THE POPULAR ISLAMIC LITERATURE IN INDONESIA (2004 — 2015)

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Abstract

This research aims to find the form of inventions in Popular Islamic Literature in Indonesia since 2004 until 2015. Subjects of this study are the novel *Ayat-Ayat Cinta* (2004) by Habiburrahman El Shirazy, the novel *Hafalan Shalat Delisa* (2005) by Tere Liye, novel *99 Cahaya di Langit Eropa* (2011) by Hanum Salsabila Rais and Rangga Almahendra, and the novel *Surga yang Tak Dirindukan* (2015) by Asma Nadia. The theory used is the Formula is the theory of John G. Cawelti. This research used qualitative methods. The results showed that the formula of Islamic literature was popular in Indonesia from 2004 to 2015 experienced invention in terms of themes, characters, settings, lines, and cultural influences. The theme experienced a form starting from blessed polygamy, natural disasters, travel, and polygamy based on lies. The setting of all places in Indonesia and the country that has the Muslim majority, namely Egypt then penetrated European countries where the Muslim population actually became a minority. The original plot tended to close-ended, but in the novel *Surga yang Tak Dirindukan*, the open ending plot was revealed. A culture that occurs in society also influences the stories presented in the novel.

Keywords: Formulas, popular Islamic literature, inventions.

1. Introduction

Interpretation in every literary work, especially the genre of popular Islamic literature, has many meanings. The development in popular Islamic literary novels continues to grow today. In line with that development, formulas began to appear in it so that literary works could be called popular. Popular literature is a genre in popular culture that has developed in the wider community in Indonesia. According to Adi (2016, p. 19), popular literature literally translates as popular literature, although many people do not agree with such translation because literature in the Indonesian context is noble writing and cannot be interpreted as literature because of its different connotations. A work is considered popular when it is, first, easy to understand by everyone, second, liked by many people, and third made money.
Adi (2016, p. 20) states that a novel work is called popular, among others because of the theme, the way of the presentation of language techniques and its writing follows a general pattern that is favored by the reading community that makes it popular. Around 2004, the development of popular literature in Indonesia began to experience a form. Popular literature began to emerge Islam as a solution to solve problems known as popular Islamic literature or religious literature. Popular Islamic literature in Indonesia begins with the emergence of a novel which at that time became a best seller in the community, the novel *Ayat-Ayat Cinta* (2004) by Habiburrahman El Shirazy.

Seeing the development of popular literature in Indonesia until, making the authors interested in studying of the popular Islamic literature. There are several reasons that make the authors interested in studying these novels. First, the four novels are best-selling novels and popular among the public. The second reason is that the four novels were ecranized or filmed or raised to the big screen. The third reason, the authors suspect that among the four novels have the same elements. The most prominent thing is of course in terms of the theme, which is about problems that contain elements of religion (Islam). Based on the above reasons, the authors are very interested in studying popular Islamic literature in Indonesia with a formula theory from John G. Cawelti.

2. Literature Review

According to Cawelti (in Adi, 2016, p. 209) formulas are the popular type of story, including what type of literature the story is. Cawelti (in Adi, 2016, p. 210) suggests that formulas are cultural. Thus, community involvement is very important in creating a formula for popular fiction because the culture that underlies the birth of popular fiction is a culture that seeks to meet the needs of the masses.

Research in literary works is usually done intrinsically by examining the elements in fiction, such as characters and characterizations, flow, groove structure, background, and themes. The research of the popular fiction genre is also done by looking at the elements or elements of popular fiction. However, unlike the elements of literature, elements in the popular fictional context are called formulas. So, it can be said generally, formulas can be equated with elements. According to Cawelti (in Adi, 2016, p. 209), a formula is defined as “a combination of specific cultural forms with archetypes”. Thus, genre research can mean researching formulas because basically, genre research examines the elements in popular fiction. Research genres that examine elements of formulas are generally not done by looking at quality, but effectiveness in attracting readers or viewers so that research is carried out extrinsically. Nevertheless, the analysis of the working genre is somewhat different from the concept of the formula Cawelti (1971, p. 29)

Formula research certainly cannot be separated from the audience. The formation of the genre is due to the existence of genre stability that can be used by novel publishers or film producers in predicting audience expectations. Adi (in Adi, 2016, p. 210) expresses the importance of community involvement in the creation of popular fiction; “… inevitably popular literature is a cultural product that involves many people”. According to Cawelti (in Adi, 2016, p. 211), formulas are defined as a combination of specific cultural conventions between one culture and another. Consistent with popular culture theory, how the formula works depend on the reader’s interest in a particular society. So, popular genre must be interesting for the public. Thus, it can be said that the people who created the formula and research carried out with social and cultural approaches, as Cawelti (1976, p. 21) said, “it becomes a matter of cultural behavior that calls for an explanation along with cultural patterns.”
Previous research written by Akkan (2017) by analyzing the story of the gangster genre in the Godfather film based on Cawelti’s theory explained that the gangster genre has characteristics or can be called a formula. One of them is using crime as a way to achieve higher social status. Formula research focuses its analysis to find out the elements of archetypes and popular fiction formulas studied, as stated by Cawelti (in Ida, 2016, p. 229) in explaining the concept of formula: “a generalization of the characteristic of large groups from certain cultural materials and archetypal story patterns depicted in an individual work” From the quote, there are three keywords that underlie genre research theory, namely generalization, the characteristics of a group of fictions, and linking research with culture and story archetype patterns in every fiction. Regarding generalization problems, research is carried out by examining quite a lot of formulas so that they can be generalized. In terms of determining the characteristics of a group of fictions, research is carried out by looking at similarities and differences in order to obtain characteristics, elements, or formulas. In showing these characteristics, the research of each formula is related to the culture of the people who enjoy fiction. In simple terms, formula research is done by comparing other similar fictions and seeing their similarities and connecting them with a culture so that the question is answered why a genre can be popular.

Conventions represent familiar shared images and meanings and they assert an ongoing continuity of values; inventions confront up with the new perception or meaning which we have not realized before. Both these functions are important to the culture. Conventions help maintain a culture’s stability while the inventions help it respond to changing circumstances and provide new information about the world Cawelty (in Adi, 2016, p. 205).

So, it can be concluded that the convention is an agreement on the description of what popular Islamic literature, in general, can be seen through the elements in the literature. The invention is a change or new meaning in a literary work, especially popular Islamic literature in Indonesia.

3. Research Method

This research used a qualitative method. Population according to Arikunto (2013, p. 173) is the overall subject of research. The population in this study is a popular Islamic literature novel in Indonesia, the samples will be selected by several samples according to predetermined criteria. Sugiyono means that the sample is a portion of the population (2013, pp. 215-221). The novel chosen as the sample in this study is a novel that meets the following criteria, (1) Islamic literary works, (2) gets a bestseller label, (3) the novel has been filmed or raised to the big screen, and (4) printed minimum of 5 reprints. Based on these criteria, the samples used in this study are 4 novels, namely a novel entitled Ayat-Ayat Cinta (2004) by Habiburrahman El Shirazy, Hafalan Shalat Delisa [Memorandum of Prayer Delisa] (2005) by Tere Liye, 99 Cahaya di Langit Eropa (2011) by Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra, and Surga yang Tak Dirindukan [Heaven that is not Missed] (2014) by Asma Nadia. The data collection method used is the literature review method with the note-taking technique. The data was found by deep reading then classified according to the research objectives. The research instruments used in this study are human interest, which consists of software (certain criteria) and hardware (stationery and data cards). This study uses qualitative data analysis techniques that are descriptive-centered. After the researcher got and classified the data then the data was analyzed with the formula theory to get the invention of the story.
4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Formulas of Popular Islamic Literature in Indonesia


The themes and backgrounds built in this novel reinforce each other, namely the theme of polygamy with a setting in Egypt. Polygamy conducted by Fahri is not merely to fulfill his desires, he actually rejects polygamy. He did it for Mary’s recovery and her freedom from prison. Unlike polygamy that happens today, solely fulfilling mere lust. This novel uses mixed lines with the end of the story open. Grooves form the setting for an atmosphere of pleasure, sadness, pain, and tension. The characters have strong characters, both protagonists and antagonists. Cultural elements contained in this novel, namely activities (traditions), ideas (ideas), and artifacts (buildings). The social elements found were violence, broken home, law, crime, politics, and norms. The characteristic that appears in this novel is the existence of quotes or hadith excerpts as well as the holy verses of the Al-Quran. The use of foreign terms such as German, Arabic, and English is also found in this novel. Another distinctive feature is the presence of non-Muslim figures who converted to Islam or converted to Islam with certain events behind it.

a. Formulas of Hafalan Shalat Delisa by Tere Liye (2005)

The theme of the natural disaster that occurred in 2004 gave birth to the same setting in its actual event, namely Banda Aceh which was centered in Lhok Nga. Conflicts that are built are more between the environment and natural disasters, therefore this novel does not have an antagonist. The flow created creates a happy, sad and painful atmosphere. Like when Delisa got a necklace gift, Delisa lost her mother and sister and lost one leg. This novel uses mixed and open grooves. Cultural elements in this novel, namely activities (traditions), ideas (ideas), and artifacts (tools). The social elements in this novel, namely natural, political, and norm disasters. One characteristic of the language style in this novel is the existence of pieces or excerpts of the holy verses of the Koran. English and Arabic also occur in this novel. Another thing that is typical of this novel is the presence of non-Muslim figures who eventually became converts.

b. Formulas of 99 Cahaya di Langit Eropa by Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra (2011)

The theme built in the novel 99 Cahaya di Langit Eropa is traveling or journey. The journey done is not just visiting tourist attractions, but also finding out the history of Islam that has lived in that place. The theme gives birth to a setting, this novel takes Europe as the main setting. The setting of the atmosphere is diverse, causing conflicts that also vary. For example, differences of opinion with non-Muslim people, meet good fellow Muslims, and so forth. The main character in this novel is described as not wearing a hijab. There are protagonists and antagonists. The flow used in this novel is a mixed flow with the ending hanging. Cultural elements in this novel, namely activities (tradition, art), ideas (ideas, philosophy), and artifacts (buildings, sculptures). Social elements in this novel, namely politics and norms. Foreign terms are widely used such as English, German, Spanish, and Arabic. Quotations of the holy verses of the Koran or matters relating to Islam also appear as a characteristic that this novel contains Islamic elements. Other things are non-Muslim and atheist figures in this novel who finally admire Islam and become converts, and the main character finally uses the hijab.
c. **The formula of *Surga yang Tak Dirindukan* [Heaven that is not Missed] by Asma Nadia (2015)**

The theme that was built in this Heaven that is not Missed novel is polygamy. Polygamy in this novel describes polygamy which is done only to fulfill the passions to avoid adultery, not in accordance with the teachings of Islam and the Koran that should be. Pras, who never agreed with polygamy, finally did it himself because he could not control himself when he was with Mei Rose. He married Mei Rose because he had made the same mistake repeatedly, and to avoid being sinful and legitimate in the eyes of his religion and God. Backgrounds are built using everyday places like home and office. The setting of the atmosphere is diverse because the conflicts built in this novel also vary. There are protagonists and antagonists. The problem of polygamy is discussed from various sides of the character, not just from the main character. The flow used is the mixed flow and the end of the story is open. Cultural elements in this novel, namely activities (traditions, customs), ideas (ideas), and artifacts (tools). The social elements in this novel, namely orphans, politics, law, crime, violence, and norms. The hallmark of this novel is the existence of sentences related to Islam. One other characteristic is the presence of a character who has finally become a convert and uses foreign terms such as Chinese.

### 4.2 Invention Finding of Popular Islamic Literature in Indonesia

The first invention found in the fourth formula of the novel is without an antagonist. Novels and stories generally come from protagonists and antagonists. The two figures will complement each other in the construction of the storyline. Conflicts that are built generally are assisted or caused by antagonists. In the novel *Hafalan Shalat Delisa* by Tere Liye, no antagonist is found. All characters in it have good character and are naturally humane. This is because the theme raised is natural disasters so that conflicts are built not between humans but between humans and nature or the environment.

The second invention was found in this study, namely, there are Muslim leaders who lost their guidance. The formula found in the four novels in this study shows non-Muslim figures who converted. Various events experienced by character will make a turning point of life that makes the character choose another path, namely by changing religion to Islam. In the *Ayat-Ayat Cinta* novel by Habiburrahman El Shirazy and *Heaven that Is Not Missed* by Asma Nadia’s work, there are actually Muslim figures who deviate from Islamic teachings. The third invention was found in this study, namely the setting when using prayer times. For example, the morning time is indicated by morning prayers, during the day by *Dzuhur* prayer, in the afternoon with *’Asr or Magrib* prayer, and so on. The fourth invention is the cultural element found in this study varies. This can be seen through the results of research that shows some cultural elements. Cultural elements found, namely 1) activities in the form of tradition, customs, and art, 2) ideas in the form of ideas and philosophies, and 3) artifacts in the form of buildings, sculptures, and tools. The fifth invention, the social element found in this study varies. There are eight social elements in this study, namely 1) violence, 2) broken home, 3) crime, 4) law, 5) politics, 6) norms/behavior, 7) natural disasters, and 8) orphans.

### 5. Conclusions

Based on the results of the research and discussion, the formula found in this study is nine. The formula is in the form of a) non-Muslim figures and figures who become converts, b) using mixed and open lines, c) using varied themes (polygamy, traveler, natural disasters), d) background of mixed places between foreign and Indonesian, e) use four
backgrounds time (morning, afternoon, evening and night), f) background of the atmosphere in the form of sad, happy, or annoying atmosphere, g) excerpts of the holy verses of the Koran and using foreign languages, h) always political and normative elements/behavior in the social element, and i) Islam as a way out of every problem. So, it can be concluded that the formula in Islamic literature is popular in Indonesia in the form of nine points.

Based on the results of the research and discussion previously described, inventions in popular Islamic literature in Indonesia have five findings namely a) in the novel not always there are antagonists who are the opponent of protagonists, b) there are Muslim leaders who lose guidance, c) background time to use prayer times, d) cultural elements vary, and e) social elements vary. So, it can be concluded that inventions in Islamic literature are popular in Indonesia in the form of these five points.

References


