways. Literary sociology uses the concept of mirrors meaning that literary works are considered mimesis (imitations) of society. But thus literature is still recognized as an illusion or delusion of reality. Thus it has a reciprocal relationship with the networks of systems and values in the society (Endaswara, 2013; Levin, 1973; Soemanto, 1993).

Ratna, 2011) says in his book that the relationship of literary works with society, both as negation and innovation, as well as affirmations, is clearly an essential relationship. Literary works have the most important task, both in their efforts to become pioneers of renewal, and in providing recognition of a symptom of society. Many societies measure the merits of literary works on the basis of their practical aspects. Literary works as merely imaginary, for example, still color the judgment of society as a century, a negative assessment that continuously brings literary works beyond actual life.

The approach of literary sociology is used to examine the background of theauthor's life about the philosophy adopted, ideology, education, thoughts and visions of authorship, as well as to examine society towards literary works. In the social analysis of society depicted in literary works by comparing societies that are outside the literary work (Semi, 2012). Furthermore, literary osiology is an understanding of literary works in which it concerns social status, social ideology, and considers aspects of society (Faruk, 2005; Ratna, 2009). According to Escarprint (2017) the features of literary facts must be considered in the Sociology of Literature. Some things that must be considered are questions such as, why literature has such a close relationship with the community environment so that it must be examined in relation to society.

Based on the opinions of several experts above, you can analyze the similarity of opinions regarding literary sociology, that literary sociology discusses literature based on the author with the environment of his society. The literary work that was born is inseparable between the author and his environment. Thus, it can be concluded that literary sociology is a science that examines the background of the author's life as well as problems related to society in a literary work.

This view of literary sociology eventually produces an element in the form of aspects of morality or social problems. The morality aspect is distinguished between two kinds of problems, namely between societal problems and social problems. *First*, concerns the various symptoms of people's lives. *Secondly*, it examines the abnormal symptoms of society with a view to improving or even to eliminate them. Sociology investigates common problems in society with the intention of discovering and interpreting the realities of civic life.

So basically, the morality aspect concerns social and moral values. The problem is a problem, because it concerns an immoral system of behavior, contrary to the law and destructive in nature. Therefore, social problems will not be possible to study without considering the measures of society regarding what is considered good and what is considered bad. Sociology concerns a theory that only to some extent concerns social and moral values, the most important of which is its scientific aspect.

Munandar (2011) states that human life as a social being is always faced with social problems that cannot be separated in life. In everyday life, of course, we have, are or will be faced with real social problems. Those kinds of problems are real realities that we find in everyday life. The aspects of morality contained in the lens of literary sociology can be seen among others from the following aspects, such as poverty, crime, divorce, sexual regulation, *broken home*, as well as violations of societal norms such as homosexuality, prostitution, child delinquency, and alcoholism (Anang, 2010; Suharto, 2009; Sunyoto, 2011).

One of the novels that presents aspects of morality in the country is *RE*: by Maman Suherman (2016). This novel centers on a central character named Re whose plot of life there are many aspects of his morality. Re who is a 'peddle woman' is one of the objects in which the morality aspect of society has such a strong current, that it gives rise to a great many implied and expressed meanings in the novel published by Gramedia in 2016.

The novel RE: by Maman Suherman is used as teaching material in high school because the novel has various types of linguistic aspects that are not only determined by the social problems discussed, but also other factors such as: the way of writing used by the author, the characteristics of the literary work, and the group of readers that the author wants to reach. The story contained in the novel RE: is very suitable to be used as a learning for readers, especially high school students

because the story explains how to view a social problem that occurs in society not with one point of view. The novel is related to the background of life so that it makes it easier for students to understand the content of the story so that it can be used as their learning material.

A relevant study of the research that has been carried out on the novel RE: found in a study conducted by Qomariyah (2022) entitled *Social Pathology and Emotional Intelligence in the Main Characters in the Novel RE: and Women by Maman Suherman* which describes social petology in the form of criminality, prostitution, liquor, and drugs. Meanwhile, his emotional intelligence is shown by emotions such as anger, sadness, fear, enjoyment, love, and shame that the characters in the storyline pass through. In addition, there is also a study entitled *Conflict of the Main Character in the Novel RE: By Maman Suherman: A Study of Literary Psychology* which was carried out by Utomo, et al. (2019). Furthermore, the novel RE: is also found in Ningsih's research (2020) entitled *Representation of Female Prostitutes in Maman Suherman's Novel Re:* In his research, the researcher exposes the contextuality of prostitutes in the novel *RE:* by Maman Suherman.

The research conducted in this researcher is a renewable novelty because in its discussion it examines aspects of morality by using the study of literary sociology theory as the scalpel. Based on this description, this research will describe the morality aspect in the novel *RE*: by Maman Suherman as teaching material for literature in high school.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The research uses qualitative descriptive research methods. Descriptive qualitative in the study uses content *analysis* techniques to examine the elements of gender injustice contained in the novel *RE*: by Maman Suherman. This method is applied to answer complex problems by collecting and compiling, clarifying, analyzing, and interpreting (Ratna, 2007).

The data collection technique carried out by the researcher is by applying literature study techniques to find and unite materials and information from literature related to the object under study (Faruk, 2012). The data in this study has passed the validation stage by expert experts considered to have expertise or expertise in accordance with their fields, the validation is used to check the validity of the data in this study (Moleong, 2017).

The stage of analysiscarried out in this study is to plan three stages, namely: (1) the stage of collecting data, (2) the stage of reducing data, and (3) the stage of presenting data. Data collection is carried out by finding or digging for quotes in the form of sentences or dialogues that contain aspects of morality that will be the data of this study. The next step that will be done is data reduction. The data will then be reduced according to the group or classification of data that has been determined. After the data is collected and reduced, the data will be analyzed so as to produce a picture or interpretation of the aspects of morality contained in the novel *RE*: by Maman Suherman.

# **RESULT AND ANALYSIS**

The morality aspect has a negative (bad) connotation in society regarding all kinds of symptoms of people's lives. It is related to abnormal symptoms in society with the aim of correcting or eliminating them. In other words, the moral aspects that the research analysis performs race against bad moral values and describe them. The morality aspect is related to the value of values contained in society (Hidayat, et al., 2021). In this study, the morality aspect with negative (bad) connotations is a study that will be carried out based on the findings contained in the novel RE: by Maman Suherman. Aspects of morality have negative (bad) connotations contained, among others, crime, prostitution, and children's delinquency. The results of the study will later be used as teaching material for literature in high school in accordance with the basic competencies and core competencies contained in the learning curriculum in high school.

# 1.1. Aspects of Morality in the Novel RE: By Maman Suherman

In this study, the morality aspect with negative (bad) connotations is a study that will be carried out based on the findings contained in the novel RE: by Maman Suherman. Aspects of morality have negative (bad) connotations that are contained, among others, crime, homosexuality, prostitution, deliquency of children, and alcoholism.

#### 1.1.1. Crime

Sutherland in (Anang, 2010) Crime is behavior committed by an individual or group that can harm others and is prohibited by the state. In an effort to prevent and eradicate it the state reacted with punishment. In accordance with its Development, according to Hoefnagels in (Priyanto, 2012) evil is human behavior that is marked more understandably than simply seeing evil as a label or etiquette. For example, the behavior in question, namely theft, rape, murder, and so on.

Dalam novel RE: karya Maman Suherman data berupa kejahatan terdapat pada kutipan berikut.

"Prostitutes Meet Their End Very Sadly. Hit by a Car, His Body Dragged, His Blood and Brain Splattered!" (Suherman 2016: 20—21)

"Pelacur Temui Ajalnya dengan Sangat Mengenaskan. Ditabrak Mobil, Tubuhnya Terseret, Darah dan Otaknya Berceceran!" (Suherman 2016: 20—21)

In the following quote we can see how the news that has been made by journalists, due to the narrow space for movement. Maman, as a news reporter there, couldn't do anything about it. Except for being surprised to see the sadistic news that day. Even the news about hit-and-run victims is presented by one of the media with a narrative suitable to be used as a bedtime tale such as the following quote.

"In one of the paragraphs was instead inserted a sentence similar to "bedtime tale": "Sadly sad the fate of the prostitute. It's new in the world. What about in the afterlife?" (Suherman 2016:21)

"Di salah satu paragraf malah disisipkan kalimat mirip "dongeng pengantar tidur": "Sunguh menyedihkan nasib sang pelacur. Itu baru di dunia. Bagaimana di akhirat nanti?" (Suherman 2016:21)

Another crime can also be seen from a "mucikari or pimp" who often commits crimes against his men. In running her business, Mami Lani is known as a pimp who is cruel to her men, especially if her men violate the rules set by Mami. It can be seen from the following excerpt.

"Uh, you know no, before Dian, there was Nita who died in the stab in Tanah Abang. Then, Yuni, whose cheeks were cut by people in the hotel parking lot in Cikini." (Suherman 2016:38)

"Eh, kamu tahu nggak, sebelum Dian, ada Nita yang mati di tikam di Tanah Abang. Lalu, Yuni yang pipinya di cutter orang di parkiran hotel di Cikini." (Suherman 2016:38)

The quote explains how Mami did not hesitate to commit crimes. According to Hoefnagels (Priyanto, 2012:77) evil is human behavior that is marked more understandably than simply seeing evil as a label or etiquette. For example, the behavior in question, namely theft, rape, murder, and so on. Mami didn't think long when she committed a crime, the crime committed by Mami was to kill her men. Of course, it is not without reason that Mami committed a crime, an act of crime committed by Mami when her men violated the rules set by Mami. The torture that Mami often performs on her men is to break the cutter in the stomach. Like the following quote.

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"I did it before I worked here. Sinta that's the story. Some were caught pregnant. Stabbed in the stomach with a cutter. His cutter knife was cut in the abdomen." (Suherman 2016:68)

"Kejadiannya sebelum gue kerja di sini. Sinta yang cerita. Ada yang ketahuan hamil. Ditusuk perutnya pake cutter. Pisau cutter-nya dipatahin disisain dalem perut." (Suherman 2016:68)

Based on the quote above, it can be seen how the crime was again raised by Mami. According to Hoefnagels (Priyanto, 2012) crime is human behavior that is marked more understandably than simply seeing crime as a label or etiquette. For example, the behavior in question, namely theft, rape, murder, and so on. The crime committed by Mami was to commit an act of murder to her men. This crime was committed with good reason because in running her business Mami did not want her men to violate the rules or even get pregnant, if that happened Mami did not hesitate to kill the baby hole or even kill the mother of the baby brother.

#### 1.1.2. Prostitution

According to Soekanto (2015) prostitution is a job done by selling oneself to the public to perform sexual acts with the aim of earning wages. The cause of prostitution must be seen from various factors, namely internal factors and external factors. Among the factors from within the thing that can be mentioned such as great genital appetite, lazy nature and a great desire to live a luxurious life. Meanwhile, the main external factors are economic factors, irregular urbanization and unqualified housing conditions, and so on.

In the novel RE by Maman Suherman, the world of prostitution is one of the things discussed in the novel. The world of prostitution depicted in the novel is very clearly depicted. The depiction of the world of prostitution depicted by the author in the novel RE is so unique, each prostitute has a number affixed to their chest. Visitors who want to "taste" the sex worker's body just have to say the number they want and the prostitute will be ready to serve guests or visitors who come. It can be seen from the following excerpt.

"During coverage of various nightlife venues, discotheques, pubs, massage parlors, and a number of localizations around Jakarta, I discovered a variety of prostitution phenomena." (Suherman, 2016:25)

"Selama liputan di berbagai tempat hiburan malam, diskotek, pub, panti pijat, dan sejumlah lokalisasi di seputar Jakarta, aku menemukan beragam fenomena pelacuran." (Suherman, 2016:25)

"On their chests are plastered numbers. The guests who come just point and mention the desired number, and the one called will come out casually." (Suherman, 2016:25)

"Di bagian dada mereka terpampang nomer. Tamu yang datang tinggal menunjuk dan menyebut nomer yang diinginkan, dan yang dipanggil akan keluar dengan santai." (Suherman, 2016:25)

Based on the two quotes above, it is illustrated that there was a prostitution activity that occurred. According to Soekanto (2015:328) prostitution can be interpreted as a job that is in the nature of surrendering oneself to the public to perform sexual acts with wages. Women who work as sex workers are not only native Indonesian women. But women of Arab blood were also seen in the ranks of sex workers. It can be seen from the following excerpt.

"Some women of Arab blood, who are generally tall, high-nosed and densely bodied, I often see peddling sex there." (Suherman, 2016:30)

"Beberapa perempuan berdarah Arab, yang umumnya jangkung, berhidung mancung dan bertubuh padat, sering kulihat menjajakan seks di sana." (Suherman, 2016:30)

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Being a sex worker is not an easy job, everyone who has plunged into and immersed in the world of prostitution, is actually shocked and wants to get out in that dark world. However, getting out in such a world is not an easy matter there are always risks that occur in every deed. Sinta is a prostitute who already feels Tired of the world of prostitution, she wants to get out in that world. However, when he wants to go out is not the freedom he gets. It was death that picked him up. It can be seen from the following excerpt:

"That Sinta has said goodbye. Already tired of being a prostitute! He's longer than me. It's been over five years. He talked directly to Mami, three days before the incident! It should be his last day to be Mami's child!" (Suherman, 2016:34).

"Sinta itu sudah pamit. Sudah capek jadi pelacur! Dia lebih lama dari gue. Sudah lima tahun lebih. Dia ngomong langsung sama Mami, tiga hari sebelum kejadian! Harusnya hari itu hari terakhirnya jadi anak Mami!" (Suherman, 2016:34).

Sinta wants to get out of the world of prostitution and create her own "brothel" business because she feels tired of being Mami Lani's subordinate, after learning that Sinta wants to open "brothel" Mami Lani immediately takes action to prevent Sinta's plan, namely by killing Sinta. Sinta's desire to get out of the world of prostitution, because she does not want to forever work as a prostitute. She wants to work to be a good woman. But, Sinta thinks that it is just wishful thinking from a prostitute whose body has been exhausted and is regarded as the scum of society. It is unlikely that any company or person will accept a worker who used to wrestle in the world of prostitution.

#### 1.1.3. Children's Delikuence

According to Soekanto (2015), the delinquency of children who are famous in Indonesia is a problem of cross boys and cross girls which is a term for young people who are members of a formal or semi-formal bond / organization and who have behaviors that are not / are not liked by society in general. The delinquency of children includes theft, robbery, pickpocketing, molestation, moral violations, the use of stimulant drugs and driving motor vehicles without regard to traffic norms, and the circulation of pornographic goods.

Re is the main character in the novel who gets a child's delinquency. Incidents like this were obtained when Re's mother had died. Nini was the one who took care of Re after her mother's departure. Re lives with Nini.

"It's the same as girls. He also likes to play with tege," said Nona, who claims to be only 15 years old." (Suherman, 2016:53)

"Ayang-ayangan sama perempuan. Dia juga suka main sama tege," ujar Nona, yang mengaku baru berusia 15 tahun." (Suherman, 2016:53)

The above quote is a form of children's delinquency. Young people who are members of a formal or semi-formal bond/ organization and who have behaviors that are not/ are not liked by society in general (Soekanto, 2015: 328). The 15-year-old Miss is already in a special relationship with tege as she calls her aunt. Not only is she in a relationship with tege Nona also carries out her profession as a prostitute in groups with her friends. Here's an excerpt.

"Miss and her friends are carrying out their profession in groups. Come five or six, even more to the pub or discotheque. Some are from the same high school as Miss, there are also house mates aka neighbors." (Suherman, 2016:56)

"Nona dan teman-temannya menjalankan profesinya secara beramai-ramai. Datang berlima atau berenam, bahkan lebih ke pub atau diskotek. Ada yang berasal dari SMA yang sama dengan Nona, ada juga teman rumah alias tetangga." (Suherman, 2016:56)

Based on the above quote, there is a form of children's delinquency. The form of children's delinquency contained in the quote above is prostitution committed by Nona and her friends. A prostitute who is still very young for her age, delinquency is one of the most inappropriate acts to follow. Because, delinquency has a very negative impact on children. As illustrated from the quote above. The result of the delinquency experienced by Nona is that now Nona has to bear the shame of the consequences of her actions. Here's an excerpt:

"Until the end, suddenly Re's mother: confessed to Nini that she was pregnant. The Patrician family was in an uproar." (Suherman, 2016:74)

"Sampai akhirnya, tiba-tiba saja ibu Re: mengaku kepada Nini bahwa ia tengah mengandung. Keluarga Ningrat itu pun gempar." (Suherman, 2016:74)

"The curses of illegitimate children are increasingly being heard by him. Cap as the grandson of the bearer of calamity clings to his jidat." (Suherman, 2016:79)

"Makian anak haram makin sering didengarnya. Cap sebagai cucu pembawa musibah menempel ke jidatnya." (Suherman, 2016:79)

Based on the two quotes above, the situation that occurred is depicted. How the psychological that has been obtained from Nini since childhood made Re's psyche disturbed. This is because Nini often gives a stamp that her grandson is the bearer of calamity to the family. It's not without reason that Nini said that, Re is considered the calamity-bearing grandson because Mother Re doesn't know who Re's father really is. Because he often gets insults at home, it affects Re's attitude at school.

# 1.2. Novel *RE*: By Maman Suherman as Literature Teaching Material in High School.

The teaching material that will be used by researchers is the novel RE: the reason researchers use this novel as teaching material is because this novel has various linguistic aspects that are not only from the topic of discussion, but there are other things, such as: the way of writing, the distinctive signs that exist in literature and the reader that the author wants to reach. The events in the novel RE: are very suitable to be used as learning for readers, especially children who are still in high school. This novel is related to life in society so that it makes it easier for readers to understand the content of the story and can make it as learning material.

The results of the analysis of Social Problems in the Novel RE by Maman Suherman and the Learning Implementation Plan in High School can be used by researchers to make a learning implementation plan in Senior High School (SMA), because it is in accordance with Competency Standard 7.1, namely Reading: Understanding various Indonesian hikayat and novels class XI SMA semester I. One of the competencies that must be achieved by students is to analyze novel texts both orally and in writing.

Furthermore, students are expected to be able to understand and explain the intric and extrinsic elements in the novel RE by Maman Suherman. This is in line with Basic Competence (K.D) 1.2 is analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the Indonesian novel. So that the rpp that researchers make can provide references for teachers to be able to increase students' insight into aspects of social problems that are used as learning material.

After students follow in the learning process, students are expected to be able to identify intrinsic elements (themes, characters and characterizations, settings, plots, points of view, and mandates) and extrinsic Indonesian novels. Then, students are able to analyze the intrinsic elements (themes, characters and characterizations, settings, plots, points of view, and mandates) and extrinsic Indonesian novels.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the description of the results and discussion of aspects of morality contained in the novel *RE*: by Maman Suherman, there are aspects of bad (negative) morality that are examples for students that can be found through literary works learned through literature learning in high school. These bad aspects or examples are illustrated through immorality consisting of crimes, prostitution, and deliquency of children. These three aspects of bad morality are depictions of social reality that occur in novels that must be studied and taken on the positive side so that later readers and learners are not trapped or trapped like these bad examples.

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