

BOOK REVIEW OF *ORANG-ORANG PROYEK* WRITTEN BY AHMAD TOHARI

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by her without taking the result from any researches in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 Degree and in Diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the reference mentioned in bibliography.

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

And we are conscious that all things are working together for good to those who have love for God, and have been marked out by His purpose. (Romans Ch. 8:28)

I am able to do all things through Him who gives me strength. (Philippians Th. 4:13)

This project is dedicated to Jesus Christ and my beloved parents.

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The writer realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect. Therefore, she will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better. Finally, the writer expects that this thesis will be useful for all readers.

Semarang, 15 Juli 2013

The writer

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ABSTRAK

Di Indonesia korupsi bukan menjadi masalah yang baru bagi pemerintah. Korupsi mulai terjadi di Indonesia pada masa orde lama tetapi masih sedikit para birokrasi yang melakukan korupsi. Hal ini berlanjut pada masa orde baru karena Indonesia sedang berkembang pesat di bidang ekonomi, politik, dan budaya. Dalam novel Orang-orang Proyek memberikan gambaran tentang praktek korupsi pada masa orde baru. Hal ini yang di ulas dalam project ini, bagaimana praktek tindak korupsi dan cara menagani bila ada teman sekerja yang mengajak untuk melakukan korupsi. Penulis menggunakan unsur intrinsik yaitu pada tema, karakter dan pesan untuk mengulas hal menarik yang menjadi kekuatan pada novel tersebut. Berdasarkan ulasan yang telah dilakukan, penulis menemukan bahwa terdapat tokoh utama yang tidak melakukan tindak korupsi.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Writing

Every country in the world has a government system. In the present Indonesia has adopted presidential government system. Government system of Indonesia changed several times since the independence in 1945. There are 6 times of changes in the system of government from post independence Indonesia from 1945 until now in 2013. First in 1945-1949, Indonesia has adopted a presidential government system. Second in 1949-1950, Indonesia was a parliamentary government system (Parliamentary Queasy). Third in 1950-1959, Indonesia was a parliamentary government system. Fourth in 1959-1966, Indonesia imposed a presidential government system. At this time period was also called the old order. Fifth in 1966-1998, Indonesia adopted a presidential government system. This period was also called the new order. At this time Indonesia is growing rapidly in all fields. The last in 1998 until now Indonesia adopts a presidential government system.

In Indonesia each government has system different ways of implementation. One problem that cannot be resolved until now that is corruption. Corruption begins in Old Order (Orde Lama) until now. On the Old Order (Orde Lama), corruption done by the bureaucracy and the military because the government failed to solve the economic and political problems. Ahmad Tohari, an Indonesian writer, shows acts of corruption and its implementation in a new way. *Orang-orang Proyek* is a novel themed corruption. In this novel Tohari describes how the implementation of corruption by government bureaucracy in the new order. In the New Order (Orde Baru) Indonesia is growing rapidly in the economic, social, and cultural. It opens opportunities for bureaucratic to do corruption. Additionally Tohari also shows how to solve corruption through the implementation of Kabul character. Kabul has an honest and responsible nature is not affected in corruption by superiors, Dalkijo. Therefore, the writer uses that novel because the novel is about the real lives which are is still going on until now so it is interesting to analyze.

B. The objective of study

The purposes of this writing are:

- 1. To summarize "Orang-orang Proyek."
- 2. To review of the Novel and find the strengths and weaknesses of the novel.

C. Ahmad Tohari and His Works

Ahmad Tohari was born in Tinggarjaya, Jatilawang, Banyumas, Central Java, on June 13, 1948. He is Indonesian writers. He finished high school in Purwokerto in 1962. Then, he ever attended college, Faculty of Medicine, Ibnu Khaldun University, Jakarta (1967-1970), Faculty of Economics Sudirman University, Purwokerto (1974-1975), and the Faculty of Social and Political Sudirman University (1975-1976). He began writing short stories, poems and essays in the early 1970s. Initial recognition came in 1975 when he was named favorite short story writer in a Dutch Radio Hilversum contest. Further success came in 1978 when his novel, Di *Kaki Bukit Cibalak*, won a novel writing contest organized by the Jakarta Arts Council. In 1980, he published his novel, *Kubah*. This was followed in 1981 with publication of the first book of Tohari's famous trilogy, *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk*, in series in the publication Kompas daily. The second and third books, *Lintang Kemukus Dini Hari* and *Jentera Bianglala*, were published in 1985 and 1986 respectively. The trilogy and *Kubah* discussed in some detail the fate of those accused of collaborating with the Communist Party after the 30 September Movement. Although the trilogy was serialized in Kompas, several sections of the final in the trilogy, *Jentera Bianglala*, had to be rewritten as the daily feared publishing them in their original form.

Tohari is a prolific writer. He has published a number of works, including eleven novels, three anthologies of political and religious essays, two collection of short stories, and numerous individual short stories and essays. Notable works include *Bekisar Merah*, *Belantik*, *Mas Mantri Gugat*, *Lingkar Tanah Lingkar Air*. His books have been published in Japanese, Chinese, Dutch and German. An English edition of *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* was published in 2003 by the Lontar Foundation in Jakarta. He has received several national and international awards for his work, including the S.E.A. Write Award (Southeast Asian Writers Award) in 1995, and a Fellowship through the International Writing Program in Iowa City, Iowa.

CHAPTER 2

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

The story begins with a depiction of a man named Mr. Tarya who is under an *mbulu* tree on the banks of the Cibawor River. Mr. Tarya is highly respected people in the village Cibawor. He was a retired employee of Information Office and has worked as a journalist. When Mr. Tarya is engrossed in playing the flute, Kabul approached him. Kabul, a leader of the project implementers, talks with Mr. Tarya. Kabul tells that because of flooding yesterday concrete stake is tilted; the work must be started again from the early. Kabul is dizzy for damage that makes a substantial loss and gives mental burden because the work of a few days at a cost of millions vanished instantly. The actual loss can be avoided if the early implementation of the construction of the bridge is delayed until the dry season arrives in a few months. That is the recommendation of the designers. However, the recommendation is ignored, supposedly in pursuit of time. Rulers who have projects and local political leaders want the bridge is completed before the 1992 general election. Kabul estimates that the inauguration of the bridge will be used as a site party campaign of ruler group.

When the voice of radio on Kabul's waist is sounded, Kabul says goodbye to Mr. Tarya to go back to the office because of Mr. Dalkijo, head of the project, calls him into the office. Kabul goes toward the sheds not far from the project location. On the building is aavailable workroom and Kabul's room. Wati is in the workroom. Wati works as a secretary in the project. Wati is accepted working in the project in order to empower the local labor to reduce the negative social impacts of the project. This project is financed by foreign loans and will be a burden on society, which they consider to be private property. Kabul knows how the project treasurer shall expend funds for party activities of ruleer group. Apparently the village people also chimed naughty. The foremans who record the receipt of the material are good at playing. However, facing all levels of the leak, engineers Dalkijo, Kabul's superiors, does not bear any burden. As an engineer, Kabul knows very well the impact of all the games. The quality of the building is at stake. If the quality of the building is manipulated, the society will bear bad consequences. For Kabul, it is a betrayal to his engineering degree.

Kabul and Wati often eat together in Mak Sumeh's stall. Furthermore, they also watch movies together. From there the beginning of romance arises between them. In addition, Mak Sumeh, a shop owner, makes rumors about their closeness. Wiyoso, Wati's boyfriend who still in college, decides to end the relationship with Wati because he cannot fulfill demand Wati which wants to get married soon

Many irregularities occurred in the project. Many funds are embezzled to enrich themselves. They embezzle funds by reducing the dose of quality the building bridge. Then Mr. Baldun, a chairman of the committee mosque renovation, and Mr. Basar, the head of the village, come to the project. Their goal for asking for donations to help renovate the mosque, that will be used by important people from the ruler's party group namely *Golongan Lestari Menang (GLM)* as a place of Friday prayers. Kabul reads the petition to support renovation of mosque. After reading the petition, Kabul decides that he cannot contribute because it is lack of funding. Kabul wants to give a donation after the project is completed.

Kabul asking for installation of the bridge deck has to use the new iron and good quality of sand. He asking for its settlement not enforced concurrently with GLM anniversary. Mr. Dalkijo ignores Kabul's demands. Dalkijo insists with his suggestion that Kabul can quickly finish construction of the bridge so it can be used on the anniversary of GLM. Dalkijo recommends using the scrap metal and sand from the river of Cibawor to build the bridge deck. Finally, Kabul gives up. His idealism is opposed by the project leader and the atmosphere in the project. Kabul resigns from his job at the bridge construction project in the river of Cibawor.

Kabul's desire works in private projects happen when he gains trust to become site manager construction of a hotel in Cirebon. One year after he left the bridge construction, Kabul wants to enjoy it at Biyung's house with Wati who already become Mrs. Kabul. They just get married for a month. On the trip to Biyung's house, at the mouth of the intersection of three, Kabul has to stop the car. There is transverse board with the words "the bridge is broken ". There is an arrow showing the alternate road. Kabul's car rotates and speeds away leaving the Bridge of Cibawor River. Although it is built only one year, the bridge which at the first glance looks dashing. The pain suddenly stabs Kabul's chest.

CHAPTER 3

REVIEW OF THE BOOK

A. The Strengths

On the *Orang-orang Proyek*, the writer finds some interesting points that become the strength in the novel; they are theme, characters, and message.

1. Theme

Theme, based on Edward in *What Happens in literature*, is "ussually to describe a topic or problem which is found in the action and which seems both authentic and significant in our own experience with the world of reality" (1960:91). Ahmad Tohari clearly indicates the theme in the novel. There are two major themes the writer captures in the novel. The first theme is idealism. The second theme is love. The following paragraphs will explain about these themes.

a. Idealism

On the *Orang-orang Proyek*, the writer captures that idealism as the main theme that Ahmad Tohari shows to the reader, because idealism is very salient in the novel. It is shown in situations when the bridge construction in Cibawor River. Through the character of Kabul, as a project implementer's construction is under pressure at his job. Not only the villagers who take the materials for the construction of bridge, but also Dalkijo, Kabul's superiors, who wanted the bridge construction be completed concurrently on the anniversary of GLM with no regard to the quality of the building. In his novel, Tohari states:

"...., Kabul tetap punya idealisme dan sangat hemat. Proyek itu pun bagi kabul harus di lihat dalam perspektif idealismenya, Artinya, kualitas

harus sempurna dengan memanfaatkan setiap sen anggaran sesuai dengan ketentuan yang semestinya." (Tohari 2007:53)

Kabul successfully defends his ideals upon Mr. Dalkijo, but Kabul still holds on the principle in his life because he believes that if everything is not done according to the rules, the result will not be good. Idealism as the core of the story becomes one of the strengths in this novel because idealism is a principle of life or living according to the ideals so it teaches the reader to have principles in life.

b. Love

Tohari still puts elements of romance in the novel, which is love between Kabul and Wati. Kabul initially dislikes Wati because Kabul saw Wati just as a fellow worker. But as time goes, Kabul has a strange feeling when he sees Wati scowled. Wati is amazed by Kabul as a project implementer's construction. But Kabul knows that Wati has a boyfriend. Wati still likes Kabul. It is said by Mak Sumeh when Kabul is resting in her stall. The theme of love is presented in the dialog between Kabul and Mak Sumeh.

Mak Sumeh senyum-senyum. "Anu. Tapi sebelumnya aku minta maaf. Apa Pak Insinyur belum tahu Wati...anu...suka sama Pak Insinyur?" Mak Sumeh menatap lurus ke arah mata Kabul. Yang ditatap mengangkat alis. "Ah, yang benar." (Tohari 2007:46)

2. Characters

Character, according to Edward in What Happens in literature, is "inextricably involved with action, both because it is most clearly manifested through the actions in which men engage and because it determines the nature of those action and, in turn, the attitudes with which we regard them" (1960:83). Tohari gives character to each figure with great detail. On the *Orang-orang Proyek*, the writer captures 6 main characters. Those 6 characters relate one another so it creates social relationships and an interesting plot. This is one of the strong points of the *Orang-orang Proyek* novel. Below The writer explains the character of each figure on the *Orang-orang Proyek*.

a. Kabul

Kabul is an engineer. He graduates from the Faculty of Engineering. He is an orphan and the first child of three siblings. Kabul's most prominent characters are honest and responsible in carrying out his job because Kabul has high ideals which he holds in his life. It is Kabul's statement when Pak Baldun, a chairman of the committee mosque renovation, comes to ask contribution.

"Begini, Pak Baldun. Karena kami ingin menyelesaikan pembangunan dengan hasil yang sebaik-baiknya, kami hanya bisa membantu Anda apabila proyek ini sudah selesai. Itupun bila nanti ternyata ada material yang tersisa. Sekarang ini sisa material, yang biasa berupa batu, batu split, potongan besi, serta sedikit semen, belum bisa dihitung." (Tohari 2007:138)

In addition Kabul is also firm and wise when making decision. Through this novel, the reader get a lesson from Kabul's attitude with his idealism.

"Maaf, Pak. Dalkijo. Kalau keputusan Anda sudah final, saya pun tidak mungkin berubah. Saya tetap mengundurkan diri." (Tohari 2007:198)

b. Wati

Wati works in the project office as a secretary in charge of administration of the project. She is a secretariat graduate who can operate the computer. Wati's parents are members of local parliament. Wati's characters are a jovial characters and attention.

"....Wati yang periang memang biasa menyapa siapa saja dengan bahasa dan senyum yang sama hangatnya. Gayanya seperti anak usia enam belas, padahal usia Wati sudah 23..." (Tohari 2007:24)

Furthermore Wati is not loyal to her boyfriend, Wiyoso. It shows in this dialog

between Wati and Wiyoso.

"Apa sebenarnya kamu ingin hubungan kita berakhir? Tolong jawab!" Wati menelan ludah. Tangannya gemetar. "Ya, Yos. Dan maafkan aku." (Tohari 2007:177)

Wati chooses Kabul than Wiyoso to be her life partner, although Wiyoso is her boyfriend. This indicates that the feeling of love to someone can arise because it has often together. It becomes one of the strengths in this novel because Wati chooses a life partner according to her heart.

c. Mr. Tarya

Mr. Tarya is a retired employee of Information Office. His hobbies are fishing, and playing flute, but not many knew if Mr. Tarya can play the flute. Additionally Mr. Tarya also is known to have nature of friendly and witty. Wati's statement about Mr. Tarya. The characters of Mr. Tarya become one of the strengths in this novel because he is humble and caring for people in the village Cibawor. It can be a lesson for the reader to live simply and not overbearing.

"Yah, semua orang di sini sudah lama menganggap mancing adalah bagian jati diri Mr. Tarya. Selebihnya Mr. Tarya memang ramah dan jenaka. Maka banyak orang suka kepadanya." (Tohari 2007:75)

d. Basar

Basar is a village chief of the bridge construction. He is a friend of Kabul in college and also a former activist. Basar cannot maintain his ideals such as Kabul due to job circumstances which forced him to act on the system of government in the New Order era. Basar is not assertive attitude on the new order of government so that he could not defend his ideals. The characters of Basar become one of the strengths in this novel because it teaches the reader that there are consequences if idealism is abandoned.

e. Mak Sumeh

Mak Sumeh is a stall owner at the bridge construction project in Cibawor River. *Mak* Sumeh's character is always interlope, especially on romance problem between Kabul and Wati, it is very obvious shown in the novel.

"Bukan itu, Pak Insinyur. Ini soal pribadi." "Pribadi siapa?" "Pribadi Pak Insinyur sendiri." (Tohari 2007:46)

In addition she is a talkative nature. The characters of Mak Sumeh become one of the strengths in this novel because she helps to unify the relationship between Kabul and Wati so it happen a happy storyline.

".... Lalu dari mulut Mak Sumeh yang nyinyir pula berawal omongan bahwa Wati dan Kabul adalah pasangan yang serasi. Malah anak-anak muda sudah bias menirukan istilah para bintang film. Cinta lokasi." (Tohari 2007:25)

f. Dalkijo

Dalkijo is Kabul's supervisor in the bridge construction project. It is describe in the novel the characters of Dalkijo are greedy and avaricious. Dalkijo becomes like that because he is grudge and poverty. Poverty has changed the behavior and nature of a person. He does not want to suffer because of poorness. Therefore, Dalkijo commits corruption to enrich himself. Additionally Dalkijo always thinks for himself, he is not thinking the public importance because he recommends materials for bridge projects that are not qualified. Therefore Dalkijo is often oppositting Kabul. The characters of Dalkijo become one of the strengths in this novel because Dalkijo can runs and defends his idealism although Dalkijo's way harms to others. It can become lesson for the readers that to defend idealism there are many ways can be done.

3. The Messages

The next point is the message. The message that contained in the novel gives some lessons to the reader. Some messages in the novel are:

a. Idealism

Idealism is an important point in the novel. It becomes one of the strengths in this novel because Tohari emphasizes idealism at the core of the story, so that the reader realizes the importance of having ideals in life besides being a guide in life, it is also gives inner satisfaction if we can run our ideals. In addition to the impact for us, idealism also has a positive impact to others.

b. Politic

Politics is also a message in the novel because the novel is told the government system in Indonesia during the New Order era that full of fraudulent actions. This point becomes one of the strengths in this novel because the readers get information about corruption procedures. Fraudulent actions are reflected on the *Orang-orang Proyek* are the act of corruption on the bridge construction project.

"Sebagai insinyur, Kabul tahu betul dampak semua permainan ini. Mutu bangunan menjadi taruhan. Padahal bila mutu bangunan dipermainkan, masyarakatlah yang pasti akan menanggung akibat buruknya. Dan bagi Kabul hal ini adalah pengkhiatan terhadap derajat keinsinyurannya." (Tohari 2007:28)

From the quotation above can be viewed that in the project environment many deviations causing damage to society. Whether committed local villagers as well as Dalkijo, the supervisor of Kabul. This shows that politics in Indonesia during the New Order era cannot be run by honest and responsible person. If it is that way, the Indonesian people bear the consequences of the government system which full of corruption.

For additional, nowadays we still can see corruption. The government system in this period is not the same during the New Order era because now Indonesia has democratic system. The government should ensure the welfare of the Indonesian people, but it is not the same in reality. We still found in many print and electronic media officials government who are caught to engage in corruption.

B. The Weakness

The writer finds many elements of the Java language in the novel. It is shown in writing names of animals and plants. In addition there are some words in the Java language which is difficult to understand. Tohari uses Java language which is not unusual as it is used in daily life, so the reader does not understand the meaning of the Java language. It could because the readers do not understand the meaning of this novel. Examples of quotation use the Java language in the novel.

"... Kabul masih mendengar dengan jelas suara-suara jangkrik sungu yang berderik di dekatnya... Selain jangkrik, Kabul juga mendengar suara walangkerik dan banyak serangga lainnya. Juga cecet burung bence, yang melintas pulang balik di atas kepalanya. ..." (Tohari 2007:64-65)

"... Memancing di tempat itu adalah berkawan dengan keheningan, dengan semilir angin, dengan lambaian ranting-ranting yang mengayun di atas air atau cericit burung-burung emprit. Dan bila air sedang jernih, naungan pohon mbulu itu juga memberi kesempatan orang melihat bayangan langit ..." (Tohari 2007:6)

"... Biyung bisa bertahan dan sehat hanya dengan sega-jangan, nasi inthil, oyek, dan gembus. Hingga kini." (Tohari 2007:112)

"... Mereka memilih daun benguk, lembayung, atau daun indri sebagai pengisi perut." (Tohari 2007:119)

"... Luar biasa kaya, konsumtif, kemaruk, dan terkadang sikap sangat tega terhadap kelompok masyarakat miskin sering mereka perlihatkan tanpa tedheng aling-aling..." (Tohari 2007:149)

"... Menjauh sekian belas langkah, Kabul kembali mendengar Pak Tarya rengeng-rengeng: Nora gampang wong ngaurip, yen tan weruh uripira, uripe pindha lan kebo..." (Tohari 2007:195)

"... Ah, biyung akan tahu kami adalah anak-anaknya, anak-anak dari budaya cablaka yang dibesarkan dengan prinsip-prinsip apa anane, apa mesthine, apa benere... (Tohari 2007:208)

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

Based on the review of "*Orang-orang Proyek*", there are three point that become interest in the novel. They are theme, character, and message. The first point is the theme. The major theme of the novel is idealism. The novel gives description about the importance of having ideals, like Kabul who could defend his idealism. Kabul proves to get a better job when he followed his idealism. The second point is the character. There are 6 main characters in the novel. Each figure has a unique character and relates to one another. The last point is the message. There are two main messages. They are political and idealism. Political conflict with idealism because idealism prioritizes the public interest while political is not. If the political and ideals have the same goal then it will create a welfare society.

Ahmad Tohari gives life lessons that each person should have idealism to hold on the principle of life. Therefore, novel of *Orang-orang Proyek* is a good novel that is suitable to be read by everyone because it contains about the realities of life. Despite there are Java language which difficult to understand, it will not reduces the good novel of *Orang-orang Proyek*.

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