

REVIEW ON DONNY DHIRGANTORO'S NOVEL

2

Magista Dian Fitrilia

Linguistics, English Department, Diponegoro University, Semarang

Email : magistadian@gmail.com

Abstrak

Novel 2 merupakan novel kedua karya Donny Dhirgantoro yang bertemakan mimpi. Tema inilah yang menjadi salah satu daya tarik dari novel ini. Selain itu, kekuatan novel 2 juga terletak pada adanya nilai-nilai nasionalisme dan kekeluargaan didalamnya dan juga bahasa yang digunakan oleh sang penulis mudah dimengerti oleh generasi muda. Disamping kelebihan, novel ini juga memiliki kekurangan seperti pada lelucon-leluconnya yang terlalu dipaksakan dan ending dari novel cerita yang mudah ditebak sehingga membuat novel ini serupa dengan novel-novel lain dengan tema yang sama.

Abstract

2 is the second novel of Donny Dhirgantoro that uses dream as its theme. This theme is one of the strengths of this novel. Besides, the strengths of this novel can be seen from the nationalism and family values that exist in this novel and also the language used by the writer is easy to understand by young generations. Besides those strengths, this novel also has some weaknesses like the jokes used by the writer is too much so that it becomes not funny anymore and the ending of the novel is predictable like the other novel with the same theme.

INTRODUCTION

Dream is always a good choice of theme for a novel because all people in this world have dreams. People will do everything to reach their dreams. A novel that the writer will discuss is written by Donny Dhirgantoro with a title 2. This novel tells a story of a girl with a huge dream but she has a condition which makes her big strength becomes her biggest weakness.

Not all people in this world have a perfect condition in the process of reaching their dreams. Some people have to face a harder condition which makes them think that their dreams are impossible to achieve. It is like what happen to Gusni, the main character of this novel. Gusni, dreaming to be a badminton athlete, has to face the reality that there is an abnormality in her body which makes her cannot stop gaining weight.

Some people would probably give up their dreams and choose to be more

realistic if they face that kind of situation. It does not happen with Gusni. She fights her abnormality and changes it into her biggest strength, even though she has to go through up and down journey. Her big fat body turns into her biggest power in playing badminton.

This novel also shows us that support from people around us can influence our spirit in reaching our dreams. Gusni's parents, best friends and badminton's coach always convince her to make her dreams come true. Besides, Donny Dhirgantoro also tries to makes young generations realize that they have to stop asking what their country can give them and start doing what they can do for this country.

This novel teaches us that nothing is impossible in this world. No matter how difficult the situation, as long as we keep trying, believing and there are a lot of support from people around us, we can make our dreams come true. Moreover, we not

only make people around us proud but also our country.

This novel is recommended for young and adult readers because it teaches us to be tough in facing what happen in our life. Besides, this novel also makes young readers love their country, in this case Indonesia, even more.

Besides, I also wants to review 2 by Donny Dhirgantoro. I would like to share to the readers that do not ever give up in making our dreams come true because there are always obstacles on the way in reaching our dream. This novel can teach the readers about being brave to dream big and not afraid to achieve it. Reading this novel can motivate the reader especially young readers to eagerly reach their dreams. Moreover, I also wants to review the strengths and weaknesses of this novel.

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

Gusni is a girl who fights for her dreams in her weakness. Gusni has a weakness which actually also becomes her strength since she was born. She was born with 6 kilos weight which is actually abnormal for a new baby born. That abnormal weight is caused by a trouble with fat burning system in her body. This abnormality makes her cannot stop gaining weight as long as she gets older and she cannot lose some weight either. What makes it worse is the treatment for her case has not been found. So, whatever effort that doctor does to help her, will be useless.

Having been predicted, as she is getting older, she keeps gaining weight. Amazingly, she does not feel ashamed about it, even though her friends make fun of her body weight. Gusni is always sure that a person with a big body also has a big heart. Fortunately, she grows up in the middle of a very supportive family who takes care of her with the same way as they take care of her older sister who is a national badminton athlete.

Gusni, who frequently watching her sister winning a badminton match, wants to be a badminton athlete as well. She wants to see her parents proud of seeing her winning

a badminton match like when they see her sister winning it. It encourages her even more to be a badminton athlete. Of course, it will not be an easy thing to do because her weight is 100 kilograms. Furthermore, Gusni does not know yet about her abnormality which makes her parents kind of doubt about her wish to be a badminton athlete.

Finally, Gusni knows the fact about her abnormality. Surprisingly, she does not give up on her dream. It makes her fight even harder to reach her dream to be a badminton athlete, so she can make her parents proud of her. Even though her doctor asks her to stop, she never gives up. She knows that someday she will successfully reach her dream. She shows her effort by running and practicing a lot everyday. Her friends, namely, Harry, Nuni, and Ani always support her.

All her efforts are finally paid. She becomes one of the athletes who represents in Khatulistiwa Terbuka, an International Badminton Championship. She has to play against Malaysia and she does it successfully. She wins the game which makes her as one of the best badminton athletes in Indonesia. She shows to everyone that nothing is impossible in this world if you believe and do what you can do. By making her dreams come true, Gusni makes not only her parents but also Indonesia proud of her.

THE AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Donny Dhirgantoro was born in Jakarta on October 27, 1978 and finished his high school in SMA 6 Jakarta. He continued his study in STIE Perbanas Jakarta on 1997 and he was also active in organizations. He even joined the demonstration in 1998 with his friends in DPR/MPR headquarter.

Donny graduated from college in 2001 and he directly climbed Mahameru Mountain to celebrate his graduation which becomes one of the biggest inspirations in writing his first novel, 5 cm. Then, Donny worked as freelance instructor where he got

a lot of knowledge about human resources and the application in his work field.

In 2003, Donny decided to stop being an instructor and start to find a stable job in custodial service division of Bank Niaga. However, it did not take long until he finally ended up working as instructor again.

Realizing that he loves writing, he started writing his first novel, 5 cm, and in 2005, Grasindo finally published the novel. This novel became best seller novel and directed into a movie in 2013. After the successful of his first novel, he wrote his second novel that was published in 2011 with a title 2.

REVIEW OF THE NOVEL

According to Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary, theme is the main subject that is being discussed or described in a piece of writing, a movie, etc (2008:1703). It means that theme is a really important aspect from a novel. In 2 by Donny Dhingantoro, there are three themes explained implicitly. Those are dream, family and nationalism value.

The first theme of this novel is dream. This is really an interesting theme because nowadays, young generations need a kind of novel that can encourage them in reaching their dreams. In a process of making dreams come true, there will be so many obstacles but the writer of this novel shows to the reader that nothing is impossible in this world. It is shown by what the main character, Gusni, does. Gusni, who was born with abnormality, dream to be a badminton athlete. Of course, her dream seems quite impossible to reach at the beginning, but Donny shows that it is not impossible to do it. Gusni believes that she can make it comes true even though she has to sacrifice her life for it. First, she tries to fight against her abnormality by running everyday. At that time, she believes that she can lose some weight.

After trying for a long time, she does not show any changes. She becomes a little bit pessimists, but she does not give up. She

keeps running to keep her body weight stable. She also practices to play badminton a lot, so she can reach her dream. She does not care what anybody else says. She always believes that she is unique. She keeps trying to prove that her weakness can be her strength.

Donny really describes the concept of dreams itself from the beginning until the end of the novel. He makes the readers realize that dream is something that people really want to achieve and makes people dare to sacrifice anything to make it comes true. Besides, the strength of dream also shows by the story of another character, Harry. Harry, who is Gusni's childhood friend, also makes his dream come true by restarting his family business which was destroyed by economic crisis in 1998. He is inspired by Gusni who never give up on reaching her dream. In conclusion, dream has a really big power that makes human will do anything to make it come true.

This novel also shows the readers about family value. It is shown by Gusni's family. When Gusni's parents know that Gusni has different condition, they do not treat Gusni differently. They always try to make Gusni feel the same like other girls. When Gusni wants to be a badminton player, Gusni's parents allow her to chase her dreams even though they know it seems quite impossible to reach for her. They become very supportive parents. The way Gusni's parents treat her shows how much they love her. It also becomes a factor that makes Gusni grow up into a strong girl.

Next, this novel also shows nationalism value. According to Stanford Language and Information, "Nationalism is the attitude of the members of a nation have when they care about their national identity". Nationalism itself means proud of being citizen of a nation. Donny shows the nationalism in the novel from what the main character does. Gusni wants to be a badminton athlete so Indonesia will be proud of her. She really wants to show to the world that Indonesia has many talented badminton athletes. She wants Indonesia to be admitted

by the other country. Here, Gusni as one of Indonesia's citizens show her nationalism.

Besides, Donny also shows the nationalism value from statements of the characters in this novel. There is statement that shows the nationalism. It is said by the badminton coach in the novel:

“Ini bulutangkis dan ini Indonesia, dimana impian dan kerja keras terbukti, di mana sebuah imajinasi dibawa ke dunia nyata...dimana sebuah impian pernah selesai dan menjadi kenyataan, meninggalkan bukti nyata bahwa keajaiban itu ada, bulutangkis membuktikan kepada Indonesia, kalau sesuatu yang luar biasa pernah terjadi”(Dhirgantoro, 2011:311).

The statement shows nationalism through badminton. Badminton itself has become a kind of sport that represents Indonesia. As we know that Indonesia has many legendary athletes who won International championships. Of course, they made Indonesia proud of them. Furthermore, this novel actually describes nationalism value since the beginning until the end which can make the readers proud to be Indonesian. It also encourage the readers to do something for Indonesia.

Besides, The story of this novel is actually the representation of a real life. It is one to the fact that Gusni has a problem that is about how to work hard to reach her dreams it is a familiar problem for almost all people because everyone in this world has dream. Even though the obstacles faced by Gusni are not probably exactly the same like what problems that the readers have, this novel can show to the readers that there is no problem that cannot be solved. It makes the readers get what the writer of this novel wants to share. The readers can also feel what Gusni feels. Besides, by reading this novel, the readers who probably face many obstacles in reaching their dreams can get some encouragement to not give up.

Furthermore, the language used in this novel is really familiar with the reader especially young readers because this novel uses daily language. The language used in the novel also makes the readers understand the point of this novel easily, so that the message that this novel has can be successfully delivered. Donny makes the whole story go so naturally by using an easy language.

Besides the strengths mentioned above, this novel also has some weaknesses. The first weakness is the jokes told by Donny in this novel are actually too much. It makes them do not go naturally so that they become not too funny anymore. Besides the writer of this novel sometimes exaggerates the language. It makes the novel a little bit boring to read.

The second is the ending of this novel is predictable. It is shown when Gusni finally marries Harry. Harry who is Gusni's childhood friend disappears when economic crisis occurred in 1998 in Indonesia. They finally meet again when they are already in high school. They fall in love with each other. Finally, in the end of the story they get married. The other reason that makes the ending of this novel predictable is Gusni's best friends; Ani and Nuni. They also marry their friends in high school who are mentioned in this novel. Furthermore, Gusni finally can make her dream come true. It also causes the ending of this novel predictable.

Based on the my opinion, this novel is a must-read book especially for young readers. Donny writes this novel using easy language which makes this book suitable for young readers. The main theme of this novel is also familiar for everyone in the world, that is, dream. Even though there are many other novels using the same theme, \ this novel is different because the addition of nationalism value in it. It encourages the readers not only to reach their goals in life but also to make them realize that they are the agents of change for Indonesia. Besides, Donny also put family value as supporting theme. Family value in this novel is shown

by the way Gusni's parents treat Gusni. Furthermore, this novel is really suitable for young readers because it can motivate them that nothing is impossible in reaching their dreams if they just believe.

There is a statement from this novel that I like the most. The statement is jangan pernah meremehkan kekuatan seorang manusia karena Tuhan sedikitpun tidak pernah (Dhiringantoro, 2011: 129).

The statement shows that people have to believe on their selves in the process of reaching their dreams come true even though they have to face many obstacles. Furthermore, there is no perfect life in this world, so people have to keep struggling to get what they want.\

CONCLUSION

2 by Donny Dhiringantoro is an inspirational novel to read because it can motivate the readers to make their dreams come true. This novel also inspires young generations to be the agents of change for their country, Indonesia. Besides, This story can encourages the readers not to give up in life.

This novel has three interesting themes. The first is dream which is really familiar for all people because everyone in this world has dream. What makes it different from the other novel is the writer of this novel combines it with family and nationalism value. Family value in this novel shown with how Gusni's parents treat Gusni. They do not treat Gusni differently. They always support her in whatever conditions. Furthermore, the nationalism value contained in it makes the readers of this novel realize their identity and responsibilities as an Indonesian.

This novel also has several strength and weaknesses. The first strength of this novel is its theme because Donny combines three themes in this novel. Those are dream, family and nationalism value. Those combinations make this novel different from the other novel. The second is the language used in this novel. The language used in this novel is really easy to understand. It makes

the readers will understand the point of this novel easily. In the other hand, this novel also has some weaknesses, like the exaggerations of language that is used in this novel. Then, the writer cannot make some jokes naturally, so it becomes not funny. The last is the ending of this novel that is predictable.

2 novel by Donny Dhiringantoro is a recommended book to read because it has many values. They are really beneficial especially for young readers because they will be encouraged to make their dreams come true. Besides, by reading this novel, the readers will feel the spirit of nationalism.

REFERENCES

Dhiringantoro, Donny. 2. Jakarta: Kompas Gramedia, 2011

Dhiringantoro, Donny. Home Page. Tentang Donny. 10 Feb. 2014 <<http://5cm-legacy.com/blog/about-donny/>>

Levine, Deena. R, and Mara B. Adelman. *Beyond Language: Intercultural Communication for English as a Second Language*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc. 1991

Nationalism. Stanford Language and Information.29 Nov.2001 plato-Stanford.edu. 15 Mar. 2014. <<http://platostanford.edu/entries/nationalism/>>

Perrault, Stephen J. *Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary*. Massachussets: Merriam-Webster Inc. 2008

Trimmer, Joseph. F. *A Guide to MLA Documentation*. Massachussets: Houghton Mifflin Company. 2004