

**BOOK REVIEW OF *PANGGIL AKU KARTINI SAJA*  
WRITTEN BY PRAMOEDYA ANANTA TOER**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

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PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by her without taking the results from other researches in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, September 2011

Dhora Yuanita Septiyaningrum

APPROVAL



*This project is dedicated to my beloved family*

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The writer realizes that this final project is still far from perfect. Therefore, she will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this final project better. Finally, the writer expects this final project will be useful for the reader who wishes to have knowledge of Kartini.

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Dhora Yuanita Septiyaningrum

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## **ABSTRAK**

*Panggil Aku Kartini Saja* adalah sebuah buku tentang biografi Kartini yang ditulis oleh Pramoedya Ananta Toer. Buku ini berisi tentang kehidupan Kartini yang dibahas secara mendalam oleh Pram melalui surat-surat yang ditulis oleh Kartini. Buku ini mempunyai banyak keunggulan yang dapat ditemukan pada keahlian Pram dalam menyusun sebuah biografi. Pram tidak hanya mengingatkan pembaca bahwa Kartini adalah pelopor emansipasi wanita di Indonesia, akan tetapi Pram juga menuliskan keseluruhan cerita hidup Kartini yang tidak diketahui oleh banyak orang. Kartini adalah gadis muda yang mempunyai pemikiran dan ide gagasan yang sangat hebat untuk memajukan kehidupan rakyatnya. Kartini hidup dalam masa yang sulit dimana penjajahan terjadi di Indonesia. Selain itu, budaya Jawa juga tidak lepas dari kehidupan Kartini yang membuat kaum wanita tidak dapat melakukan banyak aktivitas di luar rumah. Dia berusaha keras untuk melakukan pemberontakan terhadap penjajahan dan juga budaya Jawa tersebut. Banyak hal telah dilakukan Kartini demi rakyatnya semasa hidupnya. Pram mampu menggambarkan sosok Kartini secara nyata, sehingga pembaca dapat merasakan bagaimana beratnya kehidupan Kartini di masa lampau dengan membaca buku ini. Buku ini merupakan buku bacaan yang sangat baik untuk mengetahui kehidupan Kartini secara mendalam.

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1. Background of the Writing

Kartini is an Indonesian woman who is known as a pioneer of women emancipation in Indonesia because she makes the equality between women and men in education. There is a book of Kartini's biography which is written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. It is *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja*.

The writer chooses book review of *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja* because the writer wants to learn more about the history of Kartini. The historical value of Kartini's life in the past inspires the writer to be a woman like Kartini. Moreover, *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja* is helpful for the writer to have knowledge of Kartini.

The writer is also interested in the title of the book *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja*. Kartini is a daughter of Jepara's regent, so she was called by *Raden Ajeng* (the title of Javanese nobility) Kartini. Conversely, she wants to be called by her name only "Kartini" whereas it is banned in her culture. It is the special personality of Kartini which is very low profile. Therefore, the writer can recognize Kartini's personality from the title of the book.

Furthermore, the author of *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja*, Pramoedya Ananta Toer is well-known great man of letters in Indonesia. So, the writer is very interested in reading his books. One of his books, *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja* can attract the writer to make the book review as the final project.

## **2. Purposes of the Writing**

The main purpose of the writing is for making the review of *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja* by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The review includes the strengths and weaknesses of the book. It is helpful for the reader to find out the background of the book.

Another purpose is to give appreciation for Pramoedya Ananta Toer as the author of *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja*. He is an imaginative author who can make the biography of Kartini very well. Moreover, by making the review of *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja*, the writer also gives appreciation for Kartini who gives positive revolutions for Indonesia.

## **3. About the Author and His Works**

Pramoedya Ananta Toer (Pram) was born on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1925 in Blora, Central Java. He died on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Jakarta. He is a great man of letters in Indonesia. He is very talented and imaginative author. As written in *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja*, “writing is private and national work for Pram”. He wrote more than fifty works and translated in more than forty two languages. From his works, he got many international awards, such as the PEN Freedom to write Award in 1988, Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1995, Doctor of Humane Letters in 1999, and many more (2003:1).

Pram is an active author of Indonesian history. It can be seen from all of his works. His popular works were known as *Tetralogi Buru* containing four novels (*Bumi Manusia*, *Anak Semua Bangsa*, *Jejak Langkah*, and *Rumah Kaca*) which is written during his imprisonment in the Buru Island.

In *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja*, Pram wrote the biography of Kartini by collecting the letters of her. Actually, *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja* contained four chapters but there were two chapters (three and four) which were burned by the army in 1965. So, *Panggil Aku Kartini Saja* which was published by Lentera Dipantara in 2003 just contained two chapters (one and two).

## CHAPTER II SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

*Raden Ajeng* (the title of Javanese nobility) Kartini was born on April 21<sup>th</sup>, 1879 in Mayong, Jepara. She is a woman from Javanese upper class family. Her father, Raden Mas Adipati Sosroningrat is Jepara's regent. Her mother, Ngasirah is a local woman who is not from upper class family.

When Kartini was a child, she studied in Dutch low school (*Sekolah Rendah Belanda*). There was race discrimination for her at school because she was not a Dutch girl. At the beginning, she had a difficulty in language because she had to speak and write Dutch at school but she could not. However, she did not give up learning Dutch until she was able to communicate very well, both in oral and written language.

After Kartini was 12 years old, she was secluded at home because of the custom. Consequently, she could not continue her study and also be in touch with the local people. At home, she still studied Dutch by writing letters to her friends, especially to Estella Zeehandelaar and Abendanon's family. Besides writing, she spent many times at home by reading books, newspapers, and Europe magazines about social problems which were written in Dutch. Moreover, by reading *Max Havelar* which was written by Multatuli (Edward Douwes Dekker), Kartini got knowledge of colonization and citizenry.

Kartini lived in miserably world. People in her surrounding were very poor and suffered because of colonization. For that reason, by using her knowledge of

social problems, she would like to help them to be free from dark period (colonization) and more prosperous in their life. After she was free from secluded, she could visit and share anything with the local people.

Traditional art is the way for correlating Kartini to her citizenry. She gives influences in traditional art by introducing batik and Jepara's carved through the exhibition. Beside that, Kartini is well-known as the author by writing many works. She likes writing the letters to her friends. Mr. Abendanon as one of her friends collects Kartini's letters to be a book *Door Duisternis tot Licht*. It is well-known as *Habis Gelap Terbitlah Terang* which attracts international people. The book was translated in several languages.

Kartini is a humanist who views everything from human interest. She also loves her citizenry very much. She spends many times for thinking the citizenry's life and finding the solution for them. After she reads the history of Europe, she has a concept that education is very important for everyone to develop their country. It means that the local people must have education. They must able to communicate in Dutch because Dutch is the important language for making the connection to the Western country. Fortunately, Kartini has an ability to use it very well. Therefore, she has opportunity to inform the citizenry's willingness into political topic and hope there will be the best solution after that.

In addition, Kartini is a smart girl. She likes reading many books. She also has an intelligence to understand something by using examples of her surroundings. It is not difficult for her to understand the citizenry's life. Besides thinking about the citizenry's life, Kartini also thinks the women's life. She would like to change the Javanese custom which makes the women are useless in their life. They only stay at home for cooking, taking care the children and cleaning the house. Therefore, Kartini wants they have to study in order to make their life to be better. By education, they can realize their dreams and be successful in their life. That is why, Kartini is known as the pioneer of women emancipation in Indonesia by making the equality between men and women in education.