BOOK REVIEW OF RADITYA’S DIKA MANUSIA SETENGAH SALMON

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 research 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 publications or someone’s work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, 26January 2015
Devi Indriani H
APPROVAL

Approved by,

Advisor,

[Signature]

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

"If you cannot be a poet, be the poem"

(David Carradine)
“What is the difference between an obstacle and an opportunity? Our attitude toward it. Every opportunity has a difficulty, and every difficulty has an opportunity.”

(J. Sidlow Baxter)

“Whenver you want to achieve something, keep your eyes open, concentrate and make sure you know exactly what it is you want. No one can hit their target with their eyes closed.”

(Paulo Coelho)

This project is dedicated to my beloved mother and father

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4. Her beloved parents to whom the writer dedicate this final project, her brother and friends for giving great supports and pray to her every time;
5. Everyone that cannot be mentioned one by one, who has given her support.

The writer realizes that this final project is far from perfect. She, therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this project will be useful to the reader who wishes to know the novel written by Raditya Dika, *Manusia Setengah Salmon* which becomes one of the best seller books in Indonesia.

Semarang, 26 January 2015

The Writer
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Manusia Setengah

Salmon


Tujuan penulisan projekakhir ini adalah menjelaskan kelebihan serta kelemahan yang ada di dalam buku ini. Kelebihannya adalah urai antang budaya atau ciri khas yang ada di Jawa Barat, serta nilai moral berkaitan tentang ketulusan seorang Ibu yang tidak terbatas tertutur dalam bahasa yang mudah dipahami. Kelemahan nya adalah cover buku yang kurang menarik, beberapa bahasa yang terlalu vulgar, dan ada beberapa kata yang terlalu vulgar.
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Writing

“Literature is social intuition, using as its medium language, a social creation. They are convention nouns, which could have arisen in society” (Wellek and Warren, 1974:94). That explanation means that literature can be a medium to explore creativity. Novel is part of literature. According to Richard Taylor “novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the quality or value of human experience of conduct” (1981:46).

RadityaDika is a famous writer. The characteristic of his novels is humorous style. All of his novels are written based on his truly experiences. This novel ManusiaSetengah Salmon is the sixth novel. It contained of his experiences. He wraps the story to be interesting and easily to understand. This story takes place in several countries such as in Indonesia (Jakarta and Bandung), Venice and Dutch. Even though the theme is humorous but he also gives positive messages to the reader about moving phase, love and struggle. Based on the considerations above, the writer is interested in reviewing ManusiaSetengah Salmon. She hopes this review can encourage the readers to read this novel because this novel is really entertaining. By reading this book, the readers will enrich their knowledge especially about moving phase in a life.

1.2 Purposes of the Writing

The purpose of this writing is to review the strengths and the weaknesses of this book.

1.3 Short Biography of RadityaDika

DikaAngkasaputraMoerwani or famous with his name RadityaDika was born in Jakarta, 28 December 1984. He is an Indonesian writer, a comedian and a script writer of comics Kambing Jantan (Gagasmedia, 2005). KambingJantan is the result of adaptation of his old blog at www.kambingjantan.com. By having a comedy writing style and a candid story, Kambing Jantan was successfull and became bestseller.

The first work that elevated his name is the book. This book tells the life of Dika while still studying in Adelaide, Australia. The story is based on his stories as an Indonesian student that studied abroad. The book is presented in diary format (diary). The second book entitled Cinta Brontosaurus was published in 2006. Similar to the previous book, the stories in this book is based on the everyday story of Dika’s. The third book entitled Radikus Makankakus was published on August 29, 2007. The fourth book entitled BabiNgesot was published in April 2008. The fifth book entitled Marmut Merah Jambu was published in 2010. The last project of Dika’s is a film adapted from his first book Kambing Jantan. KambingJantanThe Movie is directed by Rudi Soedjarwo. Besides writing the script, together with Salman Aristo and Moully Surya, in the film, Dika also played as himself. The film is scheduled to appear March 5, 2009.

Now, Dika is still continuing his study at the extension program of Faculty of Social and
Political Sciences at the University of Indonesia. Dika is also a host in Stand Up Comedy program in Metro TV. Also he is a director anda chief editor in a book publishing.

Summary of the Book

*Manusia Setengah Salmon* novel tells about Dika’s life experience. There are some titles which are, *Ledakan Paling Merdu*, *Akibat Bertanyake Orang yang Salah Tentang Ujian*, *Sepotong Hati di Dalam Kardus Cokelat*, *Hal-haluntuk Diingat Ketika Kencan Pertama*, *Bakar Saja Keteknya*, *Hal-hal yang Tidakseharusnya Dipikirkan Entah Kenapa Kepikiran*, *Pesan Moral dari Sepiring Makanan*, *Kasih Ibu Sepanjang Belanda*, *Interviews with The Hantus*, *Tarian Musim Kawin*, *Emo...Emo...Emo...Emoticon*, *Jomblonology*, *Lebih Baik Sakti Hati*, *Penggalauan*, *Terlentang Melihat Bintang*, *Mencari Rumah Sempurna*, *Serupatapi Emang Beda* and *Manusia Setengah Salmon*.

Everyone will have displacement in their lives. Some of them realize about it and some of them do not realize it, but everyone will always have a process in their lives which is called “move”. In this novel, there are 18 chapters that present the experience transition i.e, moving houses, having different life status and moving on from broken heart.

Using his comedy style in writing the novel, he persuades us to understand about transition in our life that can make the reader laughs or remembers about it in our lives. *Hidupsesungguh yadaahlah potongan-potongan antaraperpindahansatudengan yang lainnya*. *Kita hidup diantaranya* (Dika, 2011:285)
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Review of the Book

3.1 Theme

To understand the meaning of novel, we have to have a clear understanding of what “theme” is. According to Kennedy and Giola, theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals (2002:195). Nurgyiantorowrites that tema adalah makna yang terkandung dalam sebuah cerita (2009:68). From the explanation above, theme is important in the novel because it decides the story. In ManusiaSetengah Salmon, the theme is a struggle to get success.

3.2 The Strength of ManusiaSetengah Salmon

The moral value of ManusiaSetengah Salmon concerns transition or having different life status. Everyone will run into this phase from childhood to adulthood.


From above statement, Dika experienced some transition periods in his life. All of his friends have a transition life status from a bachelor to a father/husband. The writer also captures a struggle in a moving phase in chapter ManusiaSetengah Salmon.


From the statement above, life is about uncertainty, but moving is a certainty. If “moving” is the same with sadness, we think that separation will make us sad to let our happiness. Finally, we have to move to new place. We have to move from anything. When we want to reach our dream, we have to keep on moving. There is no achievement without movement like a salmon that is not
afraid of moving. Salmon always struggles to migrate in every season to lay eggs. Some of them sometimes fail to reach the destination, but they do not give up. In our life, to get something better we do not have to be a superman, but we need to be half of the salmon fish which is dare to move. Another, moral value in chapter Kasih Ibu Sepanjang Belanda is about an endless mother’s love. She gives anything that her son wants. Maybe his mother becomes over to show her loves, but it is the way of his mother to care for her son:

*Ya, seperti yang sudahgueduga, begitu Nyokaptahunomorhandphonegue di Belanda, diaaakanmenelponhampirsetiap jam. Bertanyaapakahgueaman-amansaja. Merasarisis, akhirnyaguemememilihprofil silent di handphone.* (Dika, 2011: 120)

Eventually Dika realizes his mother affection. Mother’s love will never end, and as he gets older he realizes that one’s age is not one known when it will end. Hence, we have to use our time wisely and spend our time with our beloved parents.

Third, the moral value is about tolerating diversity. We live in different cultures, ethnic and custom. This chapter presents a message from Pesan Moral dari Sepiring Nasi:

Everyone has their favourite things. For example, food. We like food but another does not like what we like. Respecting the difference is beautiful.

Fourth, the moral values in chapter Sepotong Hati di Dalam Kardus is about love. In this case, the love here between a man and a woman.

Everyone has their moving phase. Chapter Sepotong Hati di dalam Kardus tells about Dika’s breaking up. At that time, his family also has a plan to move to another house. Truthfully Dika is happy to live in that house. He has been lived in the old house for 10 years; it is not short time. Thus, when he collects his stuff and puts in the box, all memories from that house are coming up. Whether he likes it or not he has to leave that house soon. He learns that a relationship is like a house. When there is a problem and makes the relation break, it means that we do not have a match with that house, so we should move to another house that suits with us. In conclusion, Dika tells a broken heart feeling and how hard it is to move on. Someone moves from his love or moves from a place and face it wisely.

Fifth, in chapter Terletang Melihat Bintang Dika presents Sundanese culture. In some utterances, the author is using traditional language from West Java like abah and kang. The author also uses a traditional term to call the martial arts in Wast Java, for example gelut benjang (belitedalam dan beliteluar). This point becomes one of the strengths in this novel because it introduces Sundanese culture to all readers in Indonesia.

The last strength is that the author uses a simple language to arranged the novel, so it makes Manusia Setengah Salmon easily to understood:

He also uses many humorous languages, such as telling a tragic story in a funny way and makes
3.3 The Weaknesses of *ManusiaSetengah Salmon*

There are some aspects that should be funny but they are not. Some of the chapters are also additional stories that are not funny. Some of those chapters are *hal-haluntukdiingatkettikakencanpertama, emo..emo..emoo...emotikon!* and interview with the *hantus*. There are also some vulgar languages. For example:

The writer concludes that *Manusia Setengah Salmon* has an interesting theme. The theme is about a struggle for life. This novel gives the readers some moral values, i.e. never ending struggle, sincerity of motherly love, beauty in diversity. Besides, a motivating message this book presents to the readers is how to give meaning to this life. *Manusia Setengah Salmon* has a good story that is suitable to be read by all people, especially for teenagers, because this book uses a simple and humorous language.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX LIST
Raditya Dika
MANUSIA SETENGAH SALMON