



**BOOK REVIEW OF “5 CM” WRITTEN BY DONNY
DHIRGANTORO**

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

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In English Department, Faculty of Humanities

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PRONOUNCEMENT

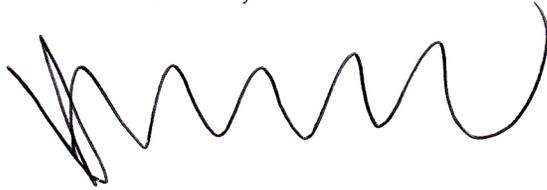
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Semarang, December 2011

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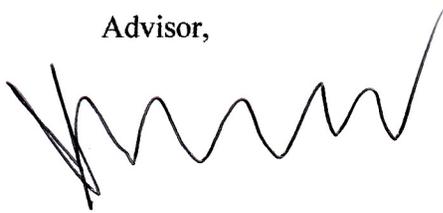
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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

(Albert Einstein)

Know yourself and you will win all battles.

(Sun Tzu)

Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.

(Peter Drucker)

Live out of your imagination, not your history.

(Stephen Covey)

Doing your best is more important than being your best.

(Shannon Miller)

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.

(John Wooden)

*This project is dedicated to the most priceless things I've ever owned, my family, my friends
and my life.*

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I realize that this project is still far from perfect. I will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make betterment for this project.

Finally, I highly expect that this project will be useful to the readers who wish to know the novel written by Donny Dhurgantoro, *5 CM*, which becomes one of the best seller books in Indonesia.

Semarang, 22 December 2011

The writer

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ABSTRAK

5 CM adalah sebuah novel yang mengangkat tema tentang persahabatan. Novel karya Donny Dhirgantoro ini merupakan salah satu novel *best seller* yang banyak menginspirasi para pembaca. Membaca novel *5 CM* ini sama seperti melihat kehidupan nyata, di mana hubungan persahabatan yang diceritakan terlihat hidup.

Hasil review ini menunjukkan bahwa novel *5 CM* merupakan novel yang sarat akan nilai-nilai kehidupan. Adapun nilai-nilai yang terkandung dalam novel ini adalah nilai persahabatan, nilai nasionalisme dan nilai kemanusiaan. Selain memaparkan nilai-nilai kehidupan, novel ini juga memaparkan bagaimana kekuatan mimpi itu mampu mengubah diri seseorang menjadi manusia yang lebih memaknai hidup dan masih tetap berjuang meskipun dihadapkan pada kesulitan-kesulitan di dalam kehidupan. Dengan kepercayaan diri yang kuat, mimpi yang mungkin sulit diwujudkan ternyata dapat diraih meskipun dengan perjuangan yang berat. Novel *5 CM* ini merupakan novel yang bagus. Kelebihan dari novel ini terletak pada temanya yang sederhana. Selain itu, bahasa yang digunakan dalam novel ini pun sangat ringan dan mudah dipahami. Pengarang juga menggunakan lirik lagu dan judul film untuk menjelaskan karakter tokoh dalam cerita. Hal ini membuat cerita menjadi lebih menarik untuk dibaca. Adapun kekurangan dari novel ini terletak pada akhir ceritanya yang terkesan dipaksakan, sehingga akhir ceritanya pun terlihat kurang natural. Secara keseluruhan novel *5 CM* ini merupakan novel yang sangat menarik, karena selain sarat akan pesan moral dan nilai-nilai sosial, novel ini juga memiliki kekuatan untuk memotivasi pembacanya agar percaya pada kekuatan mimpi.

1

INTRODUCTION**A. Background of the Writing**

Friendship is the common thing in people life. People can not live in the world without friends. With friends people can share and do everything. Friendship itself can be built by people in different gender and age. *5 CM* is a novel about friendship, written by Donny Dhargantoro. There are five characters in this novel those are Genta, Ariel, Ariani, Ian and Zafran. This novel tells the reader how friendship alive through the life. Therefore, it also tells how belief, love and dream affect in life and how dream has a power to change the world. The writer takes *5 CM* as her project because this novel has been inspiring many people with great motivating message. Besides that, this novel is the one of the best seller novels in Indonesia. The story of the novel also tells about something happening in real life that is why it is interesting to be reviewed.

B. The Purpose of Writing

The purposes of the writing are:

1. To give a summary about “*5 CM*”,
2. To analyze “*5 CM*”.

C. Donny Dhirgantoro and his Works

Donny Dhirgantoro was born in Jakarta on October 27th, 1987. He likes reading and writing so much. These hobbies started when he was a child. He studied in SMA 6 Jakarta, where there were many experiences when he got some awards in writing. After graduating from senior high school, he continued his study in STIE Perbanas, Jakarta. (Legacy.com)

According to <http://5cm-legacy.com/blog/about-donny/>, an official website of Donny Dhirgantoro, when he studied in STIE (now it is known as ABFI Institute, Perbanas), he was an activist on his Campus. On 1998 he joined many University students from Indonesia to struggle in Indonesian Legislative Assembly and People Consultative Council. He also worked freelance as Outbound Management Training instructor at PT BINA INTI MUDA UTAMA, a Humans Resource Consultant Office in Jakarta.

When he worked as Humans Resource Instructor, he got many experiences about Human Resource and applied them into the real life. In 2003, because of the economic problem, he decided to get other job. Then he worked in Custodial Services Division Niaga Bank as a part of Manager Structure. In the middle of 2004, he decided to resign from this job. Therefore, he decided to work as Outbound Instructor again at PT Prima Kompetensi. Becoming an instructor, he got many of knowledges although it was with impermanent payment. Because of this case, he started to write a

novel. The idea is obtained from his experience on August 17th in Mahameru Mountain and from some motivation books that he read when becoming an instructor. Finally, he could finish his first novel entitled “5 CM”.

On the premiere of 2005, he brought his novel to PT Gramedia Widiasarana Indonesia (GRASINDO). On May 21th 2005, this novel was published. This novel has been copied and sold about 100 thousand copies of books.

Because of his novel, he could travel to some universities in Indonesia to discuss about his novel and also gave writing workshop. In 2008, he decided to leave his job as instructor and focused as a writer. At the end of 2008, he submitted his novel to the PT Gramedia Widiasarana Indonesia (GRASINDO), then he made a contract with SORAYA INTERCINE FILMS, one of production house in Indonesia, which wanted to make “5 CM” become a movie.

Now, he is writing the scenario of 5 CM. He is also finishing his second novel in his house in Cinere, South of Jakarta with his wife, Dewi and his son, Dai.

2

SUMMARY**A. Summary of the Book**

The story began with the five main characters, Genta, Arial, Ariani, Zafran, and Ian. They always spent time together. They were the figures of modern young people who have wide knowledge. They loved exploring something new and discuss anything. Genta was the leader of this group. He was a careless person who knew everything about his friends. He was also smart person. That was why his friends feel comfortable to talk everything with him. He had a big body and straight hair with a front wave. The second character was Arial. He was the most handsome man between the others. He was tall and has a big body. Ariani was the only girl in this group. She was an activist on her campus. She was pretty, smart and ambitious. The next character was Zafran. He was tall and tiny. He was an idealist person, who really loves music and poetry. The last man was Ian, who had a fat body. He had some hobbies such as playing football and watching porn video.

One day Genta, Arial, Ariani, Zafran and Ian were going to hang out together. They were in Ian's car and had no direction. Finally they decided to go to Arial's house. Arriving there they played monopoly and talked about everything. After

playing monopoly, they went to secret garden, a side of Arial's house, a place where they often gathered and spent the time. They talked anything about their memory since they were in senior high school. When they were talking and remembering about the past, they felt something bored in their life. They thought that their life was not colorful enough. They wanted something new, where they could get other experiences. Therefore, they decided to separate and had no communication for a while. They would meet again on August 14th. Genta, who became the leader, would plan everything for that day and on August 7th he would send them a message about the planning.

As long as they were separate, there were many things happening in their life. Zafran and Riani were busy with their own activity, Ian tried to finish his Thesis, then Arial found a new experience that brought him to know Indy, a girl who was loved by him. And the last, Genta was busy with his job as an event organizer.

One day, Genta really missed his friends so much. When he thought about what his friends were doing, he realized that the day was August, 7th. Then he sent a message to his friends about the plan on August, 14th.

On August 14th, they met in Senen station. One by one of them arrived and brought some stuff that Genta asked to bring on their journey. Besides them Arinda, Arial's sister, also joined in this journey. Genta planned that they would go to

Mahameru Mountain by using train from Jakarta to Malang. About a half past three they left the station by MATARMAJA train.

A long journey began. In the train, all of them told story about the last three months since they decided to separate. As long as the journey, they met so many people with different social class and different place. Then they discussed about some differences between people who lived in the village and people who lived in the town. How a value was growing in social life. Unconsciously, they had been so far from Jakarta. Lempuyangan station, Yogyakarta then Blitar station had been passed.

Finally, they arrived in Malang station at half past three. They continued the journey to Mahameru by renting a car. On the journey to Mahameru they met some people. There were many lessons that they could learn from others. People got something from others and gave something to others too.

The journey to the Mahameru Peak was very hard. They must struggle not only from the wheather but also from their belief. Day changed to the other day but they still kept their spirit to subjugate the peak of the mountain. Some parts of Mahameru had been passed by them. Indonesia was really beautiful. It wass rich not only by its ethnic and cultures, but also a beautiful scenery of its nature. The beauty of Mahameru made them feel so amazed.

Step by step they passed through the way to the peak. Motivation and spirit were in their heart. Some problems that they had faced on the journey did not mean

everything. They still kept fighting to find their goal. Finally, on August 17th when the independence day of Indonesia was celebrated, they arrived in the peak. There were also the other mountain climbers who would celebrate a ceremony there. Indonesian flag was varied in the sky along with the nasionality song. The celebration of the independence day was celebrated there. They said thanks to God that they could be there joining the amazing moment.

This story ended with a surprise. How the truth was appeared in their relationship that was never guessed before. How love appeared among them. And how the power of dream changed their life.

3

REVIEW OF THE BOOK**A. Themes**

Based on the Oxford Dictionary, theme is “the subject of a piece of writing”.

Therefore Novel-Writing-Help.com described that:

“The theme of a novel is the deeper layer of meaning running beneath the story’s surface. While the surface story entertains the readers, the theme helps them to reach a new understanding of some aspect of the human condition”. (Novel-Writing-Help.com)

The explanation above shows that theme is the important substance in a novel. On 5 *CM* written by Dhony Dhigantoro, there are three themes described implicitly. Those themes are friendship, nationalism value and humanitarian value. The following paragraph will explain about these themes.

1. Friendship

According to Howstuffworks.com, friendship is a type of relationship between two people or more who care each other. Many things that are important to need for a good friendship, including honesty, loyalty, trust, and acceptance. On the 5 *CM*, the writer captures that friendship as a main theme that Donny Dhigantoro gives to the reader. Friendship is explained from how he illustrates the relationship built through the characters. In this novel, the readers will find friendship is illustrated like in real

life. The friendship is very strong among the characters. Although the characters are separated for a while they still think about their friends. Beside that, the friendship is also shown when they help each other. Therefore, the characters care each other and they will do everything for their relationship. For example, in chapter one, when they are in senior high school, Arial, Ariani, Genta and Zafran help Ian finds who he really is. They give Ian tolerance to be him self. They do not leave Ian although he has made a mistake. This case indicates that in this relationship, the characters accept the weakness among each other.

The strength of friendship itself is shown from the event when they travel to the Mahameru Mountain. The caring character among the others is reflected from how they give spirit to their friends to keep fighting in passing the way to the mountain. Besides that, the strength of the friendship is also shown from the event when they get an accident on the climber belt. All of them are worried about the safety of each others. The case shown in this event shows that friendship provides support and comfort in bad time. In conclusion, friends accompany their friend not only in happiness but also in sadness. They always support each other in the bittersweet of life.

2. Nationalism Value

Nationalism is a sense of belonging to the nation. Based on Wikipedia.com, “nationalism is a political ideology that involves a strong identification of a group of

individuals with a political entity defined in national terms”. It can also identified as belief that one state is superior than the other states. It also used to explain an action to protect a homeland for a group of society. Nationalism value is supporting theme in this novel. The writer captures that eventhough the characters are explained as young generations, they still keep their nationalism. Without any sense of belonging to the nation, the citizen will never trigger to develop their nation. The nationalism is reflected from the event when the characters are on ceremony in celebrating Independence Day of Indonesia. It is shown from their expression when they are singing Indonesian nationality anthem. All of them cry when Indonesian flag is varied in the Mahameru’s sky. Therefore, national flags and national anthems are identified as the symbols of natioanlism. Besides that, the nationalism is also presented in the dialog among the characters. For example, in the novel Ian states:

“saya Ian.... Saya bangga bisa berda di sini bersama kalian semua. Saya mencintai Tanah Air ini seumur hidup saya, saya akan menjaganya, dengan apa pun yang saya punya, saya akan menjaga kehormatannya seperti saya menjaga diri saya sendiri. Seperti saya akan menjaga mimpi-mimpi saya terus hidup bersama tanah air tercinta ini. Yang berani nyela Indonesia...rebut sama gue”. (Dhiringantoro 2005: 349),

Beside that, the other statement showing the nationalism value is on Zafran statement, that is:

“saya Zafran, saya mencintai negeri indah dengan guusan ribuan pulaunya sampai saya mati dan menyatu dengan tanah tercinta ini.”. (Dhiringantoro 2005: 348)

In conclusion, *5 CM* delivers that as young generations who will develop the nation, they must keep their nationalism in their heart. They have to fight for their nation pride.

3. Humanitarian Value

Humanism is an opinion placing individual as a main focus. This novel also contains the humanitarian value. This value is shown when the characters are on the journey to Malang. For example, in the part when their train stops in Lempuyangan station. In the night, they see an old woman selling food. Because of the caring character among each others, they give more money to pay their foods. Therefore, page 205 emphasizes that on their journey they see a lot of people and learn many things from them. People take and give something from the others. In conclusion, people can not live alone, because they need each other. People become a human because there are other people in the world.

B. The Strength of “5 CM”

1. Donny Dhiringantoro uses modern slang to arrange the story. He smartly explains the story using easy language, so it makes “5 CM” easily understood. In some parts of the novel, the author uses uncommon knowledge like stating many titles of movies and lyrics of song. This point becomes one of the strengths in this novel because the writer indicates the characteristic of the characters by explains

the character's feeling and characteristic using some lyrics of songs and giving some examples of the movies.

2. The theme of the novel is really simple like in the real life. The reader can imagine how the strength of the relation through the characters, even though the conflict is not described more in this novel. Conflict itself is identified as a proces between two people or more where both of them tries to against each other. According to shvoong.com, there are many kinds of conflicts. A.F. Soner and Charles Wankel said that there are five kinds of conflicts. Those are Intrapersonal confilct, interpersonal conflict, confilct between individual and group, conflict between group and group, and interorganization conflict. Based on the description before, the story in this novel contains of intrapersonal conflict and conflict between individual and group. Intrapersonal conflict is conflict between a person with himselves. It is founded in the part when the characters separate and in the part when they go to Mahameru. Moreover, the conflict between individual and group is shown in second chapter when they help Ian finds who he really is and in the end of novel when the characters tell the truth about their feeling. The writter uses both of the conflict to illustrate the strength of the relationship among the caharacters. Therefore, this novel has great messages about friendship, humanism value, and nationalism value.
3. Donny Dhirgntoro smartly illustrates the situation of the novel using an interesting way. He combines the activities between the humans being and

something around. He also compares an animate object that can act like a human. For example, in chapter five, “*Don’t Stop Me now*”, told about how Ian must fight to finish his thesis. The writer explains how hard Ian works with his computer and how hard the resistance in his heart by stating the dialog between Ian’s heart and software in his computer is.

C. The Weakness of “5 CM”

The ending of this story seems to be unnatural as it is shown in the family arrangement that seems forcedly happen and also the children who really resemble their parents’ disposition and have the same approximate age.

D. Personal Opinion

Based on the writer opinion, *5 CM* is an interesting novel to be read because Donny Dhigantoro writes it by using an easy language. The main theme used is really simple, that is, about friendship. Although there are many novels telling about friendship, this novel is different from the others. This novel does not only talk about friendship, but also about nationalism value and humanitarian value. From spirit illustrated through the character, Donny tries to deliver that young generation must have a nationalism value to protect their identity as Indonesian citizen. This novel also teaches the reader to help each other because people take and give something from the others. That is why people can not life alone in the world. Besides, the using

of easy language and a lot of messages, this novel also has a motivation strength to the readers.

Based on the explanation above, *5 CM* is suitable to be read by all of people in different generation because it has a simple story and many messages. This novel has a power to influence the readers. That is why there are many readers who like to read this novel. One of the great messages in the novel is to reach a dream and make it come true. The writer captures a paragraph on this novel that has a great message, that is in chapter nine:

“.....Biarkan keyakinan kamu, 5 centimeter menggantung mengambang didepan kening kamu. Dan ... sehabis itu yang kamu perlu Cuma kaki yang akan berjalan lebih jauh dari biasanya, tangan yang berbuat lebih banyak dari biasanya, mata yang akan menatap lebih lama dari biasanya, leher yang akan lebih sering melihat ke atas, Dan kamu akan dikenang sebagai seseorang yang masih punya mimpi dan keyakinan, bukan Cuma seonggok daging yang hanya punya nama. Kamu akan dikenang sebagai seseorang yang percaya pada kekuatan mimpi dan mengerjanya Dan kamu nggak perlu bukti apakah mimpi itu akan terwujud nantinya karena kamu hanya harus mempercayainya.” (Dhiringantoro 2005: 362),

The orientation indicates that as equal human, every people just need a dream and belief in their selves and what they do next is finding the way of how to make it come true.

4

CONCLUSION

Based on the review of “5 *CM*”, the novel has three important values presented implicitly from the story. The first value is friendship. It is the main theme of this novel. This novel gives the readers illustration about pure friendship where the characters always help, take care and trust each other. The second value is nationalism. This value is shown a little bit in the action when the characters do traveling to the Mahameru Mountain. This novel explains that as young generation must keep their nationism because they are the next generation who will continue the nation development and future.

Besides friendship and nationalism values, humanism is the supporting value in this novel. This value teaches us that every human must care with each others because people take something from others and give something to the others too.

In conclusion, *5 CM* is a good novel that is suitable to be read by all of people in different generation. Besides has simple story and using easy language, this novel is also contained of messages. This novel has a motivation power to influence people to believe in dream and give spirit to reach their dream.

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