

Political Intrigue and Power in the Novel *Lambung Mangkurat* by Randu Alamsyah Through Semiotic Studies

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Abstract

*This study aims to describe the content of the novel *Lambung Mangkurat* using the semiotic theory introduced by Charles Sanders Peirce as its analytical framework. This analytical approach involves the identification and discussion of icons, indices, and symbols present in the narrative of the novel. The study adopts a library research approach with a qualitative interpretive method. The data used comes from various primary and secondary sources, which are then interpreted descriptively. The data collection method in this study involves the use of documentation techniques and a review of library materials. The analysis results show that the spread of gossip in the Negara Dipa community about *Lambung Mangkurat*, who asks for toys from adults borrowing them, is an icon of *Lambung Mangkurat*'s attitude when begging for the throne from Arya Megasari. On the other hand, the accusations and insults directed at *Lambung Mangkurat* represent an index of the political conspiracy designed by some officials of Negara Dipa to eliminate *Lambung Mangkurat* from the political arena in the region. Additionally, the slanderous actions by Arya Megasari and Tatah Jiwa to tarnish *Lambung Mangkurat*'s reputation can be interpreted as a symbol of their hatred and fear towards *Lambung Mangkurat*'s ambition to seize the throne of Empu Jatmika.*

Keywords: Politics, power, semiotics, and novel.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the result of human creation or work expressed through written expression using language as the medium. Apart from that, literature is also the result of someone's work expressed through beautiful writing, so that the work has aesthetic value and can attract readers to enjoy it.

Basically, literary works describe real world events. Although the issues raised by writers in works of fiction, such as short stories, novels and dramas, remain related to everyday life, writers often present their stories in a different way and are full of moral messages for human life.

(Rahmawati et al., 2022) literature is a field that aims to provide entertainment and benefits. Literary works usually take stories from real life and discuss social and cultural issues. The styles used by the authors also vary.

However, according to Siswantoro (in Mulyono, 2022) the author's literary works are sometimes very subjective. Literary works, even though they are imbued with a creative spirit, are still influenced by the author's subjective tastes and tendencies, aspirations and personal opinions when responding to objects outside themselves, as well as the author's individualistic nature. As a result, literary expressions work on the basis of intuition and imagination, as well as the power to

absorb the realities of life. Because of this, authors often raise problems that occur in society in stories, short stories or novels to teach readers lessons.

Literary works also often provide readers with lessons and advice. Randu Alamsyah's novel "*Mangkurat's stomach*" also illustrates this. In the novel, the author combines various problems and issues, including political conspiracies, character assassinations, and power struggles. Charles Sanders Peirce's study of semiotics is interesting to learn more about all the events that occur in this novel. By using semiotics, researchers can find the sign elements behind the events in Randu Alamsyah's novel "*Mangkurat's stomach*."

METHOD

This library research uses interpretive qualitative methods and collects data using two methods, namely documentation and research. Mardawani (2020) explains that documentation is a data collection technique that involves analyzing documents created by the subject. This document can be in the form of writing, images, or large works that function as supporting data in research.

The use of this method makes it easier for researchers to obtain original written information

from books as a reference in understanding the novel" *Mangkurat's stomach*".

Meanwhile, the research method is a systematic and systematic system of thinking that is used to facilitate and carry out investigations, studies and research examinations in an effort to gain an understanding of the content of the novel" *Mangkurat's stomach*".

However, the data analysis method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method, which means that the data collected will be presented in sentence form, either directly or indirectly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Nugraha and Raharjo (2022) The general understanding of semiotics is a scientific discipline that focuses on signs. "Semiotics" comes from the Greek word "simeon", which means "sign". Terminologically, "semiotics" can be defined as a scientific discipline that studies a large number of objects and events that occur across cultures as signs. semiotics is defined as "the science of signs and everything related to them: how they function, their relationship with other words, their transmission, and their reception by those who use them".

Peirce explains that signs are related to things similar to them, that their existence is due to a causal relationship with those signs, or that their existence is caused by traditional ties to those signs. It uses symbols for conventional associations, indices for causal relationships, and icons for similarities. (Wulandari & Siregar, 2020) In the novel *Mangkurat's stomach*, the author uses icons, indexes, and symbols to show the storyline as seen in the following quote:

"The bachelor was present at a government meeting and asked for the throne from Arya Megasari like a child asking for a toy from an adult who borrowed it," laughed Leman, frying this rumor for who knows how many times. (*Gastric Mangkurat: 34*).

The iconic aspect contained in the novel story quote above is equating the character Lambung Mangkurat, who is said to be single, with the character of a small child. Here, the actions of the bachelor or Lambung Mangkurat

(who asks for the throne) are likened or likened to the actions of a small child who asks for a toy.

Furthermore, aspects of icons, indices and symbols were also discovered when Tatah Jiwa and Arya Megasari slandered Lambung Mangkurat. This can be seen in the following quote:

Arya Megasari sat in the corner of the room, her sly eyes glinting as she spoke to Tatah Jiwa. "We have to create a story that can convince them. If Lambung Mangkurat's reputation is destroyed, our power will be easier to achieve."

Tatah Jiwa nodded in agreement. "Correct. We spread the slander that Lambung Mangkurat has betrayed his people. We spread rumors that he has collaborated with the enemy."

"We start from the market, word of mouth, until the whole kingdom believes in it. That way, people will lose trust in Lambung Mangkurat, and chaos will occur. That's when we appear as saviors." Arya Megasari suggested with a grin. (*Gastric Mangkurat: 103*).

In this quote, the icon is described visually by the act of betraying. This creates an image in the reader's mind as someone who left behind kindness and loyalty. In addition, the index shows a cause-and-effect relationship in which slander as a cause result in the belief of the entire kingdom as an effect. Markets and word of mouth communication function as markers of the information dissemination process. And in the quote, loss of trust and chaos are depicted as symbols. Loss of trust is an idea understood through social conventions, while chaos represents a loss of stability and order.

Apart from that, the accusations and insults leveled by some Dipa State officials towards Lambung Mangkurat represent an index of political conspiracy.

In the palace hall, the atmosphere became increasingly tense. Lambung Mangkurat stood firmly in the middle of the room, in front of him sat the Dipa State officials who looked anxious. "This accusation is not without basis. We have collected evidence. You have betrayed the people and collaborated with the enemy. "The people

have the right to know who their real leader is," explained Arya Megasari. *Gastric Mangkurat*: 220)

In this quote, the index shows the connection between accusations and insults and political conspiracies. These accusations and insults suggest that there is a bigger conspiracy behind the scenes being planned by officials to overthrow Lambung Mangkurat.

CONCLUSION

From the results of this research analysis, it was found that:

1. The spread of rumors about Lambung Mangkurat asking adults for toys became an icon of his childish attitude in pursuing the throne.
2. The accusations and insults from Dipa State officials are an index of political conspiracy efforts to undermine Lambung Mangkurat's position.
3. The slander launched by Arya Megasari and Tatah Jiwa became a symbol of their hatred and fear of Lambung Mangkurat's ambitions, spread through effective communication channels to create a negative image of him.
4. Fractured public trust and the resulting political instability are emblematic of the impact of this slander.
5. This research strengthens the relevance of the novel "Lambung Mangkurat" in depicting social and political realities that are still relevant today.

This conclusion shows that the novel "Lambung Mangkurat" is not just a literary work, but also an in-depth study of the complexity of politics and power, using semiotic language to reveal hidden layers of meaning.

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