

The Character of Love to the Country in the Novel '5 cm'

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Abstract—The fading of the love feeling to the country will cause various problems such as the development of radical ideas that lead to the disintegration of the nation. As a pluralistic nation, Indonesia needs communion and unity to continue developing into a strong and large country. If the love of the country is not embedded as a character, it will be very vulnerable to be faded especially in the midst of the field of free competition and globalization that does not have any boundaries. Several ways to instill the character of love to the country have been taken such as making the character education as the center of national education. Besides from formal way such as schools, the effort of instilling the character can also use media in the form of literary works. Novel is a literary work that is able to be a source to give the understanding of love feeling to the country for the readers. *5 cm* is one of the novels that is strong in the element of describing the love feeling to the country. Through descriptive approach, this research aims to find the form of the character of the love to the country in the *5 cm* novel. The result of this study provides evidence that the character of love to the country can be made by several indicators, including appreciating the services of national figures or heroes, using domestic products, respecting the nature and culture of Indonesia, memorizing the national anthems, and prioritizing tourism in the country.

Keywords—*novel; character; nationalism; literature*

I. INTRODUCTION

As a citizen, the love to the country should be embedded and reflected in every action. However, incidents such as inter-group conflicts, social inequality wide spreading, moral damage, and violence also sexual abasement are some examples that do not reflect the love of the country, especially among teenagers. If it is continued and not taken seriously, it will slowly threaten the national unity.

The love feeling of the country that is not solid is considered to be one of the main causes of these kinds of problems that are developed in the community. Public disappointment that is unstoppable is often referred to as the trigger of the emergence of the public dissatisfaction. The dissatisfaction will provoke negative actions to get both individual and group desires. On the other hand, the increasing of the selfishness of individuals, groups, and community until blasphemous and disrespect others has increasingly happened and

has become a common sight both in reality and in various mass media.

The Indonesian nation is a nation consisting of various tribes, ethnicities, races and religions. Therefore, the love feeling to the country is an important component of the foundation of the integrity of the nation. Sovereignty that is absolute is needed in an effort to continue to build and align with other countries. The sovereignty must be interpreted broadly, in this case not only the sovereignty of the country that is narrow like territorial area, but also in various aspects of life which are reflected in political, economic, social and cultural sovereignty.

Several attempts to formulate the nobility values or distinctive character of Indonesian society have ever done. One that is often to be a reference is character value formulated by the Ministry of National Education, now the name is changed into Ministry of Education and Culture, which are 18 points. These values are the essence of sources such as religion, Pancasila, culture, and national education goals. These values include: (1) religious, (2) honesty, (3) tolerance (4) discipline, (5) hard work, (6) creative, (7) independent, (8) democratic, (9) curiosity, (10) nationalist spirit, (11) love feeling to the country, (12) achievement respect, (13) friendly/communicative, (14) peace-loving, (15) fond of reading, (16) caring for the environment, (17) social care, and (18) responsibility [1].

The current state of society does not reflect the circumstances that apply those characters. Many events become signs that we must be aware of the setbacks that have been occurred. Talking based on the existing idea, there are ten signs that characterize an era that should be concerned or watched. If these signs already exist, it means that a nation is in the destruction. Those signs are: (1) increasing the violence among adolescents, (2) entrenched dishonesty, (3) increasing disrespect to parents, teachers, and leaders, (4) the effect of peer group toward violence, (5) increasing the suspicion and hatred, (6) using of deteriorating language, (7) decreasing the work ethic, (8) decreasing the sense of individual and citizen responsibility, (9) increasing the self-destructive behavior, and (10) increasing the fade of guidelines moral. [2]

If we look at these signs, almost all the signs have happened in the community. For example, the high excessive or effort in trying to put individual interests first by justifying everything

that makes corruption practices flourish in various layers of society. According to the recent survey conducted by Transparency International, Indonesia ranks 96th (out of 180 countries in the world) in the Corruption Perception Index in 2017. This score is unfortunately, the same as the score obtained in Indonesia in the previous year, 37 [3].

If the elite level of the community is treated to the corruption and the struggle between the interests of each group, then it affects to the level below like students or young generation, we will meet other bitter truths such as the rise of brawls and juvenile delinquency. Compare to the learning for the future, some students prefer to fight with each other. The Indonesian Child Protection Commission or KPAI has noted that the cases of brawl in Indonesia increased by 1.1 percent during 2018. This number in 2017 was only 12.9 percent, but this year it is 14 percent [4].

The corruption and brawl between students can be one of the many indicators that show the love to the country has faded in almost all levels of society. One of the solutions offered is to restore the character of Indonesian people known as tolerant and not individualistic. This character education is the main soul or core of the curriculum 2013 which becomes the reference curriculum in the world of education in Indonesia today.

Many efforts have been made to be able to instill the character of love to the country to the community. Instead, it can be implanted through formal education; this love feeling to the country can also be instilled through informal ways such as sport and through works of literature such as poetry, prose and drama. Embedding the character without a patronizing impression like what happens in public schools is seen as one of the best ways to shape the character of the community, especially the adolescences who are the baton recipient of the nation's future.

The novel as a literary work is including in the prose genre that gives a lot of spaces to be filled directly or indirectly with effort to instill the characters for the reader. In terms of the quality of novel, it can indeed make many words because it is in the form of a narrative. Besides that, the novel also has complex intrinsic and extrinsic aspects as place to pour stories that are inserted into the character of love to the country.

Indonesian novels are very diverse and extraordinary. On this occasion, the novel that will be tried to be explained its character is *5 cm* novel by Dhony Dhirgantoro, about 380 pages. This novel first appeared in May 2005 and became one of the successful novels on the market. This best-seller label novel was reinforced by the filming of this novel using the same title in 2012. In summary, the *5 cm* novel tells the story of the friendship of the characters in undergoing the life. In addition to the various personal conflicts, the *5 cm* novel finally had only one conflict that must be resolved by the characters, namely climbing the peak of Mahameru on August 17, which is the Indonesian Independence Day.

The *5 cm* novel is indeed not a canonical novel in Indonesian literary history. However, its popularity becomes the additional value and becomes an interesting point in itself. Does a novel that is considered a light novel of its literary

content and included in popular novels also has a positive side in term of instilling character for its readers. The form of the character of love to the country in the popular novel that everyone can enjoy, especially among teenagers will be a promising solution because not everyone likes to read the canonical literary work which is considered 'heavy' and 'dark'.

The result of this study can also provide understanding and knowledge to instructors such as teachers not to be skeptical toward popular novels that are being favorite reading book for teenagers. If the teachers can find positive points in the novel, it is not impossible that a novel that is considered to lack of its value turns out to be a bridge between the teachers' desire to instill character and the students' desire to read fun novels. It is because literature with various forms and values has great potential to change a world and society in it.

II. METHOD

This research is a descriptive study that analyzes and describes the form of the character of the love to the country in the novel of *5 cm*. The subject of the study is the eighteen-eighth publication of the *5 cm* novel by Dhony Dhirgantoro. The data of this study is text originating from the *5 cm* novel. These data can be in the form of narratives or characters' speeches. The data collection technique used is document technique by considering other relevant literatures. This study uses a human instrument, which is the researcher himself who is the main instrument by analyzing the data found based on the theoretical basis of the values of the character of love to the country. The analysis technique used in this study is a flow analysis technique that will have three components of the analysis, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion or verification [5].

In order to make this research stays focused, then the object of the research will be analyzed based on the number of indicators of the love feeling to the country or in a more concise term can be called as the sense of nationalism. These indicators include: (1) appreciating the services of national figures or heroes, (2) willing to use domestic products, (3) respecting the beauty of Indonesian nature and culture, (4) memorizing the national anthems, and (5) choosing to travel in the country [6].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The character is the nature and behavior that characterizes each individual. The character can be defined as properties of the psyche, morals or manners that differentiate person to another, or has meaning of congenital of the heart, soul, personality, character, behavior, personality, nature, temperament, and temper [7].

Another definition of character is a collection of values that lead to a system, which underlies the thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors that are displayed [8]. To focus, this study limits itself by just trying to find the manifestation of the character of the love to the country in the novel text of *5 cm*. The character of love to the country is a way of thinking, behaving and doing what shows loyalty, caring and high appreciation for the language, physical, social, cultural, economic and political environment of the nation [9].

The character of love to the country in the novel of *5 cm* is more visible in the middle parts of the story to the end because the initial part is more filled with the background of each character along with more personal conflicts. One of the figures named Ian even has memories that contradict to the character of love of to the country. This is because Ian had experienced a bad event that was so bad in his life.

Everyone remains silent, knowing that Ian had an unpleasant experience that makes him still angry to his country. Among them, Ian is the only one who has the most cynical views about the land they have lived from before. Ian even openly states that if he doesn't like all the jerk elements of this country that have made a mess of things from all levels. Ian is sick of all the behavior of people who said they were anti-corruption, to the corruptors. (5cm, p.186)

Ian's experience is a common experience of Indonesian people. Love the nation, but the results obtained are not as expected. There are people in the society who hurt the love to their country by being selfish and making the group interest becomes more important. The actions of these individuals will directly or indirectly affect other individuals. It is not impossible for someone who initially has a positive attitude towards his nation to turn negative just because he follows along with the attitudes of others who, if traced, are not necessarily proven. In addition to the contradiction of the love to the country, some data illustrate how the characters in the novel try to realize the love to their country through various ways.

A. Appreciating National Figures or Heroes

"The magic of determination," Riani looked straight at the path in front of her.

"He has been determined to become a soldier since elementary school."

"Yup, great? Most of the big people have high determination for their dreams," Ariel continued.

"Even though Bethoven had started deaf, he kept making songs until his ears stuck on the piano wood."

"If it is in Indonesia, maybe it is General Sudirman. Even though he was seriously ill, he was still joining the guerrilla war, leading his troops using stretchers."

"It means that if we want to get to the top of Mahameru, we have to start to adapt with hectic, and start to adapt getting tired." Ian suddenly stood up and patted his ass. (p.242)

The novel text pieces above give us a clear picture of how young people who are often labeled unwilling to know about the history of their nation are not always right. Although at first, they boasted the great figures in the western world, they finally realized that there were figures that were no less powerful than the western figures.

Historical knowledge, including national figures, should be owned by every individual. This is to make them understand and know how the struggle of the old people in fighting for the founding of the state and the independence they enjoy today. The history of the past is very important to keep on remembering because it is the foundation for reaching the future. The first Indonesian president, Sukarno, had once

dismissed a concept called the 'Jas Merah' which is its complete definition means never forgetting history. If the young generation or teenagers do not care about the history of their own nation, then the love to the country will easily fade. A sense of belonging and keeping this nation will disappear. The *5 cm* novel through the quote above invites the readers to recollect history and national figures who gave their souls and bodies to achieve independence.

B. Using Domestic Products

"What's wrong, Ple?"

"Pecel rice ... I went down for a while, bought pecel rice. My father said that Madiun pecel rice is really good, especially using a soybean peyek. It's still warm ... it's still steaming."

"Oh ..."

Zafran began to open the banana leaf wrap that has warm water, "bon appetit..."

The smoke from the steam of warm rice filled their smell. In the morning at Madiun, all of them had breakfast of pecel rice. Finally, everyone agreed that this food is unmatched; all international fast food that they have roamed in Jakarta is lost. (p.179)

One indicator of the character of love to the country is prioritizing the use of local products. The quote above is one example of how the *5 cm* novel illustrates how a group of young people in Jakarta who are accustomed to eat typical fast food of the capital city were amazed when trying madiun *pecel* rice. Even one of the figures insisted that madiun *pecel* rice has defeated the food of the city that had become their subscription.

Prioritizing the local products has become appropriate character when there is a proliferation of all types from outdoor products. The globalization removes national boundaries so that outside products can be freely entered into the domestic market. Almost all production lines have imported goods. If the strengthening of this character is not improved, it is not impossible that the local market will be entirely controlled by imported products.

Reflecting on the data revealed by the Head of the Statistics Central Office (BPS), Indonesia's import value in the period of January to May 2018 increased by 24.75 percent compare to the last year in the same period [10]. This is a reality that we must accept that the era of free market does threaten local products. It is compounded by the fading of the spirit and character to prioritize local goods, and then in the near future, we will be able to witness the death of the local industry one by one. The *5 cm* novel teaches the readers to re-strengthen their sense of belonging to domestic products. It is not a prohibition to use outside products, but do not forget the domestic products which are often being competed with the outside products that the quality is not really different. However, the quality among the young people often becomes the last order compare to the prestige when having outside product.

C. Appreciating Indonesian Nature and Culture

Zafran opened his eyes slowly. A group of villagers were waiting for the train to pass at the crossing; smiling faces saw the train, farmers with hoes and cloth sling baskets, young mothers who laughed freely with the peasants in their hands. The old gentleman with cap in a teacher's uniform smiling

kindly to the farmers, a small child in elementary school uniform full of laughter was running around and immediately kissing the teacher's hand. Zafran's mouth hissed softly, "This country is very beautiful ..." (p.178)

The quotation of the novel text above illustrates how Zafran suddenly realized that Indonesia is very beautiful. Those who have been living in Jakarta have often forgotten that many regions in Indonesia have interesting panoramas. Those beauties are sometimes overlooked when someone is just busy dealing with work and routines.

The 5 cm novel invites its readers to re-grow their love to the nation of Indonesia that has so many wonderfully beautiful places. It is unfortunate if this beautiful country is not appreciated by its own people; it is inversely proportional to the greater attention often given by outside communities (foreigners) who dare to spend material that is not few to visit Indonesia. It seems that there are too many extraordinary places that are not enough for us to tell one by one, it will be the foundation for communion and unity when all the people of Indonesia realize their natural potential. Awareness of those potentials will produce the feeling of love to the country which will eventually produce the desire to protect and keep this beautiful Indonesia.

The small group of children prostrated gratitude at the top of Mahameru, expressed their infinite gratitude to God and to the land that had supported them, Mother who always gave her land and water every day. Mother who will always love the nation's children. The tears that soaked the sand at the top of Mahameru, made their gratitude so beautiful. The six of them hugged very tightly, tears fell again, became clear witnesses and the closeness of their friendship. (p.344)

The love character to the country that the novel of 5cm illustrates is so strong. It is because the love to the country is one of the ways we are grateful to the many aspects of this nation that often provide a lot without taking revenge. In this relation we are living on Indonesian soil, drinking from Indonesian water, breathing using Indonesian air. It is hard not to love this free nation. All forms of the love are trying to be described in detail and sentimentally in the texts of 5 cm novel.

D. Memorizing the National Anthem

All climbers simultaneously saluted in silence, the sound of the friction of their clothes as they gave respectful gestures sounded in unity.

Indonesia Raya reverberates at the top of Mahameru.

Indonesia...

Our native land. Our spilled blood land...

Where we all arise to stand guard

Over this our motherland

Indonesia our nationality, our nation and our country...

Let us exclaim Indonesia ... united...

The sound of sobs was clearly heard among the line of climbers when Indonesia Raya reverberated to meet the hearing of all the God's most perfect creatures on that day. (p.345)

The quote above illustrates how all 5 cm figures and climbers who had reached the top of Mahameru sang the Indonesian national anthem in a ceremony to commemorate the

Indonesian Independence Day. Some of them even sang while occasionally wiping tears because of the sad emotion. It is the extraordinary feeling of humans who love their country and are given the opportunity to sing the national anthem which has a sacred impression in the highest land of Java island.

Indonesia Raya is a symbol of communion and unity. Memorizing and understanding can foster a love to Indonesia. The importance of protecting the national anthem can be understood through the Article 36B of the 1945 Constitution and Law No. 24 of 2009. The national anthem is the nation's pride. No country has the same national anthem as other countries. Not understanding especially not memorizing the national anthem is a feature of the low spirit of nation and state.

Besides that the national anthem, on the other hand the 5 cm novel also provides a special place for the red and white national flag. The quoted text below illustrates how a citizen should be proud of his attitude towards the nation's flag. It is sad when people start to be indifferent to the flags that had been achieved by sacrificing body and soul.

And the Saka of Merah Putih fluttered loudly in the wind at a high altitude of more than three thousand and five hundred meters, fluttering majestically on the highest land of Java Island. (p.347)

E. Choosing Travel in the Country

"If we get to the top, then we are on the highest land in Java." Genta glared at his friends.

"Oh, it's the highest peak in Java."

"Ta ..."

"Yes, Yan."

"What's the top name, Ta?"

"Mahameru." (p.152)

Looking at the entire text of the 5 cm novel which the whole of the text is set in Indonesia and the cities in Indonesia such as Malang, Madiun, and Yogyakarta, we can understand that 5 cm is a novel that relies on the strength of the locality story. There is no background outside Indonesia, it is like providing an understanding to the readers that there is no need to go abroad to travel.

The whole conflict presented took place when the characters in the novel were on their way to the summit or top of Mahameru. 5cm chose Mahameru as a place where all conflicts would begin to subside. Mahameru witnessed how the characters of the 5 cm novel realized that they were young people of the nation's hope. Choosing to continue to prioritize our own country compared to other countries is a character that shows the love to the country.

Addition to the five indicators of the love to the country above, in the novel we can also find the spirit of love to the country in another form.

Riani broke the silence, "I remember ..."

"What is that, Ni?"

"Do you know Sir Heniy Dunant?"

"Yes I know, he is the father of the world Red Cross, is not he?"

"Yes he is ... he once said ..." Riani paused for a moment, "A country will never lack a leader if the young people often adventure in forests, mountains, and oceans." (p.234)

The *5 cm* novel tries to make the readers aware that the young people must realize that they are the recipients of the baton in building this country in the future. The ability to be a leader both for him and others cannot be achieved for granted, it needs a long process. One process that can be done is to continue to love this nation from close to adventure in forests, mountains and oceans.

"The best people are humans who can provide benefits for others." (p.323)

Being a human being that is beneficial for others is also one of the characters of love to the country. The whole community can even contribute in building the nation through the simplest way. Although, they cannot give much but at least we do not become a burden to others.

The feeling of love to the country or nationalism must continue to be nurtured and embedded into all levels of society, especially the young generation who become the nation's future. Among of many shortcomings, of course we must remain optimistic in staring Indonesia in the future. In the hands of Indonesian people who love their country, all our dreams about the great Indonesia will come true.

This great nation must also have dreams... (p.379)

IV. CONCLUSION

The *5 cm* novel written by Dhony Dhirgantoro becomes an excellent alternative reading book for the society as an effort to revive the character of love to the country. There are technical aspects of the telling of the novel that provide space for the presence of the character of love to the country in various forms. Some indicators of the character of love to the country in the novel of *5 cm* are (1) appreciating the services of national

figures or heroes, (2) willing to use domestic products, (3) respecting the beauty of Indonesian nature and culture, (4) memorizing the national anthems, and (5) prioritizing to travel in the country. The potential for embedding or instilling the character of love to the country through novel media becomes proof that character education can be taken not only through formal ways such as school but can also be taken through other ways. The alternative ways consist of the literary path which includes poetry, prose, and drama.

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