The Sundanese Comic Ririwa Nu Mawa Pati-
An Intertext of Sundanese-Islam Cosmology

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Ririwa nu Mawa Pati, the Sundanese strip comic with horror genre, published by “Mangle”, a Sundanese cultural magazine in West Java, 1922. The comic consist of material about belief in the supernatural being in the Sundanese society at that time. This research attempts to find expressions of Sundanese human death journey conception derived from oral literature of selected informants in the comics as an intertext in an effort to understand and interpret the comics in depth. This is a qualitative research, intertextual analysis is used to find representations of cultural texts embodied in selected comic elements. The results of the analysis reveal the existence of oral literature absorption (hypogram) in the form of core and development in the comic as transition work, present explicitly through storyline, comic element in the form of dialogue in word balloons, description panel, and visual scene of the characters. Comics become a representation of the view of the comic artist about the world around the visible (or tangible) and invisible (or intangible).

Keywords: Comic, Intertextual, Sundanese Comic, Supernatural Being

Ririwa nu Mawa Pati, komik strip Sunda bergenre horor diterbitkan oleh majalah sastra dan budaya Sunda Mangle di Jawa Barat tahun 1922. Komik ini sarat materi mengenai kepercayaan akan mahluk halus di masyarakat Sunda saat itu. Penelitian berupaya menemukan ungkapan konsep fase perjalanan kematian manusia Sunda yang berasal dari sastra lisan informan terpilih yang ada dalam komik sebagai sebuah intertekst sebagai upaya agar dapat memahami dan memaknai komik secara mendalam. Penelitian bersifat kualitatif, analisis intertekstual digunakan untuk menemukan representasi teks budaya yang mewujud dalam unsur komik terpisih. Hasil analisis mengungkapkan adanya serapan satra lisan (hypogram) baik berupa inti maupun pengembangan dalam komik ini sebagai karya transisi, hadir secara tersurat melalui alur cerita, unsur teraga komik berupa dialog balon kata, panel keterangan, serta visual adegan para tokohnya. Komik menjadi representasi kosmologi Sunda dan pandangan komikus mengenai dunia sekitarnya baik yang kasat mata maupun yang tak terlihat. Kosmologi Sunda tidak hanya dipandang sebagai pemisahan dunia, namun difahami pula sebagai fase perjalanan kehidupan dan kematian manusia Sunda.

Kata kunci: Komik, Komik Sunda, Intertekstual, Mahluk Halus.

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INTRODUCTION

Sundanese people (a tribe/people of western Java) today mostly live with modernity in various aspects. But it is still embedded in their minds of belief in supernatural beings that derived from the view of tradition and customs. The supernatural beings in Sundanese society are an immaterial-spiritual phenomenon, not just a narrative, so the interpretation of its, being overt and diverse. Influencing on the quantity of popular media such as television, radio, including comics that raise this theme as its content.

One of them is the Ririwa Nu Mawa Pati (the spirits whose carrier of death), a stripe comic with the horror genre (figure 1), published in 1992 by Mangle, a magazine of literature and Sundanese culture, which still survives to this day. The comics published in 42 times issue has a theme about the social life of the Sundanese people. The content was very thick with the cultural nuances of countryside Sundanese society. It tells the story about a woman named Bi Jarsih (Bi is a appelation to aunt in Sundanese) who turns into ririwa te the soul of a man who died because his death is undesirable (Mustapa 2010: 157). Bi Jarsih died of unwanted death, suspected and believed to be drowned by jurig (ghost) Lulun Samak, the ghost of water believed by some Sundanese people, who live in a small lake. When his body was buried, and the age of his tomb was still new, a group of people stole the shroud that worn by Bi Jarsih’s. In the story it is believed that the shroud of the newly deceased, who died on Thursday night can be used as an ajimat (amulets), in order to make the business/trade become success. This matter makes the soul Bi Jarsih rise again to find his shroud. In his quest Bi Jarsih asks to all the thieves to return his shroud, but no one returns him so that the soul haunts the thieves, and then kills the thieves one by one. After all the thieves died, the village is back in peace, the people are determined to improve themselves with many worship, drawing closer to God so as not to happen again similar events.

Being an interesting discourse when examined there is the assumption that the story in the comic in general has a closeness to the reality of the beliefs of today’s Sundanese society.

Through the storyline, and the variety of comic elements, depicted the journey of a human being in Sundanese society in his death, especially the undesirable death, including the Sundanese cosmology concept. This is related to the expression of Mulyana (senior comic artist in Mangle magazine) in an interview that what the comic artists depicts in this magazine are mostly the result of research, observation, and even the result of experience and spiritual journey that is being undertaken. For all the comic artist, the comic contents are representations of the experiences, the the attitude of love for literature and Sundanese culture (wasana), who are grateful to live as Sundanese. The existence of comics along with the background of its emergence is interesting to examine because comic is a form of narration in the modern world, according to Danesi (2010: 78), comics reflect the world and help influence it, various meanings are conveyed through lines, symbols and words. Comics is a media of making texts on how comic artists express their views about the world that are seen, heard, spoken of and even hidden. Comics is perceived by scholars as one of the final forms of human desire to share their experiences through images and writings (Bonneff, 1976: 9-10), in these case, comics represent the reality life of a society in which a comic artist lives. In another view, comics as a work of art, cannot be regarded as trivial, comics can contain life experience and life of comic artist. In a work of art Sabana reveals the existence of visuality, visual quality that involves a person’s journey in life, which is deeply represented in art work, including comic. (Kasmana, 2018: 11-12)

The initial assumption of the comics is an uptake, a cultural text that exists in today’s Sundanese society. Through this research will be found the relation/link between the texts in tradition and the comic as a medium of transformation.

METHODS

This research is a qualitative research, structural analysis by Nurgiantoro (1994) will be used in research. Comics are placed as works of visual narrative, which have literary and visual/drawings element. The elements studied in comics are limited to the intrinsic elements such as plot, and also extrinsic elements especially visual aspect, such as conversations in word balloons, information panels, and scenes in selected comic frames. In each element will be found intertextuality with oral literature on the presence of supranatural beings in the beliefs of the Sundanese; focus on the beliefs that relating with ririwa. Intertextual accord-
The relationship between two texts is not a form of plagiarism (Ratna, 2010: 212). Ratna (2010: 212) adds that the theory exploited in the field of art included in cultural patterns. For example, the style in the art of building is also a form of text, then the composition of the tone in sound, as well as the actual hypogram is the real text, which can be words, phrases, sentences, proverbs, or whole texts, which form the basis of the creation of new texts so that the significance of texts must be found with reference to other texts or pre-existing text. The text in the general sense is not always win, and d) the text quoted implicitly or explicitly and e) specifically the text as the basis of the creative process. (2010: 213)

In the process of analysis there are several terms related to this theory, hypogram, is the text that is considered to be the basis of the creation of the text, which is then written. Hypogram is an element of the story (either in the form of ideas, sentences, phrases, events, etc.) contained in a predecessor literary text which later became the model, reference, or background of later-born texts (literary texts influenced). (Hutomo, 1993: 14).

Hypogram according to Rifatere (1978: 5) can be an expansion (extension or development of hypogram), conversion (distortion hypogram), modification, (manipulation of words and sentences or manipulation of characters and plot stories) and also ekserp, the essence of hypogram. Two types of hypogram according to (Riffatere 1978: 5), the first hypogram is a potential hypogram that is the potential sign system on a text so that the meaning of the text can be understood on the work itself, without reference to pre-existing text. The second is the actual hypogram of the actual hypogram is the real text, which can be words, phrases, sentences, proverbs, or whole texts, which form the basis of the creation of new texts so that the significance of texts must be found with reference to other texts or pre-existing texts. The text in the general sense is not just written texts or oral texts, but also customs, cultures, religions and even the universe/the world (Pradopo 2003: 168). In this study the hypogram is the belief of supernatural beings in Sundanese people, especially those associated with ririwa type and also about the presence of this type of creature. Another term is a work of transformation that is the term for a work created on the basis of a hypogram. In this study the comic is the work of transformation.

The research stages are as follows:

Oral literary texts were obtained through in-depth interviews with selected informants, from Bandung and Cianjur, i.e. panarosan (someone who asked to question about the occult problem). In West Java panarosan is often identified as dukun (a shaman), but the term is often considered negative and is associated with Islamic polytheistic practices. The dukun is depend on genie, meanwhile panarosan depend to Allah (God).

Interview results mapped into a framework of belief in supernatural beings, specific to matters relating to ririwa and spirit/human spirit after death. Once categorized, the oral literary (hypogram) is sorted and then compared with the

Direct text is taken from the real world, i.e. documentary, non fiction literatur, based on reality, b) general cultural text (real world text itself framework is a subject to certain cultural patterns), c) the text as a genre convention, as a literal artificial text resulting in an appointment between the author and the reader, i.e. goodness against evil, the truth always win, and d) the text quoted implicitly or explicitly and e) specifically the text as the basis of the creative process. (2010: 213)
comic (as a work of transformation) using intertextual, to find the similarity of words, syntagm, form models, ideas, or concepts manifested through various aspects of the selected comics. Each selected frame is analyzed element of story, word balloon, description panel and visual scene.

The expected findings are the comparison of the concept about the phase of human death as well as the Sundanese cosmology between comics and oral literature to obtain a more complete meaning and understanding.

SUNDANESE COSMOLOGY

Some Sundanese people today forced or volunteered into a modern society, prioritizing logic and distanced from the mythical. However, it is apparent that it still embeds identity as a Sundanese by performing various rituals and traditions with the reason of respecting their parents, taking the good side of the culture and even as a conservation effort.

Sundanese cultural expert Mamat Sasmita calls it a hybrid (Piliang, 2010: 43), a mixture in ways, attitudes, habits and behaviors that characterize Sundanese people, including in view of the world.

From the beginning the Sundanese had a view of the world, in the ancient Sundanese lontar manuscripts on kropak (box) 420 and 422, explained about Old Sundanese cosmology (the blends of Sundanese-Hindu and Buddhist teaching) mentioned that the universe is divided into 3 worlds, namely sakala, niskala and jatiniskala. Sakala is the real world, inhabited by physical creatures and has spirits, i.e. human, plants and other objects that can be seen, moving and silent. Niskala, the realm of gods, inhabited by non-physical creatures i.e. gods and goddesses, apsara-apsari, neutral spirits. And jatiniskala is the real world of magic, which is inhabited by the Essence of the Almighty (Maha Tunggal) is called Sanghyang Manon. (Darsa and Ekadjati, 2006: 24).

The arrival of Islam’s teachings in West Java, presents a new concept about the world. Islam through the quran presents teachings about the phases of human life. In Islam according to Darsa and Ekadjati, 2006: 25), the universe consists of 5 realms, namely the realm of ruh (spirits), the realm of the rahim (fetus/womb), the realm of dunia (the world), the realm of kubur/barzakh, and the afterlife. The presence of this teaching does not necessarily eliminate the previous cosmology, there is a gray area, between the Sundanese and Islam. Islam is synchronized with previous teachings. Proving by the presence of Sundanese customs and traditions in which used/recited verses of the Quran as part of all rituals, included in viewing the world. According to Sumardjo (2011: 267), Sundanese-Islamic era cosmology, still includes previous cosmologies. And so does with Islamic cosmology that not abolish cosmology beforehand, but also not merge in a new concept.

In this analysis the oral literature is documented in the form of a sound recording and then written in text form. This oral literature comes from three panarosan.

1. The concept of humans becomes ririwa according to oral literature:

“ririwa teh asalna tina kecap riwan, hartina kaimpikeun, nyaeta lelembutan anu di alam dituna can sampurna, biasana manehna maot can waktuna lantaran cara anu teu munasabah, diantarana manehan maneh, nya bumuh diri tea, ti teuleum, di racun, aya nu maehan atawa katabrak. Di alam lelembut manehna can boga tempat cicing, linlung matak kudu diduakeun. Tah kakituna, manehna masih keneh boga urusan di dunya, jadi manehna ngarirwaan.”

Translation:

“The word of ririwa is originally coming from the word riwan which means “always dreamed”. He is a lelembutan (the kind of human spirits/spirits) who stay in supernatural world which has unperfect life condition, usually died prematurely due to unusual deaths, including suicide, drowning, poisoned, some are killed or hit. In the supernatural world he has no place to dwell, dazed, therefore there must be people who pray for him. Well therefore, he still has affaires in the world, that’s why he became ririwa (haunting). “

The concept of ririwa in the comics:

Here’s the dialog:

“Lain Kodir aron cek beja mah Bi Jarsih teh ti teuleum cenhah...” “Malah cek Mang Endi mah Bi Jarsih teh digulung ku lulan samak, di bawa ka jero
Translation:
“Not that Kodir, according to the news Bi Jarsih is drowning ...” “In fact according to Mang Endi, Bi Jarsih was rolled by lulun samak brought to the lake.”

The concept of the presence of ririwa in the comic is explained through the storyline, while the cause of Bi Jarsih death, told in the comic through the dialog of the antagonist supporting characters Kodir and Emen who said that Bi Jarsih died from being drowned by jurig (ghost) named lulun samak.

Another reason Bi Jarsih become ririwa was because after her death there are thieves disturbed her body corps, his shroud was stolen thats why she is not to have peace in the alam kubur. Therefore Bi Jarsih’s figure is visualized naked, his soul rose to look for what she should have.

“... ‘Give me back my shroud...’” (Figure 5)

In the word balloon is written:
“‘Kamanakeun boeh aing...kamanakeun...hihihi...’”,
“‘balikeun boeh aing...’”

Translation:
Where is my shroud ... where is it...hihihi (smiling).”
“‘give me back my shroud...’” (Figure 5)

The Figure of Ririwa


Translation:
“The figure of ririwa is depend on how his deeds work in the world. So the problem is only God knows (wallahu’alam). His body was destroyed probably because of grave torture or indeed damaged by animals in the soil, either worms or maggots. So blood was pouring and broken. But in fact, if the dead continue to live again could have been due to the act of jinn or demons. It is because the death is not perfect and must be perfected. Hence the deceased person should be given an adzan (muslim prayer calling), especially if died in an unusual way. In addition must be read the syahadat of the earth (syahadat bumi), so that the spirit and the body can be accepted. If it is not like that then the body will be infiltrated by a demon or a jinn.”

There is a caption panel containing text with comic-writ-
“Paralak (introduction word) there is a sprinkling soil, some fall into the mattress.”
“It is looks like the newly dug red soil is scattered over the mattress.”

Life Cycle of Ririwa


In the frame it is visualized a lonely grave and tends to be quieter (Figure 8). In the description panel there is the text:

“Teuing pedah geus distinglar atawa jala nu diarah ku eta ririwa teh geus paehe kabeh, kadiekunakeun jep bae aman”

Translation:
“either because it’s been done by a singlar (mantra) or the people targeted by ririwa it’s all dead, and finally now the situation becomes safe.”

INTERTEXTUALITY IN THE COMIC

In oral literature (hypogram) mentioned the case about the beginning of the presence of ririwa, that is because humans who died in an abnormal way. One of the causes is due to drowning. In the comic (as the work of transformation) it is mentioned so, and it arises and becomes ririwa.
because it has an unfinished world affairs (taking care of the material that belongs to, it is the shroud) The comic as a work of transition expresses the same concept. Intertext present in the comic, expressed through comic in the form of a word balloon, an explanatory panel and also a visual character scene. The element absorbed from the hypogram is the idea of a cultural text, in the form of ekserp, has the same core of the story.

The other matter is about the figure of ririwa. In oral literature there is no specific mention of how the true form of ririwa is. In the comic character ririwa Bi Jarsih depicted that his face has been broken, but not explained about the details of the cause, it means a lot of possibilities. This shows the presence of cultural texts in comics as works of transformation. Intertext in the comic is an idea but a text is developed, meaning there is an expansion of ideas in comics.

The existence of ririwa is of course related to the work it does. In the comic it is said that ririwa is haunting (termed riwan) the perpetrators of the shroud theft, the same concept is expressed in oral literature, including the habit ririwa is scattering the gravesite soil around the house, which are portrayed in the comic through visuals in selected frame scenes, as well as the information panel. In this case the comic becomes absorbed (ekserp) and takes only the core of the hypogram.

In the storyline, especially in the conclusion after the fortieth day of Bi Jarsih’s ruin, it was rhetorically delivered because his world affairs (killing the thieves) were considered finished and or because it was already done by a singlar (the mantra to keep away from things undesirable including the spirits). In oral literature it is mentioned that ririwa is still loitering for 40 days, and it will disappear if it has been perfected. One way to perfect is it with the earth’s syahadat (syahadat bumi; a mantra in Sundanese mixed with Islamic teachings) is a prayer to perfect the deceased but with an unwanted process in order for his soul to be accepted, in the next realm. This manifestation is including to the type of jampi (spell), not a singlar. That means there is an oral literary uptake in the comic especially about the time of the human spirit roaming, but implied with implicit way, the annotation panel only gives the core explanation only (ekserp).

In the context of cosmology through the analysis it can be found that the concept of the journey of the death of the Sundanese people believed by the community that is represented in the comic. It can be understood that after a human being dies then the next stage is to be the spirits/soul or lelembutan who will go to the alam kubur, (barzakh/kubur realm in Islam), where all human souls reside to wait for the next realm which is hereafter. As for those who died in a died in an unusual way their souls have not yet gained a place in the grave, so they are haunting and looking for a place to dwell. In the knowledge of traditional society’s the death needs to be perfected. As expressed in oral literature in the way is should be given an adzan (muslim prayer calling) and in recited jampi (mantra) syahadat bumi (syahadat of the earth). Because for the Sundanese life must be perfect, if not perfect then there must be someone who perfected.

CONCLUSIONS

The comic became intertexts. The syncretism of Sundanese and Islamic teachings is present in comics as a form of Cosmology of Muslim Sundanese. Islamic teachings do not necessarily eliminate the Sundanese doctrine, both of them overlap, and still believed some people to this day.

Comics is a work of transforming the comic artists knowledge about the world that he understands, in this case the knowledge and cultural aspects can be used as ideas and background story in comics. In the philosophical level of the comic shows the motives and worldview of the Sundanese should be. That is how to be a perfect human (masagri), i.e. humans who have enough preparation to live in the world and the hereafter, this perfection is built with various efforts, both from self and also from the people around.

Another view of life is the rawayan jati, it is the process of the journey of the humans soul and the whole universe (physical-psychic, spiritual-spirits) that keeps rolling since the beginning of human existence until the end from the realm of the spirits to death (huwal awalu wal akhiru) to the ijunajati nistemen, the eternal life of the eternal. (Suryalaga, 2009: 9). So must has a better live live depend on God, by walking in the straight path so as not to regret later.

Through the comic story reminds people of death and all responsibility for life given by God, so that while still living in the human world can optimize themselves to always do good and right to the next life becomes a peace place to rest.

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