

SOCIAL CONFLICT AND CHARACTER EDUCATION ON THE NOVEL *BULAN TERBELAH DI LANGIT AMERIKA* BY HANUM SALSABIELA RAIS AND RANGGA ALMAHENDRA AS A TEACHING MATERIAL LITERATURE IN HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstract. This research aims to describe and explain the structure of the novel, social conflict, character education value, and its relevance as a reference in literature teaching materials in high school. This research uses the descriptive qualitative method. The data are in the form of words, paragraphs, and sentences in the novel that show the value of character education. The research use the Novel Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika as data source. The data collection technique is by observing, reading, listening, and taking notes. The validity of the data uses a theoretical form and data triangulation. Results of this study describe the structure of the novel's builder, namely the theme, story facts, and tools; social conflicts include: the events of 9/11, Islamophobia, Family splits, and the dark side of the media world; the value of character education found there are 16 values of character education, namely religious attitudes, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creative, independent, democratic, curiosity, respect for achievement, friendly/communicative, peace-loving, fond of reading, caring environment, social care, and responsibility; and The novel Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika is appropriate and relevant to use as literature teaching material in class XI SMA namely Basic Competency 3.11 analyzing messages from a fiction book read and Basic Competency 4.11 compiling a review of messages from a fiction book read.

Keywords: Social Conflict, Character Education, Novel, Teaching Material

INTRODUCTION

Ministry of Education and Culture, at the beginning of 2015 has issued a policy. This policy requires every student to read books other than textbooks for approximately 15 minutes every day before learning begins. The literary space becomes wide, and its existence in the world of education is nothing to worries. This policy has confirmed by The Minister of Education and Culture's statement quoted by Alamsyah (2015), that the books read by students can be in the types of Indonesian and foreign literature or reading types such as newspapers and magazines.

Suharto (2017) explains that the quality of reading material can bring out from the landscape and social changes of rural and urban communities, the richness of regional languages, major lessons from Indonesian figures, Indonesian cuisine, and traditional Indonesian architecture. The reading materials extracted from these sources contain the values of the nation's character. These characters are religious, honest, discipline, tolerant, hard work, independent, creative, democratic, curiosity, national spirit, love for the homeland, respect for achievements, friendship, love peace, love to read, care for the environment, care for social, and responsible. The nation's character values are closely related to the lives of Indonesian people, who do not only pursue self-interest but also relate to the balance of the universe, social welfare, and devotion to God Almighty. When these three things entwine in harmony, a civilized and dignified Indonesian nation will be born.

Novels are one of the recommended reading materials to read. According to Suyitno (1986), a 'novel' is a product of a life that holds social values, philosophy, religion, and other life values. Although it is a fiction essay, the values in the novel are the result of cultural absorption taken from reality activities in the author's environment. Waluyo (2014) stated that literary work is a blend of the world of the author's imagination with the existing reality or the socio-cultural that develops around the author.

This BTLA novel is a genre of travel set in foreign countries that is in great demand by teenagers. This literary work of foreign travel has a positive value that can attract teenager's curiosity about everything they can find abroad. The *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* is a novel written by the writer couple Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra. This novel is one of the best-selling novels, which has adapted to the big screen. This novel tells about the journey of the couple Hanum and Rangga in America. Hanum got an assignment from the newspaper where he worked, *Heute ist Wunderbar*, to write articles on topics that cornered Islam. Hanum must look for data on American society's view of Islam after the 9/11 incident and whether the world would be better off without Islam.

The novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* describes several social conflicts that arise in society in the United States after the 9/11 attacks that resulted in the collapse of the twin towers of the WTC building. This novel tells about the events of Black Tuesday that occurred on 9/11, 2001. Since 2001 the relationship between the United States and Islam began to change. Everyone flocked to bang the two. The incident resulted in many victims falling, mutual suspicion, mutual accusations, and cornering many parties.

In addition to social conflicts, in this travel-themed novel, many values can be applied, such as the results of Fatimah's research (2015), that there are religious values that include *Hablumminallah Hablumminannas*. Concerning God, there are seven religious values: the value of faith, the value of endeavor, the value of trustworthiness, the value of patience, the value of guidance, the value of monotheism, and God's help. Meanwhile, concerning fellow human beings, four religious values are found, namely: mutual support, respect and appreciation, religious tolerance, and the prohibition of taking revenge.

The national character education paradigm pursues cognitive interests (thinking, reasoning, and logic) and pays attention to and integrates moral issues and nobility of character. Character education in this novel is in line with the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003. According to National Education System, the function of education is to develop abilities and build dignified national character and civilization. To educate the nation's life and develop students' potential to become good human beings, have faith and fear of God Almighty, have a noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens. Therefore, this novel is very relevant for learning literature material in schools, especially in high school.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a qualitative descriptive study with the sociology of literature approach. Research positions in qualitative research are planners, implementers, data collectors, analyzers, data interpreters, and reporting research results. The results of this study are not in the form of numbers but a description of the research's object. The data from this study are verbal, precisely the explanation of the character's statements in the form of dialogues and monologues, as well as the narration in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* by Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra.

This research data are words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and discourses in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* by Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra. In addition,

the data in this study also uses the results of interviews with teachers, students, readers, and informants. For additional data, the researcher also uses theoretical books and research results specifically relevant to the sociology of literature, character education, and literacy learning in high school.

This study uses data collection techniques as document analysis and interviews. Researchers used triangulation of theories, methods, and data sources as tests of the validity of the research data. Triangulation theory uses in proving the truth of the data based on the approach used in the research. The triangulation method is using two different ways to get the result from the data obtained. The technique uses in this research includes document analysis and interviews. Triangulation of data sources is by comparing and checking the truth of the data obtained during the study. The data are in the format of (novels and previous research) and the results of interviews from several sources. Data analyzed by Miles and Huberman model. This model consists of 4 steps, data collection, data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions or verification.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

1. The Structure of The Novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*

The Novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* was written by the couple Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra and released in 2014. This novel has a total thickness of 344 pages, divided into overtures, 72 chapters, epilogues, and a specific page for the author in making this novel. Overture is the prologue or the opening of a story, while the epilogue is the closing. This novel tells about Hanum and Rangga's journey in the United States, with the 9/11 incident and Islamophobia background.

a. Synopsis of The Novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*

Hanum and Rangga are a couple from Indonesia currently living in Vienna because Rangga is pursuing a doctoral (S3) education at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. In his spare time, Hanum works for the local newspaper *Heute ist Wunderbar*. Hanum was assigned to cover and write an article about the events that happened on 9/11 in the United States, while Rangga presented a paper and at the same time asked a philanthropist (wealthy philanthropist) named Phillipus Brown in the United States to be a guest lecturer at his campus. Both of them planned their trip in detail and care. The trip will last for six days, with the first three days spent in New York completing coverage of Hanum and the other three days fulfilling Rangga's duties in Washington DC. However, their plan did not go as expected.

Hanum did not believe in her boss's choice of sources, so she insisted on finding other sources she could find herself in New York. After walking around for two days, she couldn't find what she wanted. It started with the dispute between the husband and wife when Rangga suggested to Hanum to use the list of sources and look for them instead of looking for them herself. Hanum was dissatisfied and thought that Rangga was not sincere in helping with his reporting and looking for sources. On the last day when they had to leave for Washington DC, Hanum decided to attend the 9/11 anniversary and look for sources there. When it coincided with a demonstration against the construction of a mosque at Ground Zero, because there were many people and she felt sorry to see Rangga carrying their two large suitcases, Hanum asked her husband to wait around the Grand Memorial while he worked. In the end, Hanum managed to interview her first resource person, a leader of the demonstrators named Michael Jones, who was also a family member of the 9/11 victims at the WTC named Joanna. Jones opposed the construction of a mosque at Ground Zero to avenge his anger over the collapse of the WTC that killed his wife. However, there was chaos in the middle of the interview. Michael Jones rushed away and left Hanum caught in the crossfire between the demonstrators and the police. She struggled to save herself from there. She tried to contact Rangga, but her cellphone was damaged due to being trampled, and she fell with an injured knee. After

successfully getting out of the chaos, Hanum realized that she was lost and far from Rangga. Meanwhile, Rangga was to follow the schedule alone, armed with news from Hanum who, borrowed someone's cell phone to contact him. Hanum said she would follow Rangga as soon as possible.

Hanum returned to the mosque near Ground Zero, where she and Rangga had previously visited to find sources. There she met Julia Collins, the caretaker of the 9/11 Memorial Museum, who kindly helped her. Coincidentally, Julia and her family were about to leave for Washington DC, offering a ride to the lost Hanum. During the trip to Julia's house, Hanum learned that Julia Collins was a convert to Islam whose Muslim name was Azima Hussein. Unbeknownst to Hanum, Azima Hussein's name was on the list of sources given to her by her boss, Rangga carried the documents. And in the chat, Hanum also learned that Ibrahim Hussein or Abe, Azima's husband, was one of the victims of the WTC. Azima herself was the daughter of a devout priest. Her parents were against her and Abe's marriage. After her father died, Azima's mother had Alzheimer's. For the sake of her mother's health, Azima covered up her status as a Muslim by removing her hijab, replacing it with wigs, and wearing clothes with a long neck that almost covered her ears.

In Washington DC, Rangga had the opportunity to meet Phillipus Brown while having breakfast at the same hotel. Phillipus Brown was the main speaker at the conference attended by Rangga. From there, Rangga learned that Phillipus Brown was the mediator in Hanum's coverage. Rangga immediately realized and saw Hanum's documents. He also knew that Hanum was with Azima Hussein. The man asked Hanum to meet him on CNN TV Heroes and bring Azima's family with her. In the event, Phillipus Brown told the chronology of what he went through on September 11, 2001, that happened to him and his two subordinates, Anna and Hussein. He said that how Anna, who tragically decided to commit suicide because she lost hope because the building was about to collapse, how their room was to save themselves, the help and motivation given by Hussein. Michael Jones, who turn to be friends with Phillipus Brown, called and said that his views on Islam changed after learning what happened that day. This Phillipus Brown story answers Hanum's article on 'the world would be better off without Islam' with the conclusion that the world is not better off without Islam. Phillipus Brown's statement about Hussein being very tolerant seems to dismiss people's accusations about Islam, which accuse of being a terrorist.

b. Intrinsic Element Findings in The Novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*

1) Theme

The theme of the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* is the life and religion journey of the Hanum and Rangga couple. It started with Hanum, tasked to write an article with 'would the world be better without Islam.' And Rangga presented his paper with 'the power of giving in business' and asked a philanthropist to be a guest lecturer at his campus.

Accidental? For me, there is no such thing as "coincidence." I never really thought why that day Professor Reinhard asked me to go to America, and at the same time, Gertrud assigned my wife to cover 9/11 in New York. (Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika, 2014:59).

The quote reveals that Hanum and Rangga were assigned to America by their respective superiors at the same time. Hanum's reporting assignment led her to people who had links to the events of 9/11. Started from reporting, Rangga and Hanum are being tested for patience and meet again and witness a touching incident.

With God's miracle, God has trusted us so much to be a part of His beautiful scenario today. Our farewells have ushered in God's larger agendas. Not only does it remind me of the meaning of togetherness, God knows very well that we are both separated to carry out His mission. (Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika, 2014:322).

The quote is an explanation of the theme of the journey of life and religion. The trip to America is not only to fulfill an assignment. It is also a requirement for meaning about the patience and faith of the main characters when they meet various trials related to the 9/11 incident and the accusations of Islam as a terrorist.

2) Plot

The plot in this novel is mixed. Some of the stories sets in the past (2001), and the time setting in the story is 2009. The plot stages in the novel (as explained by Tafsir in Nurgiyantoro, 2005) are situation, generating circumstances, rising action, climax, and denouement.

The situation stage contains the introduction of characters. In the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*, the character's introduction is in Chapter 1 regarding the situation when Hanum and Rangga were in Vienna. The next stage is the emergence of conflict, where their respective supervisor assigns the two characters to go to the United States with their assignments. Another quarrel is when Hanum wanted to find the sources herself, but Rangga said otherwise when Hanum felt that Rangga was not willing to help her. The third stage is the rising action, in which the conflict between the two main characters gets sharper until it separated them at the Memorial Ground. The fourth stage, the climax, is the peak of the dispute.

In the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*, the peak of the conflict occurs between Hanum and himself. It starts from the climax of the riots that Hanum felt when she was trapped in a demonstration when her cellphone was damaged when she took the wrong bus route and got lost in New York again. The last stage is the completion. The conflict and unpleasant events that Hanum experienced finally began to recede after finding the mosque and meeting Azima Hussein. Azima's help means a lot to Hanum. Apart from lending her a cell phone, Azima is kind enough to invite her to stay and give her a ride to Washington DC so that Hanum can meet Rangga again. Completing the end of the story in this novel is a speech from Phillipus Brown on the CNN TV Heroes program about his experience of saving himself from the WTC building, which almost collapsed into a revelation that Muslims are not terrorists as Americans have assumed. Even Phillipus is safe due to a Muslim, Ibrahim Hussein or Abe, Azima Hussein's husband. The speech was also the answer to Hanum's article and the end of Hanum and Rangga's journey.

3) Characterization

There are three types of characterizations in the novel *Bulan Split in Langit America*. There are protagonist, antagonist, and supporting characters. Included in the protagonists are Hanum, Rangga, and Azima Hussein. Antagonists include Michael Jones and Mrs. Collins. The supporting figures are Phillipus Brown, Ibrahim Hussein, Gertrud Robinson, and Professor Reinhard.

a) Hanum

Hanum is the main female character in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*. She is an Indonesian citizen who lives in Vienna with her husband and works for a local newspaper. Hanum portrays a character of religious woman, intelligent, hardworking, and a little stubborn.

b) Rangga

Rangga is the main male character in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*, playing as Hanum's husband. Rangga is an Indonesian who is currently studying for his doctoral degree in Vienna. Rangga portrays a character of romantics, responsible, and friendly man.

c) Azima

Azima Hussein or Julia Collins is one of the characters in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*. This woman was a custodian of the 9/11 Museum who later became Hanum's savior and resource person. Azima is portrait as a steadfast Muslim, respectful of elders, knowledgeable, and patient.

d) Jones

Michael Jones is a character in the story that acts as one of the sources for Hanum. Jones is an American, and he is working as a security chief. Jones's wife was a victim of the tragedy of 9/11. He is also a leader of demonstrations against the construction of the Ground Zero mosque. Jones portrays a person who hates Islam due to an incident that happened to the WTC twin towers.

e) Phillipus Brown

Phillipus Brown is a businessman and a wealthy philanthropist in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*. In addition to being generous, he also has a caring nature for people who are in need. At the beginning of his life, Phillipus has told that as a miserly businessman. However, because of the 9/11 events and he survived, he changed and became a philanthropist because Abe's kindness touched him.

f) Hussein

Ibrahim Hussein or Abe, whose narrated as Phillipus' savior, is also Azima's husband. Hussein's character has a caring and religious nature, or a devout Muslim also has a high tolerance.

4) Setting

The setting in the novel divides into three types; place, time, and social. Setting in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* is divided into three, namely Vienna, New York, and Washington DC. The time setting in this novel divides into two, the story sets in 2001, and the story sets in 2009. The year 2001 is the year behind the 9/11 incident, while 2009 is the present in the novel. The social setting in this novel is Islamophobia, where most Americans think negatively about Islam after 9/11.

5) Author's Perspective

The novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* uses three points of view, Hanum's point of view as the first person, Rangga's as the first person, and the narrator as the third person omniscient.

6) Style of Language

This novel has to target a general audience. This novel is intended for readers, from teenagers to adults, so that the language used is quite formal but still straightforward and seems relaxed, not complicated. The diction used is quite general for readers.

7) Message

The main message conveyed through the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* is tolerance. The author wanted to tell the readers that it is not good to judge someone from the outside. The character of Phillipus Brown has described in the scene as someone who regrets that people accuse each other of terrorist events. He emphasized that one should not hate other people because they have the same religion as a terrorist, but judge from their attitude. Another mandate is to surrender to the Creator for all the problems that fall. This message is illustrated in the scene of Hanum's surrender when he was lost in New York and separated from Rangga.

2. Conflict in The Novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*

a. 9/11 Incident

The incident of 9/11 is the history of a humanitarian tragedy that befell the United States in 2001. The two tallest buildings in New York, the twin towers of the WTC (World Trade Center) in New York, collapsed after being hit by a commercial plane hijacked by members of the Al Qaeda organization in the morning days, causing about three thousand people to die. This dark history is summarized neatly in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*. The author tells readers about the chronology of the 9/11 incident.

b. Islamophobia

Islamophobia is one result of the incident of 9/11 that caused Americans to hate Islam. Since that incident, Islamophobia has often occurred in America. In this novel, the author reveals several problems of Islamophobia such as ridicule, discrimination against someone with an Arabic name or appearance, verbal abuse, bullying of Islam, to the association of Indonesia with terrorists because it is a country with the largest Muslim population and the Bali bombings.

c. Family splits

The family splits problems have happened to Rangga and Hanum families, the Azima family, and Phillipus Brown family. Rangga and Hanum are in trouble when they have different opinions, which end up in a fight. Azima's family experienced problems when Azima decided to become a convert to Islam. The death of Azima's father and mother also become their problems. While Phillipus's family problem is money which destroys the family, it's told that Phillipus' son died of an overdose. Another problem for Phillipus' family when his wife decided to divorce and leave him because Phillipus is a super busy businessman.

d. The Dark Side of Media

In this era of globalization, the media plays an important role. The media discussed in this discussion are news-producing media such as newspapers, magazines, both printed and online, and electronic news such as television, which is highly sought after by the public to get information quickly, both domestically and abroad. Behind that, the media world also has its dark side, such as how news is obtained and made to meet people's tastes. The novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* briefly mentions the dark side of the media world that Hanum went through during her time as a journalist at *Heute ist Wunderbar*, a private newspaper in Vienna, Austria.

How come? Should I be flattering an ignorant older man who likes to change girlfriends every month? Interviewing him in the morning surrounded by his cute concubines made me feel down. Honestly, that's my biggest sin while writing a profile of a person Gertrud considers a considerable success. (*Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*, 2014:21).

In the quote, Hanum doesn't feel happy when she has to flatter someone she doesn't think deserves to be written as a character profile, but Hanum has to go against his conscience because she obeys orders from her boss at work.

In the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*, Hanum received an assignment from his boss to cover the 9/11 anniversary and find sources for an article. Hanum had experienced the dark side of media being part of media that made news and create a sensation. Most of this news is orders from certain people, manipulate, and tends to distort facts. Then the dark side of the media was also discussed by other figures such as Azima and Phillipus. They expressed their distrust of the media or at least had to be careful in filtering information from media because there was a possibility that media conveyed information or only contained sensations.

3. Value of Character Education in The Novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*

The novel 'Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika' provides a lot of values of character education. The readers can apply the importance of character education in the reader's everyday life, both for social life and personal life. The dominant character education value in this novel is the attitude of tolerance towards fellow human beings. This novel shows the philosophy of tolerance to combat Islamophobia in America due to the events of 9/11. The next value is friendly/communicative, which is quite visible in the characters of the two main characters. Other matters that dominate are religious, honest, disciplined, creative, curious, appreciating achievements, love peace, love to read, care about social, and are responsible, hard work, independent, democratic, and care about the environment.

Readers can use the values of character education as an example of positive behavior, especially for high school students who study novel material with the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*. Because through this novel, the reader can indirectly know an event in life without experiencing it. This character value can be used later as a guide or example if the reader experiences a similar situation in the novel.

4. The Relevance of Novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* for Student Learning

The novel "Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika" is relevant as literature learning material for high school students can be viewed from several aspects such as language, psychology, and cultural background (Rahmanto, 1998). The first aspect is that the language used in this novel contains literary as well scientific language. The psychological aspect needs to be considered because the readers of high school students are between 15-18 years old. This stage is a transition from the realistic stage to the generalization stage. The literature that can be presented revolves around reality, facts of life, social phenomenon, and moral values. The social problems solved can be used by students to develop a critical attitude towards the positive and negative things contained in the novel. The next aspect is the cultural background. Based on the cultural aspect, the novel "Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika" can be read by high school students because it does not contain SARA. In addition, in this novel, there are cultural backgrounds from several countries other than Indonesia. Although students need to understand their own culture before getting to know the culture of others, teachers should remember that overall, education does not concern only local issues but introduces students to the world. In this case, literature offers the possibility to increase students' experience. In terms of cultural knowledge from other places, with a note that the teacher must be responsible for directing his students to absorb diverse expertise so that students have broad insight to understand different kinds of life events. The novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* can be used as an example by students through the nature of its characters. This novel can also be used as literature learning material in high school based on the aspects described.

CONCLUSION

The discussion and results found that the novel contained a complete structure, exciting themes, mixed plots, characterizations, setting, point of view, language style, and the message conveyed about tolerance. The social conflict in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika* is the 9/11 incident which is the cause of the emergence of Islamophobia among American society. A family splits also becomes a social conflict discussed in this novel. The differences of opinion cause conflicts and the dark side of media, which is manipulated and distorts fact. The dominant character education values in this novel are tolerance towards fellow human beings, friendly/communicative, religious, honest, disciplined, hard work, curiosity, independence, peace-loving, creativity, democratic, respecting achievement, fond of reading, caring for the surrounding, social care, and responsibility. From the structure and the value of character education included in the novel "Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika," this novel is relevant to be used as a literature teaching material in high school. Teachers can teach literature by paying attention to three aspects: language,

psychology, and cultural background. The literature made these three aspects into effective teaching materials to increase students' interest in literary works.

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