

## Social Conflicts in the Novel of Leila S. Chudori

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**ABSTRACT:** Literature work is a reflection of society life. One of the literature works is novels. A novel aims to provide benefits to the readers through its ideas. This study aimed to describe social conflicts in the novel of Leila S. Chudori. This study was a qualitative research using the descriptive qualitative method and content analysis. The data source was from the novel of Leila S. Chudori. Based on the study, the social conflicts in the novel of Leila S. Chudori were classified into three forms, namely conflict of individual and individual, individual and group, as well as group and group. The social conflicts in this novel were in the form of: (1) dispute, (2) rejection, (3) discrimination and (4) various physical violence. The factors causing the social conflicts were differences of opinions, interests, and class status.

**KEYWORDS:** *Leila S. Chudori, Novel, Social Conflict*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Literature work as the social representation is created by the author in accordance with his point of views and social environment. Literature work has the important role because it is a reflection of society condition. Therefore, literature work cannot be separated from social and society system. Both of them influence creative process of the creation of each literature work. Various things can be discussed in a literature work so that the author can express hidden things in human beings or figures in literature works. The social conflicts in the society developed in the era can be described properly through word by word, sentence by sentence. In literature work, human beings and their life problems become the subjects of the creation of literature work. There are many things that can be observed in human life. One of them is social conflicts. Social conflict is a social process between two or more parties who maintain what they believe in which results in an attempt to get rid of other parties who disagree with them. Conflict is formed from two types, namely personal or individual or group. Social conflicts in a novel can represent the real life of society.

Social conflict is related to human interaction so that literature on sociology is appropriate to use. (Endraswara, 2013) stated that sociology of literature is a branch of the reflective literature research because it views literature as a reflection of society life. The opinion provides meaning that sociology of literature is a "reflection" that describes social life of society. The approach of sociology of literature emphasizes on the study about the relationship of mutual influence between sociology and literature. The focus of the study of literature sociology is human problems in general and social problems involving social values and moral aspect.

The novel of *Pulang* by Leila Salikha Chudori is one of the novels that represents social elements in the society because the content of the novel describes about the conflicts of each character. The main story focuses on the character of Dimas Suryo, a political exile who was deterred from returning to Indonesia after the outbreak of the incident of September 30, 1965. Based on the explanation above, the researcher wanted to conduct a research about social conflicts in the novel of Leila S. Chudori using the study of literature sociology.

### II. THEORETICAL REVIEW

#### 1. Novel

Literature work is a reflection of feeling, experience, and idea of the author in relation to life. (Endraswara, 2013) stated that literature work is the expression of human life that is inseparable from the root of society. Literature work is created because there is inner experience of the author in the form of interesting incidents or problems of the world so that the idea of imagination that is created in the form of writing and literature work will contribute to the values of figures and the demands of society.

Literature work is created due to the incidents or problems memorized by the author. This influences creative process of the creation of the literature work. (Nurgiyantoro, 2015) revealed that literature and art are

only imitation, exemplary, or reflection of the reality. Not infrequently the reflection expressed by the author is a criticism of life. A novel is part of a literature work. (Altenbernd, 2014) defined a novel as an imaginative narrative prose, but makes sense and contains the truth. Besides, Lukacs in (Saeidian & Hosseini, 2013) stated that a novel is a story about a life reflection containing the real life of society that contains values. Based on these opinions, a novel can be defined as part of a work that describes or reflects a life containing values.

## 2. Social Conflict

Conflict is an essence of human life and development that has various characteristics. (Minnery, 1985) defined conflict as an interaction between two or more parties to each other that is interdependent, but it is separated by differences in objectives in which at least one of the parties is aware of the differences and takes actions against it.

Conflict occurs because of differences in perceptions of interests, or beliefs (Avruch, 2004). Conflict is motivated by differences in the characteristics that individuals carry in an interaction. As long as there are differences, conflicts cannot be avoided and will always occur (Rahim, 2017). One of the types of conflicts that occurs is social conflict. Social conflicts are disputes, tensions, or conflicts that occur between one individual or more in the society due to the influence of particular differences (society plurality).

## III. METHODOLOGY

This study aimed to describe and explain social conflicts in the novel of Leila S. Chudori. This study was a descriptive qualitative research with the content analysis. Qualitative research is a research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed people or behaviors (Moleong, 2017). The data source in this study was the novel of Leila S. Chudori entitling *Pulang* that was published in 2016, the seventh print by the popular library publisher of Gramedia containing 468 pages.

The data collection in this study used the techniques of listening, writing, and library. The listening technique is a technique that is used by an or several informants in an effort to obtain data. This technique is conducted by reading novels repeatedly in order to obtain accurate data. The writing technique is the advanced technique after implementing the listening technique (Mahsun, 2005). This technique is conducted by writing important parts. The next is the library technique. This is by using the written sources to obtain data.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The novel of *Pulang* is the novel by Leila S. Chudori published in 2013. This novel tells about the life of the main character that was Dimas Suryo who had a status as a political exile. This novel tells about the life of Dimas that could not return to Indonesia due to the status of political exile. Novel is a long narrative fiction and the imitation of the real circumstances (Kenny, 1966). This novel contains the social conflicts of the characters. The social conflicts studied in the novel of *Pulang* by Leila S. Chudori consisted of three main problems containing the forms of social conflicts and the causes of social conflicts experienced by figures. Social conflicts are classified into three parts, namely conflicts of individual and individual, individual and group, as well as group and group. This study showed the social conflicts in the novel of Leila S. Chudori.

### 1. Conflict between Dimas Suryo and Hananto

Conflict between Dimas Suryo and Hananto was caused by different point of views about loyalty. Dimas opposed Hananto's behavior which was playing with Surti's feeling and dating another woman.

This is the fifth cigarette, long time ago, Mas Hananto wrestled with the woman. I glanced at the watch. It's two o'clock in the morning. If this cigarette has run out and he's not right with his appetite, I'll go home to leave him. I don't care if he grumbles tomorrow. Surti is a beautiful woman, almost perfect. There was no reason for Hananto to betray flower as beautiful as Surti. (Chudori, p. 38)

This is the third time I was forced to take Mas Hananto to meet Marni at his boarding house in the Triveli area. He needed me because I was a shield for Surti. (Chudori, p.38)

"I'm not your lackeys. And I don't want to pretend in front of Surti." (Chudori, p.39)

I love Mas Hananto. And I like women. But, for me if I had a wife, especially if I had a wife as beautiful and as noble as Surti, then I had chosen. (Chudori, p.39)

Based on the quotations above, it is clear that Dimas disagreed with Hananto's attitude to Surti. For the third time, Dimas led Hananto to meet Marni. Hananto used Dimas as a shield so that Surti was not suspicious. Dimas began to feel that Hananto's actions were a mistake.

"So Mas Hananto loves her?"

Hananto now grinned, a smile that always made my blood dart into the crown because it showed that he was very confident in his words. Convinced that what he lived did not cause problems for others. "Surti is a wife, a life companion. With Marni, I feel the passion of the vibrant proletariat." Duk!

Hananto suddenly fell back. I was astonished because I didn't expect my right fist to move so fast and land on his jaw. (Chudori, 2013: 39)

Based on the quotations above, Dimas hit Hananto's jaw. Due to Hananto's response, he thought that his actions would not cause problems. Hananto hurt Surti. Dimas felt that Hananto was wasting the woman who loved him. The conflict between Dimas and Hananto resulted in the two not talking to each other.

All I know, starting the next day until a week later we fast talking. (Chudori, p. 43)

## 2. Conflict between Dimas and Surti

The conflict between Dimas and Surti was due to the differences in social status between Dimas and Surti's family.

Surti, Surti, how can I deal with your family of doctors? Gently between them holding a wine glass in the living room while talking about Indonesia won't go forward? Then what should I talk about with Father, Mother, Uncle and Aunt? Everything just rages in my heart. But, Surti who has started to know me could read my mind. Her tears floated. He left my boarding house. (Chudori, p. 63)

The quotation above describes about the dispute between Dimas and Surti because Dimas felt that he was not comparable to Surti's family and refused the dinner invitation delivered by Surti. As a result of Dimas' thoughts and differences in point of views, Surti left Dimas. This can be seen in the quotation below.

After the invitation to the unrequited dinner invitation, I found it difficult to meet Surti. I was busy with the final examination and Surti always avoided me at the campus. (Chudori, p. 63)

## 3. Conflict between Dimas and Viviane

The conflict between Dimas and Viviane was due to the differences in will.

This incident happened repeatedly. Dimas replaced the contents of the jar once a year if the aroma of cloves and turmeric was gone. Sometimes he got shipments from friends in the Netherlands; sometimes he got souvenirs from Jakarta. Sometimes he was forced to buy it at high prices in Belleville. It happened occasionally because I totally disagreed on using money to just breathe memories. (Chudori, p. 214)

The quotation above describes about the conflict between Viviane and Dimas. Viviane disagreed with the use of money by Dimas. Dimas used money to buy expensive cloves and turmeric. The dispute between the two continued because Dimas was still in touch with Surti and helped her through Aji, Dimas' brother and Viviane did not know this. This made Viviane angry and decided to leave Dimas.

I look at the sheets of paper. Neat, organized handwriting in structured Indonesian. This is a letter for Dimas. I never read the letters addressed to my husband, except if Dimas asked me to read them together. But Lintang ... she already found it. Where did she find this letter? I read one by one, these are letters from Surti Anandari in the late 1960s when Hananto was finally caught. But wait, there are several other letters ... in 1970, 1971, 1973, 1978, 1979, 1980 ... 1982 ... (Chudori, p. 215)

That's when I knew: I never and would not be able to have Dimas completely. At that time, I knew why he always wanted to go home to the place he loved so much. At the corner of his heart, he always has Surti with all the memories that he later captured in the jar.

Surti is a symbol of the aroma of turmeric and cloves. It all becomes one in Indonesia. That night, I told Dimas, I want to part from him. (Chudori, p. 216)

## 4. Conflict between Dimas and the Government

The conflict between Dimas and the government occurred because Dimas was seen as siding with the *PKI* and opposed the government. The manifestation of the conflict between Dimas and the Government was in the form of banning Dimas from returning to Indonesia. The government used its power to block Dimas from returning. This can be seen in the quotation below.

I just realized that every year Father routinely applied for a visa to enter Indonesia. Of course as someone who gets political asylum. Father, like his friends, had used a French passport. However, unlike Om Risjaf who was somehow able to get a visa, the request of Father, Om Nug, and Om Tjai was always rejected. (Chudori, p. 195-196)

The quotation above describes about how Dimas experienced discrimination by the government. His application was always rejected at any time for reasons that were not clear. The government felt that Dimas was a threat that endangered the interests of the government.

### 5. Conflict between Students and Activists with the Government

Disputes occurred between two parties in conflict, namely students and activists against the government. The disputes caused physical violence in the form of kidnapping and beatings. Conflict of Indonesian activists and the government occurred because the activists opposed the government policies that were considered authoritarian. As a result, the government kidnapped a number of Indonesian activists because they were seen as endangering the government. This can be seen in the quotation below.

First I got information from my Malaysian friends, they heard about a kidnapped Indonesian activist, Pius Lustri lanang, that had a press conference and told about how he had been kidnapped and tortured. (Chudori, p. 127)

Disputes occurred between soldiers and some artists who were considered to oppose power. Disputes between the two parties caused some physical conflicts in the form of torture. Disputes occurred because some artists published works that were considered revolutionary, opposed the government and were considered to destabilize power so that the government caught and tortured the artists. Sumarno Biantoro was one of the artists who was arrested and tortured until his teeth broke. This can be seen in the quotation below.

SumarnoBiantoro became part of the ranks of artists who were quite respected because his poems and drama scripts were quite revolutionary. During the September tragedy Sumarmo was swept away. It is said that he was severely tortured until his teeth were crushed and his penis was stepped on with the legs of a chair. (Chudori, p. 122-123)

In addition to kidnapping, the government also beat students. This can be seen in the quotation below. I just witnessed a thrilling and worrying news story. The three media in Indonesia were banned by the government last month. This made the press community and students and activists angry. They held a demonstration in front of the Information Department on the west merdeka road. It was already a few hundred meters away to the palace. Rendra read the poetry. The students and activists carried resistance banners. The army was coming. The victim fell. Rendra was detained although he was later released again. The young painter, Semsar Siahaan, was beaten. He said that his legs were cracked or broken, I wasn't clear. (Chudori, p. 240-241)

The quotation above describes about the dispute between two parties, namely the students and soldiers. The students and activists took demonstrations to oppose the authorities. They were furious with the banning happened. The demonstration resulted in the army committing physical violence which was beating the young painter, Semsar Siahaan, which resulted in his legs being cracked and brittle.

### 6. Conflict between the Government and the family or relatives who were considered close to the PKI

The conflict between the Government and the family or relatives who were considered close to the *PKI* caused physical violence in the form of caning, torture and murder. The interrogator tortured the families of the *PKI* members to find out the involvement in the agenda designed by the *PKI*. This was carried out by the government to find out the whereabouts of the rebel groups. This can be seen in the quotation below.

At first, my uncle didn't know the function of the room. At first, I just threw away the ash and the cigarette cutter. But the next day, I had to mop up the dried blood spots that were attached to the floor. I am sure that there were many who were tortured here because I heard the screams of people, men, women. Many. Alternately. (Chudori, 2013: 22)

One of the interrogators, politely, said that they asked Kenanga to clean one of the rooms in the building. I could only agree to it although I recently learned that Kenanga's job was to mop up the dried blood spots attached to the floor of the torture room. She even found a stingray whip that was covered by the dried blood (Chudori, p. 245)

The quotation above shows how the government tortured people who were directly or indirectly involved with the *PKI* regardless of gender until it caused the dried blood to stick to the floor. Physical violence carried out by the interrogators did not only reach torture, but also murder. This can be seen in the quotation below.

Hunting was increasingly violent, not only those who were considered communists, or friendly to the *PKI*. Now, the families or relatives have been injured. Some were returned, others just disappeared, some were washed into the river. (Chudori, p. 19)

But, we also heard that many victims were immediately picked up and cut down on the road, in the forest, on the banks of the river, or on the edge of a cliff. (Chudori, p. 74)

## 7. Conflict between the Organization and the Government

The conflict between the organization and the government occurred because there were organizations that disagreed and wanted to seize the existing power. The conflicts between the organization and the government were the journalists from the office of *Berita Nusantara* with the government and the Gerwani Organization with the government.

It has been three years since the office of *Berita Nusantara*, the place where I worked was cleaned of fleas and dust like us. Soldiers are disinfectants. (Chudori, p. 1)

The quotation above describes about the conflicts that occurred between the government and the journalists from the office of *Berita Nusantara*. The journalists helped and supported the *PKI* in the form of news. As a result, the government arrested the journalists.

That day Alam still took the time to take me to visit the house of one of the former ex-Gerwani Kediri activists who does not want to be named because she is still very traumatized, call her Mrs. D. Although she is 60 years old, her voice is still loud, the way of walking is very sturdy and her eyes are clear. She told that as a member of Gerwani, her job is to teach the characters to the illiterate mothers in the village. She and her husband, a member of the *BTI* Kediri, were both political prisoners who were separated for nine years. Since then, the entire family had difficulties in getting jobs because they had the relatives with an identity card with the sign of ex-political prisoner. Mrs. D's father and mother even spent two years in the prison; Mrs. D's younger brother was also detained in Nusakambangan and released in the 1970s from Nusakambangan. (Chudori, p. 396-397)

The quotation above describes about the government banned the organizations like Gerwani that was considered to help and support the *PKI*. The conflict occurred when the government established the status of political prisoner for all Gerwani activists.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the study, the social conflicts in the novel of Leila S. Chudori are classified into three forms of social conflict, namely conflicts of individual and individual, individual and group, as well as group and group. The conflict of individual and individual was experienced by Dimas with Hananto, Surti, and Viviane. The conflict of individual and group was experienced by Dimas with the government. The conflicts of group and group were experienced by the students and activists with the government, the government with the family or relatives that were considered close with the *PKI*, and the organizations with the government. The social conflicts in this novel were in the form of dispute, rejection, discrimination, and various physical violence. The factors causing the social conflicts were differences of opinions, interests, and class status. These factors triggered the social conflicts that caused losses to one party.

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