

PATRIOTISM OF ENGLISHMAN IN SHAKESPEARE'S *KING JOHN*

DRAMA (1590): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH



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ACCEPTANCE

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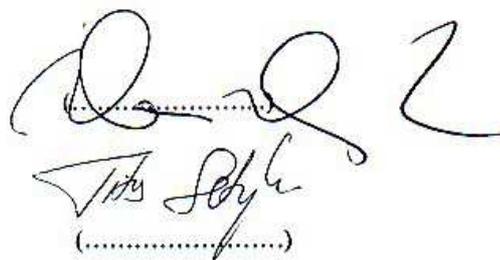
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PATRIOTISM OF ENGLISHMAN IN SHAKESPEARE'S *KING JOHN*

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Abstract

This Study is about Patriotism. The problem of this study is how patriotism expressed in the King John drama. The object of the study is King John drama by William Shakespeare. It used sociological approach. This study belongs to qualitative research. In this method, there are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the drama text and the secondary data is other material related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The result of the study shows the following conclusion, based on the analysis it is clear that there is a close relation between this drama and the social reality in England in the middle of the fifteenth century and the beginning of the sixteenth century. Shakespeare wants to criticize the cases of patriotism practices in England in Elizabeth era through King John drama.

Keyword: Patriotism, King John drama, Sociological Approach

A. Introduction

The primary theme of *King John* is patriotism. Primoratz and Pavkovic (2008:18) state that “Patriotism, then, is love of one’s country, identification with it and special concern for its well-being and that of compatriots”. Patriotism is brave action to defend country. The means people have willing to sacrifice for their country. Aldington in Primoratz and Pavkovic (2008:18) states that patriotism is lively sense of collective responsibility. Patriotism is about love and loyalty to country. This view of patriotism is pretty simple. When country is attacked, people must defend their country. The only real way to defend is by military force. However, the war is last solution. If a man to be patriotic, the man must support his land

There are two types of patriotism. They are extreme patriotism and moderate patriotism. Machiavelli states that when the safety of one’s country wholly depends on the decision to be taken, no attention should be paid either to justice or injustice, to kindness or cruelty, or to its being praiseworthy or ignominious. The term extreme means patriotism does not have positive evaluation and intolerant concerning criticism. Nathanson in Primoratz and Pavkovic (2008:76) states that extreme patriotism is characterized by a belief in the superiority of one’s country, a rejection any constraints on the pursuit of national well-being, and uncritical support for one’s government with respect to war. Extreme patriotism priority is exclusive concern for one’s own country. It does not have moral constraints on the pursuit of national goals.

Nathanson in Primoratz and Pavkovic (2008:24) states that moderate patriotism is adherent shoe special concern for her country and compatriots, but that does not prevent her from having a measure of concern for other countries and their inhabitants. Moderate Patriotism is opened by the criticism to give a positive change in order to achieve common prosperity. Constructive and evaluation aim to keep group remains on the right track.

King John is one of the historical plays of William Shakespeare. *King John* was written in 1590 and was published in the early seventeenth century in the first folio. *King John* was published by The Pennsylvania State University in 1998. The *King John* play is William Shakespeare's first historical play. It's related to the reign of *King John* of England, his death was replaced by his son, Henry the third of England.

King John is an interesting play because there are four aspects that are interesting to be analyzed. The first aspect is *King John* had been written by great author William Shakespeare. William Shakespeare had made many masterworks especially in literature.

The second reason is interesting to be studied. *King John* does not use modern English language but contemporer English language. As reported Mabillard in her article *Shakespeare's Language* in Shakespeare Online on June 9, 2013 state that by about 1450, Middle English was replaced with Early Modern English, the language of Shakespeare, which is almost identical to contemporary English. *King John* play makes researcher be challenged to know more *King John* for great analysis and understanding.

The Third one is to know the history of England after Richard the lion heart died in Crusade. From the *King John* by Shakespeare we can find that the patriotism, love, loyalty are played beautifully.

The last reason is *King John* has been described by Shakespeare as a good man who tries to keep and protect from English enemy. Patriotism and loyalty are revealed in this play. People can know the connection between the play and sociological aspects in literature study. Shakespeare wants the readers to give attention that patriotism and loyalty to the empire are important. People can learn love and give good impact in society and life. The effects can be studied in sociological term which studies the social life of a human.

William Shakespeare delivered his idea about the practice of patriotism in England by writing *King John* play. He criticizes the phenomena of patriotism in English society through the story of play. There is correlation between patriotism and the drama. It is an interesting topic to be discussed. Therefore, the writer wants to study the drama by using sociological approach

A. Research Method

This type of research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a kind of research that has the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

The subject of the study is *King John* drama written by William Shakespeare and has been published by The Pennsylvania State University in 1998. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

There are two kinds of data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research. The primary data of the study is *King John* written by William Shakespeare and has been published by The Pennsylvania State University in 1998. The Secondary data source are included books and other data that have relation with the research. The journals and other information that have relevance with the object of research and analysis.

The technique of data collection in this research as follow: Reading the script for the several times and repeatly, Taking note of the important part in primary and secondary data, Identifying the topic of the play, Analyzing the data based on sociological approach.

B. Research Findings and Discussion

The researcher gets some research finding in analyzing *King John* drama. Each finding has some cases to be discussed. After they have examined, all of components will get back together in a schematic manner in the discussion.

1. Findings

The researcher criticizes some aspects in the play such as social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect and religious aspect. The social aspects contain social structure. Shakespeare shows Patriotism in aspects that have relation with social analysis.

a. Social aspect

Social aspect of English in the middle of the fifteenth century is influenced by many things. Elizabeth I (1533-1603) was queen of England and Ireland from 1558 to 1603. Elizabethan era also is known as English Renaissance. Rowse (1950: 112) states that Renaissance impulse signalized itself in a host of new inventions. Spirit of Renaissance in Europe influences England in the reign of Elizabeth I.

Young (2009:238) adds Renaissance is the revival of interest in ancient Greek and especially Roman literature, language, and arts, beginning in Italy in the 1300s and spreading north and west through Europe; the movement became influential in England about 1500, so that the English Renaissance is often thought of as taking place from about 1500 to 1660. Ideas grow rapidly. The period shows religion tolerance, social stability, science and literature. England cultures comes from of different cultures and ethnic group. Ethnic group in England consist of Germans, Scots, Irish, Vikings, Normads and Romans. Some different cultures influence social condition in England. Elizabethan period appears many literature works. Some famous writers also born in this era. Levin (2002: 1) also states that in the final decade of Elizabeth's reign the work of such as William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser, and Christopher Marlowe flourished. Their works still been known until now. Their works influence literature world.

Shakespeare wants to tell the social condition at England in Elizabethan era by King John play. Elizabeth I has problem with her sister, Catholic and Spain. Shakespeare draws Elizabeth I as King John that has problem with Arthur, Catholic and France. King John is like Elizabeth I who tries to protect England with all power. Shakespeare brings short explanation time with King Richard Coeur-de-lion. He writes the play to describe Patriotism that gives motivation for England people. Shakespeare reminds England about King Richard's spirit. From the story, he hopes England people can learn from King John play. He wants England people to support Queen Elizabeth and England with all power.

Shakespeare describes the horizontal conflict that happens between Catholics and Protestant by using King John as character that hates Pope and Catholic. The conflict between King John and Cardinal Pandulph causes serious problem between England and France in King John play. Cardinal Pandulph persuades King Philip and Lewis to attack King John because King John refuses Pope Existence in England.

CARDINAL PANDULPH

Philip of France, on peril of a curse,
Let go the hand of that arch-heretic;
And raise the power of France upon his head,
Unless he do submit himself to Rome. (KJ. Act III, Sc I)

b. Economic aspect

The economic aspect in *King John* shows the economic condition in England after crusade. England has no good condition after crusade. Crusade brings England in hard situation in economic. After King Richard death, King John gets trouble from Catholic Rome. King John is sure that pope abuses of power. Shakespeare gives simple patriotism though it is against Catholic leader. Shakespeare gives attention to Catholic movement in economic. He tells patriotism in economic aspect that the *King John* play is like Elizabeth I against Pope.

KING JOHN

What earthy name to interrogatories
 Can task the free breath of a sacred king?
 Thou canst not, cardinal, devise a name
 So slight, unworthy and ridiculous,
 To charge me to an answer, as the pope.
 Tell him this tale; and from the mouth of England
 Add thus much more, that no Italian priest
 Shall tithe or toll in our dominions;
 But as we, under heaven, are supreme head,
 So under Him that great supremacy,
 Where we do reign, we will alone uphold,
 Without the assistance of a mortal hand:
 So tell the pope, all reverence set apart
 To him and his usurp'd authority.
 (KJ. Act III, Sc I)

c. Political aspect

Political aspect gives influence for England people. Patriotism appears when people try to protect kingdom or nation. King John uses his capability in negotiation to control power. First negotiation is marriage proposal between Prince Lewis and Blanch. Second negotiation is reconciliation between King John and Cardinal Pandulph. Shakespeare gives attention about patriotism in politic aspect. He wants to tell to England people for using persuasive communication when getting conflicts. Repressive communication is the last solution to overcome the conflicts.

KING JOHN

Then do I give Volquessen, Touraine, Maine, Poitiers and Anjou,
 These five provinces, With her to thee; and this addition more,
 Full thirty thousand marks of English coin.
 Philip of France, if thou be pleased withal,
 Command thy son and daughter to join hands.

KING PHILIP

It likes us well; young princes, close your hands.

AUSTRIA

And your lips too; for I am well assured
 (KJ. Act II, Sc I)

d. Science and technology aspect

Rowse (1950: 27) states that Elizabethan science is of great interest. Agriculture, military, mining and ship industry are improving

in Elizabethan era. Shakespeare shows science and technology aspect contributes to the play. Science is source from Church in King John era. Church teaches principle and wisdom. Technology aspect presents new weapons. The new weapons are cannons. Kingdom that has many weapons is strong kingdom in military aspect. England and France is strong kingdom in military. Shakespeare describes patriotism in science and technology as a power. By strong military and technology that brings advance in protect system.

KING JOHN

Bear mine to him, and so depart in peace:
 Be thou as lighting in the eyes of France;
 For ere thou canst report I will be there,
 The thunder of my cannon shall be heard:
 So hence! Be thou the trumpet of our wrath
 And sullen presage of your own decay
 (KJ. Act I, Sc I)

e. Religion aspect

Religious play important roles in England society. England is influenced by Catholic principles. Catholic has big influence in Europe. Abusing the power sometimes happens in holy institute.

KING JOHN

What earthy name to interrogatories
 Can task the free breath of a sacred king?
 Thou canst not, cardinal, devise a name
 So slight, unworthy and ridiculous,
 To charge me to an answer, as the pope.
 Tell him this tale; and from the mouth of England
 Add thus much more, that no Italian priest
 Shall tithe or toll in our dominions;
 But as we, under heaven, are supreme head,
 So under Him that great supremacy,
 Where we do reign, we will alone uphold,
 Without the assistance of a mortal hand:
 So tell the pope, all reverence set apart
 To him and his usurp'd authority.
 (KJ. Act III, Sc I)

King John's patriotism protects England from Pope's intervention. Pope is a rich man that has power to control Catholic administration. Shakespeare describes King John play that is inspired from Elizabeth I.

Elizabeth I is brave against pope. Elizabeth is brave to state that Protestant is legal religion in England.

f. Cultural aspect

Shakespeare shows cultural aspect in some ceremony in *King John* play. There are three ceremonies; wedding ceremony, death ceremony, Church's legalization to promote King. Wedding ceremony happens between Prince Lewis and Blanch. Upper class Wedding is the symbol of power. Death ceremony happens when Arthur and King John die. The death ceremony is used to give the last admiration for death people. Church's legalization upon King is important thing in Kingdoms in Europe. The legalization gives strong influence to a Kingdom for state of power.

The other cultural aspect is language. Patriotism in cultural aspect is known by *King John* play that uses contemporary English language. Shakespeare dominantly uses contemporary English language. It is easier than an old English language. Shakespeare uses some other words that have same in meaning Some contemporary English's words such as; Thou means you, shalt means shall, thy means your, hast thou means you have, thou art mine means you are mine.

Based on the sociological analysis of *King John* play above, the researcher concludes that Shakespeare describes social England in *King John* play same in his period life in Elizabethan era. Shakespeare hopes this drama can be an inspiration to England people.

2. Discussion

Shakespeare criticizes the social reality in England through the theme, story and characterization in *King John* drama. He wants to tell how important patriotism for England people in all aspects is Patriotism not only protects Kingdom or country by military. Patriotism can be described by improving technology, science, economic, and social stability. Shakespeare tells to the reader through this drama that he agrees

about Elizabeth actions to protect England from any threat and enemies. Shakespeare agrees Elizabeth to control England without any doubt. He uses King John in *King John* drama to show Patriotism.

Shakespeare gives the solution for the problem in England through this play. England becomes great Kingdom in Europe after defeating Spain in the battle in the sea. When England gets problem, the leader must move quickly to take actions. England's problems are Spain attacking, rebellion by Mary (Elizabeth's sister) and Catholic. Shakespeare gives solution by King John's character to show patriotism work. Firstly, King controls conflict use persuasive communication. Persuasive communications are included dialogue and negotiation. When persuasive communication does not work the last solution is aggressive communication. Aggressive communication is war. Elizabeth is great Queen not only for England but also for women in Europe. She can control problems be carefully.

Finally, based on all aspects that are reflected in *The King John*, there is a firm relation between the drama and the English life in Elizabethan era. Shakespeare shows that patriotism is important to improve Country's components became great country. Based on the analysis above, it is clear that the social conditions are suitable with the main idea of William Shakespeare viewed by sociological approach.

C. Conclusion

After analyzing *King John* drama, the writer draws the following conclusion. First, based on the structural analysis it is clear that in *King John* drama, Shakespeare delivers message that patriotism can give spirit to success. In order to elaborate the message, the writer uses characters in the novel, King John and King Philip. They play their part as protagonist and antagonist. Every element is related to one another forming a good unity.

Second, it is apparent that there is a strong relation between this drama and the social reality in England in Elizabethan era. This Play emphasizes to the social aspect. *King John* drama shows that patriotism is important for England people. Shakespeare wants to tell the social problem in England through this play. The play shows King John tries to be good King in England. He uses his all power to protect England from all threats. King John becomes a patriot in *King John* play.

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