

The Multicultural Values in Habiburrahman El Shirazy's Novels

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Abstract—This research was inspired by the less public's awareness to the multicultural values in the life of the state and nation. The research aimed to describe the multicultural values in the novels by Habiburrahman El Shirazy. Type of the research was qualitative by using descriptive analysis method. The findings of the research showed that the Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novels especially entitled *Ayat-ayat Cinta* and *Bumi Cinta* were found the multicultural values. The values were based on the Tilaar's theory. Those values were learning the diversity of life (tolerance), nurturing the mutual trust, preserving mutual respect, opening mind, having appreciation and interdependence. The multicultural values can be applied in the field of education. By learning of those values, the teacher and learners are expected to be able to live together in diversity, implement the democratic learning in the classroom, and instill cultural intelligence

Keywords—multicultural values, Habiburrahman El Shirazy, novels

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with a diverse society; it consists of various tribes, races, customs, fractions, groups, religions and social strata. Such a situation is reasonable as far as these diversities are realized. When these diversities begin to emerge and threat to harmonic living, the diversities must be resolved.

In the present context, cultural wealth will be related to cultural products such as art and literature, traditions, lifestyles, value systems, and belief systems. Cultural diversity in this study is more interpreted as a product or cultural result that is existed nowadays. In the context of a multicultural society, the existence of cultural diversity is that must be maintained and respected. Cultural diversity is cutting cultural differences from groups of people living in Indonesia.

In accordance with the cultural results on literature, the Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novel tells more about multiculturalism. Literary works that express the dominant multicultural values are *Ayat-Ayat Cinta* and *Bumi Cinta*. Both are set in foreign countries, namely Egypt and Moscow with all the diversities of culture, religion, race, habits, and so on. Egypt is the most dominant city occupied by Muslims while Moscow is the most dominant city occupied by atheist.

Novel is one of creative imaginative literary works that consist of complex human's life problems with various conflicts so that readers gain new experiences about life. According to [1], the novel is a story that contains several unities of problems that form a chain of problems accompanied by a causal factor. Those like sadness, joy, honesty, betrayal, and other humanitarian problems.

According to [2], literature is considered as one of the socio-cultural phenomena and a product of society. Authoris literary creators are functioning as members of the community. In creating literary works, he also cannot be separated from the society in which he lives so that even what described in literary works is often a representation of the reality that occurs in society. Likewise, readers who enjoy literary works are also a member of the community with a number of socio-cultural, political and psychological aspects and backgrounds that influence the choice of reading and interpreting the work he is reading.

Multiculturalism is etymologically formed from three words, namely multi (many), culture (culture), and ism (understanding / genre). Multiculturalism means the genre or understanding of many cultures which means leading to cultural diversity. According to [3], multiculturalism means the institutionalization of cultural diversity possessed by ethnic groups in a nation-state through fields or legal systems of education, religious practices, and other fields.

According to [4], a multicultural society is then a society that includes two or more cultural communities. The term of multicultural refers to the reality of cultural diversity. The term of multiculturalism refers to a normative response to this fact. The next view forward by [5], multiculturalism is used to describe the unity of various different ethnic communities in a country. This term has three elements, namely culture, cultural diversity, and special ways to anticipate this cultural diversity. Multiculturalism develops in society, so this ideology also influences communication between people from different groups, people, religions and countries.

[3] presents at least five multikultural values, namely learning the diversity of life (tolerance), nurturing mutual trust, preserving mutual respect, opening minded, and having appreciation and interdependent. In literary research, an analysis or objective approach to the intrinsic elements or structure of literary work is the first step before entering the further research [6]. Structural approach is an intrinsic approach, namely discussing the work on elements that build literary work from within. This approach is applied to examine literary works as autonomous works and regardless of social background, history, the biography of the author, and everything that is outside of literary work [7]. According to [8], the structural approach attempts to describe the interrelationships and functions of each element of literary work as a structural entity that together produces a comprehensive meaning. Based on that description, this research aims to describe and explain the multicultural values of learning the diversity of life (tolerance), nurturing mutual trust, preserving mutual respect, opening minded, and having appreciation and interdependent.

II. METHODS

This is qualitative research with descriptive analysis method. According to [9], qualitative research is research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the subject of research, for example behavior, perception, motivation, action, holistically, with a special natural context, and by utilizing various scientific methods. Descriptive analysis method is a method conducted by describing the facts which are then followed by analysis. This method does not merely describe, but also provides understanding and explanation [10].

According to [11], the data of qualitative research in literary works is its script. The formal data are words, sentences, and discourses which are presented in descriptive form. From these data, it can be found that the multicultural values of learning the diversity of life (tolerance), nurturing mutual trust, preserving mutual respect, opening minded, and having appreciation and interdependent in the form of narrator's speech or utterance, speech or character's utterance, and the characters' actions in Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novels. The source of data is Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novels entitled *Ayat-Ayat Cinta dan Bumi Cinta*.

The validation of the data is conducted by perseverance observation techniques and assisted by the advisors referring to the [9] who divides several criteria, namely credibility, information, dependence and certainty. The researcher diligently focuses on the character's speech, the narrator's speech and the characters' actions contained in the text of novel's story that are relevant to the problems, namely the multicultural values then focus on those things in detail. The researcher observes the text of story in the novel in depth so that the data found can be grouped according to the categories that have been made correctly.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Multicultural society has much diversity. The existed diversity of society will be booster to strengthen the conflict issues that arise in the midst of society. Actually the conflict arises from other intolerable issues toward cultural diversity, such as cases of emerging conflicts in Indonesia which are expressed as cases of religious and ethnic conflict. In fact, these conflicts are dominated by political and economic issues. Indeed, there is no single cause in the case of conflicts in Indonesia, but some tantrums occurred in several regions are caused by differences in political views, beliefs or religions, racial or cultural differences, and so on.

It needs an understanding to reduce conflict in multicultural societies, one of which is by instilling the multicultural values in each person. One means to provide examples of the application of the multicultural values are literary works, one of which is a novel. The Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novels were chosen as sources of research data because they depict the characters' story living in the midst of differences. One of the Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novels contained the multicultural values is *Ayat-ayat Cinta dan Bumi Cinta*.

This research followed up on previous research. Putra examined the multicultural elements in a novel by using the literary sociology approach; Marzuki examined the religious practices of Javanese society through field studies, while

Yunaldi examined the effects of acculturation in a novel. The research has differences with the researchers conducted. Although using sources in novels, researchers focused more on the multicultural values using structural approach. The values of multiculturalism consist of learning the diversity of life (tolerance), nurturing mutual trust, preserving mutual respect, opening minded, and having appreciation and interdependent.

In Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novels were found 198 data divided into 93 data of multicultural values in the novel *Ayat-ayat Cinta* and 105 data of multicultural values in the novel *Bumi Cinta*. Each data consisted of tolerance, mutual trust, mutual respect, opened mind, and appreciation and interdependent values in accordance with the theory used in this research, namely the Tilaar theory which divided the multicultural values into five categories equipped with indicators in each value.

There were number of reasons on which the researcher used the multicultural theory proposed by Tilaar. First, the theory of Tilaar's multicultural values contains the general multicultural values in multicultural societies and educational values that can be learned for every level of society. Second, the theory of Tilaar's multicultural values is more widely used in research that raises the multicultural theme. Third, Tilaar's theory cannot be only used in the education, but it can be applied directly by every society in real life. Fourth, the division of the multicultural value by Tilaar is easier to comprehend, understand, and in accordance with the conditions of the Indonesian nowadays.

This research contains the multicultural values in the multi-ethnic communities and the cultivation of formal and informal education. Multiculturalism is not only as diversity, but also it is constructed to bring a harmonious life, to comprehend each other and appreciate that diversity. Multiculturalism requires society to live a life of tolerance, mutual understanding between cultures and nations in fostering a new world. Thus, multiculturalism can contribute a love for others and a tool to foster a safe and prosperous world.

In multiculturalism, nations sit together, respect each other, help one another, and do not see whether a community is a majority or minority group so that there is no domination of the majority and minority tyranny. Human's understanding about multiculturalism will provide a role and a large contribution to the development of a better world. A nation is not only thinks about its generation, but it also able to inherit a better life for future generations.

To instill the multicultural values in the lives of multi-ethnic communities in Indonesia needs to be implemented as early as possible. One example of the application of the multicultural values can be seen in the Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novels, especially the novel *Ayat-ayat Cinta and the novel Bumi Cinta*. The novel illustrates how characters' story can coexist with multicultural societies in other countries, such as Egypt and Russia.

The multicultural value in the novel *Ayat Cinta dan Bumi Cinta* by Habiburrahman El Shirazy is a description of tolerant life among various cultural diversity in Egypt and Moscow. It is not only cultural diversities, but also individual ideology and idealism of multicultural society. Basically,

humans created by the Creator have the same degree in the God's eyes. Even though every human being has various diversities, they have many similarities in a small part of the diversities. Every human being wants peaceful life, happiness, freedom in carrying out what he believes, and opened in mind and opinion.

In a multicultural society, the value of nurturing mutual trust is also the most important thing to foster relationships between people (social capital) for cultural strengthening of a society. When life is based on trust, the wholeness in fostering the common well will be more easily achieved so that it is difficult to be swayed by incitement from outside, prejudiced against others, honest, and love between people. Trust can not only be applied to someone who is already known but can also be applied to someone who is newly known to avoid prejudice against someone.

The multicultural value which needs to be applied in fostering social relationship with multicultural society is the value of preserving mutual respect. The attitude of mutual respect is placing all human beings in equality relations; there is no superiority or inferiority. A multicultural society can be realized and able to manage diversity as a potential for shared prosperity if each member is willing to respect other members by not self boasting and underestimating others.

Multicultural society must be able to think openly in addressing any diversity. The value of opening in mind can be applied in the form of an attitude of sensitivity to unique new things, the truth according to oneself is not orthodox truth, and recognizes pluralism in a community or group of society. Awareness of these values can make each individual always having a broad view of things around. Broad view and open mind don't mean every individual to follow what other people done, but points each person's thoughts into a unique thing contained in their respective communities.

The most multicultural value that appears in the novel *Ayat-ayat Cinta* and *Bumi Cinta* is the value of having appreciation and interdependence. Multicultural society places great importance on the value of having appreciation and interdependence in socialization. The value of appreciation is an attitude that shows mutual respect for other cultures and a respect attitude for diversity existed in life while interdependence is an attitude of mutual require, dependence on one another, working together, helping, and being responsible. These attitudes are believed to be able to reduce various kinds of conflicts that allow them to emerge in multicultural societies.

To consider the importance of comprehending the multicultural values in the nation development, the concrete efforts are needed to make it happen. We need to disseminate comprehension and educate people about the importance of multiculturalism for human life. In other words, we need to instill the multicultural values that can lead the Indonesian people to achieve justice, prosperity and prosperity.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that the results are as follows: (1) the multicultural value to learn living in diversities in Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novels is in the form of the value of freedom in carrying out religious law, freedom of thought and opinion, and letting

others become themselves without sacrificing personal principles; (2) the multicultural value to instill mutual trust in Habiburrahman El Shirazy 's novels is in the form of prejudiced values for others, compassion between people, and honesty; (3) the multicultural value to preserves mutual respect in Habiburrahman El Shirazy 's novels is the form of values of respect for others, making others feel good, not underestimating others, and not boasting; (4) the multicultural value to open minded in Habiburrahman El Shirazy 's novels in the form of sensitive values for unique new things and willing to ask or forgive; and (5) the multicultural value to have appreciation and interdependence in the Habiburrahman El Shirazy 's novels is in the form of the value of working together and helping, needing each other and dependence on one another, being responsible, and appreciating diversity.

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