



Cultural values and community trust in the short story "pulung" by angga trio sanjaya

Ramadhan Anggit Sastrawan ^{1*}, Farida Ariyani ², Nurlaksana Eko Rusminto ³, Mulyanto Widodo ⁴, Siti Samhati ⁵

¹⁻⁵ Master of Indonesian Language and Literature Education Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Lampung, Indonesia

* Corresponding Author: **Ramadhan Anggit Sastrawan**

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to describe the cultural values and beliefs of the people in the short story "Pulung" by Angga Trio Sanjaya. The method used is descriptive qualitative. Data is obtained through actions, speech between characters, and the behavior of characters found in short stories. The results of the study show that the socio-cultural influences surrounding the short story writer are so intense in the creation of short stories. Belief in the supernatural pulung hangings is very strong in the Gunung Kidul area. The phenomenon of many people hanging themselves is actually not because of pulung hanging, but because of poverty and infertile land in that area.

Keywords: pulung, cultural values, people's trust

Introduction

Culture is a fruit that occurs because of a complex interaction between humans, the environment, history, and the values that are believed by a group of people (Koentjaraningrat, 1987) ^[9]. Cultural values form the basis of moral, ethical and identity of a group or community. However, in an evolving context, interpretation of cultural values is important to maintain relevance and understanding of cultural heritage (Marzali, 2005) ^[11].

A culture is a pattern that is owned by a group in the midst of social society. Culture contains values that impact and are felt by many community groups. Both in terms of age, geography, gender, and income (Ningtias & Tjahjono, 2022). A community group that has a strong belief in culture, also believes in the customs that exist within it which are affected by the people's living conditions, geographical factors, and important objects. There are several important elements that accompany a culture, Koentjaraningrat (in Kadir, 2019) ^[7] explains the elements of culture, namely language, knowledge systems, social organizations, systems of living equipment and technology, livelihood systems, religious systems, and arts systems.

Koentjaraningrat (in Firmansyah, 2017) ^[3] explains that religion is a belief that contains matters of a belief, traditional ceremonial activities and their equipment, attitudes and actions, and all the ways of thinking that exist in one's thinking. Belief contains many sub-elements that anthropologists distinguish between belief in gods, the attributes and signs of gods, as well as the conception of other spirits.

According to Suyanto (Fuad *et al.*, 2018) ^[4] a short story is a story that has a short prose-like structure, the short size here is relative or once read, the story is finished. Short stories, part of literary works, always contain various human problems (Nurgiantoro, 2015) ^[15]. The object of research is a short story (short story) with the title "Pulung" which is the work of Angga Trio Sanjaya.

The short story Pulung itself is a short story that was included in the anthology of the winning manuscripts for the short story creation competition at the 2018 UGM Language Month. The author of the short story Pulung himself is a native born in Wonosari, Gunung Kidul. The term pulung has a very close connection with an incident that occurred in the Gunung Kidul area, Yogyakarta. This event is known as pulung hanging. Pulung Gantung is actually a belief that is believed by the local community in the form of the appearance of a kind of bright light or a tailed star which has a red and sometimes white color that falls on the roofs of residents' houses and is believed to contain a number of messages, if it is white it will bring good luck but if it is red it will bring disaster (Asih, 2020) ^[2].

With the emergence of *pulung hanging*, it is believed that in that area there will be people who will die from hanging themselves and have the characteristic that the neck of the person who hanged himself appears as a rope knot and is already in a lying position on the ground not hanging from the rope. However, this mythical assumption is refuted by research conducted by Darmaningtyas (in Asih, 2020) ^[2] which states that the phenomenon of hanging oneself is not caused by social, poverty, and economic problems due to the barren area of Gunung Kidul and creates a sense of hopelessness in society.

Basically, literary works including short stories can be studied using various methods, one of which is the sociology of literature (Indriani, 2013) ^[6]. Sociology of literature is a theory that studies a relationship between society and literary works. According to Wellek and Werren (in Lestari, 2021) ^[10] the areas that are the author's sociological study are matters related to the socio-cultural background of the author. The author's socio-cultural background is the society and socio-cultural conditions in which the author lives and works. This background, directly or indirectly, will have a relationship with the literary works it produces.

As a human being and a social being, the author will be shaped by the society. He will learn from what is around him. According to Endraswara (in Nurhapidah 2019) Sociology of literature is a study that depends on the social to build a literary work. The reality in sociology is a subjective reality, not objective, so the author is free to write down his thoughts and assumptions to express his work.

The study of culture in literary works is one of the interesting things to review and discuss. This can be proven through several studies that have been conducted by Hafidhah *et al.* (2017) ^[5], Mentari *et al.* (2017) ^[12], and Ningsih *et al.* (2021) ^[13]. These studies seek to describe cultural values in literary works. This shows that literary works contain a variety of cultural values that exist in society.

Based on the explanation presented above, this study aims to examine the cultural values and beliefs of the people in the short story "Pulung" by Angga Trio Sanjaya by using a sociological review of literature to explore cultural values and people's beliefs.

Methodology

This research is a qualitative descriptive research. According to Moloeng (in Ariyani, 2019) ^[1] descriptive qualitative is a method that has the aim of explaining descriptively in the form of descriptions of things experienced by research subjects, for example, behavior, motivation, actions, perceptions, and others.

The data obtained will be collected and then described based on the findings obtained. The form of the data contained in the short story is in the form of action, speech dialogue between characters, and behavior that is raised by the characters in the short story.

Results and Discussion

The events that happened to the victims of hanging themselves as told in the short story "Pulung" were often found dead hanging themselves in high places such as Mahogany trees, on poles, and on the door of the room. After the victim was found hanging and lifeless, the short story tells that people who are local residents will end the day in silence because they share in the grief felt by the families of the victims who hanged themselves.

Furthermore, that the culture or customs that exist in the area will work together to care for the bodies to be buried. Some help at the funeral home by washing the bodies and praying. There are also those who come to the cemetery to prepare a hole for burial. Furthermore, there are also those who read prayers for the bodies of the deceased so that their charity is accepted by showing the sentence "Wrapping prayers in mats". By midnight, someone must be in the graveyard. Waiting for forty quiet nights, amidst the stinging rain and freezing cold, the shrieks of the shrubs vibrate. It can be clearly seen in the excerpt of 1 short story below.

Data 1

"If then between them. Some died, wrapped around a rope with a wrinkled neck. Hanging up in the clouds. On the mahogany tree, on the pillars. In the heart room goal. So people rushed to close the day with immeasurable loneliness. They dug silently, buried their wounds. Wrapping prayers in mats. By midnight, someone must be in the graveyard. Waiting for forty quiet nights, amidst the stinging rain and freezing cold, the shrieks of the shrubs vibrate."

In the culture that exists in the Gunung Kidul area or its surroundings, if a person dies at night, someone will mourn that night and also wait with the deceased's family to pray for the deceased's body to be buried the next day. This culture is commonly known by the Javanese as *lek-lekan* or in Indonesian it means staying up late.

When morning comes, the culture that has been maintained until now is that good people, men, women and youth, will flock to come to pay their respects. Disclosure of mourning culture that occurs in the Gunung Kidul community can be seen in the excerpt of the text below.

Data 2

"That morning your house was suddenly filled with people. They jostled again, fought over, watched the scene that was ravaged in their chests. They restore, record, and perpetuate bits of feeling, then install them in memory. At that time, exactly a week before the election for the village head, people came one after another, spreading sorrow and silence."

The incident of hanging himself by the people of the short story "Pulung" did not just happen once, but happened repeatedly, which was done by one person and another. The events that occurred in the area, especially Gunung Kidul, were also reinforced by the articles written by Asih and Hiryanto in 2021. That the incident known as "pulung hanging" is an event of hanging that is mostly carried out by residents in hamlets in Gunung Kidul. As can be seen in the excerpt from the short story "Pulung" below which states that events occur from one place to another.

Data 3

"Long ago, before the deadly incident at Bagong Nardi's house, when you were a baby, a similar incident also occurred at another resident's house. To be precise, at that time people were rumbling towards Rubiyah's house. The house was shocked because their only son, Sudar Koplo, was determined to hang himself. When I cut through the crowd and asked some of the residents, they just shook their heads." He brushed away his white hair that had

covered his eyes. The rims of his wrinkled eyes were creased.”

Pulung is a belief of the people of Gunung Kidul and the people liken pulung to a fire that hovers in the sky. If pulung appears and floats in the sky, it is believed by the people as a sign. The sign that if pulung is red means that disaster will come or someone will hang himself. If pulung is blue, it is a sign that blessings will come. This can be seen in the excerpt from the short story below.

Data 4

“A few hours later, stories began to fill the chatter of the residents. The rumors are confusing. Many people talk, sell out, and explain sundries that make the hairs on the neck tense. One of them is a story about a fire floating in the air. When I asked what it was, people only answered briefly; pick up But when I asked where the pulung came from, they again just shook their heads. Complete nonsense.”

The persistence of belief in supernatural things in the hamlets of Gunung Kidul is that there are community leaders or people who have influence in that place and still believe in supernatural things and oppose scientific explanations. In the short story "Pulung" can be seen in the following quote, namely the presence of the character "Pak Dalang" who believes that a series of deaths of people hanged themselves is due to the influence of supernatural events in the area. As in the following quote, namely the people's belief in the supernatural in this short story is so strongly recounted and supported by several characters in the short story, that it strengthens cultural values and beliefs that they believe to be true and avoids taboos that will cause them harm.

Quote 5

“On the other hand, not a few also deny it, and consider it a curse. There are also those who believe that it is a disaster left by the ancestors. Some are quite sure that this is the stupidity of the villagers who are still superstitious. But that was flatly denied by Mr. Dalang. He believed that the series of deaths were supernatural events. According to him, there are supernatural beings who take the lives of children and grandchildren on this land, so that from ancient times, during the 'New Order' era, until now many people have died, moreover hanged themselves.”

In the part of the short story "Pulung" it states that the hamlet area where there are many pulung hanging incidents is the nongko doyong base area. That is the place where the ghosts or ancestors reside. The residence of the ancestors long before the area was inhabited by humans.

Quote 6

“At that time, Mbah Dalang said with full confidence. "here pedestal hanging out doyong. It used to be a place where demits and ghosts lived. Long before we inhabited this place, they already existed. So if currently there are many unnatural deaths, that's fine. They feel they have rights over us.” he was so passionate. Not long after, the dalang passed away. I feel like I've lost a storyteller. But after all this is a matter of death, he is indeed old.”

The explanations in the quotation above provide a common

thread that the belief in pulunggantung is so strong in the hamlets in Gunung Kidul. Especially in the 80-90s. Stating that the incident was the influence of the supernatural that existed in the area.

However, based on a conclusion from a study conducted by Darmaningtias in 2002 which said that many people hang themselves not because of pulung hanging. However, this is due to the low standard of living of the people and high poverty in the hamlets in Gunung Kidul due to the infertility of the soil in the area and also the difficulty in obtaining springs for farming. This has led to an increasing sense of depression in society so that more and more people hang themselves to escape the poverty that plagues society.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research above, it can be concluded that the short story "Pulung" by Angga Trio Sanjaya has a connection with what is happening in the Gunung Kidul community. This is also due to the fact that the short story writer is a native of Gunung Kidul, thus adding to the influence of the community conditions that exist in the area around the short story writer so that the short story writer is able to create the short story "Pulung" in such detail.

The pulung hanging incident that inspired the short story writer to write the short story "Pulung" is a real event that has happened among the people of Gunung Kidul and many people believe in the stories circulating about pulung hangings. However, the occult thing about pulung hanging is refuted by a study which says that the hangings in the hamlets in Gunung Kidul were not because of pulung hanging, but because of the high poverty in the Gunung Kidul area and the infertile soil there due to scarce water sources.

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