

The Social Reality and Education of Children With Visual Disabilities in The Novel
***Anak-Anak Cahaya* by Ramaditya Adikara**

Hilya Ayu Adene Taqya¹, Alfian Setya Nugraha²

^{1,2}Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia,
Universitas Hasyim Asy'ari Tebuireng Jombang

Corresponding Author: hilyaayuaadenetaqya@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to describe the phenomenon of social reality and education of children with visual disabilities in the novel "Anak-Anak Cahaya" by Ramaditya Adikara and the relationship between literary works and real life using Mimetic theory and Literary Sociology approach. This study used a type of qualitative descriptive research. The source of this research is the novel Anak-Anak Cahaya by Ramaditya Adikara by taking words, sentences, dialogues and paragraphs containing social and educational reality. The data collection technique used is by reading and recording techniques, as well as supporting data obtained from interviews to find out the social and educational picture of children with visual disabilities both in literary and real life works. The results of this study are a picture of social and educational reality, namely: (1) a picture of social reality regarding an attitude of affection, an attitude of togetherness, an attitude of caring, an attitude of tolerance, and an attitude of help. (2) a picture of educational realities such as Democratic, hard work, independent, religious and responsibility. These images are in the novel "Anak-Anak Cahaya" which has a connection with the reflection of real life of blind disabled children in society. So it can be concluded that literary works have a relationship with real life or reality.

Keywords: *Literary Works, Novels, Social and Educational Reality, Mimetics.*

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Introduction

Reality created in the form of literary works is a manifestation of the author's sensitivity to social life in society. Literary works depict all the realities of everyday life through the creativity of the author. Literary works produced by authors are freedom in thinking and voicing ideas, both criticism, advice and outlook on life. The reality of a literary work can be both a social reality and an educational reality.

Social reality is one of the foundations of literary creation. Social reality is called a social phenomenon or event that occurs in social life. Social reality factors are habits and

interactions between beings and social circumstances. This statement is the same as the opinion According to (Kurniasih & Hartati, 2023) in the form of a journal article which says that the reality in literary works has a connection with humans and the community environment. this opinion is also strengthened by an opinion (Suci & Supratno, 2022) in a journal article, explaining that social reality is a real picture that occurs in the social environment. Literary works form imitation of society because it has stories that contain the same behavior, characters and stories as people in real life is the same as opinions (A. Rahmah & Sari, 2021) which explains that the meaning of literary works is a depiction of expressions that can be done by everyone, both orally and in writing, who convey their opinions, experiences, thoughts, and feelings. The author carries out activities to record, analyze, internalize and record life in the community and is developed using the author's imagination so that the resulting literary works can represent real life. It is not much different that the reality of education also includes all knowledge widely and is very useful for life. The reality of education contained in literary works is a form of the author's view that wants to describe the pattern of education that exists in the real and social world. Through literary works, it will indirectly provide a good example for readers about education in the real world. One of the literary works that contains social and educational reality is the novel.

Novels are written that contain stories of a person's life or society. (Kurniasih & Hartati, 2023) also defines that a novel is a story taken from real life and behavior. Novels describe people's lives ranging from nature, social life and daily activities, so it is not surprising that novel literary works can also be dubbed with prose that contains life stories. Based on the opinion (Sidiq & Manaf, 2020) novels are a place to repaint the form of the world in which it has similarities in the form of people and their nature, and according to (Asmawati et al., 2023) the form of journal articles explains that novels also emphasize social problems through the actions of characters, events, and language. Literary works in the form of novels can tell the story of the author's own life or also the life of the community around the author. Pengerang will provide characteristics that are highlighted in each of his works, both in the form of preaching the nature of the character or social character and so on. One of the novels that has the characteristic portrayal of characters is the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya*" by Ramaditya Adikara. The novel is a novel that tells the story of the author's life as a child in a state of blind and blind disabilities.

Blind disability or in Indonesia often referred to as blind is a disorder experienced by some people, although not most of this happens from birth, accidents and so on. Blind or blind disability is a disease that occurs in the eye. This abnormality in the eye can occur in both eyes or only one eye. Blind people can experience two types of abnormalities in their eyes, can be total blind or *totally* blind and partial blind or *low vision*. This can occur because eye function does not run properly, starting from the lack of light so that it cannot reflect shadows or does not perform eye function at all due to congenital factors from birth. This factor is part of the obstacles in socializing and being educated though.

Ramaditya Adikara or commonly called Rama is a blind or blind disabled person who has an extraordinary spirit. Rama is a very famous writer, one of the most inspiring novels is the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya*" which was just published in 2022. The novel has its characteristics, one of which is the story of a Ramaditya Adikara with a background of a blind child who has persistence in pursuing his dreams as a child. Starting from living socializing without seeing the world, to going to school with dark eyes.

The researcher raised the title "Social Reality and Education of Children with Blind Disabilities in the Novel '*Anak-Anak Cahaya* ' by Ramaditya Adikara" because the researcher wanted to discuss the relationship of literary works with the reality of life in the real world. Therefore, researchers use literary sociology as an approach through work. Researchers also use mimetic theory for this research because from the understanding of mimetic theory is a story or imitation of the universe, so by using this theory researchers can prove that literary works are stories from the universe that use the creativity of the author to make a work. By conducting this research, researchers hope to find the meaning and purpose of writing the novel. Researchers hope that this research can provide benefits for readers, institutions and for researchers.

The difference between previous research and research to be conducted by researchers is that previous research does not link literary works and real life. In addition, the novel used by researchers is a new novel and has only been researched once with a different research focus. While the similarities between previous researchers and the research to be carried out are the same object, the approach and theory used are classified as the same. Like the research conducted by (Fani, 2023) in the form of journal articles, that this study uses the same object as this study. Although it has a different research focus. While the research conducted by (Patmiyati 1, 2022) uses the same approach as this study, namely the approach of literary sociology and focuses on social forms, but even so, the difference is the object used for research.

Based on this background, researchers consider it very necessary to conduct this study because before. Different research because this research is associated with the reality of life experienced by children with visual disabilities in the real world.

Method

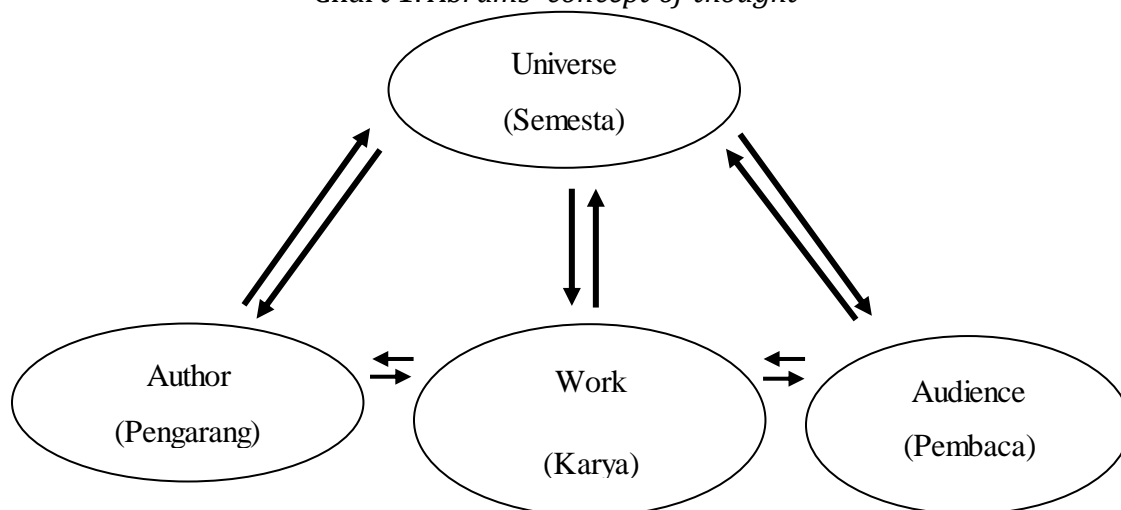
This study used a qualitative descriptive approach. According to (Maulita, 2022) in the form of a journal article explained that qualitative focuses and explains various human experiences and behaviors, so the choice of this approach in this study aims to describe the results of the analysis of the novel *Anak-Anak Cahaya* by Ramaditya Adikara. Researchers use descriptive qualitative, generating data in the form of words, sentences, paragraphs and dialogues. The qualitative approach serves as the researcher's primary tool in this study and data collection. The data collection method in this study used the technique of reading, studying and recording each finding obtained. Researchers used the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya* " by Ramaditya Adikara published by Shila Publisher with 292 pages in Yogyakarta in 2022 as a primary data source as an information search process as well as secondary data sources in the form of articles, journals and other data collection, namely recording interviews that have been conducted together with people with visual disabilities as data support.

Data analysis techniques include data reduction, data presentation and conclusions. Researchers describe the results of social and educational reality in novels, then the presentation of data is narrative and so on. Researchers recheck the results that have been found on the object. In the data validity technique, researchers check repeatedly on data that has been found at different times. In this study, researchers also used approaches to literary sociology and mimetic theory.

Literary sociology is an approach that has a relationship with literary works, society and authors. According to (Y. Rahmah et al., 2023) literary sociology is a socially structured approach, so that it can be observed the relationship between social and

literary works. This statement is supported by research conducted by (Alwaqaa, 2020) that literary sociology is a new method for literary research and analysis that aims to gain a better understanding of the societal aspects of a particular group of individuals. Researchers also use the abrams mimetic theory. The mimetic theory in Abrams' opinion explains that literary works are an imitation of the real world. Here's the concept of Abrams' thought:

Chart 1. *Abrams' concept of thought*



The concept of Abrams' thought is a form of reciprocity starting from the universe observed by the author to make the work, and the reader analyzes the content of the work attributed to the author and realized the evidence in the real world. So this study aims to prove and describe the social and educational reality reflected in literary works.

Discussion

1. Social Reality

a. Affection for Children with Blind Disabilities

Feelings of affection are a form of sincerity from the heart that is usually conveyed in the form of attention or other kindness. The attitude of affection is the same as that of children with visual disabilities in the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya*", here is a quote that describes the attitude of affection for children with disabilities:

"Hei, itu adikku yang menangis, dan itu adalah sepeda milik kita. Ini kembalikan!" (Adikara, 2022: 20)

Based on this quote, it is a dialogue that Rama said to one of his friends who has a jail nature. Although Rama had a lack of vision as an older brother who was affectionate to his brother, he had to help his brother who was in distress because of djiahili. So the purpose of the quote is that fellow siblings must love, help and protect, it is a form of affection even though both are not created with the same eyes but the heart remains the same, loving each other. This is supported by the following interview results:

" Kalau aku berkumpul dengan kakakku, aku selalu senang, jika ada kesulitan yang kedua, kita bisa saling membantu. Kadang kalau aku minta diantar di mana dia juga membantu mengantarku, jadi seperti kakak pada umumnya." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

The quote was spoken directly in an interview conducted by a child named Ahmad Kholilullah. Ahmad has the same eye condition as Rama, the difference is that Rama has a younger brother and Ahmad has an older brother who both have the same affection by seeing his affection in terms of helping each other. Both quotes illustrate the form of social reality in that the affection between literary works and the real world is the same.

b. Togetherness of Children with Blind Disabilities

Togetherness is a form of a community that belongs. The atmosphere of togetherness can also be felt by children with visual disabilities, as quoted in the following novel:

Kami bernyanyi dan menggerakkan anggota tubuh sesuka hati sambil diiringi musik yang membangkitkan semangat. Ya, asyiknya menonton Goggle V sangat menghibur!" (Adikara, 2022:58)

Based on this quote, Rama was described as very happy to be able to gather with his friends happily. Although Rama can't enjoy the film, at least he is happy to be able to get together and sing with his friends without feeling even sad. This is also supported by the following interview results:

"Kadang-kadang setiap minggunya saya juga berkumpul dengan teman atau teman tunanetra di kedai kopi atau di rumah teman secara bergantian setiap minggunya, sekedar untuk berdiskusi kecil-kecilan, silaturahmi dan bersenang-senang sambil bernyanyi bersama juga." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

The quote above is the result of an interview with Ahmad again, he said he also likes to gather with his peers just for discussions or small coffee while honing his talents in playing guitar and singing. Both quotes have something in common, both in literary works and in the real world, that one's shortcomings do not prevent each other from socializing with others.

c. Care for children with visual disabilities

Caring is a trait that is done for a good cause. As in the quote from the novel "Anak-Anak Cahaya " that children with disabilities have a great sense of care:

"Aku tiba-tiba teringat dengan jaket yang kupakai tadi. Jadi. Aku minta Suyud untuk mengambilnya di tempat penitipan anak. Setelah itu, aku dan Suyud berjalan menuju tempat Chika yang masih menangis sambil gemeteran di bawah pohon ditemani beberapa guru." (Adikara, 2022:172)

Based on the quote above, a sense of concern is shown by Rama or a blind disabled child. He really cares about his theme who is experiencing hardship. This is similar to the following interview results:

"Jika ada temanku yang mengalami kesulitan, aku juga membantu semampuku dan apa yang aku punya untuk bisa membantunya kak." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

The quote above is the result of an interview with Ahmad, he also said he was happy to be able to help a friend who was in trouble, even if he did as much as he could. At least he helped well. Both quotes have the same caring nature both in the real world and in literary works. Unifying the nation is to have a high sense of concern for others, because in fact we also live in society.

d. Tolerance of children with visual disabilities

Tolerant is an attitude of respect for fellow humans, both from opinions, physical and wealth and so on. The same is true in the following quote from the novel:

"Saya Tuan Muslich. Pokoknya harus tetap semangat dan bersyukur! Atas izin mas rama." (Adikara, 2022:3)

The above quote illustrates the tolerance for the situation experienced by Rama, as a blind man. Not only people around him who have a high sense of tolerance but Rama also really appreciates the findings of Prof. Sut or Suyud who has made extraordinary findings for Rama to be able to play ball, here are the quotes:

"Tapi bagiku, apa yang dia ciptakan pagi ini benar-benar mengguncang mimpiku. Mengguncang seluruh tubuhku. Anak-anak terguncang karena Suyud hanyalah anak yang berkhayal tinggi." (Adikara, 2022:78)

The quote above shows Rama respecting and admiring the findings of his friend named Suyud. Rama's nature can be supported by the following interview results:

"Teman-temanku sangat menghargai kekuranganku, begitu pula aku menghargai pendapat mereka ketika kita saling berdiskusi." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

The quote was said by Ahmad, if the attitude of respect from a discussion is to respect people's opinions so that they respect each other. The three quotes above are a form of tolerance between friends carried out by children with visual disabilities and society in literary works and in the real world. Both have in common a caring nature. Not everyone has a tolerant attitude towards the condition of others, as is the case with the following quote from the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya*":

"Udahlah, orang buta cuma main tongkat di rumah, tongkat itu bisa dijadikan pedang." (Adikara, 2022:80)

The above quote is supported by the results of the interview with Ahmad as follows:

"Dulu aku sering dibicarakan dan dijauhi teman, bahkan tidak punya teman. Terkadang di hati terasa pedih atau pedih, tapi aku berusaha untuk tetap semangat dan ikhlas." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

The above quote shows that the World is not actually evil but, in fact, humans are evil to others to hurt their hearts.

e. Please help children with visual disabilities

Help is an attitude taken to help others when experiencing difficulties. Just like what a blind disabled child does in the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya*", as follows:

"Belok kanan yud, teriak beri perintah, Suyud belok kanan dan kita ikuti." (Adikara, 2022: 126)

The above quote explains the story of Rama and his friends who experienced attacks from their ignorant friends. But, with Rama's keen hearing ability. He was able to help and guide his friend to find the Apollo vehicle so as not to be late for school because of the prank of his friend named Tintus. Although, only by using hearing can Rama help friends and arrive on time at school. Although this is done together, all help each other. Utilization of abilities can be used to help friends. This can be supported by the words of Ahmad:

"Mungkin aku tidak bisa menolong sepenuhnya, tapi jika temanku terjatuh. Aku sedang berusaha membantunya." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

A helping attitude can not only be done by children who have normal vision, but all can do good in society. Although what is done is only as strong as the ability possessed. But there is an intention that is better than nothing. The results of the above reality are forms of social reality carried out by children with visual disabilities both in literary works and in real life when socializing in society. It turns out that the two are interrelated. Not only social reality but this study also discusses the Educational Reality that exists in novels and their relation to literary works.

2. The Reality of Education

a. Democratic Attitude of Children with Blind Disabilities

Democratic attitude is the attitude of thinking that obligations and rights to everyone are equal. Likewise, the democratic attitude experienced by children with visual disabilities in the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya*", here is an excerpt:

"Ya, om. Saya harus bisa menjadi orang yang membantu orang lain! Bapak ibu sekalian berkata, kalau saya bisa seperti itu, berarti saya sudah berhasil menjadi terang di dunia ini!" (Adikara, 2022: 5)

The quote is a word Rama said to his new neighbor Mr. Muslich, that he said he could be like a normal person who can shine a light on others as well. This is the same as Ahmad once said during the interview, as follows:

"Kak! Sebenarnya aku dipanggil dengan nama Surya, padahal di namaku sebenarnya tidak ada kata Surya. Karena suatu saat, aku memeriksakan diri ke orang tuaku waktu kecil dan aku lupa umur berapa. Kalau ada dokter atau perawat yang menelpon aku langsung dengan nama 'Surya'. Aku kaget dan bertanya, dan dia bilang 'suatu hari nanti kamu akan bisa menjadi cahaya, melihat cahaya untuk orang lain. Maka dari itu, aku berpikir aku ingin bercita-cita menjadi 'Surya'. tukang pijat seperti itu, meski terlihat pekerjaan sederhana namun bisa membantu orang lain yang sedang sakit juga." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

The two quotes above have the same reality in terms of thinking. Thinking about being someone who has the same rights and obligations as a human being who needs each other. So that in this literary work and real-life reality have similarities in terms of thinking for a future dream.

b. Hard Work Attitude of children with visual disabilities

The attitude of hard work is the attitude of working earnestly tirelessly, until the desired is achieved. Everyone who wants to achieve something must achieve it with hard work. Like the hard work of children with visual disabilities in the novel

Anak-Anak Cahaya in learning so that they can go to school well and not be left behind by their friends. Here's an excerpt:

"Kadang-kadang aku juga suka mengantuk, tapi aku lawan. Pokoknya aku harus bisa seperti yang lain. Setidaknya tidak malu dan bisa menjawab pertanyaan guru saat masuk sekolah." (Adikara, 2022:117)

The spirit of hard work is shown in the quote above, in order to go to school well. Although it is in literary works, it turns out that in real life reality is no less passionate. Here are the results of the interview delivered by Ahmad:

"Saya dan teman-teman ketika belajar menggunakan alat elektronik seperti handphone dan laptop yang terdapat aplikasi suara untuk digunakan dalam pembelajaran. Saya juga sedang belajar Braille, karena belajar Braille menurut saya juga agak sulit." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

Similarly, Ahmad's opinion was also responded by Mrs. Ida:

"Ya, aku masih belajar Brille dan mengikuti pelajaran dengan anak-anak kecil yang usianya jauh lebih muda dariku. Tapi aku belum bisa dan aku masih belajar lebih banyak lagi." (Ms. Ida, Interview, December 2023)

The quote above shows the spirit of hard work in terms of education, to learn better. Deficiency is not continuous as a weakener. We have to work hard to continue to be able to. Lack does not prevent dreaming.

c. Independent Attitude

Independence is an attitude to complete something that can be done and solved by yourself. All humans must have an independent attitude. Both perfect and imperfect people. Likewise even blind disabled children. As in the following novel quote:

"Lagi pula, aku cukup ingat untuk berjalan kaki dari taman ke rumah, sehingga aku bisa pulang sendiri jika aku lapar dan mengantuk." (Adikara, 2022:103)

The quote suggests that Rama had a sense of independence and the courage to go home and do it himself. This was also done by Ahmad who was said at the time of the interview as follows:

"Adikku dapat memilih, menyiapkan dan memakai seragam yang akan aku pakai di sekolah. Aku sudah melakukan itu sejak lama, aku hafal setiap helai kainnya dalam satu sentuhan tanganku. Saya juga kalau lapar dan kebetulan di rumah tidak ada juga yang tidak punya telur sendiri. Lalu kalau misal disekolah gak ada yang jemput atau antar, aku pesan Grab khusus difabel ya kak. Kegiatan itu saya lakukan sendiri, ketika semua orang sedang sibuk." Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

It turns out that schools are taught to be independent and responsible for themselves, this was also conveyed by Mrs. Lince (Vice Principal) as follows:

"Di sekolah SLB mengajarkan kemandirian agar nanti kalau besar bisa mengurus dirinya sendiri, seperti masuk sekolah mulai dari gerbang depan, saya tidak izinkan orang tua mengantarnya ke kelas, agar dia belajar mandiri. Walaupun dia berpapasan dengan biarin, biarlah dia tahu dan ingat bahwa saya berjalan banyak tiang, ada batu dan jika itu diamalkan dia

akan bisa masuk ke kelasnya sendiri seperti yang dilakukan Ahmad atau Surya. " (Ibu Lince, Direct communication, December 2023)

The quotes above illustrate that in real life it is very taught to be independent, so he does not peddle himself because he has shortcomings. It needs to be thankful for those who have perfection who sometimes whine spoiled when in fact they can do and solve it themselves. It all depends on yourself.

d. Religious children with visual disabilities

Religious attitude is an attitude that always carries out religious teachings. The same is done by Rama in the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya* " as follows:

"Aku lalu membaca bismillah dan menutup telinga. Aku merasa takut, pelan-pelan perasaan ini berubah menjadi keyakinan. Ya, kalau Ummi Maktum mampu, Insya Allah aku juga bisa. 'Ya Allah, lihatlah hamba-Mu ini ya Allah. Allahu Akbar Allahhu Akbar!'" (Adikara, 2022: 70)

The quote describes a blind boy named Rama who can chant the adhan. Indeed, not all Gods create lack without excess. Here are the similarities that exist in literary works with the real world, as follows:

"Saya mengaji menggunakan handphone dan saya suka ikut dalam perkumpulan sholawat-sholawat dan kebetulan saya ikut serta menjadi vokalisnya." (Ahmad Kholilullah, Interview, December 2023)

Both quotes describe the religious nature that exists in children with visual disabilities. Although they were created in less physical but, his faith was never lacking to always remember the creator. The two have similarities in both literary and real-life works.

e. Responsibilities of children with visual disabilities

Responsibility is an attitude to complete the task seriously, as quoted in the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya* " as follows:

"Saya sering dimintai bantuan untuk menyelesaikan tugas, entah itu mengerjakan pekerjaan rumah atau sekedar tugas kelas. Tapi, kini saya kembali membantu Puspa menghafal pidato bahasa Inggris untuk siang hari." (Adikara, 2022:229)

The child with disabilities or Rama in the novel is described as very understanding in English lessons, so he feels he has a responsibility to help his friend who does not understand in this regard. This can be seen when researchers observe in one school. When learning to write English must be helped and spelled, even if typed using a laptop that has a voice. Correct writing in spelling must be precise.

Conclusion

Based on the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that the novel "*Anak-Anak Cahaya* " by Ramaditya Adikara contains social reality and educational reality that exists in literary works and their harmony in the real world. Ramaditya Adikara tells it with the addition of imaginations in it. Using mimetic theory, it is true that literary works are a form of reflection of the universe. The form of social reality and education seen from mimetics is a similarity that has been experienced by the author during his childhood that is in accordance with the lives experienced by other children with disabilities. Social and educational realities obtained from this study counted ten aspects, namely: compassion, togetherness, caring, tolerance, help, democratic, cooperation,

independent, religious, and responsibility. Hopefully this research can be useful for readers and take good things that can be applied in the real world, and this research hopefully can be used as a form of reference that has similarities in the form of objects, approaches and theories used.

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