



The 8<sup>th</sup> ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING, LITERATURE, AND TRANSLATION  
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# Conference Proceedings

“The Current Issues and Challenges of English Language Teaching,  
Literature, and Translation in the Disruption Era”

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**Faculty of Languages & Arts  
Universitas Negeri Semarang  
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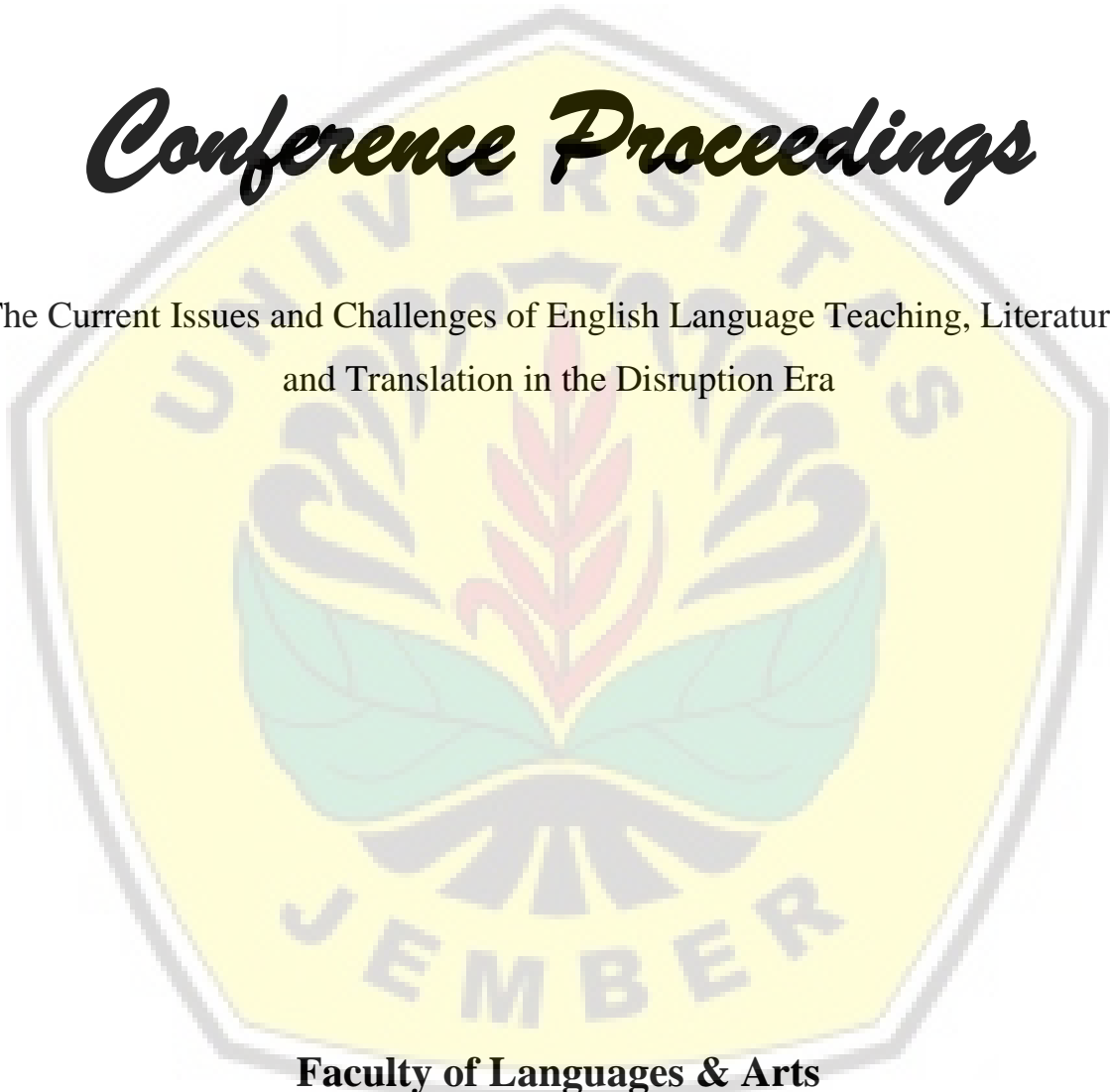


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## SEX DISCOURSE IN SUHAILI'S *HARGA PERAWAN NOL RUPIAH*

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### Abstract

This research aims to explore sex discourse written in this novel. Sex education plays an important role in youth age. High school students are still in the process of searching identity so that the discourse that arises from the literary works they read will influence the knowledge change their perspective, get expressed in their behavior. Sex education is essentially an effort to provide knowledge about the function of reproductive organs by implanting morality, ethics and religious values avoid the abuse of the reproductive organs. To achieve this goal, this study uses Stuart Hall's representation theory (1997) and discourse approach by Foucault. This qualitative analysis look at data in words, phrases or sentences in the novel. The steps employed were 1) gathering the data about the young woman character 2) identifying the character's problems relating to her relationship 3) identifying sex education in the story 4) analyzing the influence of sex understanding to the characters. The findings of this research is sex education in the way of patriarchal world.

**Keywords:** discourse, representation, sex education, teen literature

### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia gets an emergency alarmed of sexual abuse. Kompas newspaper (Sunday, 5 May 2019) wrote that 97 percent of elementary school students in grade IV and V in Jakarta, Bekasi and Tangerang were exposed to pornography. In addition to the results of the association of dermatologists and sex specialists' findings, in April 2018 at Cipto Mangunkusuma Hospital found 15 percent of new cases of venereal disease in the age range 12-22 years. From the results of the 2017 survey by the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) only 22, 4 percent of teenagers know when their fertility is. This lack of knowledge of adolescents causes them to be trapped in risk behaviors, such as suffering sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted

pregnancies and cervical cancer. Seto Mulyadi was quoted as saying by Kompas on 5 May 2018, asserts that sex education is as important as religious education and community education. Reproductive health education and sexuality were proven effective in reducing the amount of risky sexual behavior and unwanted pregnancy in adolescents (Papalia et al as cited by Kompas on 5 May 2019). This concludes that sex education is very important for teenagers.

The rise of the teenage sex activities can be seen from the increasing number of the youth marriage dispensation. The early marriage happens in 2017 in Kediri district. There are eleven marriage dispensations every month. It is said to be dispensed because by law, their age is not sufficient for marriage

requirements because they are middle and high school students who are pregnant and their age is less than 19 years for their men and less than 16 years for their women.

The school curriculum ignorance about sex education happens because talking about sex is a taboo topic. The chairman of PKBI (Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association)-Sarsanto Wibisono Sarwono- cited a study on reproductive health education issued by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Indonesia (PKWJ UI) in 2013 showing that reproductive health education could prevent 88.7 percent opportunities for sex before marriage, and as many as 94, 5 percent can provide opportunities for students to get information about the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis, gonorrhoea or HIV / AIDS, and as much as 77.6 percent can give students the chance to control their sexual urges.

(<https://acdindonesia.wordpress.com/2015/11/05/mk-tolak-uji-materi-ducation-seks-pada-kurriculum-school/>)

The literary work cannot be separated from the surrounding situation in society because a literary work is a reflection of society. According to Wellek and Warren (1977: 94), literature reserve about life and life, in most part, is part of the real society. The writer reflects his concerns and expresses his opinions or criticisms. Their ideas take many forms, one of which is novel.

The position of the authors can be seen from their works. As an agent of society, they can express it in many ways. But there are three positions that the authors can take, namely agreeing, considering or rejecting. So the

discourse of their ideological can be found in every their works.

Harga Perawan Nol Rupiah (HPNR) is a novel which consists of some short stories about the relationship between school boy and school girl which end in the regret of the girl after losing virginity. Suhaili is a lecturer who composed this novel. In addition to Suhaili, many novel writers wrote stories about getting pregnant while still attending school, such as *Mine*, *Take Me to Your World*, *Pasung Jiwa* etc. All of them are Indonesian novels that illustrate the tragedy of the life of teenagers who become pregnant while studying in the high school.

Teen literature is important in the world of literary works. The coming of *wattpad* increases the number of teen literature. One of the goal of literary works is as didactic works for the reader. Suhaili tries to compose his novel to give sexual education. But I have difficulties to find journal talking about the relationship between literary works and sex education. There are no journal articles that discuss sex education contained in teenage literature (Gilbert: 2004). Whereas adult literature certainly also contains the complexity of issues about the world of adolescents, about problems faced by adolescents, and about the search for identity during adolescence. Moreover, intimacy and romantic life of adolescence are of course also found in the real world and also found in other media. So the focus of this research is to find out how sex education is depicted in teen stories entitle *Harga Perawan Nol Rupiah*.

## METHODOLOGY

This research is conducted using descriptive analysis (Susanna:2017) procedures by

getting qualitative data in the novel and supported by other sources such as journal article, books and interview reports.

I analyze narratives and utterances about sex found in the novel entitled *Harga Perawan Nol Rupiah* by closely read and re-read the stories to get rich understanding about the issue. The data are then analyzed using the theory of representation from Stuart Hall with a constructive approach. After that it is also examined about the cultural background of the author that influenced the emergence of the story. When a cultural background can be found, the next step is to analyze the ideology that plays between the author and story production.

#### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

*Harga Perawan Nol Rupiah* (HNPR) is a novel gives sex education through literature. The main girl character portrayed as a good girl who suffer after losing her virginity. The discourse of sex education is only addressed to the girl reader. Throughout the stories, every main girl character trapped to have sexual relationship in many reasons. In this novel, the author leads the readers to know many different tricks done by the boy to get the girl's virginity.

The discussion about sex education is changing time to time in English society (Iyera: 2015). The changing of society change their perspective about sex education. There are two main findings namely the superiority and patriarchal culture. The first finding, the story projects the author's voice that keeping virginity is her duty.

#### Superiority

There are many ways to seduce the girl, such as giving alcohol, giving deep attention, giving present and also pretending to be a guardian angel for the girl. But the ending of all boy's kindness are getting the girl's virginity.

The author shows the fragile of the girl. All of them plunge to the deep regret after making love with her boyfriend.

Sempat terpikir olehku untuk **mengakhiri** semua keluhku dengan pisau yang ada di genggamanku hanya saja aku **belum sanggup untuk mempertanggungjawabkan** kelakuan terhinaku di hadapan Tuhan (HNPR: 37)

Suhaili described a losing virginity girl as an unworthy girl. She wants to end her life but she is afraid. We found the religious conduct in this novel. It is forbidden to have sex before married. Indonesian society considers this as a big sin for people who make love prior to married.

Losing virginity is a big lost to get a man to marry. No man will reluctant to have "a waste girl".

"...Aku yang sudah **tidak perawan** hanya bisa menerima lelaki yang datang **menerimaku apa adanya**, mesti harus **menjadi istri yang kedua, ketiga atau yang keempat...**" (HNPR: 55)

The girl in this story realized that she must be ready not to be the first wife. The stigma as an incomplete human being becomes her burden for the rest of her life. It will be supported by her family to protect their



honour by marrying her to anybody who wants her although the man has married.

It is common in Indonesian people that virginity is not the business of the girl herself. But it is also family and even social business. Father as the head of the family will be so mad if his daughter lost her virginity before married. He will be so mad because he lost the precious thing as a honour of his family. The madness as if not delivered for his daughter but for himself. The mocking from the society ashamed him as the leader of the family. It will happen to the husband who finds out that his bride not virgin anymore. The opinion that a man always know about the taste of virgin woman emphasized that man is powerful than woman. He is really omniscience.

“Harusnya kamu sadar kalau **ciri perawan sudah ada di setiap kantong lelaki**, suamimu.....Bisa saja suamimu tertipu dengan darah merah namun tidak dengan **rasa khas seorang gadis perawan**. ...Kekuatan rasa jauh melebihi penglihatan kepala”  
(HNPR: 106)

Jones in her blog reported that there is no medical procedure exists that can accurately determine if a woman—or a man, is a virgin. The hymen can break while doing everyday activities like running, riding, exercising not only by having sex. So it is impossible for man to know about the taste of virgin except he had research by having sexual intercourse with many women.

Girls in this novel all are described as weak creatures who have no other way out whenever losing her virginity. The position

of girl is subjugated who will only lean on to the man's merciless. Girl in HNPR is placed as an inferior girl because she has damaged.

In this novel, the author placed a man as the owner of a woman. The woman is a thing who gives him the precious gift to fulfil his life. The position of woman is subjugated although man think that his act to keep the woman safe but in fact they keep their property in the best condition until they get this precious gift.

The high school girl who lost the precious virginity will be more fragile. There is no support from her family or from the society. The abandoned feeling makes her weak and she is easily to end her life. It is the society fault who cannot give the way out of her burden.

#### **Patriarchal Culture**

The writer is a man who thinks as a common man who lives in patriarchal society. Man thinks that married is the final goal for girl in her life to be happy. So she must be ready to be the second wife or even the fourth wife for she lost virginity as a precious gift for her future husband. There is no chance for this girl to get a good husband.

Patriarchy as a system of social structures and practice in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women (Walby:1991)

Not virgin or damaged girl will not get a good man. The precious of hymen is honoured by society in a country where premarital sex is a forbidden act. The obsession to have virgin bride seems become the man's obsession.

In the patriarchal society, man is a reign of girl's life. Before married, father controls his daughter and after married, husband has power to his wife destiny. Simone de Beauvoir stated one is not born but rather becomes (1989). Woman is not born as a woman but society constructs them to be a woman. In the patriarchal society, girl is constructed how to be a girl. For instance she must speak softly, going home not in the midnight, wearing skirt, having a long hair etc. give her virginity to anybody before married. In his stories he tries hard to frighten the reader about the effect of losing virginity. But he addresses it only to the girl not boy.

There is a stigmatism also presented in the novel that losing virginity is the end of the world for the girl. It seems that the virginity is the best gift for the husband so without it no man wants to marry the girl. As if that not virgin girl is the greatest wicked human for the future husband.

The author is a man who thinks as a man. His works is presenting his idea as a patriarchal man. It seems that he wants virgin woman as a present of his life. How the author present this story cannot be separated from the society around him.

Indonesia is a country which prohibits sex before marriage. One of many characteristics of the religious society. It has the same opinion that the girl virginity must be preserved until they married. The common sense is placed the girl as the responsible human than a man when she loses her virginity. The burden is placed on her. The society rarely flashes the big role of young boy while manipulating his girlfriend. The

trick that he used does not considered as the young boy fault.

Teen literature is dedicated to the young age reader. By reading a literary work, they will get experience and lesson to maintain their life.

Rasyid (1983) stated that sex education as a basic component of life needed by humans, because basically studying sex education is essentially examining the necessities of life

Sex education increasing the awareness of students's healthy sex behavior (Faswita: 2018). By having this reason, the focus of this novel addressed to give deductive lesson for girls. It is stated by the author in the last part of the novel

“ Tak sabarkah kamu untuk melepaskan keperawanan yang kamu miliki, atau sudah bosankah kamu merawat semua itu. Atau sebegitu menggebukah nafsu yang ada dalam dirimu untuk merasakan kenikmatan sesaat itu hingga tak sempat membayangkan perjuangan seorang ibu yang telah mengandung dan membesarkanmu. Sebegitu tampankah pacar kamu hingga kamu memaksakan diri untuk melepaskan keperawananmu untuknya hingga tak terlihat sedikitpun olehmu rintihan seorang ibu sewaktu melahirkanmu. Sebegitu kayakah dia, sampai kamu rela menjadikan keperawananmu sebagai DP untuk mengikat dia....” (HPNR, 2018:100)

(You have no patience to let your virginity. You must keep it. Or It seems that you have big desire to enjoy the temporary pleasure by forgetting your mom who suffered to deliver

you to the world. Whether the handsome of your boyfriend blind you and present your virginity as a down payment to bind him...”(HPNR, 2018: 100)

## CONCLUSIONS

Sex discourse is this novel focus on the losing for the girl who lost virginity. The author is a product of patriarchal culture which support the patriarchal value about virginity. It is described the bad effect and punishment is clearly the girl big lost opportunity to get a good man in the rest of her life. For the author, sex is a matter of virginity

Sex education represented in this novel has the taste of patriarchal common sense. It is delivered for girls by frightening her to preserve her virginity. The novel showed the general opinion of the society that the virginity is the girl's big responsibility to get husband.

The advice given by the religious leader in the last story strengthened the importance of keeping virginity. Behind the good order actually is implicitly found the big interest of man himself. The word of “waste of other man” placed the girl as not precious human being. It puts her in a low priced thing or as a damaged girl.

Living in the patriarchal society, placed the girl as an unworthy human being who has no power to direct herself. Society and family reign her body and give the big burden for her to keep the society's honor. Really it is not only the girl's careless but the sexual incident happen because of the lack of sex education is the family's and society's. The

education to understand her body and also protect it much more importance to avoid the pregnancy before married.

The stigmatism given to the girl gives more burdens to her life. Even though she makes mistakes but she is still a precious human being. The support and attention from the people around her is needed to return her self confidence and her self esteem.

Society must also protect the girl by giving the chance to get education for the pregnant girl to maintain a better life. The chain of young pregnancy can be cut by giving a better sex education for the young age. We must support to Surabaya Mayor – Risma- to run a special school for the young mother who lost her basic education because of her early married.

Education is a good way to build a better society. By giving education for early married girl, it will establish a powerful society. By giving a proper sex education to the young generation, it will build the awareness to protect their body for many sexual diseases. It is hopefully will lessen the pregnancy before married.

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