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# Social Criticism in Novel Buntung by Taufik Wijaya

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**Abstract:** The aims of this study, namely: 1) Explain the social criticism contained in novel Buntung by Taufik Wijaya works; 2) Explain the factors causing social problems of society in novel Buntung by Taufik Wijaya 3) Describe the social condition of Palembang city as reflected in novel Buntung by Taufik Wijaya. Data analysis techniques are described based on the techniques used, while advanced techniques use sociology of literature and social criticism. The technique for presenting the results of the analysis is through quotations in the novel. Based on the data analysis, obtained 1) crime / crime problems amounted to 19 cases, 2) population problems amounted to 3 cases; 3) social problems of poverty amounted to 6 cases; 4) prostitution / prostitution problems amounted to 3 cases; 5) child mischief problems amounted to 3 cases; 7) alcoholism problems amounted to 5 cases; 8) the problem of war amounted to 3 cases.

Keywords: social criticism, novel buntung, sociology of literature.

# **1** Introduction

Literature is a creative and productive form in producing a work or writing that has a sense of aesthetic value and reflects the social reality of society<sup>[1]</sup>. The term literature is used to refer to the cultural phenomenon that can be found in all societies, socially, economically, and religiously, its existence is not a necessity. This means that literature is a universal phenomenon.

In addition to literature, culture also has universal elements, such as social structure, political system, technology, economy, religion, language, and communication system. All the structures and elements of culture can be found in the life of society, as in the Palembang society which also have social, economic, and political conditions. The problem that will be discussed in this research is social problem in novel of *Buntung* by Tauhfik Wijaya

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The problems include social issues such as crime, economy, politics, and environmental issues in the novel, what factors caused the problem, and how the social, economic and political conditions of the people of Palembang are reflected in *Buntung* novel by Taufik Wijaya. The problems that exist in this novel often occur in the life of society, not only the people of Palembang city but also almost all the people of Indonesia experiencing social conflict in the life of society, although different types of conflict. As mentioned above, that a literary work is a reflection of the life of society, so the problems that exist in this novel as real after the reader, especially the readers who also lived and is a native of Palembang who read this literary work.

The reason researchers now use the approach of literary sociology and choose the novel Buntung Taufik Wijaya works, because almost all the problems that exist in the novel Buntung by Taufik Wijaya's work discusses social issues such as social, economic, and the politics of the city of Palembang which has always been going on. So it is appropriate for researchers to use the approach of literary sociology in this study. In addition, the researchers chose the novel Buntung Taufik Wijaya works as well because no one has used this novel as research material.

Based on the background described earlier, the following problems can be formulated.

1. How is the social condition of Palembang city society reflected in Buntung novel by Taufik Wijaya?

2. What factors caused social problems in Buntung novel by Taufik Wijaya?

3. Is there any social criticism in Buntung novel by Taufik Wijaya?

#### 2 Research Methodology

#### 2.1 Research Methods

The research method used is library technique and sima record to obtain data. Other than that, this study also uses a social criticism approach because the study of social criticism is also related to literary sociology, and the sociology of literary approach is also used in this study.

#### 2.2 Research Techniques

Data collection techniques in this study using library techniques and refer to note. Library techniques are techniques that use written sources to obtain data. In collecting data of this research using technique note and nalysis note.

## **3** Results and Discussions

# 3.1 Social Condition of Palembang Society in Novel of *Buntung* by Taufik Wijaya

Social conditions are a condition related to circumstances or situations in a particular society that are related to social circumstances. Social conditions are all people or other human beings that affect us<sup>[2]</sup>. Based on the results of the above research can be concluded that between the problem of criminality, population, poverty, prostitution, children's delinquency, alcoholism, and the problem of war, it can describe the condition of the people of Palembang. The condition of the people of Palembang which is reflected in the novel *Buntung* by Taufik Wiijaya very chaotic.

Such criticism in his novel of *Buntung* presented by Taufik Wijaya, as follows since 206 BC until 2012, T. Wijaya carefully recounted the history of Palembang and Indonesia. He told about the existing government system in Indonesia, the inter-state is hostile to fight for power, cruel the world of politics, the cruelty of invaders, crime rampant, and then in 2012 Palembang is said to be drowned by floods and tsunami. Though the news was just an engineering for revenge. This prediction does not just stop here, but once again T. Wijaya wants to make us realize that if this nation continues as it is today, like this following quote:

..."maka pada 2029 Masehi mendatang Indonesia akan bubar, dan Palembang bergabung dengan Republik Melayu beribukota di Batam. Pemimpin Palembang pada masa Republik Melayu yakni Che Bala seorang pengusaha yang berlatar belakang seorang bandit (*Buntung*:1—6)<sup>[3]</sup>.

Based on the mention quote, through the history of Palembang city, Taufik Wijaya want to make us realize that if the problems continue, it will be bad for the development of Palembang's people. This is what Taufik Wijaya said in his novel entitled *Buntung* that, "if this nation continues as it is today, then in 2029 AD Indonesia will disband, and Palembang will join the Malay Republic with its capital in Batam. The leader of Palembang in the Malay republic was Che Bala an entrepreneur with a bandit background". The original inhabitants of Palembang, may be angry if the condition of the city of Palembang is very apprehensive, but the criticism is indirectly conveyed by Taufik Wijaya who is one of the citizens of Palembang. He does not intend to vilify his hometown, this is only a prediction of the problems described in *Buntung* novel, as follows.

From the mention quote, Mahmud stole shrimp at ponds that he manages because he starve. When Mahmud wants to take the shrimp, there are other shrimp farmers who see it. Then the person told the story of another farmer, when he told it was heard by one of the shrimp aquaculture officers. From that guard, it was reported to the head of officer and Mahmud was severely beaten. From the economic problems experienced by Mahmud for not having the money to buy food, Mahmud also stole the shrimp and this is a criminal matter in the case of stealing. Because caught stealing, Mahmud was beaten out. This action is also a criminal matter in case of violence and vigilante. In addition, there is also another problem that is the case of unemployment. Like the following quote.

"Senang nian *dio* dikasih duit. Dasar *dak katek rai*, makin *tuo*, makin *daktau* diri,"keluh ibunya."*Ai* mulut *Awak nih*. Mentang-mentang aku *dak* 

*pacak* nyari duit lagi, sudah *pacak nginjek*,"kata abahnya sambil menuruni tangga."*Mangkonyo* jadi *laki tu begawe*!". Saat Siti masih bekerja di Hotel Mawar, dia sering membelikan rokok buat abahnya. Bukan beberapa bungkus tapi minimal satu slot. Bahkan setiap kali lebaran, Siti membelikan kain dan kemeja baru." ............(*Buntung*:35).

That quote is one example of the case of unemployment. If people does not work, they can not make money to meet the necessities of life. Then the murder issue, like the following quote.

From that quote, there has been a murder, which is Abdullah is a victim of a stabbing who does not know who is the perpetrator. Now, it's easy to get rid of someone's life with varian motives. There is because of revenge, heartache, sadness, misunderstandings, even just because the nudge in the street can trigger the action of murder. The next problem is poverty and homeless, as in the following quotation.

From that quote, we knew that Abdullah is really enjoy the music from keyboards and piano while drinking alcohol. In the life of the Palembang people, alcohol has been widely consumed by almost all class society, whether adults or underage. Not only alcohol, even they also consume drugs, such as extacy pills and some are inhealing glue. All the drugs and drinks made as an escape because of the many problems they are reaching or just to make them feel good.

Factors that cause social problems are economic and cultural factors. Economic factors, such as poverty, unemployment, etc. Cultural factors, such as population growth in short time, and conflict society. Based on the results of research, can be concluded that people of Palembang has many social problems, such as unemployment, poverty, theft, murder, drugs, and other problems. Should the problems be quickly followed up by the government and awareness for people to avoid alcohol and drugs. Problems that arise can be resolved by deliberation so that there is no clash.

#### 3.2 Factors Causing Social Problems in Novel of Buntung by Taufik Wijaya

The emergence of social problems is generally caused by certain factors, such as the lack of stable economic and cultural factors. After the researchers conducted the study, the researchers concluded that there are two factors that menyebkan emergence of these social problems. Here's what caused the occurrence of social problems, in the opinion of Horald A. Phelps<sup>[4]</sup>, namely derived from economic factors, including poverty, unemployment. As follows.

From the above quote, it is quite clear that economic problems are becoming a major problem in survival. If need the economy can not be fulfilled because of the absence of money, it will emerge new problems such as theft. Derived from cultural factors. Culture is a way of life, customs or customs of a region. Cultural factors as follows;a) increase / decrease the number of inhabitants in large quantities and in a short time. As the problem of residence in the novel Buntung taufik wijaya works as follows.

Due to unequal distribution of population and unstructured transmigration, many immigrant residents have no place to live. Because of this, they build houses on water and some are renting rooms under the house or buying small houses to occupy. This case should receive attention from the government. In order to be good it is a permanent resident who has no home and the inhabitants have a place to live so there is no such thing as vagrant. b) Community conflict (conflict). Conflicts can occur between individual groups or groups. It is the same as the case of the war that took place in Buntung novel taufik wijaya's work as follows.

"Oi, Awak budak mano?", Langkah Kosim terhenti ketika bahunya ditarik seseorang. Kosim menoleh ke belakang; lima remaja berdiri sambil memegang pedang. Sekian detik kemudian mereka mengelilingi Kosim."Oi, kami nanyo. Awak ni budak mano?". "Budak Sekojo". Buk!Buk!Buk!Buk! Lima pemuda itu membacok lengan, bahu, dan punggung Kosim. Kosim terjatuh. Untung sajatubuhnya tidak terjatuh dari jembatan kayu lorong Pekerti, 26 Ilir, itu."Suntik bae!", Sebuah pedang menusuk pantat Kosim. Kelima remaja itu pergi. ..............(Buntung:41).

Based on the above quote, the problem includes the case of inter-armed wars. This problem often occurs in teenagers whose emotional level is still unstable and easily affected. Like the first case that happened pengeroyokan against Kosim which is one of the youth who returned to Sekojo. Just because one Sekojo teenager had a problem with the Pekerti hallway and that was because of the parking lot problem, his friends from the human corridor followed by Kosim.From both factors above, it can be concluded that the factors that cause the emergence of social problems is due to economic factors that are followed by cultural factors.

#### 3.3 Criticism of Social Issues

Generally, criticism of social issues which reflected in Buntung byTaufik Wijaya is amounts to 45 cases, then divided into 8 categories of criticism of social issues. First, There are 13 cases in criminality. Murder cases is 6 cases with different motives. Case of rape as much as 1 case. Two (2) cases of infant trading. Fraud cases of 1 case. One case of theft. A case of piracy. While cases of violence in children under the age of 1 case. Population problem there are 2 cases. Problem of poverty there are as many as 5 cases. Of the five cases that are the subject matter is an economic problem, although different situations and conditions, such as the problem of residence and environmental issues. Prostitution problem there are 3 problem cases, that is (a) prostitution case at the hotel Mawar, (b) a self-selling case, and (c) a case of promiscuity. Children's delinquency problems, there are 2 cases. There are 3 cases of homosexuality, that is (a) sodomy, (b) a pedophile case, and (c) a homosexua case. Then, the problem of alcoholism there are 6 cases of problems. A total of 3 cases is an alcohol problem. While 3 cases of drug problems. While the problem of war, there are as many as 2 cases. The first problem is the case of students brawl o as much as 1 case. While the other one is a citizens brawl.

## **4 Conclussions and Recomendations**

Based on the discussion of the research results, factors that cause of social problems are economic and cultural factors. Economic factors, such as poverty, unemployment, etc. Cultural factors such as population growth in short time and conflict society. In addition, people of Palembang also has many social problems such as unemployment, poverty, theft, murder, drugs, alcoholism, etc.

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