



**BOOK REVIEW OF *THE GHOST* WRITTEN  
BY ROBERT DENNIS HARRIS**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement  
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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 he does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the reference mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, June 2015

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## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

Nothing is impossible. Anything can happen as long as we believe.

(anonymous)

Every successful person must have a failure. Do not be afraid to fail because failure is a part of success.

(anonymous)

*This project is dedicated to my beloved family and friends*

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The Writer realize that this final project is still far from perfect. The Writer, therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this final project better. The Writer expect that this final project will be useful to the reader.

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Rifqi Sapta Nugraha

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## **ABSTRAK**

The Ghost adalah sebuah buku semi biografi yang mengisahkan kehidupan mantan perdana menteri Inggris yang kemudian terseret dalam permainan politik tingkat tinggi setelah masa jabatannya selesai. Keterlibatannya dalam memberikan nota diplomatik untuk memberikan kebebasan atau wewenang penangkapan warga negara Inggris yang dilakukan oleh agen rahasia Amerika Serikat membuat masa pensiun yang seharusnya merupakan masa tenang menjadi suatu masa yang penuh gejolak yang tidak saja menyeret keluarganya dalam suatu konflik namun juga mengorbankan seorang penulis yang sedianya akan menjadi penulis biografinya.

Buku karya Robert Dennis Harris ini tidak hanya bercerita tentang bagaimana konspirasi politik permainan tingkat tinggi namun juga menceritakan bagaimana sosok asli dari mantan perdana menteri tersebut, juga kisah asmara yang membuat dirinya bertemu dengan istrinya sekarang. Adanya buku ini selain membongkar fakta bagaimana permainan politik dapat mengubah seorang kawan menjadi lawan dan bagaimana banyaknya penghianat disekitar kekuasaan.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

Novel is a part of literature that tells narrative story of the characters and their habits which gives sense to the readers and also gives strong effect to the readers. According to 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).

There are many well known novels written by popular writers who use their experience and imagination to create their works. One of them is Robert Dennis Harris, who is a novelist inspired by the life and experiences in writing his works. Ghost Writer is a famous masterpiece written in 2010, this book became popular as soon as published. This is a fantasy novel that gives the story of the revelation of a murder case which was previously considered as an accident.

### 1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this novel review is to fulfill the task given courses as well as a way to open the author’s insights relating to the United

Kingdom as well as language proficiency to get to know and understand the condition of political intrigue going in the world, particularly in the United Kingdom during the cold war.

### **1.3. Biography**

Robert Dennis Harris (born March 7, 1957) was an English novelist. He is a former journalist and BBC television reporter. Although he began his career in non-fiction, his fame began in his works of historical fiction. Starting with the best-seller *Land*, Harris focused on the events surrounding the Second World War, followed by the works set in ancient Rome. The latest of his works centered on contemporary history.

Harris lived in a place that was formerly a rectory near Newbury, with his wife Gill, Hornby. He is the best-selling author and novelist Nick Hornby's sister. They have four children.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **SUMMARY OF THE GHOST**

Rick Ricardelli is an author from England who was recruited by a big publishing company named Rhinehart from England. Rick was assigned to continue a memoir of a former British Prime Minister, Adam Lang, which was previously assigned to Mike McAra who has died some time before. Shortly, Rick was asked to come to Martha's Vineyard, a beach house where Adam and Ruth, his wife, stayed. By the time he got there, Rick got the explanation about the assignment. Ruth gave the unfinished memoir draft of Adam Lang to Rick from Adam Lang's personal vault. There was also Amelia, Adam Lang's personal secretary in the same room and she told Ruth not to give Rick anything else besides the draft including the flash disk inside the vault. After Ruth saw that Rick was having difficulties in studying the memoir, she decided to take Rick to the beach near the house. In the evening, Rick accompanied Ruth to pick up Adam Lang in an airport. Since Rick not yet had a place to stay, he was delivered to a hotel. The next day, Rick came back to Adam Lang's house to do an interview with him. Rick who was curious about the content of the flash disk inside the vault tried to open it and it triggered the house's security alarm.

The next day, Adam Lang saw in the news that Richard Rycart, his fellow British politician, accused him of committed a crime along with CIA

and Adam must face charges in an international criminal court. In order to save himself, Adam decided to stay awhile in Washington which did not belong to the jurisdiction of the court. Rick was asked to stay in Martha's Vineyard and occupy a room where McAra's personal stuffs are left. Inside a wardrobe of the room, Rick found an envelope full of photographs and articles of Adam Lang and he was saving it for further investigation. It turned out that the envelope was deliberately abandoned by McAra to lead anybody else unveiling a big secret. Among the photos and articles of Adam Lang, Rick found a phone number and he tried to call it. It turned out that it was Richard Rycart's cellphone number.

Rick decided to go to the beach on the other side of the island by bicycle. Rick took shelter in an old house in the middle of the trip due to sudden rain. He met an old man and the man told him that there was a dead body found on the beach one night, he suspected that the because was not accident. Rick continued his journey to the coast. When he got on the beach, he met Ruth who asked him to return to Martha's Vineyard. At that beach house, Ruth told him that Adam Lang always made decisions based on her advice. When Rick mentioned about the old man he met on the trip and his story about the dead body, suddenly Ruth wanted to go out of the house even though it was raining heavily. Rick stayed in the house that night.

In the morning after, Rick wanted to go back to the hotel using a car that provided for the guest of the house. He was surprised to see that the GPS was pointing at a particular place. He followed the direction and it brought him to a house in the woods. The house belonged to Prof. Paul Emmet which according to the photographs is an old friend of Adam Lang in university. When Rick met Prof. Emmet in that house, he did not admit that he and Adam are friends. He asked Rick to leave his house immediately. On the way back, Rick was followed by a car. He tricked the driver as if he board a ferry then he hid in a motel near the port.

With the help of Richart, Rick found that Professor Emmett was related with the CIA. Emmett and Adam is always making the political decisions that benefit the United States. On the way to Hatherton using Adam Lang's private jet, Rick expressed his suspicions to Adam. Adam Lang was killed by an anti-war protesters on the airport when he got off the plane.

Rick finished the memoirs of Adam Lang, and the book was published. Rick discovered a new fact by the time the book was launching. This fact is a statement that Ruth, Adam Lang's wife, was a CIA agent who was recruited by Professor Emmett. Rick let Ruth knew what he just found out through a piece of paper and then he left the book launch. Unexpectedly, a car speeded up deliberately and crashed Rick and he got hurt very badly, possibly dead.

## CHAPTER 3

### REVIEW OF THE GHOST

#### 3.1 The strengths of *the Ghost*

##### 3.1.1 Theme

Theme is the central idea or meaning of a story. It provides a unifying point around which plot, characters, setting, point of view symbols, and other elements of the story organized. The statement of the theme should be responsive to the detail of the story. It must be based on evidence within the story. (Meyer. 1990: 196-197)

A novel *The Ghost* has a political theme involving an unknown author with war crimes committed by the former British prime minister. Where is the final destination of the novel reveals how the crimes committed by the former prime minister and the siding where the mysterious author.

*Seorang wanita penduduk setempat menemukan mayat itu keesokan harinya pagi-pagi sekali, terdampar di pasir sekitar 6,5 kilometer dari pantai pulau itu, di Lambert's Cove. SIM yang terdapat di dompetnya menyatakan bahwa orang itu Michael James McAra, usia lima puluh tahun, dari Balham di London Selatan.*

### 3.1.2 Character

According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro (1995: 165) "The characters are the people who appear in a work of narrative, or drama interpreted by the reader has certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in speech and what is done in the action."

1. The Ghost : The writer who is famous not selected to continue with a biography of former British prime minister after the cold war. The character is seen as a less prominent but has a strong curiosity and also have the courage to break down what flavor it is not true, and dare to take action in accordance with his conscience.

*Dan setelah kupikir-pikir lagi, samar-samar aku memang ingat pernah melihat sesuatu. Namun ketika itu aku sedang sibuk bekerja lima belas jam sehari selama sebulan penuh untuk menyelesaikan buku baruku, autobiografi pemain sepak bola, dan dunia di luar ruang kerjaku menjadi bayang-bayang kabur. "Untuk apa seorang mantan perdana menteri mengidentifikasi mayat pria dari Balham yang jatuh dari feri Martha's Vineyard?"*

*"Michael McAra," Rick menyatakan, dengan gaya seorang pria yang telah terbang tiga ribu mil untuk menyampaikan kalimat penting ini, "membantu sang mantan perdana menteri menulis memoarnya."*

2. Adam Lang : Prime Minister of England. After he stopped working lead England, he and his wife, Ruth Lang settled in a private office at the same time private residence that is located on a remote island and isolated from the hustle bustle of the United States of America (USA). They live with the personal staff as well as their personal bodyguards.

Former prime minister closed, try to leave the world of politics to enjoy retirement with his wife. The character is portrayed as someone who is still traumatized by has no power anymore. on the other hand he has a soft side and the trauma of his past trips. The character is described as having a personality that is closed and suspicious of strangers.

*Dokumen-dokumen tersebut yang detail-detailnya dibocorkan ke sebuah surat kabar Inggris akhir pekan lalu menyatakan bahwa Mr/Lang, sebagai perdana menteri, secara pribadi telah memberikan otorisasi penangkapan empat warga negara Inggris di Pakistan lima tahun lalu.*

3. Ruth Lang : Wife of Adam Lang, the woman credited with introduced Adam lang to the political world to successfully became prime minister. Described as a woman who has ambition, comes from a family who were living in the environment and politics.

*Namun, penulis bayangan juga mengetahui sesuatu yang lain. Dia pasti tahu Ruth pernah menerima Beasiswa Fullbright di Harvard, dan hanya dalam waktu tak sampai sepuluh menit dia bisa mencari di internet bahwa Ruth pernah mendapatkan ilmu mengenai politik, itu alasannya Adam Lang yang menjadikannya seorang perdana menteri dan selalu berkonsultasi dengan istrinya dalam mengambil keputusan.*

4. Amelia Bly : Private secretary and also mistresses and Adam Lang, knows a lot of secrets in the private lives of Adam Lang and his wife. she is a woman ambitious, assertive and follow the rules as directed by Adam Lang.

*“Ini tidak boleh dibawa keluar dari ruangan,” tegasnya sambil meletakkan kotak itu di meja. Tidak boleh disalin. Kau boleh membuat catatan, tapi aku harus mengingatkan bahwa kau telah menandatangani perjanjian kerahasiaan. Masih ada waktu enam jam untuk membacanya sebelum Adam kembali dari New York.*

### **3.1.3 Language**

According to Nurgiyantoro (1995: 276) Style is a way of speaking that in prose or how an author reveals something that will be put forward.

The novel uses a style of language that is easily understood by the reader and made in one of the main attractions of the novel, so the reader does not need to read up repeatedly to understand the content of the novel.

*Sebelumnya, aku telah mengantisipasi masalah terbesarku pada hari pertama adalah menempatkan Adam Lang di dalam ruangan dan mempertahankannya tetap di sana cukup lama untuk mulai mewawancarainya. Tetapi anehnya, ketika kami sampai di rumah itu, dialah yang menunggu kedatanganku. Amelia sudah memutuskan kami akan menggunakan ruang kerja Rhinehart, dan kami mendapati sang mantan perdana menteri, mengenakan setelan olahraga warna hijau tua, sedang duduk santai di kursi besar di depan meja, sebelah tungkainya dinaikkan ke lengan kursi.*

### **3.1.4 Setting**

According Nurgiyantoro (1995: 227) "Setting the place to suggest the location of the events told in a work of fiction."

1. The beginning of the novel lies in the setting of a meeting room in the UK, where there was a meeting between the ghost with those who would use his services. Time events noon till night with the presence of some people are associated with the initial meeting.

*Aku merasa gugup ketika duduk di sebelahnya. Ruangan itu seperti pada era Gatsby, dihiasi deretan buku apik bersampul keras yang tak pernah dibaca. Maddox duduk membelakangi jendela. Tanggannya yang besar dan tak berbulu diletakkan di atas daun meja dari kaca, seolah-olah menyatakan bahwa dia belum punya niat mencabut senjata.*

2. Setting both still in England, in the room where the ghost lived.

*Yang menjemputku di hotel pagi itu adalah sahabat lamaku, si supir taksi tuli. Karena aku ditempatkan di hotel di Edgartown, tentu saja aku beranggapan bahwa properti Rhinehart berada di suatu tempat tak jauh dari pelabuhan itu. Ada beberapa rumah besar yang menghadap ke pelabuhan, dengan taman yang menurun ke arah dermaga pribadi, yang dalam pandanganku merupakan real estate ideal para miliarder dan itu memperlihatkan ketidaktahuanku mengenai apa saja yang dapat dibeli dengan segunung harta.*

3. Then move to a home setting. resting on the edge of a pretty secluded beach, which is the vacation home of the former prime minister. The setting is used for a long time and is the main setting of the novel. The location is not always in the house, but also moved to the edge of the beach and other places, but still in the same city.

*Sekali lagi kami kembali ke ruang kerja, dalam posisi kami yang biasa. Dia duduk malas di kursi berlengan, masih mengenakan setelan olahraganya, handuk pun masih tergantung di lehernya. Ada bau keringat menguar dari tubuhnya. Aku duduk di seberangnya dengan notes dan daftar pertanyaan. Alat perekam mini-disc berdiri di meja di sebelahku.*

## **3.2 The weaknesses of the Ghost**

### **3.2.1 Plot**

The plot is the story formed by steps events so that it becomes a story presented by investors in a story. (Siswanto. 2008)

The novel “The Ghost” simply tells about memoir Adam Lang aided by Rick Ricardelli as “The Ghost”, there is not story about death little Mike McAra formerly also as “The Ghost “ of Adam Lang.

*Pantai berpasir di bawah sana melengkung ke sebelah kananku sekitar satu setengah kilometer jauhnya dan berhenti di karang yang menjorok di Makonikey Head, tampak berkabut di balik semburan air laut. Kuseka air hujan dari mataku agar bisa melihat lebih jelas, dan aku membayangkan McAra sendirian di pesisir yang luas ini wajahnya menelungkup, penuh berisi air asin, pakaian musim panasnya yang murahan kaku akibat air laut dan udara dingin.*

### **3.2.2 Cliffhanger Ending**

Ending is a small part of a story but it has a fairly crucial function, because the ending is the culmination of a story. There are three forms of ending: a happy ending, sad ending, or a cliffhanger. Whatever the ending is, it must be ensured that the main conflict in the story has resolved (Anindito. 2014).

Many types of the ending that are used by the author to put an end to such stories. The end of the novel *The Ghost* stories written by Robert Dennis Harris is Cliffhanger Ending because there is not continuation of the story after Rick Ricardelli got struck by a car.

*Hal ini menempatkanku dalam posisi penuh dilema, seperti yang mungkin dapat kuduga, setelah kita sampai di paragraf terakhir. Apakah aku harus senang karena kau membaca buku ini? Atau sebaliknya? Jelas aku senang, karena pada akhirnya aku dapat menyuarakan kata-kataku sendiri. Kecewa, tentu saja, karena barangkali ini berarti aku sudah mati. Sayangnya, seperti yang selalu dikatakan ibuku, kita memang tidak bisa mendapatkan segalanya dalam hidup.*

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **CONCLUSION**

This novel has several strengths that make it a great literary work. Its main strength is the theme of mystery that makes the reader always intrigued by the end of the story. On the other hand, this novel has some weaknesses. First, the Mike McAra's cause of death was not revealed thoroughly. Second, the novel uses a cliffhanger ending as the author does not provide certainty about the condition of the main character after the accident. There is a possibility that it was intentional which will provide a common thread for the next story that this novel should be continued. Cliffhanger ending will also make the reader curious to wait for the continuation of the story.

In addition to its strengths and weaknesses, this novel also contains an important message that there will be no progress without struggle. We can see from the novel that our past is only a memory and we must move forward to reach our future. We could also see from this novel that our actions in the past will always determine the condition of our present and future.

Another implicit message of this novel also shows that there is no eternal friends in political life, there is only eternal interests.

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