



A Review on A.R Wirawan's Novel

The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders

Book one

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

for S-1 Degree in Literature

in English Department, Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

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SEMARANG

2014

PRONOUNCEMENT

I affirm honestly that this final project is composed by me without taking any results from other research of all degrees in any universities. In addition, I establish that I do not take the materials from other publications or someoneelse's work, except for the sources mentioned in references.

All of the content in this final project is absolutely my responsibility.

Semarang, 17 Februari 2015

Isa Anggeva Setia Purnawan

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

The minute you think of giving up, think of the reason why you held on so long.
(Natsu Dragneel)

somebody told me i'm a failure, i'll prove them wrong
(Bill Gates)

When life changes to be harder, change yourself to be stronger.
(Erza Scarlet)

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.
(Thomas A. Edison)

This final project is dedicated to my beloved father, mother, and brother.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, I would express my greatest gratitude toward the Almighty God, Allah SWT, for blessing health, strength, and inspiration to finish my final project, entitled *Review on A.R Wirawan's Novel The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy Garuda Riders book one*. On this occasion, I would like to thank the people who have contributed and supported to the completion of this final project.

The deepest gratitude and appreciation are extended to Prof. Nurdin as my advisor who has given his continuous guidance, helpful correction, moral support, advice, and suggestion, without which it is doubtful that this final project could come into completion.

My deepest thanks also go to the following people:

1. Dr. Redyanto Noor, M.Hum as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang.
2. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M. Hum. as the Head of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang.
3. Dra Dewi Murni, M.A. as my academic advisor.
4. Drs. Siswo Harsono, M.Hum as the Head of Literature Section, English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang.
5. All lecturers, especially in English Department, academic staff, administration staff, and library staff in Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang.
6. My family, especially for my beloved father, mother, and brother who always support me.
7. All of my friends in English Department 2010, especially for Meigo, Heru, and the members of Mabes 47.

I realize that this final project is still far from perfectness. Thus, I will be pleased to receive any constructive criticism and suggestion to make this book review better.

In conclusion, I hope that this final project will be useful for the readers who are interested in reading romantic novels and wishing to know how great the power of love is.

Semarang, 17 Februari 2015

Isa Anggeva Setia Purnawan

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ABSTRAK

Novel merupakan salah satu karya sastra yang paling digemari banyak orang. Dari bermacam-macam jenis novel, novel fantasi merupakan salah satu alternatif bagi para pembaca, terutama kaum remaja. Banyaknya novel fantasi yang beredar dewasa ini menuntut penulis untuk menciptakan ide cerita yang lebih segar dan tidak biasa untuk menarik perhatian para pembaca.

The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders, salah satu novel fantasi yang ditulis oleh seorang dosen muda bernama Adhicipta Raharja Wirawan ini menyuguhkan jalan cerita yang unik dan menarik. Kekuatan dari novel ini tidak hanya terdapat pada jalan ceritanya yang berbeda, tetapi juga dari pesan moral, gaya bahasa, humor yang menggelitik, dan sudut pandang yang tidak biasa.

Terlepas dari kekuatan-kekuatan tersebut, The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders juga memiliki beberapa kelemahan, antara lain kurangnya perhatian penulis terhadap tokoh-tokoh pembantu di dalam cerita. Dengan adanya kekuatan dan kelemahan tersebut, para pembaca diajak untuk menjadi pembaca yang cerdas dalam menelaah setiap informasi yang tertuang di sepanjang jalan cerita.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I intend to review a novel entitled *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders book one* as the object of my final project report to fulfill graduation requirements in achieving a S1 degree in English literature, Faculty of Humanities, University of Diponegoro.

This chapter consists of three parts which are background of writing, purposes of writing, and the author's biography. First, the background of writing concerns my reason to use this novel as the object of my final project. Second, purposes of writing expose my aims of reviewing this novel. At last, the author's biography deals with the life of Adhicipta Raharja Wirawan as its author.

1. Background of Writing

Novel is one of literary works that attracts readers at various ages and backgrounds. Nowadays, fantasy novels are the ones which most attract the public's eye. The reader becomes part of a new imagination which he discovers slowly, step by step, in his reading. This is in basic terms a history and geography lesson about an imagination world, which fully satisfies a reader with a strong interest for an unreal or fantasy world.

A.R. Wirawan, a lecturer in a reputable university, tried to make a fantasy story about the ancient *wayang* stories combined with the contemporary modernization. Readers are invited to join the adventure by using their imagination in this novel.

2. Purposes of Writing

I want to achieve certain purposes by choosing *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders book one* as the object of my final project report. First, I would like to dissect the novel by reviewing the contents of the plot. I assess that Wirawan's storyline presented in the novel is very interesting and different from fantasy that I have ever read.

Second, I choose *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders book one* as the object to show some inspiring characters through their characterization that are created by A.R Wirawan. Eventhough this novel is written in Indonesian, the author uses setting of place in ancient *wayang*'s world. That will enrich the reader's knowledge of the terminology and culture in the world of *wayang*.

Third, I also want to expose the strengths and weaknesses of *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders book one*, so the readers have the reference on why this novel is electable or not as a recommended book. Finally, I hope this report can be useful for the readers.

3. The Author's Biography

A.R. Wirawan was born in Surabaya, January 5, 1979. He is a writer and expert in Transmedia Storytelling. A.R. Wirawan published his first book entitled *Building Web Store with Joomla!* in 2007 that contains about how to build a dynamic web with the Joomla Content Management System. Now he works as an accounting lecturer.

He is a lecturer who wants to realize his childhood dream to create a fantasy fiction. Now his dream comes true in the form of the story of *The Adventures of Wanara book one* (TAOW). This book is one proof of the revival of local culture stories fantasy Wirawan wanted to show, served with a modern style that evokes the imagination of the readers without losing moral and cultural values that exist. *The Adventures of Wanara : Garuda Riders book one* not only be enjoyed in the form of the novel, but also in an interactive digital comic (Android & iOS), mobile gaming (Android & iOS), as well as in the form of the animated series that are in the process of production since November 2012.

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

The story of *The Adventures of Wanara* occurred after 1000 years of Ramayana. After the Ramayana, The race of Asura should be hunted down and exterminated from the Earth of Varadwipa. Thus was formed a secret organization called the *Asura Slayer (Rakshasana)*. This organization has a mission to kill and seize the wealth of the Asura race. But in its development, *Asura Slayer* turned into an organization's tyranny, and became the political and economical authorities in various countries on Earth Varadwipa.

It tells the story of an *wanara* (ape) named Naradja who has the blood of Sri Rama, Ravana and Hanuman in him. Grandparents of his mother was a descendant of Sri Rama and Ravana, while his father is a descendant of Hanuman.

Naradja must live estranged for a dozen years because his parents have to hide their identity so as not to be known by anyone. Until one day, a marshal Badawang, *Ayodhya* Air Force leaders, found talent in Naradjadefusing a Garuda.

Apparently, his talent was obtained from his grandfather, Bimata, the former commander of the elite *Raksasaghna*. *Raksasaghna* itself is an underground alliance which wants to exterminate all races asura and his descendants. Unfortunately, Bimata falls in love with a descendant of the *asuras* named Dewi Locita race. So he joined forces targeted by *Raksasaghna*.

Naradja is very talented, it can be seen when practicing *KundalaVedi* and create *Astra Pasopati Arrow*, he did very well. Unfortunately, due to loss of focus, he instead destroys the

workout room.

When he would take the eagle eggs that will become a vehicle of each Air Force cadets. Naradja almost get the eggs were very good, but he cannot bear to see the mother eagle lost both their eggs. Because one of the eggs are already taken by Lakshmi, friend of Naradja.

When Naradja falls from a cliff, he founds an egg covered in mud even ignored by its mother. He took it out of pity. However, it is very old eggs hatched and almost made Naradja disappointed. When it hatches and grows, the eagle was very weak, but he is very loyal and named Gagani.

The main story of this novel is an adventure of Naradja and his friends in the Garuda Riders Air Force (Laksmi, Baning, Malore and Lembu Kendil). They have missions to search and to find *Keris Hasta Brata* (8 properties / elements of leadership).

In collecting the eighth element, they must look at all countries, including in countries that have strict safeguards. Fortunately, they all have eagles that could facilitate such travel.

Their journey started from a dive in the ocean floor, looking in the highlands to get into the middle of a dense forest. Until it ends up in the Holy Temple Maliawan.

There, Naradja met with Katunara, a member of *Raksasaghna*, a man who gives the eighth element to Naradja. So, *keris Hasta Brata* can be taken in. Naradja try to fight Katurana. Unfortunately, the dagger did not hurt him.

Naradja summoned Gagani to help fight Katunara. Unfortunately, Katunara managed to kill and made Gagani to ashes with his dagger *Ulo Geni*. Naradja is very angry and attack Katurana blindly. At the end of the story, Naradja is aided by his friends to beat Katunara, and Naradja ruthlessly was stabbed and decapitated to Katunara. Naradja finally realized that the journey risked their lives unworthy with the results. Because it turns out this is all just part of the conspiracy that was designed by a particular party.

Since then, Naradja left eye is turn red. At the end of the story of Garuda Riders, Naradja chose to return to Maripada to meet his parents for a while.

CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF THE NOVEL

In this chapter, I would like to discuss a few things with regard to the novel, entitled *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders*. There are four basic points in this novel which are interesting to discuss. They are the strength of the novel, including theme, the characters and characterization, plot and moral message. I also discuss about the weaknesses of the novel.

3.1. The Strengths of the Novel

There are some points that make *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* different from *Fantasy* in general. First, the strength of this novel is embedded on its storyline. It does not only tell a story but also serves the moral message contained therein. In addition, this novel is also different in terms of the viewpoint of the narrator, setting, style, and vocabulary used.

3.1.1 Theme

Theme is derived from the Latin word, *thema*, meaning a place to put a device. It is due to the fact that the theme is an underlying idea of a story that also acts as a base of departure in describing fiction that is created by the author (Aminuddin, 2009: 91).

The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders generally belongs to a fantasy adventure. The theme of fantasy is often raised in a novel, but the author of this novel has an initiative not only to serve the fantasy adventure but also to tell the story of friendship. The content of this novel tells the complicated and unpredictable story of its characters. This novel, in addition, also presents the story of the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

3.1.2 Characters and Characterization

There are some characters written in Wirawan's novel, entitled *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders*. They are Naradja, Laksmi, Lembu Kendil, Baning, Malore, Narapati, Anindya, Katurana, and many more. Each character has his/her own characterization, which is different from each other. Thus, I will attempt to describe the characterization of the important characters in this novel, namely Naradja, Laskmi, Narapati, and Katurana.

Naradja becomes the most important character and the center where the story flows. In this novel, Naradja is a teenager who has a dream to become the strongest garuda rider in the *Republic of Ayodhya*. His father is *Wanara* (race of Hanuman), while his mother is a mix between *mannusa* (the human race descendants of Rama) and *asuras* (giant race descendants of Ravana, pale-skinned, pointy-eared and fanged). From the lineage of his mother, grandfather Naradja is Bimata, a Garuda greatest rider in his day and mastering the language of Garuda.

He is described as someone who is always passionate, loyal, and caring for his friends. It can be proven from the way he faces any problem that comes to his journey. His loyalty, can be seen when he has a problem with his garuda. When the students were instructed to look for Garuda eggs, Naradja get poor quality egg. But he was determined to keep the eggs. Naradja's

Garuda was weak, but he promised to make his garuda named Gagani that later became a strong Garuda. It can be seen from the following quotation:

Naradja memperhatikan Gagani yang ia rawat sejak masih meringkuk dalam cangkang telur itu. garuda yang lemah, tapi setia. Naradja memeluknya dengan ragu. "maafkan aku, garudaku yang istimewa," ujarnya lirih, seraya membelai kepala gagani (Wirawan, 2013: 186).

Naradja notice Gagani that he has cared for since it was curled up in the egg shell. A weak garuda, but faithful. Naradja hugged him with doubt. "I'm sorry, my special garuda," he said softly, as he stroked the head of gagani (Wirawan, 2013:186).

Naradja is also portrayed as a jovial and an unyielding person. This can be seen when Naradja is very happy to see the squadron of garuda riders army for the first time, and also when Naradja not easily give up to find hasta brata even though many obstacles he faced together with his friends. These can be seen from these quotations below:

"bu," kata naradja, "aku tadi melihat skuadron Garuda lagi lho!" "oh ya?" Anindya menanggapi cerita anaknya dengan antusias. "lalu?" "Mereka terlihat keren bu,. Aku ingin seperti mereka suatu hari nanti!" (Wirawan, 2013: 24).

"Mommy," naradja said, "I had seen the Garuda squadron again!" "oh really?" Anindya respond to his story with enthusiasm. "then?" "They look cool mom,. I want to be like them someday!" (Wirawan, 2013: 24).

Naradja membersihkan kerongkongannya. "Kami sengaja datang dari jauh untuk mengumpulkan elemen-elemen itu. Niat kami tulus. Sama sekali tidak ada maksud buruk. Jadi maaf, kami takkan berhenti! Sekalipun oleh anda, hai Aveza!" (Wirawan, 2013: 269).

Naradja cleans his throat. "We had come from far away to collect those elements. For good intention. There is absolutely no bad intention. So sorry, we will not stop! Even by you, O Aveza! (Wirawan, 2013: 269).

Besides his good behavior, Naradja also have some bad habits. He was also a little selfish, because sometimes he acts as he personally pleases. The following quotation illustrates the point.

Naradja mengangkat tangannya. ia mengatakan, "jangan berkomentar, ini urusanku!" mata Katurana melotot. ia menggeliat kesakitan saat tubuhnya mulai terbakar. Katurana mengerjap-ngerjap penuh penderitaan. "dan yang ini," kata Naradja, "buat aku sendiri. buat kepuasan ku sendiri!" (Wirawan, 2013: 316).

Naradja raised his hand. he said, "do not comment, it's my business!" Katurana eyes bulging. He writhed in pain as her body began to burn. Katurana blinked suffering. "and

that is," said Naradja, "for myself. for my own pleasure!" (Wirawan, 2013: 316).

Besides Naradja, another important character in *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* is Laksmi, a female *wanara*, one of the friends who accompanies Naradja's adventure looking for *Hasta Brata*. At first she hated Naradja, but after long days together as a team they became closer. Laksmi's characters that look dominant are tomboy and stubborn. His stubbornness is shown by her ability when controlling a Garuda, as the following dialogue serves as an illustration:

"kamu ngapain sih? ini urusanku, tahu!" protes gadis wanara dengan rambut merah muda di sekujur tubuhnya itu. Naradja tidak menggubrisnya. Laksmi yang tidak mau kehilangan muka di depan orang-orang segera menarik lengan naradja dan mendorongnya agar enyah dari Rumbata (Wirawan, 2013: 43).

"what are you doing? this is my business, you know!" a protest from Wanara girl with pink hair on her body. Naradja did not listen. Lakshmi who do not want to lose face in front of people immediately pull Naradja arm and pushed him to depart from Rumbata. (Wirawan, 2013: 43).

The third important character in *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Rider* is Narapati, Naradja's father. In this novel, Narapati is described as a nice person. He was very fond of his son, Naradja. But his affection to Naradja makes him become possessive. Narapati is afraid if Naradja join the army of Garuda riders, Naradja real identity would be revealed and endanger his life. The following dialogue illustrates the point as the following:

"Aku tidak mau Naradja terlalu terinspirasi menjadi pahlawan, terus melakukan tindakan gegabah. Naradja itu anak kita satu-satunya. Biarlah ia menjadi pemuda biasa." (Wirawan, 2013: 27).

"I did not want Naradja too inspired to be a hero, continuing to act recklessly. Naradja is our only son. Let him become a regular youth." (Wirawan, 2013: 27).

"Marsekal, saya mohon. Saya ingin hidup tenang tanpa bayang-bayang itu. saya tidak pernah berharap Naradja akan meneruskan kemampuan kakeknya. Biarlah bakat itu punah saja dari dirinya." (Wirawan, 2013: 49).

Marshals, I beg you. I want to live in peace without that shadow. I never expected Naradja will continue his grandfather abilities. let just his talent extinct from him (Wirawan, 2013: 49).

Katurana, the antagonist character of this novel, his human body is normal, but he often

wore a mask leak with tongue stuck to the chest. He is one of seven Balasena commanders who mastered the leak skill. Psychologically, Katurana's characterization is clearly illustrated in this novel as evil, selfish, and sadistic. The following dialogue serves as an illustration:

"Perintah imam agung Arovaya sudah jelas, menghabisi kalian semua," kata Katurana lantang. "Ada dua jenis orang yang beliau benci. Pertama, ras asura. Kedua, pengkhianat. Hebatnya, kedua unsur itu ada pada keluarga ini!" (Wirawan, 2013: 49).

"Arovaya high priest command is clear, to kill you all," said Katurana aloud. "There are two types of people who he hates. The first, asura race. The second, a traitor. Incredibly, there are both in this family!" (Wirawan, 2013: 49).

3.1.3. The Moral Messages of the Novel

In writing a literary work, the author is not only required to produce work simply, but also required to convey messages. The contents of such works must be properly addressed in order to create a work of literature that can also contain a moral message in it. *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* written by A.R. Wirawan is one of the example. This fantasy contains some moral messages that the readers can learn along the plot.

The first moral message conveyed in *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* is the meaning of leadership. In a free translation, *Hasta Brata* means eight principal teaches about leadership. This concept is transmitted by Sri Rama to his brother who was going to be crowned as the king of *Ayodhya*. Basically, *Hasta Brata* is a noble traits learned from the universe, the elements are *Batara Indra* (water), *Yama* (lightning), *Surya* (Sun), *Chandra* (moon), *Maruta* (wind), *Bumi* (ground), *Varuna* (the ocean), and *Agni* (fire).

The second moral message from *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* is about compassion for animals. The story in this novel taught that we should treat animals as well as possible, did not treat them harshly. Because the animals, especially the Garuda in this novel, illustrated that they are also living beings who have lives and also feeling.

The most important moral message told in this story is the meaning of friendship. According to Howstuffworks.com, friendship is a type of relationship between two people or more who care each other. Many things are important to need for a good friendship, including honesty, loyalty, trust, and acceptance. On the *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders*, I capture that friendship is a main theme that Wirawan gives to the reader. Friendship is explained from how he illustrates the relationship built through the characters, especially Naradja, Laksmi, Malore, Baning, and Lembu Kendil.

3.1.4. Point of View of the Story

Point of view is the position in which the narrator stands in relation to the story; the standpoint from which events are narrated (Hicks and Hutching, 1989: 113). According to Aminuddin, point

of view includes narrator omniscient, narrator observer, narrator observer omniscient, and narrator the third person omniscient (2009: 90).

In terms of point of view, *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* using the third person omniscient. The narrator speaks in the third person and focuses on what Naradja and the other characters can observe. The narrator is omniscient, and knows the hidden motives and emotions of the characters. The narrator alternates between providing insight into the actions and thoughts of Naradja, Naraparti, and the others.

3.1.5. Setting, Style, and Vocabulary

Aminuddin defines setting as a background of events in a work of fiction. It can be a place, time, and events, as well as having physical and psychological functions (2009: 67).

One of the strengths of *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* is in its setting of time where the author describes. The author has created setting of time of the story occurred after 1000 years of *Ramayana*, whereis *Ramayana* is one of great Javanese puppet epic stories.

In addition, Wirawan as the author is also able to communicate his ideas through the medium of a funny and harmonious language to touch the reader's emotions. He uses modern vocabularies that are easily understood by the readers. Furthermore, they can acquire many new vocabularies and expressions, not only in *Bahasa* but also *Varadwipa language*.

Here are such examples of *Varadwipa language* appearing in the story. They are *Turagga* (page 11), *Balasena* (page 11), *Butha* (page 13), *Mantra Kundala Vedi* (page 73), *Hasta Brata* (page 174), *Mantra Maruta* (page 171), *Mantra Baruna* (page 172), and etc.

3.2. The Weaknesses of the Novel

I would say that *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* does not have any weaknesses. Overall, I think that this novelist more perfect when it is compared with the novels that I ever read before, such as *Narnia*, *The Lord of The Rings*, and *The Hobbit*. However, there are a few constructive criticisms on this book which can be taken into consideration for the readers.

First, the author of *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* is trying to be funny by using terms and dialogues mixture of modern-day language with the language of ancient. The easiest example, the use of language. In various parts of the dialogue, many used the words "*kisanak*" or "*astra*" and "*spell*" or "*sidu*" and then in other parts of the dialogue, as it is said, "*Positif sayangku, selalu berpikir positif*" Then later, in another section, there is a conversation like this, "*terus aku harus bilang wow gitu?*" and "*duh, kasih tau nggak ya? Kasih tau nggak ya?*" as well as the basic idea of the story is typical of the puppet world, so deeply felt strange at all if there are modern words such as the Republic or the President

Second, about the object named *Hasta Brata*. With a limited number of pages, this search becomes quick and less detail of the object. The adventure seemed monotonous because there is same plot in each of search one object to another. How important are these thing? What is the main purpose of Naradja looking for these objects? the author does not explain in more detail about this.

3.2.1. Supporting Characters

Another Weaknesses of *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* is the characteristic of the supporting characters. In particular characteristics of Naradja's team who participated on the way of collecting *Hasta Brata*. Besides Naradja and Laksmi, sometimes I can't distinguish between the three (Baning, Malore, and Lembu Kendil). Their characteristics are less prominent. I wasn't able to feel close or have a feeling to the other three. It is very difficult to make large adventure story with limited pages. Many characters and object that can provide more information about the story, however because of the limitation of the pages the author may missed that point

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders is re-told of puppet story of Ramayana which are dragged into the realm of fantasy, given new life, new characters and also the types of new mixed race. Then get a new conflict and a new task and then tells the story of a new fairy tale.

This novel is one proof of the revival of local cultural stories fantasy. served with a modern style that evokes the imagination. Indonesia is rich in culture and noble values that are embedded in it, one of them is puppet cultural arts. This novel raised noble values in the puppet story with a distinctive style, but still based on the roots of Indonesian culture itself. Struggle, sacrifice, high spirit, tremendous curiosity can be found in this novel.

In conclusion, *The Adventure of Wanara Trilogy: Garuda Riders* is a good novel suitable for childrens and teenagers. Besides it has simple story and uses easy language, this novel is also contained of messages. This novel has a motivation power to influence people to take care each other and not to give up easily to reach their purpose.

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