

Portrait of Poverty in the *Pamangkulangit Yang Terhormat* Short Story by Aba Mardjani

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Abstract—This study aims to reveal the portrait of poverty in the *Pamangkulangit Yang Terhormat* short story by Aba Mardjani. This study uses qualitative descriptive techniques as data analysis. The analysis was carried out using the sociology of literature approach by identifying, describing, and analyzing poverty in short stories. The results showed that in short stories there were two types of poverty, namely: (1) economic poverty and (2) mental poverty. Furthermore, each type of poverty has its own characteristics, consisting of: (1) characteristics of poverty, (2) manifestation of poverty, and (3) meaning of poverty.

Keywords—poverty, short stories, *pamangkulangit yang terhormat*.

I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a major development problem that is complex and multidimensional. The problem of poverty is not only economic but also social, cultural, political, even ideological [1]. The concept shows that poverty is not only related to economic value, but also non-economic. Economically, poverty is characterized by low income, slum houses, unemployment, and others. Non-economically, poverty can be related to the attitudes and mentality of a person who is low, such as low motivation to work hard, tend to seek momentary satisfaction, pessimistic, and others.

The problem of poverty is one of the many social problems raised in the creation of literary works. The author is part of the community system, certainly very close to the problems that are common in life. As a developing country, poverty is a major problem that is difficult to solve. Therefore, the author often raises the theme of poverty through literary works as a media criticizing the problems that occur in the real world.

Aba Mardjani is a journalist who is also diligent in writing short stories. Profession as a journalist, the literary works that he produces seem to be inseparable from problems in society. *Pamangkulangit Yang Terhormat (PYT)* Short Story is a representation of problems in the community. In the short story, he seems to raise the portrait of poverty.

Based on the description above, it is interesting to study how the portrait of poverty is displayed in the *PYT* short stories by Aba Mardjani.

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II presents theoretical review. Section III describes research method of this work. Section IV presents the obtained

results and following by discussion. Finally, Section V concludes this work.

II. THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. *The Study of Literature*

(1). *Poverty*

Poverty is a concept that faces the face, multidimensional dimension [2]. Dimensions in poverty not only relate to economic aspects, but also penetrate the mental, political and social-psychological aspects.

(a) *Types of Poverty*

1) *Economic poverty*

Economic poverty is a low standard of living, namely the existence of a level of deficiency in a group of people so that it affects the level of health, moral life and self-esteem [3]. Poverty Characteristics According to BPS Standards [4]

- Income the head of household is a farmer, laborer, fisherman or other occupation with income below IDR 600.000.
- Don't have minimal saving IDR 500.000
- Type of house wall from bamboo and floor of land
- Unable to pay for medical expenses at a health center or polyclinic
- Low level of education, and etc.

2) *Mental Poverty*

Mental poverty includes the low moral, ethical, moral, and mental qualities of a person.

Characteristics of Mental Poverty

1. Tend to seek momentary satisfaction
2. Low motivation to work hard
3. Pessimistic
4. Apathetic

(2). *Sociology of Literature*

The existence of literary works is inseparable from the reciprocal relationship between the author, the public, and the reader. In his book *Theory of Literature*, Wellek and Warren offer the existence of three types of literary sociology, namely author sociology, sociology of literature,

and reader sociology and social influence of literary works [5]. Sociology of Literary Work Sociology of literary work studies literature as a mirror of society [6]. What is implied in literary works is considered to reflect or re-illustrate the reality contained in society. Some of the problems that become the area of sociological studies of literary works are the content of literary works, objectives, and other things implied in literary works relating to social problems.

III. RESEARCH METHODS

The source of the data in this study is the *PYT* short story by Aba Mardjani. Research data are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences related to portraits of poverty in short stories. The acquisition of research data is done in two ways, namely intensive reading and recording. Data analysis was carried out using qualitative descriptive techniques [7, 8]. In accordance with the existing problems, the analysis was carried out using the sociology of literature approach by identifying, describing, and analyzing poverty in short stories. The analysis is carried out in relation to poverty portraits which consist of (1) characteristics of poverty, (2) the form of poverty, and (3) the meaning of poverty.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research attempts to uncover the portrait of poverty in the *PYT* short story by Aba Mardjani. Poverty is displayed in short stories by raising two types of poverty, namely economic poverty and mental poverty. The results of the research are displayed in Table I form according to the research problems that have been set.

TABLE I. DESCRIPTION OF PORTRAIT OF POVERTY IN *PAMANGKULANGIT YANG TERHORMAT* SHORT STORIES

No	Aspect	Point
1	Poverty Characteristics	1. Economic Proverty a. Low Welfare b. Low knowledge and access to technology c. Living in the countryside with livelihoods in the agricultural sector 2. Mental Poverty a. Low motivation to work hard b. Tending to seek momentary satisfaction
2	Form of Poverty	1. Economic Poverty a. Lack of life 2. Mental Poverty a. Corruption b. Money Laundering Practices
3	Meaning of Poverty	a. "Poor people are not people who have little, but people who want more" – Seneca. b. "Greedy people are always poor." – Samuel Johnson

Today, poverty is relatively increasing in rural areas. Poverty in rural areas is a major problem in the process of implementing development in the area. This is because most of the poor live in rural areas. Some of the causes of rural poverty are structural poverty and government policies that allocate greater development budgets in urban areas than in rural areas. In the *PYT* short story, Aba Mardjani presents a portrait of poverty in rural communities. Villagers with all

economic limitations are victims of the practice of mental poverty. The poverty presented in the short story is not only economically, but also mentally. The problems in the short story are representations of the reality of life. This is in line with Aba Mardjani's profession as a journalist who must know a lot about the problems in the community. Therefore, it seems that he likes to elevate the reality of life into literary works.

(1). Poverty Characteristics in the Pamangkulangit Yang Terhormat Short Story by Aba Mardjani

1. Economic Poverty

a. Low welfare

One of the characteristics of economic poverty presented in this short story is the low level of citizen welfare. The level of welfare is related to the low fulfillment of life needs.

"Maka hari-hari kemudian...menyatakan siap menjual tanah, huma, tipar, milik mereka kepada Bapak Mangku yang Terhormat dengan alasan yang berbeda-beda. Menunaikan ibadah haji, berobat, memperbaiki rumah, membuka warung, mengawinkan anak, mengkhitankan anak, membayar utang, banyak lagi. Beberapa minggu setelah itu, begitu banyak sepeda motor wara-wiri di jalan-jalan desa...Di setiap rumah juga menyala pesawat-pesawat tv baru dengan berbagai ukuran"

"Beberapa minggu setelah itu, begitu banyak sepeda motor wara-wiri di jalan-jalan desa. Jumlahnya mungkin melebihi burung-burung pipit yang selalu mencuri bulir-bulir padi yang siap dipanen. Di setiap rumah juga menyala pesawat-pesawat tv baru dengan berbagai ukuran."

The quote shows that before Dahana's arrival, the life of the villagers belonged to the poor with low welfare. Previously, they were unable to buy motorcycle, television, seek treatment, repair houses, marry children, pay debts and so on. This condition is in accordance with the characteristics of the poor, namely the inability to pay medical expenses, low income sources, the condition of the house is not permanent and others.

b. Low knowledge and access to technology

Other characteristics of poverty raised in this short story are low knowledge and access to technology.

"Sungguh aku baru tahu kalau ternyata kita itu punya wakil," kata Manuk ketika mobil yang mereka tumpangi berhenti di depan pintu gerbang yang megah...."

Based on the above quotation, Cibaesah residents are not aware of the people's representatives. This shows that poverty has an impact on the limitations of education. Poverty usually spreads to low levels of education. Limited costs make them choose to work compared to schools. In addition, the low level of knowledge is caused by the low use of technology to access information. One characteristic

of the poor is the low level of human resources, low levels of education, and low technology adoption rates.

c. Living in the countryside with livelihoods in the agricultural sector

“Karena itu, pada pagi hari, orang-orang yang berkumpul di tipar-sawah-sawah dan kebun-kebun mereka....”

The characteristics of the poor, as seen from the quotation above, are a group of poor people living in rural areas with livelihoods as farmers or gardeners. This is in accordance with one of the characteristics of the poor population is living in the countryside with livelihoods in the agricultural sector. The reason is that people living in rural areas with livelihoods as farmers, monthly income <600,000.

2. Mental poverty

a. Low motivation to work hard

Motivation to work hard is related to passion, desire, willingness to work hard to get something. But on the contrary, the low motivation to work hard is one of the characteristics of mental poverty. The low motivation to work hard is identical by liking something instant.

“Bapak Dahana Pamangkulangkit yang Terhormat bersalah dan saat ini tengah mendekam di dalam ruang tahanan.”

Based on the above quote, Dahana is a corruptor who is proven to have committed corruption. Corruption is one example of mental poverty. The mindset that chooses a shortcut to get wealth is a manifestation of the low mentality of a person because of the lack of motivation to work hard.

b. Tending to seek momentary satisfaction

“Beberapa minggu setelah itu, begitu banyak sepeda motor wara-wiri di jalan-jalan desa...Di setiap rumah juga menyala pesawat-pesawat tv baru dengan berbagai ukuran.”

The quote shows that after earning a lot of money, they spend money by buying luxury items, such as television, motorcycle, jewelry, etc. That behavior shows that they like to get pleasure and momentary satisfaction compared to saving money for long-term needs. This example is one of the characteristics of mental poverty, which tends to seek momentary satisfaction.

(2). Form of Poverty in the Pamangkulangkit Yang Terhormat Short Story by Aba Mardjani

1. Economic Poverty

a. Lack of life

Lack of life is a form of weak economic conditions. Therefore, someone who has sub-standard income is included in the poor group.

“..Setelah itu warga Cibaresah pun seperti pohon layu yang mendapatkan air....”

“Bagi warga Cibaresah, kehadiran Bapak Dahana Pamangkulangkit juga serupa malaikat pembawa rahmat yang kebetulan tersesat di sana...”

In the *PYT* short story, Dahana's figure was instrumental in the life of Cibaresah residents. Dahana can turn a life of deprivation into prosperity thanks to "goodness". The quotation above shows that before Dahana's arrival, Cibaresah residents were poor. The purpose of "withering trees to get water" is that all this time people live in poverty in terms of economy, facilities and health, then change prosperous after the arrival of Dahana. Conditions of economic deprivation, facilities, quality of health are a form of poverty.

2. Mental poverty

a. Corruption

Corruption is one example of mental poverty. Mental poverty results from long-term economic poverty. Poverty can cause many problems such as crime, unemployment, even corruption.

“...Bapak Dahana Pamangkulangkit yang Terhormat bersalah dan saat ini tengah mendekam di dalam ruang tahanan.”

This short story does not tell explicitly that Dahana is a corruptor. The practice of corruption carried out by him can be concluded from several actions he did, one of which was to practice money laundering. Money laundering is done as an effort to save money from corruption.

Corruption is a form of mental poverty. A thought gathers as much wealth as possible in a short time by utilizing power. It is not new anymore if there are some officials in Indonesia who make power to vent their greed. Corruption is one example of mental poverty. Low mentality can be seen from the desire to get something that is not his own in a quick and short way.

b. Money laundering practices

Money laundering practices are a continuation of corrupt practices. After someone gets a lot of assets from the results of corruption, the corruptor will look for ways to find out where the source is from. Motivation for money laundering because of fears that the perpetrators will face tax officials and law enforcement officers will confiscate their property [4].

Lalu terdengar dengung pertanyaan wartawan. Berebutan. Mencoba lebih dekat lagi dengan Munar.

“Ya...Bapak Mangku yang Terhormat juga yang membeli tanah kami, sawah-sawah kami, tipar-tipar kami...dengan harga yang pantas...”

Para wartawan makin bergairah bertanya.

“Jumlahnya puluhan hektare. Persisnya saya belum tahu...”

“Apakah Bapak Dahana juga punya istri dan rumah di sana?” tanya salah satu wartawan dengan suara lantang.

“Betul...punya. Beliau memberi kehormatan kepada kami dengan menikahi kembang desa kami. Namanya Tasriah...”

“Muda? Usianya berapa tahun...?”

“Delapan belas atau sembilan belas...”

“Cantik?”

Munar tersenyum. **“Kembang desa gitu loh...”**

“Perawan?”

Munar bingung. **“Ia ingin bilang, ‘tanya saja Pak Mangku yang Terhormat’, tapi ia takut Pak Mangku yang Terhormat marah.”**

“Di kampung kami, kalau belum menikah ya pasti masih perawan...” katanya kemudian.

“Rumah?” cecar wartawan lagi.

“Bukan rumah, tapi istana. Bapak Mangku yang Terhormat membangun istana bagi Tasriah sebagai bukti cintanya kepada istrinya dan warga Cibaresh...”

The quotation above is a dialogue between journalists and the Cibaresh village head, Munar. From the quotation, the form of money laundering, namely: tens of hectares of land, luxury homes, young and beautiful wives.

Land. Material in the form of money from the results of corruption will usually be transferred to goods that can be invested, for example land. The transfer of money into goods is a tactic for corruptors so that money from corruption is not tracked. In fact, based on data from *sindonews.com*, in 2015, the Attorney General's Office managed to confiscate IDR 42,176,124,598 in cash from several corruption suspects and several other assets such as 4.3 hectares of land.

Home. The form of transfer of money other than land is a super luxurious home. This line with the facts shows that the homes of corruptors are very luxurious. Here are some corruptors who own luxury homes for tens of billions of corruptions, namely: corruption cases for Wisma Atletes, M. Nazarrudin, state tax cases, Gayus Tambunan, and Banten medical device corruption, Ratu Atut Chosiyah.

Young and beautiful wife. After earning a lot of money, high positions, men will be easily tempted by creatures called "women". It's no secret that many officials who are caught in corruption cases always have to do with beautiful women with backgrounds from ordinary people, students, to celebrities. Based on reports from CNTV, an online news site and Chinese TV, states that 95% of corrupt officials have mistresses. Based on sources from *Cowasjp.com*, following several corrupt officials, there was a love affair with a beautiful woman, namely: Inspector General (Pol) Djoko Susilo, a suspect in a corruption case for a SIM procurement that dragged the name of a beautiful woman, Dipta Anindita as her third wife. Second, Ahmad Fatanah dragged the name of the beautiful model Vitalia Shesya. The model received Honda Jazz cars and Chopard brand watches.

Based on the explanation above, the main motive for corruption to spread to the practice of money laundering is the economy [9]. The practice of money laundering is included in the form of mental poverty because it is a form of the low spirit of working hard [10, 11]. The corruptors are happier with the instant way to get wealth than having to work hard first.

(3). Meaning of Poverty in the *Pamangkulagit Yang Terhormat* Short Story by Aba Mardjani

In the *PYT* short story, Aba Mardjani presents mental poverty as a manifestation of greed. Sharing of efforts is done only to be able to meet the needs of the economy with a level of satisfaction that cannot be measured by a character. Based on the description of the behavior of the characters in the short story, it can be concluded that a greedy person will always feel lacking in what they have. The more material you have, the more material you want to have. So, "poor" here does not only mean lack of material but low mentality. This is in accordance with the statement below.

a. *"Poor people are not people who have little, but people who want more"* – Seneca.

The meaning of "the poor" here does not only mean the lack of material but also the lack of a person's moral, mental, ethical and moral conditions. Munar and Dahana were both officials. Both get wealth through their positions. After getting a lot of material then they chose to marry several women. This shows that by using money, they are able to have many women either for reasons of love or just having fun. In essence, greedy people are people who are never satisfied with what they have. As much as anything you have, you will always feel less and look for it again.

b. *"Greedy people are always poor."* – Samuel Johnson

The *PYT* Short Story presents Dahana as a greedy figure. Greedy people will always feel poor. After having a position with a small salary, then he enriched himself with corruption. After corruption, he increasingly accumulated wealth by buying land, rice fields, building luxury homes, saving large amounts of money, and so on. This action arises because greedy people will never feel satisfied with what they have. The more he has, the more he wants.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of research and discussion about portrait of poverty in the *Pamangkulagit Yang Terhormat Short Story* by Aba Mardjani, the research conducted it can be concluded several things as follows.

1. Poverty Characteristics
 - a. Low Welfare
 - b. Low knowledge and access to technology
 - c. Living in the countryside with livelihoods in the agricultural sector
- 2) Mental Poverty
 - a. Low motivation to work hard

- b. Tending to seek momentary satisfaction
- 2. Form of Poverty
 - 1) Economic Poverty
 - a. Lack of life
 - 2) Mental Poverty
 - a. Corruption
 - b. Money Laundering Practices
- 3. Meaning of Poverty
 - a. "Poor people are not people who have little, but people who want more" – Seneca.
 - b. "Greedy people are always poor." – Samuel Johnson

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thank God, the writer always prays to the presence of Allah SWT for the permission of this journal to be completed in time. Thank also goes to: (1) Dr. Syamsi Kastam as Chancellor of the Head of Indonesian Language and Literature Education at Postgraduate Program of UNY.; (2) Prof. Dr. Suminto A. Sayuti and ICILLE editorial team (International conference on interdisciplinary language, Literature and Education). Hopefully this journal can contribute to literacy activities.

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