

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Pramoedya Ananta Toer, the author of *Bumi Manusia*, was born in Blora in 1925. Some of his other novels are *Anak Semua Bangsa*, *Jejak Langkah*, and *Rumah Kaca*. He was an Indonesian novelist and screenwriter. Most of Pramoedya's writings relate to three stages of his life, namely his childhood, the Japanese Occupation, and the Indonesian Revolution (Haridas, 1978).

Bumi Manusia was the first book of the *Buru Tetralogy* which was published in 1980. In this novel, the author tries his best to direct the reader to the realities of life through the stories. *Bumi Manusia* was a novel that was popular among teenagers. The novel had an interesting story, told about a native's struggle to defend his rights from the colonialists in the colonial period. This story was made by Hanung Brahmantyo into a film in 2019 (N. D. Rahayu et al., 2021). *Bumi Manusia* novel and film is a novel or film in which there are positive things so that it can be used for student learning (Afsani et al., 2022).

Novel *Bumi Manusia* tells about Annelies, the protagonist, who was caught in a complex situation she has to encounter. She was half Dutch and Javanese in nature; she was in a dilemmatic position regarding the social relations between the Javanese and the European people; she was also ambiguous in the relation between the upper

class (bourgeoisie) and the lower class (proletariat) societies (Toer, 1980). All of these problems are well depicted in the plot of the novel.

The reason why Annelies self-conflict was compelling to analyze was that intrinsically, the self-conflict she experiences did not bring any good or solution to her complex problem. Moreover, the self-conflict was futile because her decision to leave for the Netherlands at the end of the story demonstrates the inconsistency of her initial principal and viewpoint regarding the Dutch-Javanese relationship. Initially, Annelies was “pro” or in favor of the Javanese. Yet, in the end, she did not show such a sociocultural orientation.

This research aims to investigate Annelies' personal conflicts. The story began with Annelies Mellema who falls in love with Minke (R.M. Tirta Adhi Soerjo), an *Hoogere Burgerschool* (HBS) student. As HBS was a Dutch school, Minke mostly studies the Dutch language and culture. In this place, Annelies met Minke and they, later on, build their romantic relationship. Yet, their relationship turns out to be complicated. The problem begins the moment their romance was not approved by Annelies' family. However, Annelies persists to continue her relationship. In the novel, Annelies is described as a girl who initially seems to be mature, intelligent, fun, beautiful, and determined. Yet, as the plot develops, this representation of Annelies fades away.

There are two studies on *Bumi Manusia*, the first was a journal article created by Rini (Rini, 2019), *Interpretasi Feminisme Tokoh Nyai Ontosoroh Dalam Novel Bumi Manusia Tulisan Pramoedya Ananta Toer Pada Komposisi Musik Ontosoroh*.

This article discusses feminist discourses focusing on Ontosoroh, the protagonist. She was a woman facing the twists and turns of a life full of misfortune and bad luck since childhood. This paper concludes that Ontosoroh's story was divided into several stages, namely the birth of Ontosoroh, Herman Mellema's attempt to buy Ontosoroh as a Gundhik, Ontosoroh's love story, and Ontosoroh's passion to change his life path through knowledge. In the end, Ontosoroh's feminism can be interpreted through a musical interaction and the strength of the text in every vocal presented. In this particular reason, this is an example of a thesis related to the novel *Bumi Manusia* about feminism, but my research does not deal with feminism.

Another study was conducted by Rahayu, Muliawati, and Pujiatna (I. Rahayu et al., 2019) entitled *Women's Struggle Against Colonial Imperialism in the Tetralogy of the Novel Bumi Manusia by Pramoedya Ananta Toer*. Rahayu, Muliawati, and Pujiatna maintain that this novel's female character was a strong character against patriarchy and colonial imperialism. They conclude that the female character who opposes the form of patriarchal oppression of colonial imperialism is as follows. The female character in which there was a form of resistance that is different from one another. Nyai Ontosoroh had a brave, tough attitude towards the decision of the white court. Surati fought against this form of colonialism by transmitting a smallpox epidemic to Pak Plikemboh who wanted to make her his mistress.

This research was different from previous research. Rini (Rini, 2019) discussed feminist discourse focusing on Ontosoroh, the protagonist. She found that Ontosoroh's feminism could be interpreted through musical interactions and the strength of the text

in every vocal presented. Meanwhile, Rahayu, Muliawati, and Pujiatna (I. Rahayu et al., 2019) talked about strong female characters against patriarchy and colonial imperialism. This paper discusses female figures who oppose patriarchal forms of colonial imperialism. The female character in which there is a form of resistance that is different from one another; for example, Nyai Ontosoroh had a bold and firm attitude toward the white court decision. Surati fought this form of colonialism by transmitting a smallpox epidemic to Pak Plikemboh who wanted to make him his lover.

Unlike the above analyses, the researcher would analyzed this novel *Bumi Manusia* (Toer, 1980) by using literary intrinsic elements, such as the plot, which has something to do with the conflict (Luis & Moncayo, 2014). According to Laconfli (2015), the conflict had two types which are distinguished based on external conflict and internal conflict, each of which has its own type. In this regard, the author decided to take the title "The Futile Self-Conflicts of Annelies Mellema in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Bumi Manusia* (Toer, 1980)".

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of study is literature, especially novel.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the conflicts experienced by Annelies in the novel *Bumi Manusia* and how Annelies solves her self-conflicts.

1.4 Research Questions

This research will focus on answering these questions:

1. What self-conflicts does Annelies experience?
2. What are the effects on the conflict faced by Annelies?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are

1. To find out the self-conflicts experienced by Annelies.
2. To find out the effects that happened to Annelies from the conflict she faced.

1.6 Significance of the Study

By using intrinsic elements theories, the researcher tries to explain how the character solves the problem by using one of the intrinsic elements of the novel, namely the plot.

The researcher hopes that this research will be useful for readers and especially students of literature in understanding personal conflict in the work of literature. The researcher believes that such research can provide general interest to study the novel more deeply.

1.7 Definition of Term

1. Futile

Futile as something which is “useless” or “inevectual”. The word “futile” is derived from the Latin word “*futilis*”, meaning that which easily melts or pours (Ardagh, 2000).

2. Self-Conflict

Self-conflict is the power of all human thought and action. It has a holistic cultural background. This is being handled by all cultures in the world differently (Hussein, 2019).

3. Intrapersonal Conflict

The intrapersonal conflicts are attributed only to those who participate in the project like conflicts of values, priorities, etc (Beheshtifar & Zare, 2013).

4. Intrinsic Element

Intrinsic elements are elements that compose literary works from within to realize the structure of literary works, such as characters, plots, themes, settings, and points of view (Ardiyanthi, 2010). Intrinsic elements help the writer prove and justify the argument.