THE PATRIOTIC VALUES IN THE POEMS OF TEUKU ALIBASYAH TALSYA

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the patriotic value in the poems of Teuku Alibasyah Talsya. The method used is the qualitative descriptive method. The data sources for this research are eight of Talsya’s poems which are (1) Hasrat, (2) Selawah Djantan (3) Tanahku, Timur, (4) Pahlawan Muda, (5) Engkau dan Aku, (6) Merdeka Tetap Merdeka (7) Kejut Tiada, and (8) Semangat Kerja. The data in this study is obtained based on the research needs, such as words, phrases, text, and fragments of the poems which have the content of patriotism. The analytical technique used is the qualitative descriptive technique. The result shows that the poems have the patriotic values such as loyalty expressed in the sense of defending the motherland, proud of the motherland, and upholding the nation. Then, gesture to sacrifice is expressed in sincerity, bravery for the interests of the nation, and actively participating in the development of country. Furthermore, the spirit appeared from his poems show full of hope, or ambition to reach the freedom. The functions of patriotism of his poems in literature learning at school are to grow the feeling of love totally to motherland, to appreciate the value of strength and hard work, to prioritize physical training for combat readiness, and total obedience to motherland.

Keywords: Loving motherland, T. A. Talsya, patriotism, literature learning.

1. Introduction

Teuku Alibasyah Talsya or more familiarly called T. A. Talsya. He, who was born on June 10, 1925 in Panteriek, Lueng Bata Sub-district, Banda Aceh City, Aceh Province (Indonesia), had been tribute by Aceh Government as an archivist of history in 2014 in Heritage Awards. He has ever achieved Veteran Indonesian Independence Fighter according to SKEP/956/VIII/1981, a sign of appreciation of Star of Legion Veterans of Veterans Republic by SKEP-11/MBLV/V/2/1988, award charter from Minister of Information of Republic of Indonesia (1996), an honor of Guerrilla Star (2009) through KEPPRES RI No.023/TK/2009. In the time of independence struggle, he had been an Officer of Rencong Division, then he became TNI member of Division X of Sumatra.
Commandment with rank of Lieutenant I. Meanwhile, he also had a career in the field of public relations that is as a spokesman for the Governor of Aceh in 1960, Head of Bureau of the Province of Daerah Istimewa Aceh (1964-1968). He had been ever as a General Secretary of LAKA (Lembaga Adat dan Kebudayaan Aceh or Aceh Customary and Cultural Institution), Redactor of Atjeh Simbun, Semangat Merdeka, Fragmenta Politica magazine, Dharma, Sinar Darussalam, Api Pancasila, an editor in chief of Duta newspaper, Kesuma magazine, Siaran Pagi, and Warta Mingguan. Moreover, he was also active in various organization such as PWI Aceh, DHD (Dewan Harian Daerah) Class of ‘45, LVRI (Legion Veteran Republik Indonesia), Aceh. As well as his career with his friend, Ali Hasjmy, who have founded an important organization that is Lembaga Sejarah Aceh (LSA) or Aceh History Institution.

Talsya had written poems since 1945. Those poems were mostly written in Aceh and the rests were made out of Aceh. He wrote poems that contains value of nationality or spirit of loving motherland. Not only do they need to be possessed and applied to reach the national freedom, but they are also still relevant in the context of present society who remind the young generation to keep loving motherland and maintaining the independence. One of way to support all of those aims is an effort through his poems. The patriotic attitude in his poems is useful to stimulate the present society, especially school students. As expressed by Latif (2009), the character education is often introduced in class by examples of exemplary and heroism.

According to Kosasih (2012), poem is form of literature that uses beautiful words and rich in meaning. The patriotism themed-poems raised by the author aim to enhance bravery, never give up, and willing to sacrifice for the sake of nation and state (Azizah, 2015). Talsya’s poems describe struggling for independence and tell struggling against invaders. The theme of patriotism can also be realized in form of the author’s effort to foster national unity and sense of nationalism.

This research is chosen because Talsya’s poems express spirit of nationality in struggling Indonesian independence. Since those are full of patriotic values, the researchers mean to study the elements of patriotism contained in his eight poems written in his time by answering the following questions: What manifestation of patriotism are contained in the poems by T. A. Talsya? Therefore, the result is expected to share benefit and information for others, such as academicians, researchers, and students as one of literature studies, so that spirit of nationality can survive until the next generations.

2. Literature Review

According to Fananie (2000), a literary text can be grouped in literary text if it contains aesthetic value in it that is providing something to readers and able to move the readers. Of various kinds of literature works like novel, prose, and drama, the genre of poem is the most complete which presents various kinds of people’s lifestyle, behavior, and life. Sastrowardojo (1999) said that the poem is the shortest literature work, but it means deeply, because it has diction which are full of meanings. The interpretation about elements of poem leads the readers understand the author’s point of view in his poem written in his time (Robert, 1993).

Patriotism is a view in loving and defending the motherland. The spirit of loving and defending the motherland makes someone become a strong, persistent and selfless warrior. Suratno (2016) added that, indeed, patriotism is awareness to defend the country, citizen’s willingness to serve the country, and willingness to sacrifice to defend the country. This statement is reinforced by Simphson (1993) that, in patriotism, there are...
three elements, including: loving the country, the desire to prosper, and willingness to serve in order to develop and sustain the country.

The function of patriotism in character education for the citizens mainly is, every citizen must have love totally to motherland, appreciate the value of strength and hard work, prioritize physical training for combat readiness, and total obedience to motherland (Koesoema, 2007, p.19). According to Koesoema (2007) there are four functions of patriotism for every citizen, those are: (1) growing total love for the motherland; (2) appreciating the value of strength and hard work, (3) Prioritizing physical exercise, (4) Total obedience to the motherland. Tilaar (2002) argues that education is a form of humanizing humans, then it can also be said that the purpose of humanizing humans is a process of humanization by seeing humans as a whole in its existence. The existence here is to place a human in a place that is respectable and dignified. According to Fadillah (2013), he stated that character education is a system of planting character values that include components of awareness, understanding, caring, and a high commitment to carry out these values both to God Almighty, oneself, others, environment and society and the nation as a whole so that they will become perfect human beings according to their nature.

Literary work is one of the sources of character education. The role of literature as a core in character education has a function, namely to instill a sense of nationality, pride, heroism, and loyalty to the country and homeland (Ratna, 2014, p. 232-233). Therefore, reading literature is like changing oneself by first recognizing oneself (Socrates) then filling oneself with literature as a process of catharsis in order to transform humans from homo sapiens to homo symbolicum.

Some of the previous studies used in this study were, first, the research conducted by Dahlan (2015) who found that the relationship of faith and patriotism attitude towards globalization and modernization is sometimes confusing. Second, research conducted by Saharudin (2013) on poems by Sarawak poets in Malaysia. The results showed that the six poets had deep love for the homeland while preserving independence and maintaining the sovereignty of the homeland forever. Third, the research conducted by Nurhayati (2016) showed that the theme in the Kalindaqdaq poem is patriotism. This literature conveys problems and messages of nationalism. There are six spirits of patriotism in Kalindaqdaq Mandar, namely: the spirit of heroism, challenge, self-confidence, warrior, unity, and strength.

3. Research Method

This research was conducted using qualitative descriptive method. The objective is to produce descriptive data in the form of text fragments. Then the data are described according to the qualitative descriptive method which aims to explain or interpret the state of the subject or object of research. This method is very relevant for this study, because it will be used to analyze and describe the data that has been obtained from Talsya’s poems in order to know the elements of patriotism, (Ratna, 2013).

The data sources in this study are eight poems by Talsya: (1) Hasrat (2) Selawah Djantan, (3) Tanahku, Timur, (4) Pahlawan Muda, (5) Engkau dan Aku, (6) Merdeka Tetap Merdeka, (7) Kejut Tiada, (8) Semangat Kerja. The data in this study are taken based on research needs, including words, phrases, texts and fragments of Talsya’s poems that contain patriotism values.

The data collection technique in this study was a review of text. The steps in the process of collecting data are as follows (1) Carefully read the poems repeatedly to understand the form of patriotism in the poem, (2) Identify and classify the parts of the
text that has relevance to the problem being examined, (3) Select the data in accordance with the research problem that is in line with the objectives of the study, (4) Fill the data that has been collected into the appropriate table. The purpose of this data collection is to facilitate the data analysis process so that understanding can be achieved in accordance with the contents of the research problem. Afterwards to simplify data processing, the researcher uses a table. The techniques for processing this research data are as follows: describe the elements of patriotism in the poems.

4. Results and Discussion

There are eight patriotism-themed poems in the identification of TA Talsya’s literary work. After classifying the eight poems, there are two manifestations, namely, loyalty and the willingness to sacrifice.

4.1 The patriotism value: Loyalty

In the context of patriotism, loyalty is a feeling of affection and pride for the homeland and putting the interests of the homeland above personal interests. Loyalty manifests in three things, namely defending the homeland, taking pride in the homeland, and upholding the name of the nation. Patriotic poems in general describe the atmosphere and situation that occurred during Indonesia’s independence. The description of the defense of the homeland is expressed by the poet as found in the Passion poem verse three, line to 1-3: Only longing for being. / The country’s soldier, the nation’s defender. / Formidable every time. //

In the above poem, it is clear that the soul of the poet is very confined to the surrounding climate. After being released from Nippon, the sound of his original soul began to emerge. So with an excited voice, filled with aspirations to preserve independence tirelessly and full of loyalty, cheering Talsya’s soul to chant it. Once again, the memories drifted to a long time ago, when he looked at Selawah Djantan at dusk: Glorious and brilliant Male Selawah. / under the umbrella of lush tedjadewangga. / Gold neck embracing the body. / In perfect beauty. //

In the poem “Tanahku, Timur” below, Talsya describes loyalty to the red and white flag, letting the soul promise the aspirations of its people, because the soul gives new hope to its people through poems: Asia my homeland. / With my full love. / Holding it to the top. / Keeping it in my spirit //

The poem above was influenced by the Indonesian national anthem that showed the loyalty of Talsya when singing in East Asia. Note: I ink for all my heart and hold it high to the top. Here it is true that loyalty and soul of Talsya echoed in honoring the name of the Indonesia throughout the world.

4.2 Patriotism value: Willingness to sacrifice

The second patriotism value is the willingness to sacrifice. It can be realized in three things, namely sincerity, courage to suffer for the sake of the nation, and active participation in the development of the country.

In Talsya’s poems, he tries to warn of the history of how beautiful this country is, proud to be an Indonesian. The poem was created when Indonesia was free. There was not much to say, because it generally contained one trait, namely the nature of the struggle, which encouraged delaying the independence that had been proclaimed and to attack the enemies of the country.

When our poet’s soul has been free from all kinds of colonization, then at that time they face their homeland in a state of restless anxiety; in a lively atmosphere incarnate the
fires of struggles and battles that burn, rage, in a state of fierce explosions of cannon and mortar explosions, and the roar of the sky by the aircraft engines dropping bombs and pouring rain from machine guns. In front of their eyes, he saw millions of young nationals with bamboo pointed to the battlefield, while the war drums were calling, roaring, and blaring. He saw the earth of the homeland splashed with the blood of fallen heroes as jasmine flowers, and here and there stranded the corpses of knights, who had offered the only thing for the greatness of the beloved land. This situation and atmosphere affects the soul of the poet, sometimes even determining the song flow. The poet’s soul is covered entirely by struggle-themed songs. Therefore, from the bottom of their souls, most of their works are struggle-themed poems, which ignite the spirit of enthusiasm to preserve independence. The poems that depict the beauty of nature, which is split into slits tucked into the ideals of independence and the spirit of struggle, because natural paintings do not attract their attention. Talsya describes a hero and a warrior in a poem titled “Young Heroes”: Young hero free son, Ready to strike to the death’s door, Defying cruelty evil Nica, Return to heaven, barring fear.

In Talsya’s poem above, it is not a scribbled poem, but a clear depiction in the form of young heroic characters of warriors, that by liberating oneself, is willing to fight against invaders and do the right thing for the nation, because one does not have to be in an important position, an official, a politician, and a social activist to be able to realize patriotism in their daily lives. Courage can be interpreted as an attitude to do something by not worrying about bad possibilities. People who have the courage will be able to act wisely without being overshadowed by fears that are actually mere hallucinations. Courageous people will be able to live their dreams and change their personal lives as well as those around them. The courage and willingness to sacrifice that are shown even if only by some people, can foster a spirit of patriotism for other people. Then Talsya describes in a fragment of the poem titled “Thou and I”: Storm coming, still you challenge, Lightning struck you are fearless, I see your attitude, Observing myself, Thou and I, similar ideals, In fighting always together.

With very modest words, Talsya describes the characteristics of a leader who is hero-hearted, fearless to face temptations without knowing time and fatigue. Talsya’s poem describes the soul of leaders who deserve to be spiritual leaders in the struggle for independence. How perseverance and determination are in the chest of the new generation of youth as the nation’s warriors who are struggling, blessed with blood, described by Talsya in a fragment of his poem “Independence, is independence”: Let the soul be single, Let the body fall to the earth, Cruelty and wrath be eternal.

In this poem, there are subtle rhythms of words. The beauty of the poem above is a weak language structure, so we can feel how firm the determination of young heroes to fight for Indonesia’s independence. By using a series of rumbling sentences and comparison that overcomes human power, then Talsya depicts the warrior’s soul in a poem entitled “Shock No”: But the Himalayas became the sea, Selawah collapsed chaining the earth, The sea changed the land, The spirit of my nation remained eternal.

Enthusiasm only is certainly not enough to realize development and renewal for the country. There needs to be active participation from the people, which in the present context, to build the country, and in the stories that are written by Talsya in the form of a struggle against invaders. Talsya, in his own way, depicts a picture of the heroic souls of his people who are determined to sacrifice their life or stay free. Not just looking at the battlefield, but he is like someone standing tall, oberserving the development of the homeland. In all fields, he saw people struggling cheerfully, warriors with sharp bamboo, guards with the butts of their weapons, educators with their educational tools and
Ichwan Nazmi, Wildan & Ramli

Ichwan Nazmi, Wildan & Ramli

657

teaching. Talsya described the struggle and development in all fields in a fragment of his poem entitled “The Spirit of Work”: Such is the certainty of the new age, / Born once/ Stay eternal, / Thanks to a firm united nature, / Noble archipelago, / Prosperous and happy //

It is clearly stated above that, in the New Indonesian Poetry born in an independent era, there is not much to say, because it only has one theme, namely struggle poetry. As a fruit of literature that is capable of dealing with all ages. All forms of resistance carried out by the people showed determination to defend their own nation. This is one of the appreciated values of patriotism, one of the cultural heritage that must be preserved.

5. Conclusion

The conclusion can be made as the following. At first, T. A. Talsya’s poems were solely written for the spirit of defending the homeland. The manifestation of patriotism that can be found in his poems are, first, loyalty manifested in defending the homeland, taking pride in the homeland, and upholding the name of the nation. Second, willingness to sacrifice is manifested in sincerity, courage for the sake of the nation and active participation in the development of the country. In addition, the enthusiasm generated by the poems or the ideals for attaining independence. Third, the function of patriotism in character education, which is to foster a total love for the country, appreciate the value of strength and hard work, strengthen physical exercise for combat readiness, and total obedience to the country.

References


