

BOOK REVIEW OF RADITYA'S DIKA MANUSIA SETENGAH SALMON

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ABSTRAK

Manusia Setengah Salmon adalah salah satu buku karya Raditya Dika atau Dika. Buku ini menceritakan pengalaman si penulis, yaitu Dika, dari kecil hingga dewasa. Seperti buku Dika sebelumnya, dalam *Manusia Setengah Salmon* Dika tetap menggunakan bahasa yang lucu sehingga membuat para pembaca tertawa ketika membaca. Di dalam buku ini ada 18 bab yaitu *Ledakan Paling Merdu, Akibat Bertanya ke Orang yang Salah Tentang Ujian, Sepotong Hati di Dalam Kardus Cokelat, Hal-hal untuk Diingat Ketika Kencan Pertama, Bakar Saja Keteknya, Hal-hal yang Tidak seharusnya Dipikirkan tapi Entah Kenapa Kepikiran, Pesan Moral dari Sepiring Makanan, Kasih Ibu Sepanjang Belanda, Interviews with The Hantus, Tarian Musim Kawin, Emo...Emooo..Emooo..Emoticon, Jomblonology, Lebih Baik Sakti Hati, Penggalauan, Terlentang Melihat Bintang, Mencari Rumah Sempurna, Serupa tapi Emang Beda dan Manusia Setengah Salmon.*

Tujuan penulisan projek akhir ini adalah menjelaskan kelebihan serta kelemahan yang ada dari buku ini. Kelebihannya adalah uraian tentang budaya atau ciri khas yang ada di Jawa Barat, serta nilai moral berkaitan tentang ketulusan seorang Ibu yang tidak terbatas serta bahasa yang mudah dipahami. Kelemahannya adalah cover buku yang kurang menarik, beberapa bahasa yang terlalu vulgar, dan ada beberapa kata yang terlalu vulgar.

Key words : literature, novel, moral values.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Writing

“Literature is social intuition, using as its medium language, a social creation. They are convention nouns, which could have arisen in society” (Wellek and Warren, 1974:94). That explanation means that literature can be a medium to explore creativity. Novel is part of literature. According to Richard Taylor “novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the quality or value of human experience of conduct” (1981:46).

Raditya Dika is a famous writer. The characteristic of his novels is humorous style. All of his novels are written based on his truly experiences. This novel *Manusia Setengah Salmon* is the sixth novel. It contained of his experiences. He wraps the story to be interesting and easily to understand. This story takes place in several country such as in Indonesia (Jakarta and Bandung), Venice and Dutch. Even though the theme is humorous but he also gives positive messages to the reader about moving phase, love and struggle. Based on the considerations above, the writer is interested in reviewing *Manusia Setengah Salmon*. She hopes this review can encourage the readers to read this novel because this novel is really entertaining. By reading this book, the readers will enrich their knowledge especially about moving phase in a life.

1.2 Purposes of the Writing

The purpose of this writing is to review the strengths and the weaknesses of this book.

1.3 Short Biography of Raditya Dika

Dika Angkasaputra Moerwani or famous with his name Raditya Dika was born in Jakarta, 28 December 1984. He is an Indonesian writer, a comedian and a script writer of comics *Kambing Jantan* (Gagasmedia, 2005). *Kambing Jantan* is the result of adaptation of his old blog at www.kambingjantan.com. By having a comedy writing style and a candid story, *Kambing Jantan* was successful and became bestseller.

The first work has elevated his name is the book. This book tells the life of Dika while still studying in Adelaide, Australia. The story is based on his stories as an Indonesian student that studied abroad. The book is presented in *diary* format (diary). The second book entitled *Cinta Brontosaurus* was published in 2006. Similar to the previous book, the stories in this book is based on the everyday story of Dika's. The third book entitled *Radikus Makankakus* was published on August 29, 2007. The fourth book entitled *Babi Ngesot* was published in April 2008. The fifth book entitled *Marmut Merah Jambu* was published in 2010. The last project of Dika's is a film adapted from his first book *Kambing Jantan*. *Kambing Jantan The Movie* is directed by Rudi Soedjarwo. Besides writing the script, together with Salman Aristo and Mouly Surya, in the film, Dika also played as himself. The film is scheduled to appear March 5, 2009.

Now, Dika is still continuing his study at the extension program of Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Indonesia. Dika is also a host in Stand Up Comedy program in Metro TV. Also he is a director and a chief editor in a book publishing.

Safitri, Nining. 2013. Biography of Raditya Dika. <http://niningsyafitri.wordpress.com/2010/12/28/biography-raditya-dika/> (September 12, 2014).

Summary of the Book

Manusia Setengah Salmon novel tells about Dika's life experience. There are some titles which are, *Ledakan Paling Merdu, Akibat Bertanya ke Orang yang Salah Tentang Ujian, Sepotong Hati di Dalam Kardus Cokelat, Hal-hal untuk Diingat Ketika Kencan Pertama, Bakar Saja Keteknya, Hal-hal yang Tidak seharusnya Dipikirkan tapi Entah Kenapa Kepikiran, Pesan Moral dari Sepiring Makanan, Kasih Ibu Sepanjang Belanda, Interviews with The Hantus, Tarian Musim Kawin, Emo...Emooo..Emooo..Emoticon, Jomblonology, Lebih Baik Sakti Hati, Penggalauan, Terlentang Melihat Bintang, Mencari Rumah Sempurna, Serupa tapi Emang Beda* and *Manusia Setengah Salmon*.

Everyone will have displacement in their lives. Some of them realize about it and some of them do not realize it, but everyone will always have a process in their lives which is called "move". In this novel, there are 18 chapters that present the experience transition i.e, moving houses, having different life status and moving on from broken heart.

Using his comedy style in writing the novel, he persuades us to understand about transition in our life that can make the reader laughs or remembers about it in our lives. *Hidup sesungguhnya adalah potongan-potongan antara perpindahan satu dengan yang lainnya. Kita hidup diantaranya (Dika,2011:285)*

Review of the Book

3.1 Theme

To understand the meaning of novel, we have to have a clear understanding of what “theme” is. According to Kennedy and Giola, theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals (2002:195). Nurgiyantoro writes that *tema adalah makna yang terkandung dalam sebuah cerita* (2009:68). From the explanation above, theme is important in the novel because it decides the story. In *Manusia Setengah Salmon*, the theme is a struggle to get success.

3.2 The Strength of *Manusia Setengah Salmon*

The moral value of *Manusia Setengah Salmon* concerns transition or having different life status. Everyone will run into this phase from childhood to adulthood.

Ketika lulus kuliah, gue megalami perpindahan ke dunia nyata yang semakin sengit.ketika gue masuk ke dunia nyata, gue mengalami perpindahan cita-cita. Gue juga mengalami pindah rumah, gue mengalami perpindahan selera yang tadinya tidak nyaman dirumah menjadi selalu kangen rumah (Dika,2011:253).

Gue melihat Pito yang cengengesan dengan anak di gendngannya. Gue menghela napas. Waktu kadang bisa sangat kejam. Tanpa sadar, semua hal sudah berubah (Dika,2011:251).

From above statement, Dika experienced some transition periods in his life. All of his friends have a transition life status from a bachelor to a father/husband. The writer also captures a struggle in a moving phase in chapter *Manusia Setengah Salmon*.

Setiap tahunnya ikan salmon akan bermigrasi, melawan arus sungai, berkilometer jauhnya hanya untuk bertelur. Beberapa spesies, seperti snake river salmon bahkan berenang sepanjang 1448 kilometer lebih, dua kali lipat jarak Jakarta-Surabaya. Perjalanan salmon ini tidak gampang. Di tengah berenang banyak yang mati kelelahan. Banyak juga yang menjadi santapan beruang yang menunggu di daerah dangkal. Namun salmon ini tetap pergi, tetap pindah, apapun yang terjadi. (Dika,2011:253).

From the statement above, life is about uncertainty, but moving is a certainty. If “moving” is the same with sadness, we think that separation will make us sad to let our happiness. Finally, we have to move to new place. We have to move from anything. When we want to reach our dream, we have to keep on moving. There is no achievement without movement like a salmon that is not afraid of moving. Salmon always struggles to migrate in every season to lay eggs. Some of them sometimes fail to reach the destination, but they do not give up. In our life, to get something better we do not have to be a superman, but we need to be half of the salmon fish which is dare to move. Another, moral value in chapter *Kasih Ibu Sepanjang Belanda* is about an endless mother’s love.

Masalahnya , nyokap gue adalah sesosok ibu yang terlalu perhatian dan terlalu berlebihan dalam menunjukkan perhatian kepada ank-anak nya. Sebagai contoh dalam memenuhi permintaan anaknya. Sewaktu SMP, gue pernah minta tolong dibeliin burung merpati untuk praktikum IPA, nyokap pulang bawain belasan ekor burung merpati. Gue pengen praktikum bukan peternak merpati. Waktu gue minta ulang tahun gue

dirayain sewaktu SD , nyokap sampai bikin karaokean keluarga Batak di sebuah panti asuhan. (Dika, 2011:105).

Problem perhatian Nyokap semakin menjadi-jadi ketika gue harus pergi jauh dari rumah. Pas SMP gue pernah ikut kamping. Nyokap gak henti-hentinya menelpon untuk menanyakan kabar gue, memastikan kalau gue makan dengan baik dan tidak melakukan tindakan buruk. (Dika, 2011:106)

She gives anything that her son wants. Maybe his mother becomes over to show her loves, but it is the way of his mother to care for her son:

Ya, seperti yang sudah gue duga, begitu Nyokap tahu nomor handphone gue di Belanda, dia akan menelpon hampir setiap jam. Bertanya apakah gue aman-aman saja. Merasa risih, akhirnya gue memilih profil silent di handphone. (Dika, 2011: 120)

Eventually Dika realizes his mother affection. Mother's love will never end, and as he gets older he realizes that one's age is not one known when it will end. Hence, we have to use our time wisely and spend our time with our beloved parents.

Third, the moral value is about tolerating diversity. We live in different cultures, ethnic and custom. This chapter presents a message from *Pesan Moral dari Sepiring Nasi*:

Kayaknya sampai saat ini gue termasuk satu dari segelintir orang yangnggak mengerti apa enaknya kupang lontong.hampir semua orang yang gue temui sangat suka dengan kupang lontong. Mereka bilang, "wuihh rasanya enak banget Dith". Atau bilang "gue gak paham kenapa lo gak suka makanan enak itu!". Tapi, semakin gue mau mencoba lagi, semakin gue terbayang-bayang pengalaman pertama yang gak enak itu. Mungkin cra gue ngeliat orang suka kupang lontong kayak cara orang ngeliat gue yang suka makan durian, sementara mereka tidak (Dika,2011:89).

Everyone has their favourite things. For example, food. We like food but another does not like what we like. Respecting the difference is beautiful.

Fourth, the moral values in chapter *Sepotong Hati di Dalam Kardus* is about love. In this case, the love here between a man and a woman.

.Mungkin itu masalahnya, pikir gue. Seperti rumah ini yang jadi terlalu sempit buat keluarga kami, gue juga menjadi terlalu sempit buat dia. Dan, ketika sesuatu sudah mulai sempit dan tidak nyaman, saat itulah seseorang harus pindah ke tempat yang lebih luas dan (dirasa) cocok untuk dirinya. Rumah ini tidak salah, gue dan dia juga tidak salah. Yang kurang tepat itu bila dua hal dirasa sudah tidak lagi saling menyamakan tetap dipertahankan untuk bersama. Mirip seperti gue dan dia. Dan dia, memutuskan untuk pindah (Dika, 2011:29).

Everyone has their moving phase. Chapter *Sepotong Hati di dalam Kardus* tells about Dika's breaking up. At that time, his family also has a plan to move to another house. Truthfully Dika is happy to live in that house. He has been lived in the old house for 10 years; it is not short time. Thus, when he collects his stuff and puts in the box, all memories from that house are coming up. Whether he likes it or not he has to leave that house soon. He learns that a relationship is like a house. When there is a problem and makes the relation break, it means that we do not have a match with that house, so we should move to another house that suits with us. In conclusion, Dika tells a broken heart feeling and how hard it is to move on. Someone moves from his love or moves from a place and face it wisely.

Fifth, in chapter *Terlentang Melihat Bintang* Dika presents Sundanese culture. In some utterances, the author is using traditional language from West Java like *abah* and *kang*. The author also uses a traditional term to call the martial

arts in West Java, for example *gelut benjang* (*belite dalam dan belite luar*). This point becomes one of the strengths in this novel because it introduces Sundanese culture to all readers in Indonesia.

The last strength is that the author uses a simple language to arranged the novel, so it makes *Manusia Setengah Salmon* easily to understood:

ketika memperkenalkan diri, satu orang dari Hongkong bilang “My name is Wung Tai Lung, but you can cal me Steve”. Mungkin karena nama-nama orang Hongkong susah untuk dilafalkan, maka mreka memiliki nama palsu kebule-bulean. Hal ini menimbulkan ide yang luar biasa di kepala gue. Giliran gue memperkenalkan diri, gue berdiri. Gue bilang “ My name is Dika but you can call me Brad”. Satu kelas diam. Dosennya juga diam. Mungkin dosennya berpikir, “You don’t like Brad, you look like sugeni”(Dika,2011:121).

He also uses many humorous languages, such as telling a tragic story in a funny way and makes the reader happy.

3.3 The Weaknesses of *Manusia Setengah Salmon*

There are some aspects that should be funny but they are not. Some of the chapters are also additional stories that are not funny. Some of those chapters are *hal-hal untuk diingat ketika kencan pertama, emo..emo..emoo...emotikon!* and *interview with the hantus*. There are also some vulgar languages. For example:

“Hah?titit? Gue membelalak. “Maksudnya titit?”. Monasu sudah liat? besare?” tanya si Jepang mabok lagi. “besare?!”. “Ebuset. No Mister! No! My Monas is not big? No, I mean nobody sees my Monas! Nobody! She also!. “Seru gue, karena panik grammar jadi berantakan (Dika,2011:95).

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CONCLUSION

The writer concludes that *Manusia Setengah Salmon* has an interesting theme. The theme is about a struggle for life. This novel gives the readers some moral values, i.e never ending struggle, sincerity of motherly love, beauty in diversity. Besides, a motivating message this book presents to the readers is how to give meaning to this life. *Manusia Setengah Salmon* has a good story that is suitable to be read by all people, especially for teenagers, because this book uses a simple and humorous language.

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APPENDIX LIST

