CONFlicTS oF CuLTural VALUES REFLECTED IN JHUMPA LAHIRI’S THE NAMESAKE: A SOCIOlogical STUDY oF LITERATURE

PUBLICATION ARTiCLE

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

by:

ERWIN DWI NURPERMADI
A 320100235

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2014
Surat Persetujuan Artikel Publikasi Ilmiah

Yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini pembimbing skripsi / tugas akhir:

Nama : Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S
NIP/NIK : NIK 410
(Pembimbing I)

Nama : Mauly Halwat, Ph.D
NIP/NIK : NIK 727
(Pembimbing II)

Telah Membaca dan mencermati naskah artikel publikasi ilmiah, yang merupakan ringkasan skripsi (tugas akhir) dari mahasiswa:

Nama : Erwin Dwi Nurpermadi
NIM : A320100235
Judul Skripsi : CONFLICTS OF CULTURAL VALUES REFLECTED IN JHUMPA LAHIRI’S THE NAMESAKE : A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF LITERATURE

Naskah tersebut layak dan dapat dipersetujui untuk dipublikasikan.

Demikian persetujuan ini dibuat semoga dapat dipergunakan seperlunya.

Pembimbing I

(P Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S)
NIK. 410

( Mauly Halwat, Ph.D)
NIK 727

Surakarta, April 2014
Pembimbing II
CONFLICTS OF CULTURAL VALUES REFLECTED
IN JHUMPA LAHIRI’S THE NAMESAKE:
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF LITERATURE

Erwin Dwi Nurpermadi
A 320 100 235

English Department, FKIP-UMS
Jl. A. Yani Pabelan Kartasura Tromol Pos 1 Surakarta 57102
Telp. (0271) 717417 Fax. (0271) 715448

ABSTRACT
The research is proposed to analyse conflicts of cultural values in “The Namesake” novel by using Sociological Perspective. The major problem in this article is to explain how the conflicts of cultural values happen in Jhumpa Lahiri’s “The Namesake”. The object of study is “The Namesake” novel written by Jhumpa Lahiri.

Qualitative study is a method which is used to analyze conflicts of cultural values reflected in the novel. The primary data is taken from the novel itself and the secondary data sources are other resources related the study such as dictionary, website, some books that support the analysis. The techniques of collecting data are reading the original novel several time, determining the character that will be analyzed, taking note of the important thing both the primary data and secondary data, and classifying and determining the relevant data. The techniques of data analysis are as follows: the first is analyzing of the novel, the second is analyzing the data based on sociological perspective.

The results of this study are, first, based on the structural analysis of each element, it shows that the character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme are related to each other and form the unity into a good quality novel. Second, based on Sociological Perspective, the conclusion is that the second generation of Indian immigrant in America prefer to use Indian culture but the second generation of Indian prefer to use American culture.

Key word: Conflicts of cultural values, The Namesake, Sociological Perspective, Jhumpa Lahiri.
A. Introduction

*The Namesake* is a novel from the author Jhumpa Lahiri which was published in 2003 by a mariner book Houghton Mifflin company, Boston, New York. There are 12 chapters and 289 pages in this novel. It is printed in the United States of America.

The writer has observed that *The Namesake* was analyzed by Retno (Sanata Darma University, 2011). She focused the research on “Gogol’s identity crisis in America as seen in Jhumpa Lahiri’s The Namesake”. It deals with his problem about his way of life in America. The problem mainly comes up from his pet name and additionally from his life in America.

In analyzing the novel, there are six aspects of analysis namely: social, economic, political, cultural, religious, and science and technology aspect.

The first is social aspect, in the twentieth century, according to Morelock (2013) there are the structure of American such as the upper, middle and working classes. There are three social aspect such as social structure, social status and social relation. According to Thomson Hickey (2005), Upper class is individual with considerable power over notion’s economic and political institutions. According to Thomson and Hickey (2005) middle class is individuals who working their way through college and commonly have a bachelor’s degree or some college education. According to Gilbert (1998) The concepts of a working class remains vaguely defined and is especially contentious. Since many members of the working class, as defined by academic model, are often identified in the vernacular as being middle class, there is considerable ambiguity over the term’s meaning.

The second is economic aspect in the last twentieth century. America is a advanced in economic class. There are some people who have high salary when they have a prestigious job in there.
The United States is the only advanced economy that does not guarantee its workers paid vacation or paid sick days, and is one of just a few countries in the world without paid family leave as a legal right, with the others being Papua New Guinea, Suriname and Liberia (Bernard, 2013).

The third is political aspect, The United States is a federal constitutional republic, in which the President of the United States (the head of state and head of government), Congress, and judiciary share powers reserved to the national government, and the federal government shares sovereignty with the state governments (Huntington, 1981).

The fourth is cultural aspect, The United States of America is an ethnically and racially diverse country as a result of large-scale migration from many ethnically and racially different countries throughout its history as well as differing birth and death rates among natives, settlers, and immigrants (Thompson and Hickey, 2005).

The fifth is religious aspect. According to the American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS) (2008) 76% of the American adult population identified themselves as Christians, with 51% professing attendance at a variety of churches that could be considered Protestant or unaffiliated, and 25% professing Catholic beliefs (Barry and Keysar, 2009).

The sixth is science and technology, according to Mauk and Oakland, (1997: 237) science and technology in the late twentieth century, technical advance is influenced by expansion, which is based on natural resources, iron, steam and electrical power. This expansion affected the invention of the internal combustion engine, the telegraph and telephone, radio and typewriters.”

B. Research Method

In analyzing conflicts of cultural values, the writer uses The Namesake novel which is published by Marine Book in 2003 as the object of the study. Primary data source. The
primary data sources is *The Namesake* novel (2003) by Jhumpa Lahiri. Secondary data source The secondary data sources from other sources related the study, such as: website, dictionary, some books that support the analysis.

Technique of collection data in this research is library research. First, the researcher collects any data, which are related to the problem. She categorizes the dat into two groups; they are main data and supporting data. Second, the supporting data are collected and classified in accordance with the subject matter. Third, the main data and supporting data are analyzed in order to answer the problem statement. Then, the researcher describes the conclusions from the analysis. Finally, the researcher selects the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study.

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological perspective.

C. **Findings and Discussion**

The analysis of conflicts of cultural values is divided into six aspects of analyzing namely: social, economic, political, cultural, religious, and science and technology aspect.

Firstly, social aspect is divided into four namely social structure, immigration, social status, and social relation. Social structure is divided into three classes, the upper class, the middle class, and the working class. The upper class is reflected in the character of Maxine, her father is a lawyer and her mother is a curator of textiles. Moushumi is also upper class. Her father is a renowned chemist in America. The middle class is reflected in character Gogol. He is a fresh graduate who work at architect firm in New York.
Secondly, In *The Namesake* novel, the major characters are the immigrants. They are from India. They are Ashoke and Ashima. Their children are Sonia and Gogol. They are American.

Every afternoon she takes him out, wandering up and down the streets, to pick up this or that, or sit in Harvard Yard, sometimes meeting up with Ashoke on a bench on the MIT campus, bringing him some homemade samosas and a fresh thermos of tea (*The Namesake*, 2003:35).

There are two social status in America. First is rich and second is poor people. Character of Maxine and her parents, Gerald and Lynda are categorized to rich people as seen in the novel Gerald is a lawyer. Lynda is a curator of textiles at the Met (*The Namesake*, 2003:134). They live in a big house and work in the prestigious place. The social status of character Ashima and Ashoke in the first time in America is categorized poor people. They do not have a house. They live in a small room in the apartment as illustrated in the novel Ashima Ganguli stands in the kitchen of a Central Square apartment (*The Namesake*, 2003:1).

Social relation between middle class and upper class can be seen in character Gogol and Maxine. Gogol lives in Maxine’s house when they have relationship.

Gogol is unaccustomed to this sort of talk at mealtimes, to the indulgent ritual of the lingering meal, and the pleasant aftermath of bottles and crumbs and empty glasses that clutter the table (*The Namesake*, 2003:134).

The third, Jhumpa Lahiri shows the economic class of Gogol’s family and Maxine’s family. The first are Ashoke and Ashima as Gogol’s Parents. They are immigrant from India who live in America. They get good economic in America. Ashoke is a lecturer in University. Although, in the first time, they move to America, they have not gotten good economic. The second are Gerald and Lynda they are Maxine’s parents. They are from American. They also classify in the upper class in that country.

The job is everything Ashoke has ever dreamed of. He has always hoped to teach in a university rather than work for a corporation (*The Namesake*, 2003:48).

Gerald is a lawyer. Lynda is a curator of textiles at the Met (*The Namesake*, 2003:134).
The fourth, Jhumpa Lahiri shows the political aspect in *The Namesake* novel about the law to give and to change name in America. The first is every baby who wants to leave hospital in the first time has to have a name.

The bad news is that they are told by Mr. Wilcox, compiler of hospital birth certificates, that they must choose a name for their son. For they learn that in America, a baby cannot be released from the hospital without a birth certificate. And that a birth certificate needs a name (*The Namesake*, 2003:39).

The second is the law of change name in America. Gogol as a major character in this novel has a problem about his name because the name that is given by his father is uncommon in America. He feels ashamed to introduce his name to other people. Finally, he decides to change his name from Gogol to Nikhil.

"In America anything is possible. Do as you wish." And so he had obtained a Commonwealth of Massachusetts change-of-name form, to submit along with a certified copy of his birth certificate and a check to the Middlesex Probate and Family Court (*The Namesake*, 2003:100).

Fourthly, Jhumpa Lahiri shows cultural aspect in America. the first is communication component. The author uses both language and symbol to deliver her ideas. The first is language, the author uses English to write this novel because most of the place is in America. The author only uses Indian in Indian term that cannot be translated in English. The second is symbol, the author uses symbol to deliver her ideas but the symbol is only in a little proportion. For example, she uses *Cardigan* is symbol a traditional cloth from India. if woman can make a cardigan, it means she is adult and ready to marriage with man. *Annaprasan* is a traditional ceremony for Bengali babies. In India, there is no ritualistic naming in the eyes of God (*The Namesake*, 2003:23).

The second is cognitive component. The knowledge that is delivered by the author is about the law of change name in America. The baby who is born in the hospital in America has to have name. Gogol is Indian baby who is born in America. His parents do not understand about the law of name in America as told in the novel the bad news is that they are told by Mr. Wilcox, compiler of hospital birth certificates, that they must choose a name for their son. For they learn that in America, a baby cannot be released from the hospital without a birth certificate. And that a birth certificate needs a name (*The Namesake*, 2003:27). Ashoke decides to give his favorite author to his son. He believes that Nikolai
Gogol has saved him and his son as seen in the novel Ashima approves, aware that the name stands not only for her son’s life, but her husband’s (The Namesake, 2003:28). The accounts reflected in the story are the law of name baby and change name in America that be delivered by Mr. Wilcox “I don’t recommend it,” Mr. Wilcox says. ”You will have to appear before a judge, pay a fee. The red tape is endless” (The Namesake, 2003:27). In this statement, we know that Mr. Wilcox explain about name baby and the law of change name in America.

The third is material component. American people like to make a party such as birthday, graduation, and weekend party. Evan is Gogol’s friend, he asks Gogol to go to the party. In this party, there is an exhibition apartment.

Gogol imagines that it will be a party of hundreds filling up a vast space, the sort of party where he might arrive and leave undetected. But by the time Gogol and Evan get there, the party is nearly over (The Namesake, 2003:127).

American family like to make a party in their house. Maxine’s family always make a party in the weekend.

He is always struck by these dinners: only a dozen or so guests sitting around the candlelit table (The Namesake, 2003:140).

American people also make a party to celebrate the lunch of new book. The author of the book, make a party to introduce her new book.

He and Maxine had been at a book party for one of Maxine's writer friends the night before (The Namesake, 2003:170).

The fourth is behavioral component. There are some ritual and ceremony in the novel. In Indian wedding ceremony, There are some rituals. The first is wedding ceremony. The bride will be made-up to make her more beautiful. The father of bride will raise until one meter and move to meet bride groom. The face of bride is closed with some flowers. After married, the ending of wife name change to her husband name. the name of Ashima bhaduri change to Ashima Ganguli.
These were her last moments as Ashima Bhaduri, before becoming Ashima Ganguli. Her lips were darkened, her brow and cheeks dotted with sandalwood paste, her hair wound up, bound with flowers, held in place by a hundred wire pins that would take an hour to remove once the wedding was finally over. Her head was draped with scarlet netting (The Namesake, 2003:39).

The name of the ritual is annaprasan, ceremony to the baby. When Gogol is baby, his parents make a ritual to their son.

The occasion: Gogol’s annaprasan, his rice ceremony. There is no baptism for Bengali babies, no ritualistic naming in the eyes of God. Instead, the first formal ceremony of their lives centers around the consumption of solid food (The Namesake, 2003:38).

Fifthly, The religious aspect in this novel is shown in major character. They are Ashoke and Ashima. The first is Ashoke. He does not have religion because he does not believe to the God. He openly reveres Marx as told in the novel “He does not thank God; he openly reveres Marx and quietly refuses religion” (The Namesake, 2003:21). When he was a senior high school, he had an accident and he nearly dead. He believes that Nikolai Gogol, his favorite author has saved his life.

He does not thank to God “He cannot thank the book; the book has perished, as he nearly did, in scattered pieces, in the earliest hours of an October day, in a field 209 kilometers from Calcutta. Instead of thanking God he thanks Gogol, the Russian writer who had saved his life (The Namesake, 2003:21).

The second is Ashima, Gogol, Sonia and Moushumi. their religion is Hindu. They always do Hindu ceremony.

There is an hour-long watered-down Hindu ceremony on a platform covered with sheets. Gogol and Moushumi sit cross-legged, first opposite each other, then side by side. The guests sit facing them in folding metal chairs; the accordion wall between two windowless banquet rooms, with dropped ceilings, has been opened up to expand the space (The Namesake, 2003:222).

The sixth is science and technology aspect. In The Namesake novel, the author shows the development of science and technology in the end of twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century about transportation and communication in America. The transportation in America are car, train, and airplane. The communication tools are letter, telegram, and telephone. The first public transportation is taxi as illustrated in the novel “At
dawn a taxi is called to ferry them through deserted Cambridge street” (The Namesake, 2003:2). Ashoke has a car. He wants his wife can drive the car as told in the novel “She has no interest in learning how to drive the new Toyota Corolla it is now necessary for them to own (The Namesake, 2003:49). The second public transportation is train as illustrated in the novel “and that was the one Ashoke had begun to reread as the train pulled out of Howrah Station late in the evening” (The Namesake, 2003:13). The third is airplane as seen in the novel “it was until she was on the plane, flying for the first time in her life on a BOAC VC-10……(The Namesake, 2003:4).

D. Conclusion

After analyzing The Namesake novel in order to understand how conflicts of cultural values are reflected, the writer concludes the result based on the sociological analysis, it can be concluded that the social aspect of America in the end of twentieth century in the beginning of the twenty-first century is reflected in The Namesake novel. Jhumpa Lahiri mentions the character and characterization, setting, plot, theme as a symbol to pour her idea in creating literary work. She also explains the historical background at that time such as social, economic, political, cultural, religion and science and technology aspect. She has critic in social culture that the first generations of immigrant from India who move to America prefer to use Indian culture. Although they live America that has different culture, they want their children or the second generations of immigrant to use Indian culture. The second generations of immigrant prefer to use American culture because they were born in America. They also grow in American as American citizen, whereas physically they are Indian.

E. Bibliography


