

**PATTERN OF MASS MOBILIZATION REFLECTED IN
OMAR ROBERT HAMILTON'S *THE CITY ALWAYS WINS***



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of English Education**

By

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APPROVAL

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Surakarta, January 24th 2020

The Writer

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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PATTERN OF MASS MOBILIZATION REFLECTED IN OMAR ROBERT HAMILTON'S *THE CITY ALWAYS WINS*

Abstrak

Studi ini berfokus pada masalah mobilisasi massa dan polanya dalam *The City Always Wins* karya Omar Robert Hamilton. Teori yang digunakan dalam menganalisis novel ini adalah Sosiologi Sastra. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menganalisis karakteristik mobilisasi massa, bagaimana penulis menggambarkan masalah mobilisasi massa, dan alasan mengapa penulis membahas masalah mobilisasi massa ini sejak awal. Peneliti menggunakan dua sumber data dalam menulis penelitian ini. Dua sumber data tersebut adalah sumber data primer dan sumber data sekunder. Sumber data primer adalah novel berjudul *The City Always Wins*, sedangkan artikel dan situs web dengan informasi terkait diperlukan sebagai sumber data sekunder. Ada tiga temuan utama dalam novel ini. Pertama, ada tiga karakteristik mobilisasi massa yang ditemukan dalam novel; seperti organisasi, identitas dan tindakan. Kedua, penulis menggambarkan masalah mobilisasi massa oleh aktor, maksud dan tujuan, dan hasilnya. Ketiga, penulis membahas topik mobilisasi massa berdasarkan fenomena sosial yang ia saksikan saat ia melibatkan diri dalam membantu protes dan mobilisasi massa di Mesir pada tahun 2011 lalu.

Kata Kunci: pola mobilisasi massa, sosiologi sastra, the city always wins, omar robert hamilton.

Abstract

This study focuses on the issue of mass mobilization and its pattern in Omar Robert Hamilton's *The City Always Wins*. The theory that is used in analysing this novel is Sociology of Literature. This research was conducted to analyse the characteristics of mass mobilization, how the author depicts the mass mobilization issue, and the reason why the author address this issue of mass mobilization in the very first place. In this study, the researcher uses primary data source and secondary data source. The researcher's primary data source is novel entitled *The City Always Wins*, while articles and website with related information needed as the secondary data source. There are three main findings in this novel. First, there are three characteristics of mass mobilization found in the novel; such as organization, identity and action. Second, the author depicts the issue of mass mobilization by actors, aim and objective, and the result. Third, the author addresses the topic of mass mobilization based on the social phenomenon he witnessed as he involves himself in helping the protest and mass mobilization in Egypt back in 2011 ago.

Keywords: pattern of mass mobilization, sociology of literature, the city always wins, omar robert hamilton.

1. INTRODUCTION

A movement is an act of people who have similarities in terms of ideas and/or interests to gather. It is interesting that now every part of the world has its own movement. Especially mass movement/mobilization that aims to demonstrate their aspiration out, aspire to be heard by the government. It shows us that humanity takes democracy so seriously. They really apply the idea that it is people who has the power, and is in charge in a nation. Thus, when they spot something that is not in accordance with their vision they get down to the streets and start protesting.

The researcher is interested in the novel *The City Always Wins* because it includes real-world related issues. For the already stated reasons. Where there is a popular trend among countries around the globe where people demonstrating and enacted massive protests, criticizing their government. The protests mainly caused by people's distrust towards their government, and their disappointment with the government's new policies. People have their rights to protest, as the majority of nations in the world adopt democracy as their ideology. When democracy is an idea in which a nation's government stands on, protest is something that will follow.

The researcher will try to analyze the pattern of mass mobilization in this research. The researcher will also try to answer some research questions regarded to the issue that interests the researcher in this novel, mass mobilization.

In general, the researcher will differentiate the previous studies into three classifications. The first are previous studies that discuss social media and its part in mass mobilization. Then, there are previous studies that discuss society and mass mobilization. The last classification is previous studies that discuss the material object, Omar Robert Hamilton's *The City Always Wins*.

The researcher will firstly go for the previous studies that discuss social media and its role in mass mobilization. Bhuiyan (2011) examines social media involvement in the Egyptian political and social revolution. It shows how social media strengthened and sparked people's desire for democracy and socio-economic progress that the long-term authoritarian government has stalled. While

Khamis and Vaughn (2011) tried to explain how social media has served as effective tools for facilitating civic engagement, reinforcing the capacity of democratic activists by providing forums for freedom of speech and opportunities for political communication; offering space for operation; and encouraging the demonstrators to prepare, coordinate and execute peaceful demonstrations. Similar with Khamis and Vaughn's explanation, Eltantawy and Wiest (2011) argue that social media plays a role in the success of the anti-government protests that led to the resignation of the country's dictatorial leader, and calls for further consideration of the proposed incorporation of social media as an important resource for collective action and the contemporary organization of social movements. As a two-state, social media plays a very important role in bringing people's spirits to bear in their anti-government protests. In the other hand Anduiza et al (2014), present a different perspective in this discussion. She argues that the 15M demonstration presents many remarkable characteristics that contradict the core principles of the model of collective action. She contends that intensive mobilization in digital media, especially social networks, has been able to channel collective indignation through many small organizations with little resources or experience of mobilization in this type of massive protest. The so-called as collective outrage by Anduiza et al is furthermore explained by Parkinson (2013) that in order to understand mobilization in wartime and organizational resilience, scholars should place militant groups in their organizational and social context. By studying the growth and evolution of secret supply, financial and knowledge networks dominated by women in Lebanon in the 1980s, it demonstrates that mobilization paths and organizational subdivisions are the product of a systemic overlap between hierarchical militant hierarchies and daily social networks. This article clarifies the complex relationship between the social structure, the revolutionary groups and the ongoing uprising. In light of the fact that new technologies have allowed alternative forms of expression of opinion and consumption of information, more research is needed on how these technologies promote the political participation of young adults. (Yamamoto et al., 2015).

Then we have previous studies about society and mass mobilization. There are only two studies in this category. The first is from Korotayev and Zinkina (2011) that answers the reasons for predicting a full-scale social revolution in Tahrir and how one would expect them to encourage huge masses of people to go to the Tahrir. We say it was even harder to understand that Mubarak's government would be hit painfully by its own reform achievements of the 1980s, this led to a sharp decline in crude mortality rates in 1975–1990, especially infant and child mortality. The other is from Shahin (2012) examines the force of mass mobilization in Egypt during the January 25 uprising analyzes how widespread demonstrations succeeded in overthrowing Mubarak's government in eighteen days. Because the Mubarak regime only focused on three pillars — the security forces, the National Democratic Party and the military — this research paper explores the methods and techniques used by the popular uprisings to conquer the first two pillars and neutralize the third. Both Korotayev and Shahin tries to understand mass mobilization and its trigger within the society. They also want to present their findings on how people power succeed their way overthrowing Mubarak's Government and defeat not only its law enforcement but also its military forces too.

The last category is previous studies that examine the material object itself, Omar Robert Hamilton's *The City Always Wins*. Moore (2018) states that these two novels animate, as the afterwords of a revolution, a tensile present that sediments a century of thwarted popular aspirations, envelops critical temporalities, and resists closure. While Claire (2019) explores The (social) media representations of the novel and their impact on everyday life as well as on the modes of protest.

Based on the previous studies above, it is known that there is no study ever conducted to analyze pattern of mass mobilization in Omar Robert Hamilton's *The City Always Wins*. Then, the researcher decides to conduct a research focusing on the pattern of mass mobilization. the researcher dare to conclude that *The City Always Wins* is a novel that contains mass mobilization, a social phenomenon, as one of its issues. That we can see the novel from sociological

perspectives and analyze its content. There are sub-topics that discuss social media, mass organization, protest, and governmental issues. But in this research, the researcher will focus on how mass mobilization formed and will identify the pattern behind its formation/movement/mobilization.

The theory that is used in conducting this research is Sociology of Literature. According to Swingewood and Laurenson (1972:11), the Sociology of Literature is a study of society, the purposes in society, social institution and social process, its declaration about how to works, how society is possible, and why it persists. The researcher will use the theory to identify mass mobilization issue that is reflected by the author in *The City Always Wins* novel.

2. METHOD

In this research, the researcher will use qualitative descriptive kind of research that collects information without any quantities. Manuel and Medel (1976) define descriptive research as a research that describes what something is, and is concerned with the condition or relationships that exist; practices, ongoing processes, or developing trends. While Creswell (1990) describes qualitative research as an ongoing process that happens in a natural environment that allows the researcher to establish a level of detail dependent on a broad level of participation of direct experience. The main issue discussed in this research is pattern of mass mobilization. The researcher uses two data sources in conducting the research, the novel *The City Always Wins* by Omar Robert Hamilton published in 2017 for the primary data and the supporting data related to the research, such as some theory e-books on Sociology of Literature, scientific articles, and websites which provide the researcher needed information in doing analysis of data as the secondary data source. The researcher gone through seven steps of data collecting technique, those are Reading critically the novel of *The City Always Wins* by Omar Robert Hamilton, identifying and marking out the important point of the novel, reading reviews and previous studies, taking notes of information from both primary and secondary data sources, determining the issue addressed in the novel, arranging the data into several parts based on the classification, and

finally, drawing a conclusion based on the data analysis.. After collecting the data, the researcher will analyze the data by using the technique of qualitative data analysis based on Mathew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman (1994). They divided the process of data analysis into three phases, consisting of *Data Reduction, Data Displays, and Conclusion Drawing/Verification*.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Characteristics of Mass Mobilization, When dealing with a big crowd of people it is important to have, at least, a good organization. For the fact that humans might act impulsively out of nowhere doing something, mass mobilization should anticipate the possibility of the crowd going havoc by using suitable tactics. To stay on their track to achieve their goal, also to keep them in the same sense; be as one. So, organizing people in mass mobilization is not an easy task. Smith (2015) in his literature, generally understands that tactics, goals, and identity to be subordinate to the necessity of marshalling resources, without which the movement is unlikely to convince more than a handful of devoted adherents to ignore the improbability that their personal sacrifice would make a difference to the movement's success.

People are known to have the urgency to identify themselves in a group, or in other forms of identity. This makes them feel that they have validation over themselves. Their very existence. We have to admit that we, as a social creature, need it. For those engaging in a collective struggle against a perceived societal wrong, a collective identity defines the group that feels a collective sense of being wronged, as well as the group for whom the mobilization is meant to serve (Smith, 2015).

The context of a movement to understand the world and the challenges it faces typically involves an analysis of who or what is responsible and a vision of a better alternative that can be accomplished by collective action. Smith (2015) summarizes in his work that action is a function of a group's prior experiences, the type and degree of their political opportunity, the form of their organization, and/or their identity and cultural framing of their grievances.

Depiction of Mass Mobilization, Discussing about actors, in this very situation, we see that the people are easily organized and informed about stuff by social media. It is mentioned in this novel that there is a group of people establishes *Chaos*, a mass media that wants to bring news about Egypt's crisis so that more people would be aware of it. Khalil and Miriam, they are the actors behind *Chaos*. Khalil is a Palestinian-Egyptian, American born, a journalist who later brought various aspects of the novel into the surface. He is the character that serves the reader almost anything, starting from the crowds, struggles, stories of other characters, the imagery of pain and desperation, conditions at the hospitals and so on. While Mariam is more of an activist who cares a lot about the people and their suffering and is determined to help them out. Revolution, massive mobilization, killing, sorrow, and romance can be found in this novel.

Later we see that there are some notifications regarding *Chaos* pops-up, also news from Twitter saying that someone called Essa Artam was tortured by the police. The information is obtained by Mariam as she checks her phone up. This is the first sign we get in this novel that media, especially social media will play a very important role in the development of problems and the main story itself.

Mass mobilization, with their actions and persistence, are looking towards something. We know from this novel that the people gather to face the military force, since Mubarak, the president, stepped down from his position. The people, have to continue their struggle and their fight by confronting the army and the police. By following the narrative in this novel we know that the aim of the mass mobilization is to fight for their freedom, for democracy, for the people's wellbeing. They seek to be free from the state's control. With mass mobilization, they try to make their goals come true.

Meanwhile, the objective of the mass movement in this novel is to push back the state with its law, and to force the revolution's demand to be met.

After a long march and tiring fight, after all the hard protest. Mass mobilization by the people resulting in an election. Though the people don't want it. The election is a result of the Brotherhood and the army following the mass mobilization that has been occurring for a long time.

After this, the story goes on with fluctuations in social-political aspects. It gets worse before it gets better. So does with Khalil and Miriam's relationship. Though finally both of them cannot keep up with each other because of the growing difference between them in seeing the problems after problems that come over.

Reason of Addressing Mass Mobilization, Omar Robert Hamilton is a British-Egyptian writer and filmmaker. The fact that he has Egyptian blood flows through him makes him closely related to Egypt. This novel, *The City Always Wins* he began to write in 2014 is talking about revolution, about violence, about political situations in Egypt. In the novel, he describes mass mobilization, a form of crowd, a social phenomenon where people in certain numbers gather as a tool for the people to fight their enemy, the state. The reason for Omar Robert Hamilton to address this phenomenon is that he wanted to create psychological intimacy for the people to experience the same, as he said in his interview with James Andre of *France 24*. It is interesting, how Omar Robert Hamilton depicts people in a group, with pretty much difference they have, can be united and not having their own thoughts and will to do anything that is out of order. Mass Mobilization for him is the only hope for the people, as he writes in one of his article entitled *Everything was possible* (2013).

Omar Robert Hamilton wants to show us that of the same spirit, same energy, same enemy, same goal, and other similarities of people will make them stick together and unite as a one. Omar Robert Hamilton addresses this issue very neatly he is able to engage the readers to feel the atmosphere of the fight of the struggle in his novel in an intimate way

Aside from the identification of the pattern of mass mobilization in *The City Always Wins* novel, there also several aspects the researcher found. Such as mass mobilization characteristics that can be used as indicators to judge a crowd within a certain social phenomenon. Society is always interesting to be discussed, we know a certain condition may affect a certain phenomenon. This includes mass mobilization, a form of a crowd, where civilians gather in small to huge numbers caused by various reasons. We can understand mass mobilization, especially how they manage to organize themselves. As we know, humans are social creatures

that cannot live by their own selves. But knowing that more and more today we see individualistic traits shown by most people, bring the question: how mass mobilization organize themselves? Within this research paper, the researcher hopes to add more perspectives to see mass mobilization as a social phenomenon and answer several questions related to it.

The researcher believes that this research is closely related to Laurenson and Swingwood's point of view on the sociology of literature. We can see that in *The City Always Wins* the author was influenced by the political situations and the social conditions in Egypt back then. Laurenson and Swingewood (1972) claims that this method deals with the social background of the author as well as how the author himself reacts and responds to the structure that was created by the community in which he worked. The author's work is always influenced by the events taking place in the author's culture.

The researcher will place this research as the complimentary findings to the previous studies that of which has been conducted by Lindsay Moore (2018) and Claire Chambers (2019). The researcher hopes that this research can fulfill the missing parts of other similar studies that use Omar Robert Hamilton's *The City Always Wins* as their research object.

In this research, the researcher finds that pattern of mass mobilization in Omar Robert Hamilton's *The City Always Wins* are divided into three stages. The researcher will simplify the stages as provocation/information, where people are moved through an idea or motive delivered by other people using the internet as a media. This is shown when Miriam threatens police officer to release an activist, she threatens to release a piece of news that in the police station the officers torturing a child and so on; organizing the people, when the already gathered mass are directed to a certain goal or directed to a certain order. Can be seen, as the people march and yelling or singing their chants; main protest/action, the final stage, where mass mobilization in a huge number gather and voicing their demands. This also when people is at their most powerful state, as their massive mobilization may outnumber the law enforcement or the military forces.

With this identification, the researcher hopes to bring a new perspective to the sociology of literature. The researcher also hopes that we can better our understanding about mass mobilization with this research.

4. CONCLUSION

Following findings and discussion in the previous chapter, in this part the researcher will deliver the conclusion. First, from three characteristics of mass mobilization by Smith, the researcher finds all those three in the novel. Those are organization, collective identity, and action. Organization is how the mass mobilization gathered and orchestrated to its purpose. How they march themselves into devotion. We can see that by the way the people fight the state, and organize themselves into functioning parts of the struggle. Collective identity is how the people share the same feeling of belonging. In this novel, the people feel that they have to fight the government, that they have been wronged by the state. And the last, action, where the mass mobilization starts to do concrete effort to make the goals of their existence achieved.

The second is three aspects of depiction of mass mobilization in the novel. They are the actors, the aim, the objective, and the result. The actors that support the mass mobilization in this novel are those who help make the mass mobilization grow bigger and bigger. In the novel the researcher found that the actors are Khalil and Miriam. The aim and objective are the goals set by the people, that they want to achieve by enacting mass mobilization. Aim and objective are different. Aim is the long term goals of their action, while objective are the immediate goals they try to pursue. The result found by the researcher in the novel is mass mobilization, with all protests and fights, ended up with election decided by the government and The Brotherhood.

The third is the reason why Omar Robert Hamilton, the author, addressing the issue about mass mobilization in his novel entitled *The City Always Wins*. The Novel is the result of Omar Robert Hamilton's thought on the Egypt's crises in 2011. He wanted to take part in the protest, he wanted to do something for Egyptian people. There, he establishes Mosireen, a media to counter the fake

news produced by the state owned media. In the end, he cannot stay too long in Egypt and flew away. But the experience he had, the society, the struggle has inspired him to write this novel. With this novel he hopes that the readers can feel the struggle and all the complex feeling he feels.

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