

## SOCIAL CRITICISM IN ARIFIN C. NOER'S MATAHARI DI JALAN KECIL (A STUDY OF LITERARY SOCIOLOGY)

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### ABSTRACT

The formulation of the problem in this research are: How are the intrinsic elements of the drama script Matahari Sebuah Jalan Kecil by Arifin C. Noer? The purpose of this study is to describe the intrinsic elements and social criticism in the drama script Matahari Di Sebuah Jalan Kecil by Arifin C. Noer. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The research technique used in this research is literature study and documentation. The object of research is a drama script entitled Matahari Di Jalan Kecil by Arifin C. Noer. After doing the analysis, the following conclusions are obtained: 1. The intrinsic elements of the drama script Matahari Di Sebuah Jalan kecil by Arifin C. Noer are as follows: 1) The theme in this script is "judgment of someone who lies", 2) Conflicts in the script are different- different, 3) The plots in Arifin C. Noer's drama Matahari Di Sebuah Jalan Kecil are conventional plots, 4) Arifin C. Noer's main characters in Matahari Di Sebuah Jalan Kecil are Si Mbok, Pemuda and Skinny. Si Mbok's character is kind, patient, and compassionate. The character of Youth is good at silat tongue or good at lying. 5) The internal setting is as follows: a) The setting is a small road in front of the ice factory, b) The setting in the morning before noon, late afternoon or evening and c) the setting in this drama script is tense and sad. 6) Dialogues in Arifin C. Noer's drama Matahari Di Sebuah Jalan Kecil use everyday language, there are several metaphorical words, and there are dialogues that describe character, 7) The main message conveyed by Matahari Di Sebuah Jalan Kecil by Arifin C. Noer is to be honest and work hard. 2 Social criticism in Arifin C. Noer's drama Matahari Di Sebuah Jalan Kecil is a critique of: Social criticism of rising food prices, Social criticism of wages that do not increase or lack of income, Social criticism of people who like to complain, Social criticism of crime rampant such as stealing, cheating, and corruption, Social criticism of dishonest people, Social criticism of today's youth, Social criticism of the occurrence of famine..

**Keywords:** social criticism, sociological studies of literature, drama script.

### INTRODUCTION

Literary works are inseparable from human life. Literary works are usually created by being influenced by the circumstances surrounding the author, such as social, cultural, political, economic, religious, moral, and gender aspects. The function of literary works is as entertainment, besides that literary works are media used by authors to express opinions and express their inner experiences about life and the condition of society at a certain period of time. It is also mentioned that one of the roles of literature is a means or tool to communicate ideas, thoughts, feelings, views, and responses about everything that happens (Kuntowijoyo, 1987: 32).

According to (Ratna, 2015: 59), literary works are a picture of people's social life. This means that a literary work is closely related to the social life of the community. In line with Ratna's opinion, (Sumardjo, 1982: 1) suggests that literary works are related to society because literati are members of society. Literati grew and mingled with each other. So it can be concluded that literary works are creative and imaginative activities, describing social life into writing as entertainment and expressing opinions. Talking about the relationship

between literary works and social life, there is a branch of science that discusses the relationship between literary works and social life. The science is called Sociology of Literature, which is a combination of sociology with literature.

Sociology comes from the word socio or society which means society and logic or logos which means science. So, sociology is the science of society or the science of people's lives (Saraswati, 2003: 2). So that literary sociology is a science that studies literary works and their relationship with aspects of society or social life. According to (Wellek and Warren, 1956), the notion of literary sociology is an approach to literary works that is able to consider with social aspects, both social changes, social institutions, and so on. According to (Semi, 1989: 52), said that sociology examines how society grows and develops. By studying social institutions and all economic, religious, political and other problems, an overview of the ways humans adapt to their environment, societal mechanisms, and cultural processes is obtained. So it can be concluded that sociology examines the development or changes in people's lives. Literary sociology is a science that studies literary works and their relationship with aspects of society or social life, such as religion, economics, education, morals and others.

In this study, researchers examined literary works in the form of drama. Drama comes from the Greek word, draomai which means to do, act, react, and so on. So, the word drama can be interpreted as an act or action (Waluyo, 2002: 2). The essence of drama is the occurrence of a conflict between characters, or conflicts in problems or conflicts within a character. This conflict will encourage dialogue and drive *action* (Arip Hidayat, 2018). Speaking of drama, there is one thing that is very closely related to it, and that is the script. A drama script is a written form that contains a series of stories and dialogues that will be acted out in drama scenes.

According to (Nurgiyantoro in Suroso, 2015), drama as a literary work structurally has elements of characters, storylines, settings, themes, and messages. The problems raised in a drama script are usually depictions of the reality of life. Starting from political, social, and cultural problems experienced by the author. The message conveyed by the playwright to life aims to inform, educate, provide entertainment, as well as criticize problems that occur in society. According to (Arifin, 2013: 2) that the reflection of the life of drama scripts also has special characteristics, namely a literary dimension on the one hand and a performance art dimension on the other. So from this explanation, researchers concluded that the drama script is writing, dialogues of the series of stories. In the drama script, there are conflicts that usually allude to real life that is happening, for example, political, social, economic, family, and other conflicts. So the drama script is a literary work, which can be a means or medium of social criticism by the author, as a form of the author's concern, because it has a relationship between humans and social conditions that inspire the author in the reality of life. Drama scripts are often used as a medium for social criticism.

Social criticism occurs because of the gap in social conditions in the reality of life. The problem of social criticism often occurs in the leveling of income and differences in development in people's lives (Farida and Andalas, 2019: 75). So that social criticism is a form of resistance or disagreement of a person or certain group with the reality that has occurred in a community group. Social criticism covers several aspects, namely social criticism of political, economic, educational, religious, socio-cultural, and moral issues and others.

According to (Wellek and Warren, 2014: 98-99) states that literature is associated with certain situations, or with certain political, economic, and social systems. Research was

conducted to describe the influence of society on literature and its position in society. Literati or authors in the works they create are able to describe the reality of social life through the characters in it. The characters created act as symbols such as greed, lust, revenge, and other evils that cause social problems.

Based on the discussion of social criticism above, it can be concluded that social criticism is a form or means of communication to express opinions, or responses about the social conditions of society. Either orally or in writing. Social criticism occurs because of problems, events or inequalities that occur in society. Social criticism can discuss education, morals, religion, politics, economics and so on. Social criticism has two forms, the first direct form of social action, and demonstration, and the second indirect form of criticism through drama scripts, drama performances, poetry, through films. Social criticism in the script will be discussed in this study, namely social criticism in the drama script entitled *Matahari Di A Small Road* by Arifin C. Noer. So that the existence of social criticism in literary works can be expected to trigger changes in society for the better and can reduce social inequality that occurs.

The Manuscript of *the Sun in a Small Road* by Arifin C. Noer. The play's script was published in 1966. The script of the play reveals or tells the complex reality of life in Pegulén village, especially the factory workers and learning about honesty and lies. The economic situation is very unstable, many food prices continue to increase. As a result of this incident, many Pegulén people live hard or unprosperous, causing crime in the lives of Pegulén people. With the theme of people's social life. This is based on dialogues that try to discuss problems or realities that exist in Indonesian society, such as the amount of corruption, economic problems, welfare of life, and social inequality. In addition, it is shown about a person who is good at tongue martial arts so that he can run away from a mistake or evil. Theft and fraud are inevitable. Stealing and cheating have become a last resort for those who are forced due to conditions and have no other choice.

Drama scripts can be used as a tool or medium for social criticism of things that happen in society. Naksah drama *Matahari Di A Jalan Kecil* is very interesting because the story is about social life in Indonesia. Interesting things like the names of the characters in the script are different from the names of characters in other plays. The names of the characters in the script are the Mbok, the Thin, the Old, the Spectacles, the Youth, the Night Watchman, and others, and in the drama the author tries to convey social criticism or the message to be conveyed to the reader.

On the basis of the discussion above, the author as a researcher conducted research on social criticism in the drama script *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer using the study of literary sociology which studies literary works and their relationship with aspects of society or social life. Because the script is interesting and researchers believe there is social criticism in the dialogues of the play. By conducting this research, researchers hope to help students and general readers to better understand the meaning, message or social criticism contained in the play. So that the results of this study can be useful, especially for researchers and generally for readers.

## METHOD

Research methods are steps taken by researchers to collect data or information to be processed and analyzed. According to Sugiyono (2013: 2), the research method is basically a scientific way to obtain data with specific purposes and uses. The research method carried

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out in this study is qualitative method. According to Sugiyono (2015: 15) "qualitative research is research used to examine the natural condition of objects, where researchers are the key instrument, data collection techniques are carried out triangulated (combined), data analysis is inductive, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization.

According to Sugiyono (2015: 305-306) in qualitative research, the instrument or research tool is the researcher himself. Research instruments are tools or facilities used by researchers in collecting data. The instrument in this study is that researchers have a study of drama. So researchers as a key instrument in this study, so that the data collected is in accordance with the research data. Researchers used tools in the form of recording tools or data collection tables to find out the intrinsic elements of social criticism in the drama *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer. Qualitative research is research that is descriptive and tends to use analysis.

**Data Acquisition Techniques:** Data is an important part of research or when conducting research. A study must be based on data for the research to be reliable. Data acquisition or collection techniques in this study are using literature and documentation study techniques.

### 1. Literature Study

Literature study technique is a data collection technique directed at searching for data and information through documents, both written documents, photographs, images, and electronic documents, which support the process of writing research reports. The results of research will be more credible if supported by photographs or papers that have ever existed (Sugiyono, 2015: 83).

Literature study data collection techniques are carried out by collecting relevant or appropriate data needed for research in accordance with the research topic conducted. This technique the author uses to find theories that support and strongly relate to the problem to be studied. Then the author will study theories from various existing books.

### 2. Documentation

According to Arikunto (2006: 231), "The documentation method is to find data about things or variables in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, meeting minutes, lenger, agendas and so on".

This data collection technique is carried out by relying on documents as one of the data sources used to complement the research. The document used in this study was a written source, namely the script of the play *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer.

This technique the author uses to obtain research data by looking for social criticism contained in the drama script *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer, after being found, the author will mark and retype it to be documented to facilitate the data processing process.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the analysis of the intrinsic elements of Arifin C. Noer's *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil*, researchers can conclude that the theme of the drama is "Judgment against a liar". An interesting and sharp conflict is the conflict between the Youth, the Mbok and the ice factory workers. The plot in this drama script uses a conventional plot starting from the exposition

to the completion. The characters in this script are Si Mbok, Pemuda, Si Kurus, Si Short, Si Malam Guard, Si Peci, Si Tua, Si Kacamata, Si Driver, and Perempuan and the characters in each character have different characters there are also those who have the same character.

The setting or setting of the place in the script of this play is a pecel stall on a small road in front of an ice factory. The time setting in this script is morning before noon and it is already noon. The setting of this place does not move but makes the reader feel unbores, it is because the story presented is very interesting and exciting for the reader. The dialogue in this drama script is colloquial language that is easy to understand. The mandate or moral message conveyed in general is to be an honest person and work hard.

Researchers will discuss the types of social criticism and the form of delivering social criticism on social criticism that researchers have obtained from the results of the analysis in the drama script *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer as follows.

### Social criticism of the increase in foodstuffs.

This social critique is a social critique of economic problems. The criticism was delivered straightforwardly. This can be seen from the following excerpt of the drama script.

**SI TUA** : (received pecel) Very little.

**SIMBOK** : (ignore and continue to serve others)

**SI PECE** : Yes, very little (feeding his mouth)

**SI TUA** : Tempeh five rupiah now.

**SI KACAMATA**: Expensive rice (throwing away the sling) yesterday my wife complained.

**SI PECE** : All the women are laughing.

**SI KURUS** : Everyone's a snitch.

**SI KACAMATA**: Yesterday afternoon my wife went shopping at the stall of Mrs. Pungut. Back and forth he blew his breath in annoyance..... Rice prices are rising again, he said.

**SI PECE** : What's not up?

**SI TUA** : All up.

The data above proves that social criticism of economic problems, namely about the increase in foodstuffs, is conveyed directly or straightforwardly, when the Old Man character complains that the portion obtained is small, and there is talk about rising foodstuffs, such as tempeh and rice.

### Social criticism of salaries that do not rise or lack of income.

This social critique is a social critique of economic problems, namely lack of income. The criticism is delivered straightforwardly, because it is contained in the dialogue of the drama script that is spoken or delivered directly. This can be seen from the following excerpt of the drama script.

**SI PECE** : What's not up?

**SI TUA** : All up.  
**SI KURUS** : Our salaries don't go up

### **Social criticism of people who like to complain.**

This social critique is a social critique of moral issues. The form of delivering criticism is a form of direct or straightforward delivery. This is explained in the following excerpt of the dialogue.

**SI PENDEK** Therefore we do not need to complain, let alone daydream and fantasize, now the important thing is that we work, work hard. Social criticism of rampant crime.

In the script of the drama *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer, there is a social criticism that goes into moral problems, namely rampant crimes such as stealing, cheating and corruption. The criticism is conveyed straightforwardly or openly and is evidenced in the following dialogue.

**SI TUA** : Yes, now evil is rampant.  
**SI KURUS** : Everyone is taught to steal and cheat.

### **Social criticism of dishonest people.**

In the script of the play *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer, there is a social critique of moral problems, namely social criticism of dishonest people. The criticism is conveyed straightforwardly in the dialogue as follows.

**SI KURUS** : Still young has learned to be dishonest. Still young has learned to eat without effort.

From the quote above the dialogue proves that we should always behave honestly and work hard to meet needs, especially at a young age.

### **Social criticism of the younger generation**

In the script of *the play Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer, there is a social critique of moral issues. That is social criticism of dishonest people. The criticism is conveyed straightforwardly in the dialogue as follows.

**SI KURUS** : Still young has learned to be dishonest. Still young has learned to eat without effort.

From the quote above the dialogue proves that we should always behave honestly and work hard to meet needs, especially at a young age.

### **Social criticism of the occurrence of famine.**

This social critique is a social critique of economic problems, namely the problem of hunger. This is not the latest phenomenon, many people experience hunger due to food factors, especially in the script of *the drama Matahari di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer, where some people eat rats because of hunger. This is due to the instability and destruction



of farmers' fields, thus eating foods that are not suitable for eating, as seen in the following quote.

**SI TUA** : Speaking of rats, (coughing) now there are also people who eat mice.

**SI KACAMATA** : Not mice, cindel. The Chinese in my place used to swallow cindel alive with soy sauce, probably for medicine.

**SI TUA** : Not cindels, rats, Wirog. The farmers were so annoyed that their fields were disturbed, so they were furious and annoyed and ate the rats as a side dish, rather than redundant. But there are also those who eat mice itu sebab lapar.

**SI PECCI** : Yes, now it is almost common in villages, there are even recommendations from the local government.

In the quote above, the Old One, the Spectacles, and the Peci tell about the rat thing. The Old Man said, now there are also people who eat rats, because farmers are very annoyed that their fields are disturbed, so they catch their rats as side dishes. That's because it's redundant and some eat rats because they're hungry. Now it is almost common in villages to eat rats, some are even recommended from the local government. The criticism is delivered straightforwardly or directly because it is very clear in the dialogue of the script.

It can be concluded that the script of this drama becomes a medium or form of communication over the unrest that occurs or the situation that is being experienced. So that the script of this drama is not only entertaining but also conveys criticism of government, social criticism of economic problems, social criticism of moral problems that are so sharp. Such as social criticism of the problem of food increase, the problem of lack of income, and hunger events that have an impact on people's moral problems. As a result of the state or economic situation that is destroyed makes people often complain, rampant crimes such as thieves, cheating and corruption, people who are not honest and do not want to work hard because life is so difficult that people quickly give up. The government plays an important role in the welfare of its people so that the government should be accused of doing things that harm the people such as corruption. So this literary work of drama script is not only as entertainment, but is used to convey social criticism by the author of what is happening.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the data and data processing obtained by the researcher, the conclusions of this study are as follows. An intrinsic element of *the play Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer.

1. The theme of Arifin C. Noer's *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* is "judgment against a young man who is good at tongue or lying"
2. The conflict in the script of this drama is the conflict between Si Mbok and the conflict between Si Mbok and Si Mbok's son. Then the Youth conflict against all figures.
3. The plot in this drama script is a conventional plot.
4. The character and character in this play, Si Mbok is the protagonist, good character, patient and has compassion. The young man is an antagonist, his character is good at tongue martial arts or good at lying. The Skinny is a tritagonist figure, his character is smart and wise. The Peci is a helper, his character goes along. The Old One is a tritagonist figure, his disposition likes to complain. The Night Watchman is a tritagonist figure, likes to complain. The Short is a tritagonist, wise. The spectacle is a tritagonist,

wise. The driver is a helper, wise and respected. Female helpers, caring but very arrogant.

5. Setting or Setting, the setting in the script of this drama is a small street that has an ice factory and pecel stalls selling in the factory yard. The time setting in the script of this play is early morning before noon and it is already noon or evening. The setting atmosphere in the script of this play is tense, and sad.
6. The dialogue in this drama script is that the language it uses is colloquial and there are several metaphorical languages. Then in the dialogue there are dialogues that describe the character of the characters, dialogues that convey messages of criticism or messages, dialogues that describe the setting or setting, and dialogues that describe conflicts.
7. The mandate contained in this text is. Be a person who works hard and honestly because if lying will harm yourself and others, don't complain often even though life is difficult still have to work hard, and don't easily trust other people or people you don't know and stay alert at every event.

Social criticism in the play *Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer. Its existence can be proven and strengthened by looking at its relationship with the intrinsic elements of the text. All identified social criticisms are closely related to the intrinsic elements of the text. In the script of *the drama Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer there are two main criticisms, namely social criticism:

8. Social criticism of economic problems is, social criticism of food increases, social criticism of wages that do not increase or lack of income, and social criticism of the occurrence of famine events.
9. Social criticism of moral issues i.e., social criticism of complaining people, social criticism of rampant crime, social criticism of dishonest people, social criticism of the younger generation.

The form of delivering criticism is straightforward or direct, this is because the criticism is contained in the dialogues of the characters of the drama *script Matahari Di Jalan Kecil* by Arifin C. Noer.

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