

ROLES AND INDICATION OF POWER RELATIONS BETWEEN INDONESIAN MUSLIM LEADER AND THE AMERICAN CHRISTIANS IN RICHARD LEWIS' *THE FLAME TREE*

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Abstract

Novel is sometimes more powerful than other types of literature and art, as such novels are directed to the widest possible audience. They are dramatic works which show interesting qualities by drawing the readers' interest. Novels also cultivate the imagination, contribute to and deepen the capacity for moral reflection. Novel about Indonesian Muslims, written by non-Indonesians, need to get more attention because the novel has the power to create the identity of Indonesian Muslims through its representation. The identity represented will be viewed not only by Indonesian Muslims but also by people all over the world. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) serves as the study's main theoretical foundation and Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model of Discourse is used to analyze the roles of religious leaders and the indication of power relations between the Indonesian Muslim leader and the American Christians. Categorized data are analyzed predominantly using textual analysis, a qualitative method. Results reveal the roles of religious leader are significant in building the character of Indonesian Muslims. Further, power relations between the Indonesian Muslim leader and the American Christians are constructed by language and paralinguistic used in their interaction and communication.

Keywords

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Indonesian Muslims, *Kiai*

Introduction

Novels, by laying the claim of another story, can play a crucial role in public reasoning. They cultivate the imagination, contribute to and deepen the capacity for moral reflection. Novel is not a dream nor is it guesswork. It is imagining based on facts. Though other forms of art and literature would serve public discourse quite well, the novel is a living form and in fact still is the central morally serious yet popularly engaging fictional form in our culture.

One of the novels portraying Indonesian Muslims is Richard Lewis' *The Flame Tree*. It becomes interesting and important to be studied. It was written by an American author, representing Indonesian Muslims, particularly Muslims in Java. In the novel, the religious identities of the Javanese Muslims of Indonesia are reconstructed into a series of social typologies, often presented within the framework of hostility and terrorism.

Novels about Indonesian Muslims, written by non-Indonesians, need to get more attention because the novel has the power to create the identity of Indonesian Muslims through its representation. The identity represented will be viewed not only by Indonesian Muslims but also by people all over the world.

This study seeks to elucidate the roles of Indonesian Muslim religious leaders represented in the novel, and highlight indications of power revealed in the communication between the Indonesian Muslim leader and the American Christians

Conclusion

From the findings of the study on the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of the novel, the following conclusions can be drawn: Muslims religious leader plays a significant role in building the Muslim community in accordance with existing

values in the society and laws. The Muslim leader still plays his role to serve as provider, protector, educator, and source of values in the society. As a language is not neutral, the language used by the Indonesian Muslim Leader and the American Christians represents the power relations among them.

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