



Representation of Nationalism in Indonesian Literary Works: A Contemporary Analysis

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Abstract. This contemporary analysis delves into the representation of nationalism within Indonesian literary works. It explores how nationalism is portrayed, negotiated, and understood in the context of contemporary Indonesian literature. By examining a selection of literary texts spanning various genres and periods, this study seeks to elucidate the multifaceted manifestations of nationalism, including its historical roots, ideological underpinnings, and socio-cultural implications. Through a nuanced examination of themes, characters, and narrative techniques, the study aims to offer insights into the complex interplay between literature and nationalism in Indonesia, shedding light on the ways in which literary representations both reflect and shape national identity and collective consciousness.

Keywords: Nationalism, representation, Indonesian literature, contemporary analysis, identity, ideology, socio-cultural, narrative techniques.

1 Introduction

Nationalism is a concept that focuses on the shared experiences of a particular national group, and can emerge as an ideology, feeling, culture, or even a social movement. Historians generally agree that the idea of nationalism first emerged in Europe in the 18th century and later became one of the main causes of World War I and World War II. In general, nationalism is a complex set of ideas that link basic values in politics, morals and culture to the identity of a nation and citizenship.[1][2]

Nationalism functions as a strengthening force that combines cultural diversity in one independent country. To achieve strong unity, binding elements are needed that are able to connect citizens from various backgrounds. In this case, culture plays a role as the main driver in national life[2][3] In Indonesia, efforts to build nationalism depend heavily on social glue through cultural resilience that is rooted in these cultural ties. This is a strong foundation for facing the challenges of globalization which often threatens the existence of a country's borders and sovereignty[4] Nationalism plays an important role in binding cultural potential originating from various tribes,

religions and traditions into one national identity. In this context, culture emerges as a tool that helps connect and strengthen the ties that cut across these differences. The development of nationalism in Indonesia, in particular, is based on the strength of cohesion supported by cultural resilience as the main foundation. Deeply rooted cultural dynamics play a central role in forming and maintaining a spirit of unity. In today's global reality, where state borders and sovereignty are often threatened by the flow of globalization, the importance of cultural resilience in responding to these challenges is increasingly visible. Culture is a strong and sturdy resource in maintaining the integrity and identity of a nation amidst widespread global upheaval. When cultural values and the spirit of nationalism are integrated, the country can function as a strong and independent entity in maintaining rights and sovereignty amidst global interactions.[5]

Novels are a form of literature that is recognized as capable of representing and expressing various aspects of life and humans. This literary work is often considered an effective means of raising life issues in society. Every novel written by an author must contain special values that will be presented to the reader, such as the moral message to be conveyed. The aesthetics that radiate from the novel can give satisfaction to the reader, this satisfaction is not only from an entertainment perspective, but also from the point of view of the beauty of the language, style of presentation, flow of the story, and resolution of the conflict presented. Literary works, including novels, contain valuable lessons and are often related to moral aspects. This literary work can provide insight and lessons for its readers, either in the form of a new view of something or a deep understanding of a certain meaning. The benefits of knowledge that can be drawn from literary works provide a rich dimension for readers, while the moral values reflected in stories help form a wiser and more ethical point of view.[6]. In essence, literary works, including novels, have a dual role. Apart from entertaining, novels also teach and enlighten. Moral messages and ideas reflected in literary works are a source of wealth that can inspire, stimulate thinking and trigger self-reflection. Apart from that, when enjoyed wholeheartedly, literary works can provide deep satisfaction through the beauty of the words, a sense of empathy for the characters, and involvement in the storyline. Thus, the novel is a form of literature that has the magical power of opening a window into the human world and life. Its presence is not only entertaining, but also educational, making it a valuable medium for understanding and exploring meaning in human and societal dynamics.

Indonesian literature has become an important mirror in reflecting the nation's identity and spirit of nationalism. Since the time of the national movement, literary works have played a role in voicing national values, depicting the spirit of struggle, and strengthening Indonesia's identity. In this context, literary works have a vital role as conveyers and explorers of nationalist values. One of the monumental works in the Indonesian literary canon is the novel "Waiting for Bedug Berbing" by Hamka. This novel is an important symbol that reflects the spirit of nationalism and the struggle of intellectuals in the early era of independence. An in-depth study of this theme becomes relevant considering the increasingly complex social, cultural and political dynamics of Indonesia in the contemporary era. Through a contemporary analytical approach,

Based on the context of Indonesian literature and its important role in shaping national identity, research on the representation of nationalism in literary works becomes increasingly essential. In this case, literary works are not just stories, but also social reflections that present a deep understanding of the values believed by the author and the society of his time. In observing the

novel "Waiting for the Bedug Berbing," it is important to understand the background and influences that shaped Hamka as a writer who had a role in formulating nationalist thinking in his time.

An in-depth understanding of the representation of nationalism in "Waiting for the Drum to Ring" will provide a valuable contribution to our understanding of Indonesian intellectual and literary history. However, it is important to remember that interpretations of nationalism are subjective and formed in certain contexts. Therefore, a holistic and in-depth analysis is needed to see how nationalist values are articulated, understood and interpreted by Hamka in his novel. Furthermore, it needs to be acknowledged that over time, interpretations of nationalism have also shifted. Therefore, contemporary analysis is needed to respond to social, cultural and political developments occurring today. Analyzing "Waiting for the Drum to Sound" in a contemporary perspective allows us to re-explore the messages of nationalism contained in the work and relate them to today's realities. In this context, this research aims to bridge the gap in knowledge regarding the representation of nationalism in Hamka's "Waiting for the Bedug Berbing" through contemporary analysis. By exploring the layers of meaning in the text, it is hoped that this research can provide a deeper understanding of how nationalist values are manifested in the narrative, characters and language in the novel. Besides that,

2 Research methods

In this writing, researchers used a qualitative research approach with content analysis methods. According to [7] qualitative research methods have various approaches. This qualitative research relies on data in the form of text and images, which will then be analyzed. Content analysis is a research technique used to make retestable and valid inferences from the data, based on the context of its use[7] In contrast to language criticism, critical discourse analysis does not only view language as a means of communication, but also considers it as "language as social practice," and recognizes the significance of context in language use. Language or discourse is not neutral, but instead has a role in forming and regulating social relations and knowledge[8]

This research method focuses on analyzing documented data, whether in the form of images, sounds or writing, which is also known as document research or content analysis. The object of research attention is the content of a novel. In this research, the researcher attempts to understand the symbolic messages contained in the document. The content analysis method is used to identify and classify specific elements in literary texts related to nationalism.

3 Discussion

The novel "Waiting for Bedug Berbing" is set during the struggle during Indonesia's process of gaining independence. This novel tells the story of a man named Mr. Sharif who decides to work for the Dutch East Indies government with various considerations such as his family and the economy. Mr. Sharif's character, who has a nationalist attitude, makes his soul conflicted

between maintaining his native character and his nationalism or the Dutch East Indies government's offer to make him rich. In the end, Mr. Sharif had to choose to work as a Dutch East Indies government employee and had to endure bad views from his neighbors regarding his decision. However, even though physically Mr. Sharif is an employee of the Dutch East Indies Government, internally Mr. Sharif really loves his country.

Based on the research results, it was found that many quotes in the novel *Waiting for Bedug Berberi* by Hamka represent nationalist values. The text excerpt from the novel *Waiting for Bedug Berbing* which represents the values of nationalism is as follows:

The cry of independence was submerged under pressure from the Dutch military police for months. Small children, teenagers and young girls came back out with no feelings of fear. Because victory and independence have been stabbed in the heart. Who can take away what is in the heart?

The quote above is a dialogue spoken by Mr. Sharif to his guests when telling the story of his past. From this quote we can see the nationalist values of young children and teenage girls at that time. They shouted independence when the Dutch military police passed by. Without fear, they shouted the word independence because the spirit of victory and independence was deeply embedded in their hearts.

From this quote we can learn that for the sake of our country we do not need to be afraid of all forms of oppression. With a high fighting spirit, we must have the courage to realize the ideals of our country.

Two consecutive typhoons, a typhoon of Japanese occupation and oppression and a typhoon of revolution. From the revolution I began to hear the slogan of independence, I began to see red and white flying.

The quote above is the words spoken by Mr. Sharif when he saw the Red and White flag starting to be flown by several people. From this quote we can see that flying the red and white flag is a form of nationalism. We must respect the red and white flag which is the symbol of the country. In fact, flying the red and white flag becomes mandatory when entering the month of August to commemorate Indonesia's independence day.

At that time our leaders came to the office where I worked. The Japanese were told to withdraw and the Sang Saka Merah Putih flag was also raised.

The quote above is a dialogue spoken by Mr. Sharif when telling about the process of Indonesian independence in Indonesia. At that time the Japanese troops were asked to withdraw and at the same time the Red and White Saka began to be hoisted. This quote is an illustration of the nationalism of the Indonesian people in gaining independence. The red and white flag that was flown as the Japanese soldiers were asked to withdraw was a form of nationalist spirit in loving their country.

Who wouldn't be interested in seeing the president's dashing face? Who wouldn't feel sick to their bones seeing Bung Hatta's calm face, eyes full of hope and self-confidence?. (p. 73)

The quote above is Mr. Sharif's words when telling about the meeting with President Soekarno and Vice President Bung Hatta. This quote describes nationalism because it loves and respects the President and Vice President. We must respect the country's highest leadership because the president and vice president are symbols of the country that must be upheld. The value of nationalism is an attitude that must exist in every citizen.

The four of us took shelter in the house. Mothers and children still remember their eldest child. For me, thank God, trust in God, I hope the child is safe and if he dies, let him die for his homeland.

The quote above is the words of Mr. Sharif who was telling the story of the incident when the Dutch colonialists surrendered their hometown. On that tense night, Mr. Sharif, his wife and children took refuge in the house to avoid bombs thrown by the invaders. Nanum, in his worries, Mr. Sharif continued to put his trust in Allah and his spirit of nationalism grew by saying "if you die, let it die for your motherland." These words describe the nationalistic value of someone who is willing to die for the independence of their country.

So you can see things that are becoming more and more heartwarming. The Red and White Saka no longer flies on its former poles.

The quote above is the words spoken by Mr. Sharif when describing the deserted atmosphere of the city of Bukittinggi after the Dutch colonial attack. The former office building where Bung Hatta was located has become a dirty place and only rubble remains, the Red and White flag no longer flies on its pole. This quote is a description of the feeling of sadness when the Red and White flag is no longer flying. The feeling of sadness when seeing the national symbol of the Red and White flag no longer flying is a form of one's nationalism. Nationalism can also be described as feeling sad when seeing symbols of the country that are not treated properly.

Well... there's nothing that prohibits it. Only you can think for yourself. Now Mr. Soekarno and Mr. Hatta are not Presidents, but are prisoners on the island of Bangka. "Our people say, he is a symbol of independence!" I answered.

The quote above is a dialogue between Mr. Sharif and a Dutch government employee. At that time, Dutch government officials visited Mr. Sharif's house and told Mr. Sharif that Sukarno and Bung Hatta were not president and vice president because they were both prisoners on the island of Bangka. However, Mr. Sharif, who heard the Dutch employee's words, immediately answered loudly that Soekarno and Bung Hatta were symbols of independence for the Indonesian people.

Mr. Sharif's words illustrate that a person's nationalism can also take the form of loving the president and vice president of his country. And not be afraid of anyone who insults or demeans the president and vice president.

No joke, my heart became hot when I saw my father in the NICA car, my sister and my mother sitting happily. Meanwhile, I myself entered the forest and came out of the forest ready to kill NICA and defend my homeland.

The quote above was conveyed by Arsil, Mr Sharif's first son who became an Indonesian soldier. Arsil sent a letter to his father and expressed his disappointment because he had become a Dutch government employee. In the letter, Arsil, who was an Indonesian soldier, could not contain his disappointment when he found out that his father, mother and younger siblings were collaborating with the Dutch government by becoming its employees.

I have sacrificed a lot for my homeland, but no one is looking. There is no merit award whatsoever.

The quote above is the words of Mr. Sharif who was telling about how he was disappointed in society at that time. When Mr Sharif sacrificed a lot for the country but no one saw his sacrifice. Meanwhile, when he worked as a Dutch employee, everyone insulted him. This quote shows that Mr. Sharif was willing to sacrifice for his country even though no one appreciated his sacrifice. From this we can see that a person who has a high attitude of nationalism must be willing to make sacrifices for the country even though what he does is not seen by many people.

That's what a country is like, fighting for independence! It's not achieved in just one day, everything has its drawbacks. All countries have flaws. (p.105)

The quote above is the words of Mr. Sharif who said to his interlocutor that a country must have a strong fighting attitude for independence. All elements of society must also have an attitude to become an independent country. This quote describes the attitude of nationalism by loving the country so that it can be truly independent. That we must also be aware that every country is not perfect, there are certainly shortcomings.

4 Conclusion

The novel *Waiting for the Bedug to Ring* is one of the novels that is able to represent the values of nationalism in social life. Through several text descriptions and dialogues from the characters, we can see how Hamka wants to show his readers that nationalism is not just about slogans but must be a character in humans themselves. By having nationalistic values, a person will be able to see all the differences in life for the better. In this novel, Hamka also wants to say that loving one's country is not only a physical matter, but also a spiritual one. So that loving one's country is born from one's physical and inner self.

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