Peacock Motif Batik in Cultural and Religious Contexts: An Ecocritical Reading

A Thesis Presented as a Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements for the Degree

of Sarjana Sastra in the English Study Program



By

Firda Lefina Putri R.

19.J1.0034

ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM

FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS

SOEGIJAPRANATA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

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Semarang, February 24th, 2023

Firda Lefina Putri R.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the peacock batik motif through an ecocritical lens, where environmental issues become the center of the reflection in understanding the reason behind the choice of designing the motif. The ecocritical lens' working method follows the ecocriticism theory's third-wave movement, which explains the reciprocal relationship between nature and culture. This study found that batik cloth with a peacock motif in *Kampung Batik Semarang* is rare. The rarity is due to the complex process of designing the peacock batik motif, thus giving the reason for its high price. Another reason is due to the complex symbolism it pertains to. Through thorough library research, qualitative analysis, and an interview, this study found reasons for the peacock's existence from cultural and religious perspectives. According to the batik conceptors from four batik shops, the beauty of the peacock is perpetuated by the beauty of the Hibiscus, Lotus, Sakura, and Plum flowers. Through studying the batik peacock motif, it is understood that flora and fauna deserve to be given special attention by ecocritics, who are environmental conservationists.

Keywords: Peacock, batik, ecocriticism

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini mengkaji motif batik merak melalui lensa ekokritikal, dimana isu lingkungan menjadi pusat refleksi dalam memahami alasan dibalik pemilihan motif tersebut. Metode kerja lensa ekokritik mengikuti gerakan gelombang ketiga teori ekokritik, yang menjelaskan hubungan timbal balik antara alam dan budaya. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa kain batik dengan motif merak di Kampung Batik Semarang tergolong langka. Kelangkaan tersebut disebabkan proses pembuatan motif batik merak yang rumit sehingga menyebabkan harganya yang mahal. Alasan lain adalah karena simbolisme kompleks yang berkaitan dengannya. Melalui studi kepustakaan menyeluruh, analisis kualitatif, dan wawancara, studi ini menemukan alasan keberadaan burung merak dari konteks budaya dan agama. Menurut para pengkonsep batik dari empat toko batik, keindahan burung merak diabadikan oleh keindahan bunga Hibiscus, Lotus, Sakura, dan Plum. Melalui kajian motif batik merak, dapat dipahami bahwa flora dan fauna patut mendapat perhatian khusus oleh para ekokritik yang merupakan pelestari lingkungan.

Kata kunci: Merak, batik, ekokritik