

# MANIFESTATION OF ROMANTICISM IDEOLOGY IN LEILA S. CHUDORI'S *PULANG*

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## Abstract

This article aims to analyze the elements of romanticism ideology in the novel entitled *Pulang* by Leila S. Chudori. *Pulang* was published in 2012 with the genre of historical fiction. Romanticism is an ideology in which prioritizes feelings and imagination. The theory used in this article is romanticism ideology by William Wordsworth on one of his books *Preface to the Second Edition of Lyrical Ballads*. Based on the analysis conducted towards the narratives within the novel, it can be found several elements of romanticism which expressed by the author through the description of nature and the portrayal of the characters.

**Keywords:** *Pulang*, Leila S. Chudori, Romanticism, William Wordsworth

## INTRODUCTION

Literature is the imaginative work that portrays the human life in society. The result of author's imagination is written in a form of a literary work (Cahyaningsih, 2015). In literature, romanticism is known as an ideology which emphasizes the expression of feelings as its core manifestation. Romanticism is a form of art in which prioritizes feelings (emotion, passion), imagination, and intuition (Saini in Efsa, 2015). It is a refutation of previous ideology, the industrial revolution which focuses on science and civilization. Romanticism therefore refers to a particular way of viewing nature, literature, society, and individuality, as it focuses on returning to nature.

A novel by Leila S. Chudori entitled *Pulang* includes the ideology of romanticism. The narratives are written in such a romantic way and it becomes one of the great aspect of this novel. Leila, the writer, successfully portrays the beautiful nature of France and Indonesia in their own respective ways. Not only that, but the portrayal of the character's emotions and feelings also give contribution to construct the ambience in this novel.

*Preface to the Second Edition of Lyrical Ballads* by William Wordsworth is an expression of his thought of romanticism and has been an impactful work within the concept of romanticism. In his work, he argues about the idea of romanticism, how it is



strongly rely with the ability of the author. How the author's creativity of expressing feelings through imagination is the main point of his work. This is what distinguish romanticism from any other ideology in literature, as romanticism puts a great emphasis on human's feeling and not on the mind, and so romanticism used as a way to appreciate the beauty of nature.

Wordsworth states "*The principal object, then, proposed in these poems was to choose incidents and situations from common life, and to relate or describe them, throughout, as far as was possible, in a selection of language really used by men, and at the same time, to throw over them a certain colouring of imagination, whereby ordinary things should be presented to the mind in an unusual aspect;*" (in Nurrachman, 2017: 148). This statement in particular sums up most of his thoughts on romanticism. The principal object of romanticism, then, according to him is a creative way of describing something ordinary in life in a way that it is unusual, and to do so it involves the use of imagination.

It can be seen that Wordsworth tries to emphasize the ability of author, or the poet, to present something common in the ordinary language used by people but in an unusual way. This is what distinguish a poet, it is before the idea of poem, Wordsworth discusses the idea of a poet as someone who is able to be affected more than others by imagining things not immediately present to his perception (in Nurrachman, 2017: 145). That way the story will be more interesting and therefore it will create an effect on the readers as it brings up some sort of an excitement and pleasure. As the main purpose of romanticism itself is to touch the reader's emotion (Efsa, 2015).

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

*"MALAM SUDAH TURUN, tanpa gerutu dan tanpa siasat.*

*Seperti jala hitam yang mengepung kota; seperti segalon tinta yang ditumpahkan seekor cumi raksasa ke seluruh permukaan Jakarta. Seperti juga warna masa depan yang tak bisa kuraba."* (Chudori, 2017: 1)

As can be seen on the narrative above, on the very first page of the novel, the author has shown her ability of presenting an ordinary event in an unusual way. In romanticism, as explained, feeling is important in order to create imagination, this is align with Wordsworth statement "*Feeling becomes the real basis of imagination, which*

*becomes the power to grasp nature in its totality and to order one's experience*" (in Nurrachman, 2017: 146). The author uses imaginary aspect and it is shown on every phrase on the narrative above, the way night is falling is associated with a black mesh and a gallon of ink, also in a color of the future. All of these are imaginary, it all something that could not possibly occur in reality, it was triggered by a feeling, in this case the feeling of sadness or gloomy and it gives a twist to the narrative, makes it even more interesting.

Through the use of expressive approach, romanticism in this novel is also manifested in the way Leila S. Chudori describe a situation. Expressive approach itself gushes about how well an author expressed or conveyed him or herself, his or her visions and feelings (Critical Theory: Introduction, n.d.). According to Wordsworth, "*it may be proper and necessary where the poet speaks to us in his own person and character*" As can be seen on the quote below,

*"Aku membayangkan suasana sepanjang Jalan Sabang, suara bemo yang cerewet, opelet yang bergerak dengan malas, derit becak dan kelenengan sepeda yang simpang-siur menyeberang, serta penjual roti yang menyerukan dagangannya. Aku bahkan bisa membayangkan betapa angin meniupkan aroma sate kambing yang dibakar Pak Heri di pojok Jalan Sabang dan Asem Lama. Aku bisa membayangkan dia tengah mengulek kacang tanah lalu mencampurnya dengan kecap manis dan irisan bawang merah. Dan aku masih ingat betapa sahabatku, Dimas Suryo, akan mempelajari dan membahas bumbu kacang tanah Pak Heri dengan intens sama seperti dia membicarakan bait-bait puisi Rivai Apin."* (Chudori, 2017: 2)

The way author describes the situation on the narrative above shows her style and character in writing. The use of several imagery on the narrative create such a romantic expression. The sense of sight, hearing, smell, touch, all the senses work together in portraying a situation on the narrative. This is actually an ordinary event that occur in daily life, but the way the author describe it in such a way creates certain emotion. This is also related with Wordsworth concept of romanticism as a "*spontaneous overflow of a powerful feeling; it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility*" (in Nurrachman, 2017: 145) that the feelings are expressed not in a rush at the time when it was experienced but rather through process of contemplation and collection of memories, therefore it can deliver such joys of a purer and exquisite nature.

*“Musim panas yang luar biasa gerah dan berhasil mengelupas kulit; musim gugur yang menyebarkan segala serbuk yang membuat kami bersin-bersin; musim dingin yang menggerogot tulang Melayu kami yang manja; atau musim semi yang kami anggap seperti remaja pancaroba: kadang dingin berangin, kadang hangat”* (Chudori, 2017: 93-94).

The same thing appeared on the narrative above, it shows the portrayal of nature and its relation to man. Nature and man are two inseparable entities therefore they are adapted to each other. Poetry is indeed the image of man and nature.

Another important aspect of feeling is mentioned by Wordsworth as something that triggers an action. That is what distinguishes poem from the popular poetry of the day. Wordsworth argues *“The feeling therein developed gives importance to the action and situation, and not the action and situation to the feeling”* (in Nurrachman, 2017: 150). It is supported by the statement *“The poem is the expression of feeling by means of an action”* (in Nurrachman, 2017: 146). It means that certain feeling is the cause of an action, and not the other way around. This can be seen on the novel as the characters express their feeling through actions.

*“Aku meremas lembaran telegram itu dan membuangnya ke tempat sampah. Aku berjalan keluar dari apartemen busuk kami, menembus udara musim dingin yang menusuk tulang. Terdengar suara Risjaf dan Mas Nug mengejar-ngejarku. Tapi aku justru berlari meninggalkan mereka. Angin dingin seperti pisau yang mengiris wajahku sama sekali tak terasa. Aku berlari dan berlari. Begitu berhenti, aku sudah berada di tepi Sungai Seine yang terlihat berwarna merah. Wajahku panas oleh air mata.”* (Chudori, 2017: 84)

Based on the narrative above, the actions performed by Dimas were clearly triggered by his feelings of desperation and sadness. As soon as he received the message and threw it away, he went to cry alone at the riverside. Feelings were the cause of his action, he was desperate after hearing about his mother's death and so he expressed his feelings by crying it out. Not only caused an action, but feeling also contributes to the situation of the story and in the narrative above, the gloomy situation was a manifestation of Dimas' feeling.

*“Belum pernah aku mendengar Tjai berbicara penuh semangat seperti itu. Kedua matanya berkilat-kilat. Mas Nug memegang kedua bahunya dan berseru setinggi*

langit: “Dimas! Kita akan membuat restoran Indonesia di Paris!” (Chudori, 2017: 104)

The reason behind Tjai’s action is his feeling of excitement and joy because they finally came up with the decision of building an Indonesian restaurant together. The feeling of joy and happiness can also be manifested in an action, in this case through the tone of Tjai’s and Nugroho’s voice. The feelings triggered their actions, and it made the situation very heartwarming.

*“Desiran darah asing itu senantiasa terasa lebih deras dan mendorong degup jantungku bergegas setiap kali aku mendengar suara gamelan di antara musim dingin yang menggigit; atau ketika aku mendengar kisah wayang dari Ayah tentang Ekalaya yang merasa terus-menerus ditolak kehadirannya atau Bima yang cintanya tak berbalas. Atau jika Maman—dengan bahasa Indonesia yang terbata—membacakan puisi Sitor Situmorang tentang seorang anak yang kembali ke tanah airnya, tetapi tetap merasa asing. Desiran itu selalu terasa asing, nikmat, dan penuh teka-teki. Segala yang berbau Indonesia, tanah yang bagiku hanya sebuah kisah magis, seperti sebuah tempat yang hidup di dalam angan-angan; sama seperti setiap kali aku membaca novel sastra yang mengambil lokasi di negara yang belum pernah aku kunjungi.”* (Chudori, 2017: 139)

Another narrative that uses imagery and it shows the style of the author. The way Lintang is nervous and thrilled is described with a mixture of curiosity makes the narrative more dramatic which touches the emotion and creates an effect on the readers as if they can also feel what the character of Lintang Utara feel.

Wordsworth also argues the concept of romanticism that is in his preference for rural over urban life. It is supported by his statement that “*simple, concrete language expresses a close relationship to “the permanent forms of nature”*” (in Nurrachman, 2017: 146) which he associates with rural life and rural speech. According to him, people who live a rustic life convey their feelings and notions in simple and unelaborated expressions. This is manifested in the novel as the action performed by Dimas :

*“Misalnya: Om Nug akan menganggap pembuatan bumbu rendang bisa sederhana, tak perlu melalui ritual yang memberatkan hidup. Semua bumbu akan dia masukkan ke dalam blender dan ke dalamnya dituangkan santan dari kaleng yang dibeli di Belleville. Sedangkan Ayah mencintai ritual. Dia sangat obsesif dan posesif*

*terhadap ulekan batu yang, menurut kisahnya, dikirim khusus oleh bibiknya dari Yogyakarta. Dengan ulekan yang sungguh setia pada Ayah itu, Ayah selalu menjauhkan diri dari blender.”* (Chudori, 2017: 141)

The action performed by Dimas is considered as a manifestation of rural life orientation, he remained with the traditional way of grinding spices and avoided using blender which is a form of technology. This is in accordance with rural life that is simple and somehow primitive rather than modern. It shows the concept of romanticism that focuses on returning to nature as a refutation of industrial revolution.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of expressive approach above, it can be seen that Leila S. Chudori did a great work of presenting ordinary events in an unusual manner through the depiction of feelings, imagination, and nature as they are the main elements in romanticism according to Wordsworth. *Pulang* included several manifestation of romanticism ideology within the book, the emphasis of feeling and imagination are expressed beautifully through the use of imagery and detailed description of nature which successfully reaches the main purpose of romanticism which is to touch the reader's emotion.

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