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RACISM AS POLITICAL WEAPON AND NOT SOCIAL BEHAVIOR BASED ON VIKAS SWARUP "Q&A"

RASISME SEBAGAI ALAT POLITIK DAN BUKAN DISKRIMINASI SOSIAL BERDASARKAN NOVEL "Q&A" KARYA VIKAS SWARUP

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Abstract

Racism is the basic problem of the human diversity in the world. It is the treatment that influenced by the distinctive of physical characters combination which the pattern of ethnic relation such as skin colour, hair, shape nose, eye, and etc. Thus, this research intends to examine the racism pattern which appears in two novels of Vika Swarup as Indian, they are *Q&A* and *Six Suspects*. In order to examine the racism pattern, this work proposed: (1) how is racism depicted in the *Q&A* and *Six Suspects* novel. (2) what the goals of racism do in the world. (3) how do the ethnic pattern change the social life.

The pattern of racisms is analyzed in accordance with theory which proposed by Horton and Hunt. This work's result shows that the pattern of racism which are depicted in both novels are annihilation, expulsion, partition, and segregation in which suggest that the racism is resulting from the relation between Muslims India (Pakistani) and Hindus as the dominant ethnic. Moreover, the effect of those racism pattern causing the minority reaction toward the dominant group. Individual attitude and social behavior are being the effect of the ethnic pattern change in the social life.

Keyword: *Racism, sociological of literature, Q&A and Six Suspects novel*

Abstrak

Rasisme merupakan permasalahan yang paling mendasar dalam keanekaragaman di Dunia. Ini adalah perbedaan penyikapan antara sesama manusia didasarkan atas bentuk karakter fisik dan warna kulit manusia yang dikombinasikan dengan letak geografis, keturunan, etnis, dan kelas social. Dengan demikian artikel ini bermaksud untu mengidentifikasi permasalahan tersebut berdasarkan data yang diambil dari dua buah novel karya Vikas Swarup yaitu "Q&A" dan "Six Suspect" dengan identifikasi masalah: (1) bagaimana rasisme diungkapkan dalam novel tersebut, (2) apa tujuan dari



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rasisme di Dunia, dan (3) bagaimana perilaku antar etnik dapat mengubah wajah kehidupan sosial dunia.

Pola racism dalam novel tersebut diambil berdasarkan teori sosial Horton dan Hunt. Karya ini menunjukkan pola yang segaris yaitu annihilation, expulsion, partition, dan segregation yang mana dikorelasikan berdasarkan setting yang terjadi antara umat Muslim (Hindia Pakistani) dan Hindu sebagai mayoritas di India. Selanjutnya akan ditunjukkan bentuk politik kekuasaan atas power yang dimiliki mayoritas atas kelompok minoritas. Secara lebih jauh akan diungkapkan akibat dari sikap individu dan pola sosial atas perubahan pola sosial yang terjadi.

Kata kunci: *Rasisme, Sosiologi dalam sastra, Q&A, dan Six Suspect.*

Introduction

This month, precisely at 22nd January we celebrated the MLK (Martin Luther King Junior) day. We all know what his state about equality and diversity, and the great moment is what he created in the world as the power relation toward the minority. MLK said that race is not about human, it is about the thought that we have to blessing as the miracle of God. But about the racism, that is the scaring toward the authority to control this world upper the God his self.

Human is the most perfect creature in the world. They live and connected one to another in the social life. As the consequence of their position and status in the social life, they have diversity of necessities. Thus, it emerges some egos that some people will feel more perfect than other. In some reasons they may compete each other in everything. So that it can create the distinction and domination in the community.

Dealing with the domination, the human's ego of their existence raising problem when they put their self in a society, the power to show their existence as the only one that most powerful than others creates a gap between the powerful one as the majority and the lower as the minority. The social life concept of pluralism in culture, race, ethnic, religion which hold one another in their behaviour of being part of the society may vanish because of the power of the ego's existence.

Horton states that races are defined as group with distinctive combination of physical traits and set them off from other races (1964: 376). We cannot measure and account the exactly races in the world based on that definition, but the racism for recent year is the pattern in intergroup relationship especially multi-ethnic.

Other part, sociology is the part of knowledge that discuss about how we live in life that have so many characteristics. It means the whole case contents of life property such as men and women, group living, population, etc. Gidding, an early American sociologist, built up a whole system of thought around the concept, "consciousness of kind." It was that social group tend to be made up of those who recognize their similarities and that the people in these groups then classify others as "different" members of the out-

group. The basis of similarity may include any one or any combination of such trait as kinship, religion, regional background, nationality, language usage, economic status, physical appearance, and perhaps other.

The similarity in this combination creates some dissimilar types of person and it is racial lines, but in modern sociology we have the important racial relation to keep the similarities get the right place. Races are defined as groups with distinctive combinations or physical traits that set them in big population that call ethnic and bother off from other races. The attribute that the most important in grouping such as labour unions, political parties, trade associations, and pressure groups, these all influence by dissimilar types of persons. It remains true, however, that many important grouping are based on similarities of some kind.

The material of races here is the problem of distinction in their inherited. Race are defined as distinction in physical trait and used in classifying races, although hair colour, hair texture, amount of body hair, eye fold, shape of nose and lips, head contour, and body build are also used (Horton, 1964: 376)

Those diversity are natural, we cannot determine how we will be created in the world. The distinction is based on the character and structure of the hemisphere where we stand for and live in the world life where has too colourful as the geographic theory, so the diversity of physical characteristic is the human heterogeneity and it is enrich the variety of people as creature in the world. The classifying of mankind races such as:

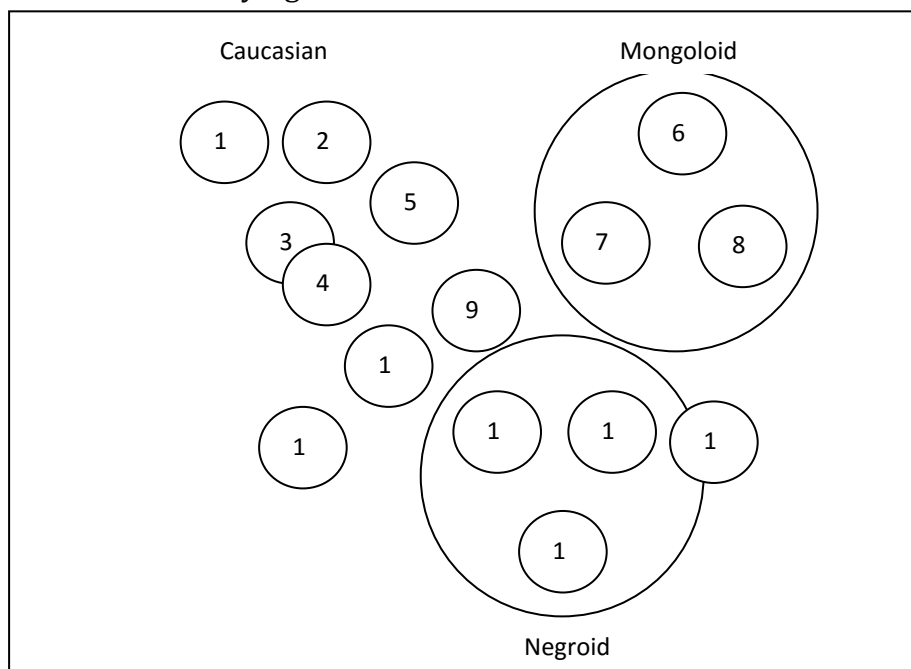


Figure 2.1 The Races Mankind (Horton, 1964: 377)

The figure numbering;

1 = Nordic	6 = American Indian	11 = Australian
2 = Alpine	7 = Oceanic Mongoloid	12 = Oceanic Negro
3 = Mediteranian	8 = Asiatic Mongoloid	13 = Negrito
4 = Hindu	9 = Polynesian	14 = African Negro
5 = Ainu	10 = Vedddoid	15 = Bushman

The ancient world was not much disturbed by the question of race differences for the ancient world was not highly race-conscious. Horton stated (1964: 377) slavery was not based on colour; intense race consciousness among European peoples did not develop until the colonial expansion, when white men needed a handy rationalization to justify their rule over non-white people. Then a succession of ingenious theories arose, all of which confirmed the white man's superiority and sanctified his rule.

Moreover, Wellek and Warren states that literature represent of life and life actually consist of the social, although literature imitates the nature and human's subjective world (1977: 109). It means that literature can be a part of sociology, we can learn the sociology through literary work. Sociology does not reform and overthrowing the society because it seeks knowledge, thus literature has the whole universe of expressing the social life. The literary work is influenced by three aspects, they are: the author, text (work), and the reader. The work of literature somehow is the expression of the author's life experience. As a result, every author has their own way to publish their work to the society, it can be seen from the style such as diction, rhyme, etc. which is chosen by the author.

Some writers attempted to explore the literary though of social and as science called sociology literature. Its becasued of shortly sociology was objectively though and scientivic matter about human in society, like *Damono* said that "dapat dijelaskan bahwa sosiologi adalah telaah ilmiah tentang manusia dalam masyarakat" (2009: 9). This research examines how the racism describes through literature. As the universe, literature has the pure way to discuss the science. Sociology is the one which use literature as a media to explore all of these parts. The main trend of social problem in civilization is racism, it is as quoted from Horton theory that racism is signed by the difference physical character therefore the special treatment influenced by that distinction. My assumption is the Horton classical theory of racism has no related in this literary work or it is quietly difference. It is because racism happens in difference treatment that caused of the principal distinction in multi ethnic. The distinguishing colour and other physical character is not the problem anymore, it is the greatest of God in creation the

nature. Then his work as the author of the modern literary work wants to explore and show to the world that racism is still exist.

That one of the famous writers is Vikas Swarup, he was the active Asian writer from India who is well known as the writer of the adapted novel onto a movie entitled *Slumdog Millionaire*. India well known by its strong culture of Hindu in spite of other religion as the culture was written there. Not only the case of India's Hindu and culture have that, but also the amazing moral value of India inspired us to see how it can be. Literary work is the honest expression as the way to look inside the entire live. Originally, he explored the social aspect on his novel and blends with a little melancholy-comedy which is the genuine of the Indian characterization

Similar to *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Q&A* is the first novel that he penned which adopted to that famous film has some issues which explored many social phenomenon, this setting in India where Hindu is the major of society but the mean character is Muslim. Due to the minor is an object of the story, this novel is so emotional and show the domination between Hindus that claimed as the old and Muslims as the new comers. This explore at the journey of Ram is the mean character since how he take the name at the Christian orphanage. The name of Ram Mohammad Thomas is the combination of three religions; these are Hindu, Muslim, and Christian. The problem is he leaves at the church while Hindus have the territorial conflict with Muslims; he was saving from the damage despite his name. Muslim takes the subordinate and that means it has the different chance in a normal life. Muslims are not allowed to be smart and take the good education formal even informal, so it is impossible if they get the high position at work. David explained it was tradisional ecology that happens long live when the major feel have the uothority to take control toward society,

“The ecological potential of these traditions is considered from both a historical perspspective, and in relation to their contemporary expressions. From this standpoint, transformation between the past and the present are shown to offer the most fertile possibilities of imprvement.” (David L. Gosling, 2001: 163).

Then as the unity of creation, the second novelis the most recent penned novel from Vikas is entitled *Six Suspects*. He takes the caste system in murder and cover in modern India life style in it. The novel tells about “*All deaths are not equal ...*” because modern life is too complex. It is containing many aspect of social class such us; actress, politician, legislative corrupts, servants, and journalist. This is the satirical mystery of some assassination case. Based on some reasons of the phenomenon, the writer is interested to explore more the value of the novel on the sociological approach.

Then the assumption of racism here is neither the slavery nor the difference colour but the treatment or social behaviour toward one religion and another. This takes for Muslims that describe as Pakistani and Hindus as the genuine and the eldest.

Research Methods

This study used qualitative approach by using sociological study method. It is important to understand the design in order to be able to identify possible extraneous variables that may affect the interpretation of the results. Mc. Millan (1992:143) states that research design refers to the way information is gathered from subjects. To reveal phenomena, the best research design which will be applied on this study is qualitative by using sociological approach. It is related with some characteristics of qualitative design as states by Nunan (1992:4). The technique of data collection follows the characters of the research as; (1) this study has an emphasis on naturalistic

Results and Discussion/Hasil dan Pembahasan

Remain the Lucien Goldmann raised the statement "I raised the objection that such subjects as "dictatorship" and "scandal" are not valid objects of sociological research since they designate a classification that is too heterogeneous. But ethnicity and relation such racism is the phenomenon of social behavior that take the point to spread out of the system of thought" (1981: 85). The racism in Vikas Swarup's novels is the quotations or some statement in novel *Q&A* and *Six Suspects* which show the racist pattern. Racism here is the pattern of relation among races that emerge the special treatment that show the power or the authority one to another race, the other word is the pattern of race relation. Races itself are defined as group with distinctive combinations of principal trait that set them off from other races. The title of people which is name actually used to identify of races, some times we call this the colour of name; such as Muslims' name, Catholic's name, or Hindus' name. Then physical characters complete the information in identifying. The novel that entitled *Six Suspects* The treatment in these novels based on the text, actually the setting is important part to take the pattern. This racism divided into three categories; the first is annihilation which focuses attention to the message that the effort to disappear a person who is the member of races. The second is expulsion and partition which focuses on the message of grouping the races; and the third is segregation and prejudice act, this pattern to identify the text include some message to keep one group of people apart from another and treat them differently.

The first is annihilation, this is the racist pattern of ethnic relation that identify as part of racism in this research which express the refusal of one ethnic, group or religion to another that followed by the attempt to defeat and the final is deleted. In fact, this is the purpose of racism as to show the power and authority.

This pattern shows in data (1) that not too clearly, this needs the connection of description deeply in each moment to take the message in the form of quotation.

1a. With bleary eyes they would have watched the spectacle, made some trite remark like ‘There goes another one,’ yawned, and promptly gone back to sleep.(12 : 2006)

The data (1) above is a sentence that describes some expression of apathy even careless, this is not unreasonable. This description is taken out from the man that he gets that moment in a special time. Firstly we can identify from the place where it done, this is in residence where there are so many people even large family take in close line. Logically, there is no hidden thing can save by self here; every voice of life heard time to time without any cover to make it blur. We can follow the action of our neighbor every time day in and day out and absolutely we need help each other to support our life be better even we are the new one.

From the statement “made some remark like ‘There goes another one’, is mean the disappearance is common here, every time let it come and let it go. There is nothing special or it express of general moment when some one should come and go. For sure, that is negative respectable from the society about some one, careless. The expression of nihilistic passive which caused of the distinction each other, so it means that is their hope.

Annihilation can express as active or passive action, by create some moment which the one will move or be moved by the outsider. Then from the second condition, we can identify with the response of society. Human is perfect creature with heart and think, so if someone or group or population receive that will show the care activity by asking some questions.

1b. They wouldn’t even bother to find out the reason for my arrest.(12 : 2006)

The arresting on data (2) above describes the activity of annihilation, how?

The arresting is the shape of the attempting to make someone move into the other place and never back again. The constable arrests someone who has the crime data and makes this does not do that again anymore. The suitable case is the negative activity that refused by society and it has been

done even real or not. This process is creates the negative effect for the doer and the position in the society.

But the point in this analysis is on "They" as the officer to do the "arrest" as prove of the annihilation activity. "they" here is the constable from the nearest or the native civilization actually has the special goal to delete the doer from the society. The arresting by the police officer can take some bad sign personality and special value in society. In the second place, the doer able to refused as the reason of the safety then he/she disappear in that environment or move into the other place as the segregate thing onto another group or race. This is includes the racism.

The second pattern is Expulsion and Partition. The idea that a nation should be compose of those who share a similar ethnic background has been especially popular in recent years. A mass shifting of population has resulted from an effort to make political boundary lines coincide with ethnic groupings, a shift which has frequently upset the patterns of centuries. People whose families have lived in certain areas for hundreds of years suddenly find themselves declared undesirable aliens are forced to move to a land which to them is new, strange, and terrifying, even though it may be populated by persons of the same race, nationality, or creed. An early example of this practice is include the expulsion of Greeks from Turkey and of Turks of Greece, the partition of the land of Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state, the division of Ireland under which the heavily Protestant area around Belfast remains a part of the British Empire while the Catholic part of Ireland is an independent country, and the partition of India between Moslems and Hindus (Horton. 1964: 342)

The quotation of the sentence from the story related that pattern such:

2a. They will wag a finger at me and remind me of what the elders in Dharavi say about never crossing the dividing line that separates the rich from the poor. (12 : 2006)

That quotation show that the dominant in this case is Hindus want to authorize the society and want not to share with other ethnic or civilization. There are the great line in separate the low social as the poor for Muslims India (Pakistani) and him.

2b. Only a white man would wear a suit and tie in this stifling heat. (14 : 2006)

Six Suspects were written by the Vikas experience in interrogation process. The police suggest that the waiter is not Hindu and he is the minor caste, it means he force to get the highest facilities from the Hindus and feel fly because this prosperity.

Then, the habit of the poor or low caste is not reading news paper every morning so they can enjoy that luxury activity by their life. Like this quotation:

2c. He's never been to school. He never even read newspaper... There have been cases of boys from poor backgrounds turning out be geniuses in later life. (18: 2006)

How he can be a genius as the rich man if his life is just look for food to eat every day. It is describe that the low-poor-ethnic never get a chance to change their life because the status and different Principe.

The third is Segregation and Prejudice act. The practice of *segregation* implies that contacts between the subordinates and the dominant group will be confined to those which are essential for the direction of the subordinates in their labors. Subordinates may come into intimate contact with the dominant group as household servants or as laborers in farm and industry. However, purely social contact are greatly restricted, or if possible, altogether eliminated. If people eat together or sit down together, the association implies equality and tends to undermine the basic assumptions which underlie the system of discrimination. Intimacy but not equality of contact is permitted; dominant and subordinate may meet in bed as master and concubine, but not as husband and wife.

The segregation pattern is probably most perfectly developed in the traditional society of India, in which the occupations that people may are carefully defined, intermarriage is taboo, and separation rule in most social relations (1964: 343)

Another type of racist pattern, which less brutal then those just described, is even more widespread. In a great many countries the attitude toward the members of subordinate groups is that they should be allowed to function only in a way that serves the interest of the dominant group; this is *prejudice act*. This because an unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially when formed without enough tough or knowledge; in other words, *prejudice*. The essence of prejudice act in this sense is a practice that treats equal people unequally, in that member of different ethnic groups do not have the same opportunities to compete for social rewards. Prejudice act

means that the duty of subordinate is simply to do the work which the dominants are either unable or unwilling to perform.

The Q&A show that the special treatment through society decided by their prejudice and they will do everything to prove the goal to be the dominant and get the prosperous. As this data,

3a. They wouldn't even bother to find out the reason for my arrest.(12 : 2006)

The data show the prejudice of his behavior in arresting mean character. The statement of even bother to find out the reason it implicate of the racist pattern here base on the prejudice and it is called prejudiced act.

3b. After all, what business did a penniless waiter have to be participating in brain quiz?(12 : 2006)

3c. He didn't call me a worthless bastard that night, or a rabid dog.(12 : 2006)

Godbole presents of Ram into the white man like a ring-master introducing his pet lion. This describe that the Muslims as Ram Mohammad Thomas can not get e chance to be the contestant in the even which the prospect to get some price that show the human capabilities in the society. The factor to create this existence is the prejudice of the owner of the program which is Hindus while Thomas to be win and get the maximum price, furthermore, he is the minor and never take the same opportunities in social life. The prejudice makes the social walk unwell and increase the racism, because of that racist is not the skin factor but the feeling to other different ethnic.

'Ram Mohammad Thomas – what kind of nonsense name is that, mixing up all the religions? Couldn't your mother decide your mother was? He says, not for the first time. And this makes somebody give the special treatment that sometimes want to die and make him a good friend.

Then for close statement I quoted from Julia Kristeva that "Literature is an object that our culture consumes; it is viewed as a finished product and the process of its productivity is usually ignored. When this process is taken into consideration, however, one realizes that what makes a work interesting or significant does not depend on its having been accepted in (or rejected from) the "literary" corpus; that later judgment is both ethical and esthetic, hence a function of dominant ideology." (1941: 131).

Conclusion

With the increasing social value through literary, the readers can enrich their science and experience of life regarding reading all the literary work. Fiction is taken on the characterization and some happening, but the word, sentences, and utterance perhaps its true.

Race is not suitable to hold in the recent life because the physical difference is to enrich our life style. But racism is the pattern of ethnic relation; this discusses the treatment between two ethnic groups or more that has domination either. The intellectual is not influenced as social background but the intelligence is the heritage and can build up by the time.

Further the writing of fiction in the world especially in Indonesia, the social value is the highest philosophy that we need to explore deeper. This Indian fiction is the inspiration of the researcher to increase the desire to read literary work and write in everything form.

Reading fictions make us conscious about who we are and take so many sciences without have to go to school and take the experience without go to anywhere. It is the real the window of the world. This study to explore the extend the literature study and could therefore be extended by also examining the social value especially in racism the other way around.

Meanwhile, the phenomenon in our real life such as in education, children are asked to read more holy and school subject book rather than a novel. As stated previously that novel as a literature gives us the special offer to look our life in a different way so that we can learn many positive values from it. Due to get the value, there are some considerations in understanding the novel. They are: what can we learn from reading a novel? What things that was written in novel? These problems must be answered by the men of letters.

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