

Aphorism using and meaning in Raja Mati play script

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ABSTRACT

Background: Raja Mati is one of the famous popular play for college students. It is full of meaning psychologically. The script is about a king whom got dying from sickness. As the death will come, people tend to speak wise. To identify how wise the words is delivered in the dialogue. An aphorism investigation is proposed.

Purpose: This study aims to identify the aphorism in Indonesian version of *Le Roi Se Meurt* by Ionesco titled *Raja Mati*. Further, this study investigates what kind of messages that the aphorism line tells to.

Design and methods: This study uses content analysis investigating dialogue in the written script. The dialogues are placed in a table to help investigating whether the line consist semantically an aphorism or not. each row represents a line of dialogue. Next, the lines are analyzed to reveal what is the background of the maxims generated to obtain the main information. To verify the results, the triangulation of the data source technique is used. Verification is used to distinguish between maxims and others.

Results: This study reveals Raja Mati has 4 aphorisms that mostly belongs to line of Machgrit. Aphorism in Raja Mati emphasize the maturity of characters. The content of aphorisms are related to time and action.

Keywords: Eugene Ionesco; translation play script; psychological of characters.

Introduction

Literature is a branch of art, namely the creation and aesthetic human expression. Literary art has the same position as other arts, such as music, painting, dance, and sculpture, which are created to convey beauty to the audience (readers). However, even though the goal is the same, from the aspect of the media conveying the aesthetic between one art branch and another it is different. The beauty of music is conveyed by sound and voice media, painting with color media, dance using motion media, sculpture using sculpture media, while literary art using language media.

From here, language has a special role in literature because literature manifests itself with a language which in its development is also determined by literature, namely literature explores language creativity, both in words, phrases, clauses, and sentences whose purpose is to achieve aspects of aesthetic values.

Literary work is the result of an expression of an author's psychological atmosphere, both thought and feeling (emotion). To create a literary work, an author makes observations of the humans around him. the author is an ordinary person, who has very high mental sensitivity, so that he is able to capture the innermost atmosphere of a human being.

The literary work is written by the author to offer a form of life that he idealizes. Through stories, attitudes, and behavior of characters, readers are expected to be able to take lessons and messages that the author wants to convey.

The literary works are created by authors to be read, understood and enjoyed. Through his work, the author wants to reveal the problems of man and humanity, suffering, struggle, compassion, hatred, lust and everything that humans experience in this world.

Drama as a product of literary works other than poetry and prose cannot be separated from the problems of life and humanity. In drama, the problems of life and humanity that are put forward are usually inseparable from the social aspects of society in human relations with other humans.

Drama also presents aspects of human behavior towards its kind related to human values. Drama can also be defined as a story that is performed because basically drama is the dialogue of the characters in the story who are played in a show. Drama, as a literary genre has a specificity compared to other literary genres, like poetry and prose.

The specificity of drama is due to the purpose of the drama being written by its author not only to stop at the stage of exposing events to be enjoyed artistically imaginatively by the reader, but also to visualize it in the show. For this reason, drama can be considered as a work that has two dimensions, namely the literary dimension and the performing arts dimension

Any activities can be an idea for making a drama work. Similar to others, Eugene Ionesco made play scripts starting by finding the idea. The idea of him was from his past memories, worriedness, and/or dreams (Weiss, 2006). One of many play-scripts created, Ionesco put the worriedness of facing death as his idea to make new monumental play-script titled *Le Roi Se Meurt*.

As the viewers were astonishingly entertained, many theaters group recreated the play. Also, *Le Roi Se Murt* script was translated into many languages, including Indonesian. The Indonesian version is translated from the English one. The language used of the show, then, is based on the audience.

Le Roi Se Murt was premiered in 1962. In the next year, Donald Watson made a translation of the script with a new title *Exit the King*. The Indonesian students, Ikranegara who studied abroad, retranslated the Watson version into Indonesian and titled it as *Raja Mati* in 1972. The Indonesian translation has several adjustments based on his findings on *L'avant-SCENE* (a published magazine in October 1967).

The challenging part is how to recreate a play-script from a translation of European culture into Indonesian. It must be a cross cultural gaps somehow. Not only the feasibility of the translated script question but also the messages, the delivery, the perception need to be considered.

In a perception of Ionesco in creating *Le Roi Se Meurt* was his worry much when he is dying of a sickness. The sickness made him feel bad that he though he faced the death soon.

Knowing the deep of Ionesco perception, *Le Roi Se Murt* must be full of straightforward messages. The messages supposed to be stated in the Indonesian version also. Especially, the messages can give meaning to the Indonesian viewers.

Messages in a script can be identified by investigating aphorism. Aphorism is a brief non-flourishing statement. The statement has no connotation meaning. It is simply having literal meaning without hard thinking and psychologically deep. For example, the early bird gets the worm.

Previously, a numerous research on a translation script had been done. The studies are investigating metaphor, a kind of figurative language (Simorangkir & Ayu, 2018), investigating a main character (Ramdhani, 2018; Syahrurridhani & Hidajad, 2020), and identifying

inter-culturalism of a work (Rahayu, 2011). From the previous study, aphorism is never investigated in a play script. The study related aphorism had been done in other form such as identifying aphorism from proverbs (Santoso, 2007) and idiom (Mustansyir & Munir, 2009) a certain tribe.

Distinguishing to others, this study investigate aphorism in a translation of translation play script. This study aims to identify the aphorism in Indonesian version of *Le Roi Se Meurt* by Ionesco. Further, what kind of messages that the script tells to.

Methods

Aphorism investigation in this research used content analysis method. It is a research tool used to determine the existence of certain words, topics or concepts in some given qualitative data (ie text). Using content analysis, researchers can quantify and analyze the existence, meaning, and relationship of these specific words, topics, or concepts (Drisko & Maschi, 2016)concon.

The study focuses on the dialogue written on Raja Mati script (an Indonesian translation version by Ikranegara). The research begins by excluding the settings, and any other elements and keep only the dialogue. The dialogue is put into a table which has line, aphorism or not, the context and meaning; each row represents a line of dialogue. Every row is identified to find the aphorism.

The data findings, next, are analyzed to reveal what context the aphorism produced to get the main messages is. To validate the findings, triangulation of data source is used. The validation is used to distinguish the aphorism or others.

The report of this study is starting by informing the phenomenon of Raja Mati plays in Indonesia including the response of the viewers. Then it continues to inform the aphorism and the meaning based on the context.

Findings & Discussion

Playscript as guidance

A theater group needs a drama script as a guide in carrying out the show. drama script is a composition containing a story. The script contains the names of the characters, the dialogue that is spoken, and the stage conditions needed to build an atmosphere. In fact, other supporting elements such as fashion, lighting, music, are described in the script.

In terms of form and nature, drama scripts are different from short stories and/or novels. Drama manuscripts do not directly tell the whole event that happened descriptively. The narrative is changed in the form of movement and character dialogue. Through movement and dialogue, the audience can enjoy the integrity of the events conveyed in the story being staged.

To make it easier for actors to portray characters, drama scripts are written as complete as possible including dialogue, instructions for acting, instructions for scenes and scenes. Through this explanation, the actor can immediately understand the nature of the character being played. The good character's character during the stage will affect the audience's receptiveness of the message or meaning to be conveyed.

Raja Mati script has several elements for helping actors to convey the show. The elements are title, scriptwriter, characters, setting description, actor's guide, dialogue, stage description including the characters' movements. The title of Raja Mati has 3 languages. The origin title, the English version and the Indonesian title. Below the title, the scriptwriter is informed informing the script belonged to Eugene Ionesco. Additionally, the name of

translator is also stated below the script writer. Further still in the title page, there is a passage informing how the translator doing his part in translating the script.

On the next page is characters' page consisting the name of characters and the role. Then on the next page, the information of stage description, setting description, the dialogue, and characters guidance are displayed.

Raja Mati theater show

Raja Mati is a meditation on life and death, and power is only the construction of society, or artificial fantasy, or even delusion. The king can do nothing, his power depends entirely on his birth title and title. When the king's health deteriorated, the entourage left him, showing him that he only exerted power on others because they depended on him. When he was no longer reliable, the entourage abandoned him. This also illustrates the fragile nature of the king's subjective power: the king has power only when ruled by a ruler, just as the power of a slave owner is linked to a slave who obeys.

His kingdom was a failed country, and its gradual departure from grace paralleled the king's life. His two wives, Machgrit and Mari, represent reality and fantasy respectively. Machgrit and the king's trusted physician (Doctor) told him about his medical condition, but Mari tried to persuade him to save him from the facts

Raja Mati theater show performed in college activity. Mostly it performed by actors and actresses in Bandung and Surabaya. The show was a program of a subject as final assignment (Sabari, 2019).

Raja Mati was performed by college students majoring theater. As part of the students' creative process. The students explored any possibilities of themselves to express their feeling through performance. The performance was full of criticism to life (Wiyana, 2005). The performers deliver the important message into a comedy.

Comedy show is identified full of improvisation. The numerous improvisation of dialogue can be added to the script. Somehow the improvisation aims to entertain the viewers. That the serious things will not deliver in a serious way but enjoyable. For example, to mention how dangerous the dengue fever is, the guardian that supposed to act tough and rough answering with funny expression that sound like lighten the fever case. The line is "*Demam berdarah, gitu loh!*".

Aphorism in script line

Aphorism is a straight statement that has no flowering effect and gives truth concept or general (Hui, 2019a, 2019b). aphorism in a play script can be identified by analyzing the dialogue. The dialogue is what actor have to say to perform the show.

In Raja Mati play script has numerous aphorisms found as figure 1 shown. The following is the finding and the meaning of each aphorism found.

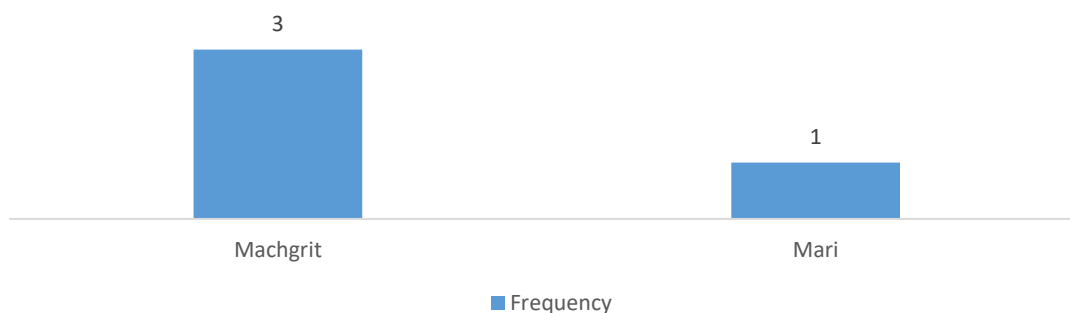


Figure 1 Frequency of Aphorism used by characters

As a first woman who marry the King, Machgrit is a person that be believed always coming with a solution to kingdom matters. Not only the King, every single people believes in Machgrit as equal as the King rule, even a guardian would obey any words ordered by Machgrit.

Knowing the King is dying because of sickness, Machgrit comes to visit the King. In the front of the King bedroom door, there were two guardians busy fixing the heater. Actually the guardians had already fixed the heater at night but it comes broken in the morning.

Machgrit once suggest to a king guard about a question to fix broken room-heater. It is known that a guard cannot do any maintenance issue. Machgrit says that we never back to a past. It is shown as *“Kita tidak mungkin memutar jarum jam mundur ke belakang.”*

A clock commonly travels to make a circle. It travels clockwise. The clock represents to a time that never be back. It is always running. The point of Machgrit line was to emphasize that the guardians have to do something meaningful.

Other aphorism occurs when the King gets shocked on what the Doctor says. The doctor’s analysis shows that the King body will slowly faded. Every part of the King’s body will remain dying started with no words of the King is wise.

The King’s body is not in line with mind. Even the King feels okay on his body, but the body cannot react accordingly. The King, then, blames his past action that makes him to this condition.

Machgrit comments to the king misleading on his past actions. Those actions rise a regret from the King now. The comment was *“Kau tidak bisa menyetop tumbuhnya lumut”* that means today is the result of King’s policies, orders, and other reaction on previous occurrences.

In the past, King is described won many battles. Every word of the King is a rule. The king was doing many things in good and bad way. However, no one can protest to. Based on that action Machgrit remind the King that what happens now is the accumulation of what happened before.

The last but not least aphorism that comes in line of Machgrit is when the King in any minute would die. Machgrit use their action to give audience believe there is something heavy on the King’s back.

Machgrit cheers up the King in the last minute of King’s dying. Machgrit knows well how the King made impact to the kingdom life. The line is *“Sejumput garam akan melebur ke dalam air, tapi itu bukan berarti hilang: air malah jadi asin”*. The line tries to tell whatever the King did, the people will embrace his actions as part of new life. It creates new habituation to people in the Kingdom even the King is no longer live together with.

The last aphorism found in Raja Mati script is delivered in Mari’s line. It is long line that reacting to the King saying. Mari tells also an aphorism with different way. She tried to convince what is happening related to wisdom changing. The line is as shown below.

“Kebijaksanaan baru sedang menggantikan yang lama. Kebodohan dan kemalasan akan lebih banyak dibandingkan sebelumnya, ada perbedaan antara kebodohan dengan kebodohan, antara kemalasan dengan kemalasan, tentu saja, tapi nilainya sama saja. Tapi jadikanlah semua itu pelipur lara bagimu dan memberikan rasa bahagia kepadamu.”

The King’s word become new policy. The new policy gives impact creates laziness and moronic. Mari’s line was to distinguish what is the real lazy or fake one and what is the real moron and the fake one.

Conclusion

Raja Mati is an Indonesian translation of *Le Roi Ser Meurt* by Ionesco. The Indonesian version is translated by Ikranegara. Some adjustment in Raja Mati is based on the English translation and several additional info from a French Magazine.

Raja Mati has 4 aphorisms that mostly belongs to line of Machgrit. As the first queen, the aphorism give impact to the characters. Machgrit becomes wise and produce word meaningfully. Aphorisms in Raja Mati emphasize the maturity of characters. The content of aphorisms is related to time and action.

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Biography

Arif Hidayat

I am a language learner. Keeping busy the routine as a lecturer and the one responsible for Non Academic Affairs in STMIK Nusa Mandiri, I still put my effort to be able to write. I am a simple person who love to deal with language and its use in our daily life and activities. Culture and arts are part of element building my personality to cope with the unbelievably complicated world. Literature becomes one of my world to deal with as the collaboration of language, culture and arts.
