

THE PERSPECTIVE OF RELIGIOUS MODERATION IN INDONESIA IN THE NOVEL MARYAM BY OKKY MADASARI

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A bstract.

Recently, the issue of religious intolerance and the spread of radicalism has been rife in Indonesia. This phenomenon may threaten the unity and security of the nation. In fact, various literary works contain exemplary religious moderation which can be accessed by readers of literary works. This study examines the construction of religious moderation in the novel Maryam by Okky Madasari. This type of research is qualitative, with a critical discourse analysis approach using the Norman Fairclough model which prioritizes literary texts as study material. The data collection technique was carried out by document analysis which focused on the text and context dimensions which show the construction of religious moderation. Data validity test was carried out by theoretical triangulation. The data analysis technique applied is flow analysis. The results of the study show that religious moderation in the novel Maryam by Okky Madasari includes the domination of the content of the principle of religious moderation. Through the character of Maryam and her family, religious moderation is shown by an attitude of tolerance, avoiding conflict, and promoting peace and harmony in carrying out religious beliefs. Maryam's religious identity influences her self-view and interactions with the surrounding community, while this identity also faces complex social consequences such as discrimination and oppression.

Keywords: Religious Moderation, Critical Discourse Analysis, Novel Maryam

INTRODUCTION

The issue of religious intolerance and radicalism that is currently spreading has become a phenomenon that can threaten national unity and security. The tendency for religious moderation to fade is one of the reasons why society has lost the guidelines or basis for being a wise and wise nation and state. Based on this phenomenon, all parties from various scientific fields need to carry out mitigation efforts and actions to prevent and eliminate radicalism. Prevention and elimination of radicalism is a necessity that cannot be ignored.

In order to ward off radicalism and prevent the degradation of the character of the nation's children, the government is trying through the Ministry of Religion to campaign for the concept of religious moderation. Since 2016, the Indonesian government has adopted the concept of "Religious Moderation" as part of its long-term national development plan (RPJPN). This concept involves educational institutions and efforts to develop a broad understanding of religion (Fahri, 2019). The principles of religious moderation currently emphasized by the government can be applied across disciplines, including in fields of study such as instilling the values of religious moderation in literary works. This concept is then explained further through four indicators of religious moderation, namely: commitment to the nation, rejection of violence, adaptation to local culture, and tolerance (Royani, 2021).

Efforts that can be made to integrate religious moderation focused on the concept of religious literacy are through literary works. In the field of literary sociology, literary works are considered as a reflection of social life which is reflected in the author's thoughts and influences the psychology of the reader. This reader's psychology then shapes social life. In other words, literary works are able to convey and develop ideologies from the author's social and psychological environment to readers, which then

shape them in society. Literary sociology, which is based on Plato's idea of mimesis, describes literature as a reflection of reality in society (Jhonshon, 2019). In fact, literature is considered capable of creating an imaginative social life, beyond the limits of sanity, and never before thought of. As an interdisciplinary scientific discipline, literary sociology is able to convey the values desired and created by the author himself. The focus of this research is how the values of religious moderation can be internalized in literary works.

Novels, poetry, prose and drama as forms of literary work are produced through the use of language which involves two construction elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. These two factors play an important role in forming literary works that contain diverse values and messages. The formation of literary works through intrinsic and extrinsic elements cannot be separated from the social and psychological aspects of literature. In the context of a novel, the author cannot avoid social influence in intrinsic elements such as theme, setting, place, and especially in character formation. This influence on intrinsic elements is actually influenced by extrinsic elements, such as how the author utilizes the background, socio-cultural conditions, and the place where the literary work was written (Junaedi, 2022). By using these literary elements, the author can describe the concept of moderation in a religious context.

Critical discourse analysis is a process carried out to solve or explain the text (social aspects) being researched with the aim of achieving what is desired. Therefore, it is very important to be aware of the context and interests at hand. In carrying out this analysis, it is important to understand that the results of the analysis will have the influence of various factors. However, all parties must also realize that behind the discourse there are desired meanings and perspectives as well as interests that are being fought for (Darma, 2013: 49).

In this research, the critical discourse analysis approach is a relatively new analytical method, which emerged from the traditions of social theory and critical linguistic analysis. In its development, critical discourse analysis has expanded, starting from analyzing language elements (such as sentences or clauses) to covering broader social dimensions (Santoso, 2006: 57). As stated by Fairclough, critical discourse analysis examines the efforts of social power, abuse, domination and inequality that are reproduced and maintained through texts, with an emphasis on their relationship to social and political contexts.

One novel that contains the values of religious moderation is the novel *Maryam* by Okky Madasari. This novel won the 2012 Khatulistiwa Literary Award in the Prose category. The story in the novel *Maryam* centers on a girl named *Maryam* who comes from an Ahmadiyah family. The life of *Maryam* and her family was not easy because Ahmadiyah was always considered heretical by the local community. They often experience unpleasant insults and insults. However, *Maryam* remains steadfast in facing all challenges and accepts with grace her identity as an Ahmadiyah follower. Tensions reached their peak when *Maryam's family* was expelled from Gerupuk, where they lived, because of their religious beliefs. They were forced to seek refuge in Gegerung, but unfortunately they were again attacked by local residents who rejected their existence as Ahmadiyah followers. Children and women were evacuated to the Transito building, while *Maryam* was pregnant with her first child. The situation did not improve because they were not allowed to return to their homes. Despite facing various difficulties, *Maryam* and her family continued to fight. *Maryam* took the initiative to send a letter to

the President in the hope of asking for protection and justice (Hermalinda, 2022).

A research on religious moderation in novels was carried out by Lestari and Azizi (2022) with the title "Religious Moderation in the Novel *Kambing dan Uang* by Mahfud Ikhwan". In this research, the author found that the narratives of the figures Miftah, Fauziah, Mat, and Is often show differences in views between Nahdatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah, two Islamic community organizations in Indonesia. In the story presented, harmony and tolerance are found who do not view themselves as superior, superior, or have absolute truth compared to other groups. In another study written by Oktri (2023), regarding the values of moderation in the novel "Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck" by Hamka, he also discusses aspects of the value of religious moderation. Hamka encapsulates the values of moderation in the novel with the values: tolerance, consistency, firmness, justice, openness, firmness of opinion, and self-introspection (muhasabah).

The novelty of this research lies in the content of religious moderation in literary works, namely the novel *Maryam* by Okky Madasari. By combining literary studies, religious studies, and critical discourse analysis, research on religious moderation in novels can contribute to understanding the complexity and dynamics of the role of religion in society. Several novelties in the research studied using a critical discourse analysis approach to the novel include: exploration of the representation of religious moderation in literary works, criticism of religious ideology and practice, analysis of interreligious conflict and dialogue, study of the relationship between religion and identity, as well as reflections on pluralism or religious tolerance in literary works. The introduction contains the background, explains the phenomenon of the actual problem being researched, supported by literature references and the results of previous related research that has been carried out by yourself or others and explains the existence of research in that context. The introduction also contains the problem (preferably only one problem should be the focus of the research), the research objectives, the benefits of the research, and the theory used to solve the problem. All sources referred to or quoted must be written in the bibliography. The introduction does not use sub-chapter titles and the first paragraph is aligned left, straight with the chapter title.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach with content analysis methods. The object of this research is the dominant representation of religious moderation in the novel *Maryam* by Okky Madasari. The data used in this research consists of novel documents and interviews with readers as sources of informant data. The document used is the novel *Maryam* by Okky Madasari published by Gramedia Jakarta, fifth printing in 2021 with 280 pages. Sampling in this study used a purposive sampling method, where the data required was related to the dominant use of religious moderation. The validity of this research data was obtained through theory triangulation and source triangulation. The data analysis technique in this research uses a flowing analysis model, which involves the process of data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Literary works are the result of someone's thoughts or imagination about events in life, and also reflect the life of the author. Mangunwijaya's opinion (Nugroho, 2016) emphasizes that initially all literary works were religious in nature. This view is also

confirmed by (Atmusuwito, 2018) who views literature as part of religion. Atmosuwito explained that religiosity in literary works can take the form of self-respect for the Creator, recognition of God's greatness, feelings of guilt when committing sins, spiritual feelings towards God, and so on. Religiosity in this context reflects the relationship between humans and God. This form of religiosity can be seen through human obedience to God and human attitudes towards fellow humans.

In this research, an analysis of the construction of religious moderation in Indonesia is carried out in the novel "*Maryam*" by Okky Madasari using Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis approach. This research aims to understand how the construction of religious moderation is represented in the novel and how this construction can be understood in the social and political context in Indonesia. The analytical method used is critical discourse analysis, which involves identifying and analyzing texts to reveal the relationship between language, power and ideology. In this case, the text analyzed is the novel "*Maryam*" by Okky Madasari, which was chosen because it was considered to depict the construction of religious moderation in Indonesia.

Analysis includes identification and observation of word choice, narrative structure, and patterns of language use in the novel. In addition, an analysis of the social and political context in Indonesia at the time the novel was written was carried out to understand the influence and relevance of the construction of religious moderation presented in the work. By using Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis approach, this research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the construction of religious moderation in Indonesia contained in the novel "*Maryam*" by Okky Madasari, as well as explore the social and political implications related to this construction.

Based on the author's analysis of the novel *Maryam* by Okky Madasari, several constructions of religious moderation were found. Including the following:

Criticism of religious ideology and practice

In the novel "*Maryam*" by Okky Madasari, there is criticism of religious ideology and practices which is one of the central themes in the story. Through the narrative and characters, the author describes various aspects that criticize the ideology and religious practices that exist in society. One of the criticisms presented is related to intolerance and discrimination against the Ahmadiyah group, which is considered heretical by some in society. The author describes the experience of *Maryam's family*, an Ahmadiyah follower, who faced unfair treatment, expulsion and attacks from the surrounding community simply because of their religious beliefs (Asmar, 2020).

Apart from that, this novel also criticizes dogmatic and authoritarian attitudes in religious practice. The author highlights society's inability to accept differences in beliefs and respect religious freedom. At the same time, the character of *Maryam* and her family shows a firm attitude in maintaining their beliefs, even though they are faced with challenges and oppression (Firmansyah, 2019). By illustrating this criticism, the novel "*Maryam*" invites readers to reflect on religious ideologies and practices that may result in injustice, intolerance and oppression of minority groups. This can be proven in the following quote:

Table 1

I am a religious teacher. How can I give good grades to a child who is in a cult! (p. 40)
If we are of the same religion, why should I give up everything? But Maryam was afraid. He chose to remain silent and agree with Alam's words. For the love of both of them. (p. 75)

Analysis of Interreligious Conflict and Dialogue

In the novel "*Maryam*" by Okky Madasari, there is a depiction of inter-religious conflict and dialogue which is an important element in the story. This interreligious conflict arises as a result of differences in religious beliefs and practices between groups in society. The inter-religious conflict in this novel mainly occurs between *Maryam's family*, who are Ahmadiyah adherents, and the surrounding community who rejects their beliefs. This conflict includes discriminatory treatment, expulsion, attacks and oppression of *Maryam's family*. This conflict describes a social reality where religious differences can be a source of conflict and injustice in society.

On the other hand, interreligious dialogue also appears in this novel as an effort to seek understanding, fight for justice, and build cooperation between different religious groups. This dialogue involves conversations and exchange of views between figures from various religions, including *Maryam* who tries to explain and defend her beliefs. Through this dialogue, the author shows the importance of interreligious dialogue in building understanding, mutual respect and achieving understanding amidst differences (Junaedi, 2022).

Analysis of interreligious conflict and dialogue in the novel "*Maryam*" allows readers to understand the complexity of interreligious relations in society and its impact on the individuals and families involved. This conflict and dialogue also raise questions about tolerance, equality and human rights in the context of religious freedom. By depicting these conflicts and dialogues, the novel encourages reflection and critical thinking about the importance of interfaith harmony and the importance of respecting differences in a diverse society. This can be proven in the following quote:

Table 2

In other villages throughout Lombok, people are starting to cleanse the faith in the environment they. Lifting machete And hoe, pelted with rock. Burn when not quick registered. Gerupuk don't want to be left behind (pg. 51)

They were angry at people for decades living in harmony as neighbors. They threw stones at the roof tiles, broke windows, damaged the fence with machetes and hoes. The adult men are all alert. Surrounding the homes of people they considered to have strayed. They gave him a choice: return to the right path or die immediately. On the third day, at the height of tension and impatience, fires were thrown. Seventeen houses were burned. The occupants chose to leave. Leaving everything they have behind. Letting go of the life they have had for years. (p. 52)

Representation of Religious Moderation in the Novel *Maryam* by Okky Madasari

In the novel "*Maryam*" by Okky Madasari, there is a significant representation of religious moderation. Through the character of *Maryam* and her family, the author depicts an attitude of moderation and tolerance in carrying out their religious beliefs. *Maryam*, as an Ahmadiyah follower, represents the values of religious moderation in this novel. Even though she was faced with discriminatory treatment and oppression by the surrounding community, *Maryam* still maintained her beliefs firmly (Kurniati, 2018). He demonstrated tolerance and avoided conflict with other religious groups, despite differences of opinion and rejection of his beliefs.

Apart from that, *Maryam* also reflects religious moderation through her attitude that brings peace and harmony. He refused to feel superior or look down on other religious groups, and taught the values of tolerance to his children. Through the representation of the character *Maryam*, the author illustrates the importance of religious moderation in building harmony and harmony between religions. This novel highlights the need to respect each other's differences and respect religious freedom, as well as opposing religious fanaticism and exclusive attitudes that can trigger conflict and intolerance. Thus, the novel "*Maryam*" provides a positive picture of religious moderation and emphasizes the importance of an attitude of tolerance in carrying out religious beliefs, as well as invites readers to reflect and strengthen these values in everyday life. This can be proven in the following quote:

Table 3

The thing called belief cannot be explained. He will come by himself without having to have a reason (p. 55)

The relationship between religion and identity in the Novel *Maryam* by Okky Madasari

In the novel "*Maryam*" by Okky Madasari, the relationship between religion and identity is one of the central themes explored. Through the character *Maryam*, the author describes how religion can influence individual identity and face the social consequences that arise. In this novel, religion, especially the Ahmadiyah faith adhered to by *Maryam* and her family, plays an important role in shaping their identity. *Maryam's* religious identity as an Ahmadiyya member influences the way she views herself and the way she interacts with the community around her. Religion becomes an integral part of his identity (Yusuf, 2018).

Maryam's religious identity also faces complex social consequences. Because of their different beliefs, *Maryam* and her family experienced discrimination, oppression and unfair treatment from society who rejected them and considered them heretical. Their religious identity becomes a source of conflict and pressure in relations with the surrounding environment. In this novel, the author describes how strong the relationship between religion and individual identity is, as well as the impact it can have in a social context that does not always accept differences. Religious identity is an important element in shaping the world view and life experiences of *Maryam's* character.

By illustrating this relationship between religion and identity, the novel "*Maryam*"

invites readers to reflect on how religion can influence individual identity and how religious identity can be a source of conflict and opposition in society. This encourages reflection on the importance of respecting differences, building tolerance, and creating an inclusive environment for individuals with different religious identities. This can be proven in the following quote:

Table 4

"The village is calm now. Everyone is in harmony, everything is peaceful. "I ask for help, don't disturb me any more , " said Rohmat. (Pg. 51)

"Those who have gone astray are no longer allowed to be in this village," Pak Haji now spoke up. (208)

CONCLUSION

This research analyzes the construction of religious moderation in the novel "*Maryam* " with a focus on criticism of religious ideology and practices, analysis of interreligious conflict and dialogue, representation of religious moderation, and the relationship between religion and identity. Through the criticism presented, the author describes intolerance, discrimination and oppression of religious minority groups, especially Ahmadiyah. The inter-religious conflict in this novel depicts differences in religious beliefs and practices which give rise to injustice, discrimination and oppression of *Maryam's family* who are Ahmadiyah followers. This novel also shows the importance of interreligious dialogue as an effort to seek understanding, fight for justice, and build cooperation between different religious groups.

Through the representation of the character *Maryam* and her family, the author depicts religious moderation by showing tolerance, avoiding conflict, and promoting peace and harmony in carrying out religious beliefs. *Maryam's* religious identity influences her view of herself and her interactions with the surrounding community, while this identity also faces complex social consequences such as discrimination and oppression. This research provides a better understanding of the construction of religious moderation in the novel "*Maryam* " and emphasizes the importance of respecting differences, building tolerance, and creating an inclusive environment in a diverse society. These findings illustrate the challenges and implications of dealing with religious differences, and highlight the importance of promoting attitudes of moderation and tolerance to build interfaith harmony.

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