

Indonesian Short Story Perspective Environmental Psychology: Alternative Research of Psychology Literature

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ABSTRACT

In this study, Indonesian short story is explained from the environmental psychology perspective. The core of environmental psychology is human interaction with the environment, from the side of restoration or degradation. This research uses data source from Cerpen Pilihan Kompas 2015 [2016]. From this environmental psychology perspective, it is found that Indonesian short stories shows environmental conditions from the unhealthy side, for example the short story of "Anak ini Mau Mengencingi Jakarta?" by Ahmad Tohari. As for the environmental restoration side, it appears in the short story of "Liang Liu" by Utari. Short story of "Batu Lumut Kapas" by Gus TF Sakai tells about the environment and natural stone.

Keywords: Short story, environmental psychology, biophilia

INTRODUCTION

Indonesian Literature as literature in other countries, it contains the science of humanism, one of them is psychology. Literature, according to Wellek & Warren (2014) affects psychology as psychology affects literature. Literary psychology can be reviewed through (1) creative process, (2) author psychology, (3) work psychology, and (4) reader psychology. The view of Wellek & Warren is supported by other literate practitioners, e.g Groeben (2001) who classifies that literary psychology can be viewed from the perspective of (1) literary production, (2) literary texts, and (3) literary reception. The view of literature psychology research is currently followed by many researchers, including literary researchers in Indonesia.

For all this time, the emerging tendency in society is psychology affects literature. In fact, if it is traced historically, many psychological terms are contributed by literature. Therefore, they are actually vice versa, completing and influencing each other. The fact that literature affects psychology is very strong when it is referenced to psychoanalysis, especially from the view of Freud and Jung. Freud did not optimally examine and 'acquainted' the literary psychology. Therefore, some practitioners see that Sigmund

Freud's psychoanalysis is 'not so relevant' to be used for the study of literary psychology. However, it is undeniable that Freud's thoughts (1955, 2005, 2001) of the individual unconsciousness theory, self-defense mechanism, dream theory, sex theory, eros and thanatos, are quoted and followed by many people / researchers in various fields, especially in literary field.

Jung's thought. His thought about archetype (Jung, 1951: 106; 1953: 14; 1989: 111; 2003: 194-195) contributes to the field of literary research so much, especially Jungian psychology. Freud and Jung made many psychology terms which were adopted from literature, especially mythology, for example as follows. First, Freud presented oedipus complex term (son's libidinal desires to his mother). The term is derived from Greek mythology "Oedipus Rex". The mythology tells a son who kills his father and marries his own mother. Second, Jung presented electra complex term (daughter's libidinal desires to his father). The term is derived from Greek mythology of "Electra". The mythology tells a daughter who murders her mother for wanting to marry her child. Third, narcissistic (in popular psychology is defined as excessive pride of self). In Greek mythology, the term is derived from Narcissus, a handsome god and he is very proud (exaggerated) for his good looks (Ahmadi, 2015a), thus referring to Bell's conceptualization (2005: 229), Freud and Jung are really great figures in psychology that (their thoughts) can be used in dissecting literature.

There are literatures that show nature - either restoration or degradation - as mainstream, but there are also literatures that bring nature as 'sweetener'. If referring to Japanese literature, haiku (short, simple, philosophical poetry), /A spring breeze is sweet, Blowing over the sunlit brook/(Yasuda, 2001: 137) this poem simply shows how beautiful the 'sweet' spring blows over the river with the brightness of the sun. The impression of warm sense, tenderness (flabbiness), birth, novelty raised by nature is displayed in the poem. Awareness, feeling (sense) and emotion of getting close to nature is needed for nature to be preserved from the nature criminology, ecoterrorism, and white collar crimes that destruct nature, but on behalf of the state.

Literary psychology has a lot of -ism, the psychoanalytic (Freudian, Jungian, Frommian, Lacanian, Adlerian), existential psychology (JP Sartre, Simon de Beauvoir, Albert Camus), humanism psychology (Maslow), holistic psychology (Murray, Goldstein, Roger, Boss, Levin), behaviorism psychology (Allport, Skinner, Cadel, Miller [these psychologies are rarely used in literary studies]), Sufi psychology, religious psychology, humor psychology, zen psychology, female psychology, adolescent psychology, death psychology, liberal psychology, social psychology, ecopsychology, anthropological psychology, and abnormal psychology. In the development of contemporary psychology, there was Deleuzze-Guttari (psychoanalysis) using rizhomatic or Jungian's ecopsychology. Of course, there are still many other -ism in psychological that can be used to dissect literature. Some of these psychologies are used optimally in literature, but some are rarely used in literary studies. Such scantiness is usually caused by the factors of (1) rare literature in Indonesia; (2) qualified practitioners in the psychology field; and (3) reluctance to examine literature through rare perspectives.

In this article, it is focused on environmental psychology with the following rationalization. First, the current trend of research / studies related to nature, environment and conservation, both in conservation or degradation side, e.g Hailwood (2015) discussed about modern human alienation to nature; McGregor (2015) examined the nature in classical period until the modern period. He suggested that people return to nature if they

want to survive human civilization; White (2008); Liddik (2011); Cianchi (2015) discussed about nature crime and destruction. Second, in Indonesia is also currently leading the literary studies related to nature, environment, or also called green literature, e.g Wall (1994), ecocritism, e.g Love (2003); Timoty (2015), ecopsychology, e.g Merrit (2012a; 2012b), Fisher (2013), Vakoch & Castrillón (2014). All these writings come to the same core, which are bringing together, introducing, and restoring nature.

Indonesian literature, in this short story (Cerpen Pilihan Kompas 2015 [2016]), presents nature as something that is photographed in various ways. One of them, the short story of *Anak ini Mau Mengencingi Jakarta?* by Ahmad Tohari, it tries to show the environmental conditions in suburban Jakarta. A marginalized environment that sometimes shows the 'slums' impression, though not all of it. For that reason, *Cerpen Pilihan Kompas 2015* becomes a data source in this study. In facing the natural destruction phenomenon, whether due to human activities or natural phenomenon (environment [human, animal, and plant]), psychology practitioners create interdisciplinary psychology. One of the psychology, environmental psychology. However, there are other psychological fields (somewhat similar), ecopsychology, ecological psychology that focus on the interactions of human and environment. In addition, from different disciplines also pay attention to nature, e.g psychobiology, and environmental philosophy.

Environmental psychology is a discipline of psychology that studies the interactions between the individual (human) and the natural environment (Oliver, 2002, Winter & Koger, 2004; Gärling, Biel, & Gustafsson, 2002). This shows that environmental psychology focuses on environmental influences on human experience. In contrast, human influence on the environment, such as factors that affect behavior towards the environment and encourage humans who are proactive to the environment (Steg, van den Berg, & de Groot, 2013: 2). Canter (1986) said that environmental psychology is related to human experience of environment. Therefore, environmental psychology is close to sociology or social psychology. Environmental psychology is also close to ecopsychology, intersection between psychology and ecology (Ahmadi, 2015b). However, both have different ontological foundations.

Environmental psychology emerged and became a crucial issue around 1960-1970s (Pati & Barach, 2010: 2). This type of psychology, according to Canter, emerging as a reaction of classical psychology which is supposedly based on non-environment. Tendency of classical psychology is much struggling in the lab (room) to optimize the environment (Bonnes & Secchiaroli, 1995: 20; 29). Through this environmental psychology, it is expected the world does not have one eye on the environment as human residence before, now, and in the future.

The areas that concern the environmental psychology are (1) perception of environmental damage; (2) landscape; (3) environmental restoration; (4) environmental stress; (5) urban environment; (6) life quality in surrounding environment; (7) environmental health (8) environmental morality / ethics (Steg, van den Berg, & de Groot, 2013). In a broader context, environmental psychology also explains about problem of space. These areas are not partially reviewed, but holistically and comprehensively.

METHODOLOGY

This research method using descriptive-qualitative analysis because the obtained data is described narratively with research facts and evidences. Relating to qualitative, Stake

(1994: 242) said that qualitative research is an "interpretive" study, because it tends to focus on the production of meanings. Therefore, in line with Stake's view, this study is more focused on descriptions that use interpretation so that the analysis results become more deeply and sharper.

The data source is from short stories that are related to the environmental psychology in *Cerpen Pilihan Kompas 2015* (published 2016) contain 22 short stories, those are *Anak ini Mau Mengencingi Jakarta*, *Tajen Terakhir*, *Orang-orang dari Selatan Harus Mati Malam Itu*, *Hakim Sarmin*, *Upacara Hoe*, *Penguburan Kembali Sitaresmi*, *Dua Penyanyi*, *Lidah Ketut Rapti*, *Liang Liu*, *Batu Lumut Kapas*, *Sebatang Lengkeng yang Bercerita*, *Surat Nurlan Daulay Kepada Junjungan Jiwanya*, *Sebotol Hujan untuk Sapardi*, *Jemari Kiri*, *Leteh*, *Kebohongan itu Manis*, *Vardhazh*, *Savonette*, *Linuwih Aroma Jarik Baru*, *Sepasang Kekasih di Bawah Reruntuhan*, *Tepi Shire*, *Jenggo*, *Nomor*. The data is from the short story excerpts that are relevant to environmental psychology. Data analysis technique refers to the analysis of literary psychology on literary works. The stages are (1) identification of data that is relevant to environmental psychology; (2) classification of data that is relevant to environmental psychology; (3) data analysis; (4) verification, and (5) drawing conclusion.

FINDING

A healthy environment is everyone's dream. When an environment is healthy, it impacts to a healthy human. However, it sometimes only belongs to some of bourgeois people. A healthy environment is only a dream for the suburbanite who fined it incredibly hard to seek shelter. The phenomenon, clearly visible in the short story "*Anak ini Mau Mengencingi Jakarta?*"

The train stopped in the area of the people who lived near railroad. A truly independent and sovereign life was on the move. Yet, most of them were still lying in cardboard huts leaning against the railroad walls. There were only low-visible wreckage sheets. And in the right row, a man and his little boy were awake. Near them there was a woman still sleeping, cushioned by a bundle of cloth wrapped around a cardboard mat. That woman's face looked tired. But, the lipstick and thick cheek powder. I don't know, maybe that woman last night sold lust until morning (Tohari, 2016: 2).

The short story shows an environment of a fringe community that lives around a train bearing. Their lives are unfair and unhealthy if it is observed from the perspective of environmental health. The environmental health of those peripheral people is very 'minimal' considering they live in railway bearings. Things that make it unhealthy in the environment of the railway bearings are (1) around the railway bearing is prohibited to be made a place to live because the place is prone to get accidents. Some cases happen, people around the railway tracks are hit by trains because they are careless when a train passes by; (2) the houses made from cardboard and wreckage are very unhygienic for health. Wreckages, such as scrap metal or rusty zinc are very bad for children. For example, after playing with those wreckages, children forget to wash hands. When eating, the rust particles on their hands get swallowed along with the food. Sooner or later, it certainly causes illness. Not to mention the open house model, it is made from cardboard, mosquitoes easily enter, the dangers of malaria, dengue fever, and cikungunya cannot be avoided.

"Do not pee in there! It will spurt on the bundle of your mother's clothes. A while ago, you urinated near the back, now you want to pee near the bundle of clothes." (Tohari, 2016: 4).

The environment portrait in the unhealthy railway bearing (Jakarta area), in the view of environmental psychology, it must be changed, restored. Why is that? Because changes in environmental conditions from unhealthy to healthy environmental conditions will bring impact for human health. Descriptions of little children who want to pee in a house without bathroom is a very unhealthy thing. If it is left alone, it will become a boomerang to humans themselves. Actually, the government has banned to build houses around railway bearing because it is unhygienic, unhealthy, and dangerous for the safety of its inhabitants. However, expectations and reality are sometimes different. They crave a healthy home environment, but they cannot afford. That way, the worst alternative is the house around the railway bearing.

Unlike with the short story of Tohari's work, Utari's short story titled *Liang Liu* presents other things about environmental conditions. It displays an aesthetic environment through the description of the trees. The aesthetical of the trees are shown in the following description.

There are dozens of liang liu trees grown neatly lined up into rows like dancers in green shirts that wriggle in the wind, bow and nod gracefully in the wisdom that appears before dusk (Utari, 2016: 91).

... because I like the trees more, I order Yanto, my gardener to water and fertilize you periodically. Every afternoon I invite Lanang, my herder dog, to take a walk among the liang liu trees. This habit began to be a part of my life since the trees exceeded my height (Utari, 2016: 92).

This short story tells the character's towards the trees. She feels comfortable, happy, and cool when she is close to the trees and looks at them. In the environmental psychology context, the first person character is a figure who has a good sense of nature. She has so much love of nature and the environment around her. Although the trees around her house do not belong to her, the first person character does altruistic act, she asks her gardener named Yanto to water and fertilize the trees periodically.

Love of nature and environment must be built by modern humans. This is called the concept of biophilia, love of the environment. As modern humans, they should not take advantage of nature and environment arbitrarily and excessively. Of course, the excessive use in this context is related to the nature and environment exploitations which are currently rampant. If it is left like that, the huge catastrophe cannot be avoided. Because of that, people who care about the environment are needed.

Batu Lumut Kapas short story written by Gus TF Sakai tells about the emerge of agate trend in Indonesia. The fact is true when the new stalls of nature stone sellers suddenly appear in the traditional market, from bacan stone, kalimanan stone, dareh river stone, to the strange thing like elephant's semen. It does not stop there, those kind stones start to pop in the mall, although not as much as the cosmetics or clothes sellers. Not to forget, also the mass media provides a special column for natural stone. It is really incredible, it may be called stone effect with placebo effects result. The stones that were originally considered as ordinary stones become 'unusual' stones. The stones begin to be precious and high class items. Actually, if it is studied more deeply, the skyrocketing price of stonse cannot be separated from the 'game' of a person or group. Fish species called lou han had been booming in Indonesia. After that, the fish' price fell down significantly. Then, the trend of Japanese kamboja flowers, adenium. Followed by wave of love flowers, now followed by agate trends. Now, the price of those things have a free-fall. I do not know whether it is a 'game' or it is the matter of 'time'.

When agate begin to emerge in Indonesia, many people seek agate, either as a seller or buyer. Of course, this is especially for agate lovers. They are willing to hunt for rare, strange, and aesthetic agate.

"Look at the water, it is very clear. Its surface is very shiny. Crystal. Watch the moss fibers. Green grass jelly. So smooth. So organized. Wiggling like dancing." (Sakai, 2016: 101).

The showing stone in the short story written by Gus TF Sakai is about a very rare agate. The stone is called the cotton moss stone. In fact, the stone is only a story from mouth to ear. No inhabitants own the stone because it is considered a story-only. However, it turns out to be there are people who have the stone. If it is associated with environmental psychology, the search for agate in the river, mountains, valleys, or by digging somewhere, undoubtedly damage the ecosystem. In Sumatra (2015) it had ever found a huge stone (in a large elephant size). The stone is split into small pieces to be made agate. The stone removal damages the ecosystem because the animals around the stone areas are no longer have a place to live, not to mention the plants types that live around the stone areas. Gus TF Sakai brings up different things in relation to agate effects. When someone wants a rare agate, one of the worst way, killing the agate owner. Then, take the agate.

FINAL CONSIDERATION

This research is an alternative research in Indonesian literature, especially research on short stories. The research using environmental psychology is a prototype, of course, there are small gaps. For that, it takes a deeper theory and explanation. Nevertheless, an alternative study is important for trial because change is a necessity to dismantle the stagnant.

Kumpulan Cerpen Kompas 2015 is a collection of short stories that have a scattering theme. However, in relation to current trends, environmental psychology is suitable for dissecting the short stories collection. Obviously, without denying other studies. Based on the narrative exposure in advance, the environment appearance in *Kumpulan Cerpen Kompas 2015* is not too dominant. This is a fairness because the authors of short stories have scattered ideology so do the contents.

The short story that raises many environmental problems is "Anak ini Mau Mengencingi Jakarta?" written by Ahmad Tohari. This short story becomes the best short story of Kompas choice and the shoer story's title becomes the title of short stories' compilation. Furthermore, the short story that raises theme about environment is the short story of Liang Liu which is written by Utari and the short story of Batu Lumut Kapas by Gus TF Sakai.

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