

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literary works is mirror of society because it reflects and comment on aspects of things people encounter on their daily life . Literary works also written to draw attention to any social issues and different layers of society, and they arouse a sense of empathy in the reader. Literary works give information about the society, situation and point of view of the period in which they were written . In other word literature has a close relationship with history and society. Wellek and Warren (1995) which states that a literary work can be seen as a series of works arranged chronologically and it is a part of the historical process. Through the literary works the writer aims to describe the situation and the condition occurred during the period of the events. This is what the founders of New Historicism first saw, both the text and the historical social have produced a social impact at the same time. (Artika 2015). In this perspective. literature participates in developing, articulating and reproducing conventions, norms, and cultural values through its verbal acts and creative imagination.

The literary works can be divided into several types namely poetry, novel, prose, plays, film, song and so on. Novel is an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting. They are several genre of novel such as romantics, realist, picaresque, gothic, historical , humor, thriller, horror and so on. These genre are based on the story, the character, plot and setting in the novel.

The story presented in the novel is like a historical record of the character's life. Of course, the story presented by a writer in his novel is not exactly the same as the historical events behind it. However, novels with historical backgrounds can be used as a guide by readers in the future to trace history. Furthermore, it can show how characters enter an important event that becomes history.

There are many prose works, both novels and short stories, that show not only entertainment and aesthetic value, but also contain historical content.. Just mention some titles such as the *'Tetralogy of Buru'* novels by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, Ahmad Tohari's novel *Kubah*, *Clara's Short Story* by Seno Gumira Ajidarma. These works seem to help our memory back to the important events that are presented through the scenes in these works.

A literary work cannot be separated from the social conditions of society. Indonesia has a history of dark events during the New Order era, one of which is the tragedy of the May 1998 riots. In 1998 the Indonesian nation experienced a bloody event, there were massive demonstrations attended by all levels of society including factory workers, farmers, and students. Under the rule of the new order regime, democratic plurality was increasingly lost. They wanted a democratic political life (Widjojo, 1999).

The Riots occurred in a number of major cities in Indonesia. It was motivated by the Asian financial crisis that occurred since 1997 and also corruption, collusion and nepotism issued remained and also the deaths of 4 Trisakti University students due to bullets from the authorities during demonstrations.

The demonstrations carried out by Indonesian students in 1998 aimed to bring down the authoritarian New Order regime, silencing voices that tried to oppose and criticize the New Order government. The government involved ABRI (Indonesian

Armed Forces) to maintain the stability of the country using repressive actions. These actions were carried out by beating, arresting, imprisoning and kidnapping a number of 1998 activists. ABRI's involvement during the new order era aimed to manage the dynamics of the new order government. The impact of the crisis made people scream due to the rising prices of basic necessities and the lack of availability of jobs (Bhakti, 2001).

Some writers responded to these events by putting them into a literary work. Literary works are considered as a way to re-realize human relationships with society, politics, religion, family and others. The literary works produced by authors cannot be separated from the experiences felt by the authors. The description of the dark events can be seen by using literary works, with the hope that the events of enforced disappearance will not be repeated (Wellek and Warren, 1990). The form and content of literary works can reflect sociological development. In this case, literary sociology is a link between the author's imaginary character and the author's creative condition with historical conditions.

One of the novels that contains historical value is the work of Leila S. Chudori entitled *Laut Bercerita*. Leila Salikha Chudori, known to her readers as Leila S. Chudori, is an Indonesian author who has written short stories since a young age, a best-selling novel, and a television series. She is considered one of Indonesia's boldest story-tellers; her style is unconventional and her themes include such taboo subjects as state absolutism, chauvinism and the hypocrisy of public mores.

Laut Bercerita is one of her historical fiction novel. In general, authors tell facts and themes with the help of literary means such as conflict, point of view, and symbolism. Based on literary means such as conflict, point of view, symbolism, irony, and so on, Leila S. Chudori wrote the story *Laut Bercerita* with the help of

these literary devices. She makes history as a life event of her characters with the arrangement of the conflicts occurred, from the point of view of the various characters that seem to post them as sources, symbols of puppetry. She also create a sense of romance, which suggest that history is not only be used as a source of information. She give the impression that history can not only be read from history books or documentary movie but can also be conveyed through the novel.

Laut Bercerita tells the story of the cruel and violent behavior felt by the student activist groups during the New Order era. Not only that, but the novel also reflects on the disappearance of 13 activists and to this day, no one has found any clues. The story in *Laut Bercerita* is divided into two parts with a much different time gap. The first part is told through the perspective of a character named Biru Laut and his fellow activists as they accomplish their vision or goal. In the second part, the story is told from the perspective of Asmara Jati, Laut's younger brother who has a different goal or vision from Laut.

The 98 Movement is one of the historical events that has led to a milestone of change in Indonesia. This is called Reformation. To experience reformation is proven by the fall of the Suharto regime after 32 years in power. This event was heavily influenced by student and popular demonstrations due to dissatisfaction with the ruling government. Various events such as the detention of activists, political prisoners who were people who were at odds with the government and criticized the government. The kidnapping of student activists who were active in protest movements against the government was even worse, so the novel laut tells a story that is based on this event.

To reconstruct the history of Indonesia, literary and non-literary texts were read to show the power and ideological struggles that occurred.. New Historicism approach by Greenblatt states that the reconstruction of cultural history is influenced by the

presence of literary works as cultural products (Budianta, 2006, p. 8). In this case, the creation of literary works is strongly influenced by the cultural factors that underlie it.

This study uses new historicism studies that emphasize the relationship between text and history. On the one hand, the text uses history as a background in its writing, but on the other hand, history is also influenced by the text. The author's verbal actions and creative imagination as expressed in his work will contribute to shaping and reconstituting cultural values (Budianta, 2006, p. 4). Thus, literary and non-literary texts as a result of socio-political events in the same period of creation also result in social impact. The social impact is built from the text's relationship with the historical reality at that time.

This research will be very useful because this novel is popular among teenagers so that this research will provide more detailed enlightenment about the historical events presented by the author in his novel and its relationship with historical facts and the power struggles and ideologies that occur, as well as representations of economic and cultural history to reconstruct the history of Indonesian reform, especially the 1998 tragedy.

1.2 Problem Identification

Based on the description in the background, there are two questions formulated for the guideline of the research.

1. What are the forms of events described by Leila S. Chudori in *Laut Bercerita*?
2. How are the interconnections between the historical context in novel *Laut Bercerita* and historical reality in society ?

1.3. Objective of the study

The goal of this reserach are as follows:

1. To describe the events of historical context found in *Laut Bercerita* Novel by Leila S. Chudori ?
2. To analyze the interconnection between the historical context in novel *Laut Bercerita* and historical reality in society ?

2.4 Scope

This reserach is based on Leila S. Chudori novel entitled *Laut Bercerita* with a focus on the historical context presented in the novel and the interconnectivity between the historical context and historical fact in society. New historicism approach is used in this reserach because New Historicism is an approach on literary criticism emphasizing the relationship of literary texts to the various social, economic, and political forces that surround them (Brannigan, 1999 in Barry 2002: 172). This approach is used because it provides researchers to examine literary and various documents relating to historical issues as discursive formations that represent an issue within the totality of a historical period. A simple definition of the new historicism is that it is a method based on the parallel reading of literary and non-literary texts, usually of the same historical period.

2.5 Significance

This study has two significances; theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study attempts to give worth result to extending and generating the theory itself. Then this study is able to give understanding about literary work entitled *Laut Bercerita* written by Leila S. Chudori as well as its historical background in comprehensive.

It also aims at enriching the development in literary studies especially in terms of New Historicism criticism. Consequently, it is expected to enrich knowledge about how literary works can be used as historical documents.

Practically this study became a reference material with different studies for those who concern on new historicism.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2. 1 Sociology of Literature

Sociology is part of the social sciences which examines human societies and all their actions in processes that keep societies in their present state or change. It is the study of human Interaction where the interaction of human being with the human's society is including; the social institution, religious, economic, politic, family and social structure . It means that sociology is a social relationship studying . It studies about how human are related to each other, among individuals ,accepted acceptable in social institutions. Sociology is not only discussed the sustainability of the social structure and the interaction, but sociology also discusses the symptoms of social change in society, both individually and revolutionary. (Ahmadi, 2021)

Literature is the product of human experience based on when and where it is created, including; environment and society. Literature concerns with man's social world, the conflict with family, social classes, and the solution to solve the conflict in the society. The sociology of literature at the end of the nineteenth century, is part of the general sociology which deals with the "text" and, rather, with everything outside the text itself (Ahmadi 2021) Readers, writers, critics, literary institutions are included in this field of book production and distribution, but "literary sociology" is one of the branches of literary science. In addition sociology of literature gives more focus upon the relation between literary work and the social structure. It can be said that literary creation determined social situation as there is a close interconnection between literary phenomena and social situation or social context. It is important to know about the socioeconomic situation, political issue, the world view and creativity of the author even about the system and political organization in relating to his works. It can not be avoided that literary works emerged certain thought and social and cultural configuration.

Swingewood (1972: 13) states that literature and sociology are not completely as disciplines but literature and sociology are complementing each other in our understanding of society, historically, they have tended to remain apart . So we can understand the society condition based on the literary works

Moreover according to Meilina (2019) The sociology of literature is an outcome of the complementary relationship between literature and society. Literature written in a certain period of time is directly connected with the norms, customs and traditions of the day. So literary work is regarded as the segment of the society. Therefore, the understanding of literary works must always place it in the frame inseparable with these various variables: the author as a member of society the socio-cultural, political, economic conditions that socio-cultural, political, economic conditions that play a role in the creation of literary works.

Literature in sociology is pre-eminently concerned with man's social world, his adaptation to it, and his desire to change it. Thus the novel, as the major literary genre of industrial society, can be seen as a faithful attempt to re-create the social world of man's relation with his family, with politics, with the State; the conflicts and tensions between groups and social classes.

There are several aspects of the sociology of literature such as the social class, social status, ideology, condition of economics, education, religion, and social change in the society.

The basic principle in sociology of literature involved three approaches, namely literary work as a mirror to the age, literary work deals with the social situation of the author and literary work as the specific historical moment

1. Literary work as a mirror to the age.

Laurenson and swingewood (1972: 13) state that "literature as the mirror to age". It indicates that the readers can discuss the social phenomenon which happens to the society in

a certain period and certain place through the literary work. It means that literary work reflects the situation and condition of social life in the society.

2. Literary work deals with the social situation of the author.

The writer is influenced by the situation and condition where the literature is written because the writer is also the member of society. However, the author should be more sensitive toward the social phenomena surround them. According to Laurensen and Swingewood (1972: 17), the second approach to literary sociology moves away from the emphasis on the work of literature itself to the production side and especially to the social situation of the writer. According to Laurensen and Swingewood (1972: 8), The writer's position in a mass society is extremely important as a contrast to his earlier social situation, and clearly likely to affect his creative potential in many ways; the links between this historical background and the development of literature constitute a key area in any literary sociology". Based on the statement, literary sociology concerns on the relation between historical background when the writer lives. It means that the author writes a literary work based on his experience in his life. Finally, he can produce a novel. On the other hand, a novel tells about the experiences of author based on the his experiences in the society . Therefore, a literary work deals with the historical background of the writer. Besides, the author has inspiration, not from his own imagination but it comes from the outside world social life, so there is the collaboration between author and his social life. As we know that the author is a part of society and the inspiration of the author must be from the society. In other words, literary work is dealing with the situation of the author.

3. Literary work as the specific historical moment.

This approach deals with the condition of society in a certain time in accepting and understanding a literary work. The literary work is certainly received by a particular society at a specific historical moment. This perspective focuses on the literary work as the real condition of the age. In the other words, literary work is a reflection of the historical moment. Swingewood and Laurensen state that, "It is interesting to note that on this point

most sociologists of literature and literary critics are agreed: one studies great study writers and their texts precisely because their greatness implies deep insights into the human and the social condition but bring into doubt the nature of sociology of mass culture, popular culture, and so on, which, on this view, does not have message for posterity or contain deep insights into man's social and human condition" (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972: 22). The analysis of the historical context in *Laut Bercerita* Novel refers to this principle.

2.2 New Historicism

Literature and history are intertwined, as stories capture the essence of an era, reflecting societal norms, triumphs, and tribulations. Through character arcs and settings, literature immortalizes historical context, offering a lens to view past worlds. Through the literature, the author presents the detailed event as well as the characters and the setting. So New Historicism is the approach used in this research because New Historicism is an approach to literary criticism that emphasizes the relationship of literary texts to the various social, economic, and political forces that surround them (Brannigan, 1999: 421; Barry, 2002: 172). This approach is used because it provides researchers to examine literary and non-literary texts as discursive formations that represent an issue within the totality of the historical period.

John Brannigan (1998) explains how New Historicism understands the stories of the past as society's way of constructing a narrative which unconsciously fits its own interests. Such power dynamics feature prominently in the work of Marxist thinkers, including Louis Althusser, who see history as the procession of stories favourable to the victor and literature as one of the institutions which participate in making state power and ideology familiar and acceptable to the state's subjects (Althusser, 1984 as cited in Brannigan, 1998). New Historicism builds on these approaches but scholars such as Greenblatt emphasize the use of the past as an "impetus for political

struggle in the present, and make it clear that the discipline of literary studies is not removed from the sphere of politics” (Brannigan, 1998).

New Historicism applies the intertextual working method by reading several texts in parallel (parallel reading) because all texts are products of the times and are interrelated. The application of the New Historicism method is to read literature in archival sequences (Barry, 2011). New Historicism is an approach in literary criticism that emphasizes the interconnectedness of literary texts with various social forces, social and political forces.

New Historicism interprets literature in terms of relationships with non-literary texts, because arguments about the meaning of literary texts are often easily deciphered by looking at history. History is a powerful analytical knife because it often provides a solid basis for making claims about meaning (Ryan: 2011).

New Historicism places literary texts within the framework of non-literary texts. This is in line with Greenblatt's opinion in the formulation "nothing comes of nothing". New Historicism does not judge cultural products (high and low, noble and marginal, serious and popular) but to show how various texts are intertwined with the problems of their times because literature and history are a network of texts. New Historicism views literature not as a transparent and passive reflection of history but rather as constructing, articulating and producing cultural conventions, norms, values through creative verbal and imaginative acts.

Specifically, the study of new historicism tries to interpret and re-examine the construction of power and the networks it forms through adequate reading of existing literary texts. The literary text is parsed in such a way as to reveal the discursive

practices that develop and operate in it. Therefore, in the context of new historicism studies, it is the same as trying to open the veil of the praxis of power that runs through literary texts. Thus, literary texts occupy an important position to dissect the existing power base. This is very reasonable and logical because nothing can connect directly in the present context, except the power base constructed by history itself, namely the political dimension, ideological dimension, and socio-cultural.

The basic assumption of new historicism, as Greenblatt (2005) points out, is that there is a reciprocal relationship between humans and their civilization. Texts in this context reflect the pattern of reciprocal relationships between humans and the civilizations that shape them. Literary texts in the new historicism perspective are always seen on the one hand as literary texts and on the other hand as historical texts.

As a historical text, literature is seen as a record of the journey of human civilization. As both a literary text and a historical text, the two do not discriminate but are equal. They are seen as equal because both literary and historical texts contain essential things, namely the construction of ideology, politics, and socio-cultural backgrounds. A distinction must be made between text and context (Darma, 2004), both of which are different phenomena.

Text is a phenomenon within literature, while context is a phenomenon outside the literary work that has a relationship with the literary text. Brannigan (1999) asserts that the theory of new historicism is an approach that connects text and context to the important content of the broader political dimensions associated with literary interpretation. In the view of new historicism, all types of texts are political

'languages of instruction'; therefore texts mediate social, political and cultural formations.

There is a fundamental difference between traditional historicism and new historicism. The former understands and positions the text as a construction that records the sequence of events in time and space. Events in context are seen as linear. Some markers of events are read as historical traces that are read and understood linearly. Therefore, the understanding of the reality of historical texts is also linear. Events are historical narratives that run progressively as a record of the phases in relation to space and time.

New historicism does not merely read historical events as a linear sequence of space and time. Events are read and understood as complex events, as events that do not just happen. Behind the historical event must be suspected of many things behind it. Historical events or incidents are not logical enough if they are presented as coincidences. The logic of coincidence is not acceptable for historical events. Historical events are suspected of having underlying contents such as ideology, politics, and socio-culture. Therefore, according to new historicism, the most important thing is to look at the phenomena behind these historical events to uncover the ideological, political and socio-cultural dimensions. The main work of new historicism is to read, uncover, and re-examine these historical events in the context of ideology, politics and socio-culture

Based on the above, new historicism is more of a historicist movement than a historical movement. In relation to the historicist movement, new historicism sees nothing outside the text, everything is in the text that needs to be analyzed.

Therefore, opening up the linguistic network in the text is something that is important to do. Without opening the linguistic network in the text, historical events in the context of ideology, politics and socio-culture will not be addressed.

2.3. Review of Related Studies

There are some previous research have been conducted by several researchers. So the writer try to compared and investigate them in order to find the similarities or the differences in each study. The related researches in this study include :

1. Fitrianita Febrina Ali, 2021 New Historicism analysis in *sense and sensibility* novel by Jane Austen .

The article examine the aspect of the novel by using new historicism approach. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. The authors analyze how the historical aspect in the text of the novel “ Sense and Sensibility” by Jane Austen. Sources of the data include the source of primary data and secondary data.. The primary data is the text of the novel Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen. While secondary data or supporting data are books, articles and journals that discuss historical, social, cultural, and biographical aspects.

This study focused on the use Stephen Greenblatt theory to analyze the novel “Sense and Sensibility” by Jane Austen , researcher found several context of New Historicism in the “Sense and Sensibility”, namely historical context, social context, cultural context, and biographical context. Historical context to find out how historical factors contained in the novel are then compared to non-literary texts in that era. Social context to find out how the social situation at that time. Cultural context to find out how the culture of society at that time, and biographical context to compare whether the novel describes the life of Jane Austen in the real life. The

Differences between this research and mine lies an the object. In my research I take the data from the aspect of novel *Laut Bercerita* by Leila S. Khudori where the period of historical moment of reformation era in 1998 with has strong influnce to the political, economic and socio cultural life in Indonesia.

However the former reserach used the data from *Sense nad Sensibility Novel* by Jane Austin. It tried to find the historical context of the novel in Georgian Era . Georgian era was a period in British history from 1714 to c. 1830–1837, named after the Hanoverian kings George I, George II, George III and George IV. The definition of the Georgian era is also often extended to include the relatively short reign of William IV, which ended with his death in 1837.

2. Suhailee Sohnu et all. (2021) The study of Historical Value and Character Education in *The laskar pelangi* Novel by Andrea Hirata.

The study aimedc to find out and describe (1) historical value, (2) social problems, (3) the values of character education of *Laskar Pelangi* by Andrea Hirata. It analyzed document data in the form of a novel, *Laskar Pelangi*, by Andrea Hirata as the research object. Based on the results of data analysis, it was found that (1) Laskar Pelangi was created by the author to appreciate his teacher in the form of a book; (2) the social problems are poverty, education, work, and economy, which are interrelated as the problems in the life of the characters; (3) the value of character education in this novel is relevant to literary learning.

This research used descriptive qualitative method. The data obtained in a systematic, factual, and accurate manner regarding the facts and causal relationships of the phenomena studied.. It used sociological approach to literature, an approach in analyzing literary works by considering social aspects to determine

the totality of a literary work, was employed. To find the historical and educational values in *Laskar Pelangi*, a semiotic model reading technique, namely heuristic and hermeneutic reading, was used. The sociology of literature approach also seeks to find the interrelationships between authors, readers, and socio-cultural conditions in literary works.

The similarities between this research and mine is try to find the historical context of the novel but applied descriptive qualitative method but in the former research used sociology of literature while I applied new historicism to reveal the historical context inside the novel.

3. Mimas Ardhianti, Historicism Study in Novel *Hatta: Aku Datang Karena Sejarah* By Sergius Sutanto

This research aimed to examine the social, political and cultural aspects of events in Indonesian history. The new historicism approach considers the relevance of literary works as social documents. In reviewing Hatta's novel: *Aku Datang Karena Sejarah* regarding new historicism,

It used a qualitative descriptive method while the object of this research is the novel *Hatta: Aku Datang karena Sejarah*. The data in this study are in the form of words, expressions, sentences contained in the novel. The data source in this research is the novel which describes social, political, and culture.

After the data is collected, it is continued with data analysis. By using descriptive qualitative, namely the elements in question. The study of new historicism in the novel *Hatta: Aku Datang Karena Sejarah* by Sergius Sutanto raises a story set against a historical background when Indonesia was a Dutch and Japanese colony.

The Similarities between the former research are the using of newhistoricism approach in analyzing the data. But the data taken is different where the former study obtained the data from the Novel *Hatta : Aku Datang Karena Sejarah* by Sergius Sutanto while in my study the data is taken from *Laut Bercerita Novel* by Leila S. Khudori. The previous study analyzed the historical background in Dutch and Japanese colonialization while in mine, the data analyzed in reformation Era.

4. Putri amanda, Devi wika s. Refleksi Tragedi Kerusuhan Mei 1998 Dalam Novel *Notasi Karya Morra Quatro*

This research aims to analyze the social reflection contained in Morra Quatro's *Notasi Novel*. The novel *Notasi* carries the theme of reformation from the perspective of students outside Jakarta (Yogyakarta). It is set at Gadjah Mada University in 1998 and the events of Indonesian history related to the social and political conditions at that time. In this study, the researcher used Alan Swingewood's literary sociology approach. The researcher used descriptive analysis method, namely analyzing and describing data to describe the state of the object under study. The data collection technique is done by literature study with listening and recording techniques so that relevant data is found. This research uses two data sources. The first data source is in the form of prose literary works, namely the novel *Notasi* by Morra Quatro and the second data source is articles and journals related to the events of the new order government in 1998. The data in this study are in the form of phrases, sentences or paragraphs that contain social reflections. This research results in a discussion that there are social reflections consisting of three sub-sections, namely social reflections based on power, social reflections based on violence and reflections of the times. The events that arise in Morra Quatro's *Notasi* are derived from social reality.

The basic differences between this reserach and mine is the sociology approach by alan swingword used. In my reserach newhistoricim by Greenbalt is used the historical contect inside the novel based on the ideological, political and socio-cultural dimensions.

5. Yosep Yopi (2013) Representasi Tragedi 1965. Historicims approach on Literary and Non Literary Text between 1966-1998. Gajah Mada University.

In this study the reseracer find the data from the literary and non literay text during 1966-1998 in order to prove the social and political situation influnced by the situation from the era. The reseracher compare the literary works included the tragedy 1965 with the articles representing the events. The formal object of this study is the problem of representation of the 1965 tragedy. which is studied with the new historicism approach. The material objects are literary texts and non-literary texts from 1966-1998 that are studied according to the historical block. In accordance with the approach model used, the texts are seen as discursive formations produced based on an episteme which is the grammar of knowledge production.

The newhistoricims approach was used in this reserach because New historicism is a very heterogeneous, and therefore cannot be given a fixed boundary (Vesser, 1989). Nevertheless, according to Vesser, as a theory, new historicism has five basic assumptions that bind its proponents and critics.

.So the differences between this research and mine is the data taken while the former research obtained the data from the literary text between 1965-1998 any document related tp history during 1965-1998 while mine only get the data from the novel Laut Bercerita by Leila S. Khudori related to reformatin era 1998 and non

literary document about it. . But both reserach used new historicism as the approach applied. .