

BOOK REVIEW OF THE RUMAH DI SERIBU OMBAK

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ABSTRAK

Bentuk final project ini ialah review dari novel *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak* karangan Herwin Arnada. Buku ini menceritakan kisah pertemanan antara Samihi Ismail dan Wayan Manik yang sama-sama berjuang melawan ketakutan yang di bawa dari masa lalunya. Tujuan review buku ini untuk mengidentifikasi kelebihan dan kekurangan melalui element theme, character, plot dan setting. Selain kelebihan dan kelemahan, final project ini juga melampirkan biografi singkat pengarangnya. Resensi ini bertujuan untuk memberi gambaran umum pada pembaca novel *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak*.

ABSTRACT

The final form of this project is the review of the novel *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak* by Herwin Arnada. This book tells a friendship story between Samihi Ismail and Wayan Manik who fight against the fear that was brought in past time. The purpose of this book review is to identify strengths and weaknesses through the elements of theme, character, plot and setting. The final project not only reviews the strengths and weaknesses, but also attaches a short biography of the author. This review aims to guide the readers before reading novel *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak*.

Introduction

Rumah Di Seribu Ombak is a beautiful novel created by Erwin Arnada. The theme of the novel is about a friendship. The novel tells about Wayan Manik and Samihi Ismail. They have the same traumatic experience and they want to fight fearful experience of the past time. This novel is for adults and teenagers, but it is also readable for children with parental advice.

Rumah Di Seribu Ombak by Erwin Arnada is published by *Gagas Media*, addressed at Hj. Montong Street no. 57, Ciganjur – Jagakarsa, South Jakarta 12630. The first copyright edition of the book was made in 2011 and the third copyright edition was in 2012. The length and the width of the book are 14,5cm x 21

cm with 388 pages and the ISBN is 979-780-536-0.

Author's Biography

By searching on infopsterbaik.com it is known that Erwin Arnada (born 17th October 1963; 50 years old) is a journalist, a director and a producer of Indonesian movie. He is the pious Moslem family and has lived in Jakarta. Erwin Arnada has been interested in journalism since 1984 and he worked as the photographer. He has been hired by the weekly news *Editor*. Since 1990, Erwin Arnada has been working as editor at several news office including the controversial tabloid *Monitor*. Erwin Arnada joined in the Indonesia film industry in 2000, and he has produced several movies made by *Rexinema*.

Erwin Arnada has become a controversial person after he established *Indonesian Playboy Magazine* in 2006. Several groups of people have protested against the magazine company which is considered against the local norms, although the contents of the magazine are not only about porn. Erwin Arnada has been convicted guilty and the court condemned him to prison for two years in October 2010. He is free after a year in prison because the court has abrogated the condemnation. Erwin Arnada is nominated as the best director of FFI with his film *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak* which is inspired by his novel of the same title written in the prison.

Summary of the Book

The novel entitled *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak* tells about the

relationship between Wayan Manik and Samihi Ismail in Singaraja, Bali. They meet for the first time when Wayan Manik helps Samihi Ismail from the men who are trying to steal his bike. Since the incident, they often spend time together.

A good relationship makes Samihi dares to share his secret to Wayan Manik. Samihi's parents does not allow him near the river, beach, and wild jungle, because they will threaten his life. Samihi Ismail cannot swim and is afraid near the beach. Wayan Manik understands his feeling and he tries to convince Samihi to fight his fear. He teaches him how to swim and become useful in the future.

Wayan Manik has a trauma of sexual abuse from foreigners. He has never told it to anyone, because he thinks that it is his disgrace. However,

he believes that Samihi will keep the secret from everyone.

Poor condition makes Wayan Manik cannot continue his school and enjoy his childhood. He must work to be a dolphin tour guide in Lovina Beach. He just stays with his mother who has certain illness. Bad situation brings Wayan Manik to gloomy days, it makes him feel sad. Oneday, Samihi Ismail has to tell Wayan Manik's secret to the leader of Kalidukuh village, because Wayan Manik is in danger. He is kidnaped by a foreigner who does sexual abuse to Wayan Manik. Wayan Manik is disappointed to Samihi when people in Kalidukuh know his disgrace. He thinks that Samihi forgets the promise and his relationship. Sadness and sorrow increase when Bali bombing tragedy

happened because his father is one of the victims in the incident.

Reality makes Wayan Manik take the decision to leave Singaraja for a long time. On the other side Samihi Ismail grows to be a brave man. He is not scared with water anymore. His surfing hobby makes him get a scholarship to Australia. However, Samihi Ismail and his family do not forget Wayan Manik.

After a few years, Wayan Manik is back to Singaraja. He wishes he can repair his fate and finds new life. He falls in love with Samihi's sister and she loves him too, but religion makes the situation complicated.

Happiness has never come. Wayan Manik's mother is in pain and then she is dead. He feels that he has

lost everything in his life and is alone in this world. The day after his mother's death, Wayan Manik broods everything that has happened to him and he decides to live in a house of thousand waves. Living in a house of a thousand waves means killing himself in the middle of the sea (Suicide).

Review of the Book

In this review, the writer will present the strengths and weaknesses of *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak*. The strengths of the novel include theme, character. On the other side, some of the weakness is in plot and setting.

The Strengths of the Novel

Theme

Theme is another strength in the novel. According to Abrams in *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (1999: 169) "Theme is sometimes used

interchangeably with "motif," but the term is more usefully applied to a general concept or doctrine, whether implicit or asserted, which an imaginative work is designed to incorporate and make persuasive to the reader".

Friend-relationship is the theme that appears in the novel. Samihi Ismail and Wayan Manik are friends. They are from different backgrounds of the family. Wayan Manik has a hard pressure of life. Believing with Samihi Ismail as friend is the only reason why he still stand up in this world. It is the special strength. Friendship tells the readers how to take care of others to solve problems together and not to be selfish. The theme shown in some conversation "Meski kami berdua datang dari keluarga yang berbeda, kami-samihi dan wayan manik di

kenal penduduk Desa Kalidukuh sebagai sejoli yang tidak bisa dipisahkan” (Arnada, 2011: 09). [Eventhough we come from different family, we (Samihi and Wayan Manik) is known as a indivisible couple by Kalidukuh villager whose never separate].

Character

According to Abrams: “character are the person represented in a dramatic or narative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intelectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the person say and their distinctive ways of saying it- the dialogue- and from what they do- the action” (1999: 32-33).

The author shows Samihi Ismail’s character in some sentences below:

“ingat nak, banyak temanmu yang beragama beda. Kau harus menghormati apa yang mereka percayai. Jangan sekali-sekali mengolok-olok apa yang mereka lakukan dalam ibadah” (Arnada, 2011: 11). [kid, remember, your friends have many different in religion. You must respect what they believe, do not humiliate what they have done in praying]. Samihi Ismail is a man who has high morality. His father educates him. The father tells his son to have tolerance and respect for people in the Kalidukuh village although they have a different religion.

Wayan Manik’s character is described in some sentences below: “Aneh melihat anak itu sama sekali tak peduli pada pukulan dari dua pengkroyokan. Ia seperti ingin menghabisi si jerawat yang badannya

lebih besar” (Arnada, 2011: 23). [it is strange to see the child, he does not care about the belting of two disputes. He wants to ends up of the pimple who bigger than them]. Based on quotation, the readers can analyse that Wayan Manik is easy going. He does not think twice to help anyone who need helps. The words also explain the emotional qualities of Wayan Manik. He has emotional fluctuation. He feels angry to people who try to hurt another which is smaller than them.

Haji Aminullah is Samihi’s father. Long time ago, he settled in Kalidukuh village. Haji Aminullah is a teacher and is highly respected by Kalidukuh villagers. He is a father-figure for their children. Working as teacher reflects Haji Aminullah’s intellectuality. We can also see that he is a father figure who gives moral example. Haji

Aminullah’s character is shown in some sentence below:

Ayahku, Haji Aminullah, dulu sering mengajar mengaji. Kalau tidak salah ingat, ayah mulai mengaji di masjid kecil tak jauh dari rumah. Ayah punya banyak teman di kampung Kalidukuh dan kampung sebelah. Aku sering di kenalkan teman ayah jika kami pulang dari masjid atau saat kami pulang dari warung tempat ayah membelikanku jajanan (Arnada, 2011: 10). [My father, Haji Aminullah, often teaching of “ mengaji”. If i am not wrong, father starts “ mengaji” in a little mosque not far from the house. Father has many friends in kalidukuh village and other village. I am often introduced to father’s friend, if we are going home from mosque or when we are going home from a stall which “ my father buy me some snack”].

Weaknesses of the novel

Plot

According Abrams: “The plot (which Aristotles termed the mythos) in a dramatic or narrative work is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered

toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects” (1999: 224).

After reading *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak*, it can be seen that the author uses flashback of plot in the novel. The book has thirty-two chapters. In the earlier chapter, there is page 3-12, the story are flat. However, in page 13 the story starts to flashback. The flashback plot can identified in the scene when Samihi Ismail tells about his accident in the past time.

Aku tak akan melupakan kejadian pagi di tahun 2000-tepatnya suatu pagi di bulan Ramadhan-bulan yang paling baik dan suci bagi umat muslim seperti keluargaku. Bulan saat aku di sibukkan dengan kegiatan mengaji dan kesempatan main petasan dan kembang api sesuka hati. Namun, Ramadhan kali ini jauh lebih tak terlupakan buatku. Bukan soal petasan atau makan sahur di tengah kantuk, tetapi karena ada cerita lain yang membuatku menganggapnya sebagai Ramadhan paling naas. Pagi di bulan Ramadhan tahun itu, aku nyaris mati di tenggelamkan anak-anak kampung Temukus yang ingin merampas sepedaku (Arnada,

2011: 13). [I could not forget of the event in 2000- absolutely, in the morning, ramadhan- best of the month and pure for moslem like my family. The month when i was busy to do “ mengaji” and have an portunity playing

The flashback plot continues until the end of story. The plot in this novel is one of the weaknesses in the novel. The usage of the flashback as the main plot in the story is monotonous, whereas the reader will understand the story by easily.

Setting

According to Abrams: “The overall setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of a single episode or scene within such a work is the particular physical location in which it take place” (1999/284).

The setting of place in the novel is in Bali. The author would like to introduce to the reader more about Singaraja, Bali. The settings of the novel are in four locations, there are Lovina, Kalidukuh, Kaliasem and Buleleng. For example: “Seperti sore-sore sebelumnya di penghujung Desember. Seperti Sembilan tahun lalu yang silam. Pasir hitam Pantai Lovina terasa lembut dan basah” (Arnada, 2011: 03). The quotation shows setting of place in the novel. The book just mentions few place. Setting of place must be varied so the reader can explore their imagination.

Setting of time in the novel happened in 2000 - 2009. The author of *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak* uses general time in time setting. The author does not mention exactly date when the story happens, for example:

“Malam ini adalah malam terakhir kami mengikuti pengajian Ramadhan di masjid Al Ihsani. Empat hari lagi, Idul Fitri” (Arnada, 2011: 45). The author does not notify the year of the event occurred.

Conclusion

The novel of *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak* created by Erwin Arnada is a fiction in the form of novel. The novel tells about the daily activities of Samihi Ismail and Wayan Manik. Samihi Ismail is a pious Moslem who is traumatized by the environment and Wayan Manik is a victim of sexual violence by a foreigner. Both of them want to fight his fear and change their life.

As a literary work, the novel has strengths and weaknesses. The strengths of the novel are book's

cover, theme and character. First, the book's cover is a good design. The author gives old-school style to make the reader interested. Second, the theme is about friend-relationship. It seems that the novel can be read by everyone. Third, The reader can take the moral value of the character. For example: always obey the religion as shown by the figure of Samihi Ismail, never give up on bad luck as shown by Wayan Manik and the figure who gives a moral lesson for villager shown by Haji Aminullah.

The weaknesses of the book are plot and setting. Both of them are monotonous. First, the book is a flashback plot. It's too easy for the reader to understanding the novel. Second, the setting of the novel just mentions few places. The author

should make a variation in the setting of the novel.

There are the strengths and the weaknesses of the novel. However, novel *Rumah Di Seribu Ombak* is a good book to be read. The novel can be read by adults and young readers. The book can be read when we have spare time in our home.

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