

Anthropo-Religious Literary Study in the Novel Truntum by Siti Aminah

Dian Nofi Etikasari¹, Prof. Dr. Dra. Sri Harti Widyastuti, M.Hum.²

^{1,2}Master Program of Javanese Language Education, Faculty of Languages, Arts, and Culture, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia

ABSTRACT: This study aims to describe and analyze the religious system and Javanese social system in the novel *Truntum* by Siti Aminah using a literary anthropo-religious approach. The focus is on the representation of values such as submission to divine will (*pasrah*), acceptance (*nrima*), filial piety, social hierarchy, and the characters' inner negotiations when facing tensions between customary norms and humanitarian values. This research employs a qualitative descriptive-interpretative method. Data consist of narrative units representing religious and social systems, collected through intensive reading and systematic note-taking. Data analysis follows the stages of data reduction, data display, and reflective conclusion drawing, grounded in literary anthropology theory and György Lukács's concept of the novel as a modern epic. The findings reveal eighteen major themes indicating that the religious system is not portrayed as passive submission but as submission after effort, reflecting inner maturity. Meanwhile, the Javanese social system is characterized by strong customary control, family hierarchy, and indirect communication ethics. The interaction of these systems generates inner conflict, ascetic restraint, and reconciliation, positioning *Truntum* as a reflection of modern Javanese culture negotiating tradition, religiosity, and human values.

KEYWORDS: Anthropo-Religious Literature; Javanese Novel; Religious System; Javanese Social System; Literary Anthropology; Cultural Studies

I. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a cultural product that reflects social dynamics, values, and belief systems of society. As a modern literary genre, the novel has the capacity to represent the complexity of human life narratively. In the context of modern Javanese literature, the novel *Truntum* by Siti Aminah presents issues of marriage customs, power relations within the family, and the inner struggles of characters living under the dominance of Javanese social and religious systems.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive-interpretative method. The primary data source is the novel *Truntum* by Siti Aminah. The data consist of narrative units in the form of words, phrases, sentences, and dialogues representing religious and Javanese social systems. Data were collected through intensive reading and systematic note-taking. The researcher acted as the main instrument, supported by data categorization tables. Data validity was ensured through prolonged engagement and theoretical triangulation.

III. RESULTS

The results indicate eighteen major findings representing the religious system and Javanese social system in the novel *Truntum*. The religious system is reflected through values such as *pasrah*, *nrima*, filial piety, ascetic restraint (*laku prihatin*), guilt, repentance, and forgiveness. These values form the spiritual framework guiding the characters in responding to customary pressure and social expectations.

IV. DISCUSSION

The interaction between the religious system and the Javanese social system generates complex inner conflicts. *Pasrah* in the novel is not portrayed as passive resignation but as a conscious spiritual choice following effort and moral struggle. From Lukács's perspective, *Truntum* represents a modern epic that reflects the crisis of the individual confronting social totality and cultural constraints in Javanese society.

V. CONCLUSION

The novel *Truntum* represents the religious system and Javanese social system dynamically and reflectively. The religious system functions as a medium for inner processing and moral reflection, while the social system operates as a structure laden with customary pressure. Their interaction generates inner conflict, ascetic practices, and reconciliation, positioning *Truntum* as a reflection of modern Javanese culture negotiating tradition, religiosity, and human values.

REFERENCES

- 1) Endraswara, S. (2013). *Metodologi Penelitian Antropologi Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Ombak.
- 2) Koentjaraningrat. (2009). *Pengantar Ilmu Antropologi*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.
- 3) Lukács, G. (1971). *The Theory of the Novel*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- 4) Ratna, N. K. (2011). *Antropologi Sastra: Perkenalan Awal*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- 5) Siti Aminah. (2021). *Truntum*. Yogyakarta: Stiletto Book.



There is an Open Access article, distributed under the term of the Creative Commons Attribution – Non Commercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits remixing, adapting and building upon the work for non-commercial use, provided the original work is properly cited.