

ABSTRACT

Indiwara Pandu Widyaningrum. 2022. *The Ambivalence in Search of National Identity and Postcolonial Identity in Three Selected Novels*. Yogyakarta: The Graduate Program in English Language Studies. Sanata Dharma University.

This research investigates the ambivalence in search of national identity and postcolonial identity in the indigenous and Dutch Indonesian depicted in Tash Aw's *Map of the Invisible World* (2009), Leila Chudori's *Home* (2015) and Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love* (2006). Set in three different eras, this study analyzes the representation of Indonesia from independence, New Order until reform era. This study problematizes two main issues, namely decolonization of Indonesia in different postcolonial subjectivities and how the ambivalence affects them.

The theoretical foundation of this research employs an array of concepts developed by Benedict Anderson's imagined communities, Homi Bhabha's hybridity and Gayatri Spivak's strategic essentialism. Under the umbrella of postcolonialism as the approach, this study critiques Anderson's concept how nation is imagined represented in the novels. The concept of hybridization from Bhabha revises the homogenization underlying Anderson's concept. In addition, Spivak in her concept of strategic essentialism turns out to be vague and often misunderstood. The misused of strategic essentialism might lead to neocolonialism and self-orientalism which justifies the barriers between East and West.

The three novels show that Indonesia and the postcolonial subjectivities are in the process of becoming and decolonization of the mind. Through the hybridization in the postcolonial subjects, the negotiated postcolonial identity always results in ambivalence. The results indicate that the ex-colonized people are still attached with the residue of colonial mentality such as inferiority and dependency complex. In addition, the question towards home triggers the ambivalence. As a result, decolonization turns out to be difficult. Finally, the negotiated postcolonial identity is fluid because of the ambivalence in postcolonial subjectivities and the unstable socio-political condition in the nation.

Keywords: Ambivalence, Decolonization, Identity, Indonesia, Postcolonial

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Penelitian ini menyelidiki ambivalensi dalam pencarian identitas nasional dan identitas pascakolonial pada orang pribumi dan keturunan campuran Belanda-Indonesia yang digambarkan dalam *Map of the Invisible World* karya Tash Aw (2009), *Home* karya Leila Chudori (2015) dan *Eat, Pray, Love* karya Elizabeth Gilbert (2006). Berlatar tiga era berbeda, penelitian ini menganalisis Indonesia dari masa kemerdekaan, Orde Baru hingga era reformasi. Dalam diskusi, penelitian ini mengangkat dua isu utama, yaitu dekolonialisasi Indonesia dalam subjektivitas pascakolonial ambivalen yang berbeda dan bagaimana ambivalensi mempengaruhi subjektivitas pascakolonial yang berbeda.

Landasan teori penelitian ini menggunakan berbagai konsep dari Anderson tentang komunitas terbayang, konsep hibriditas dari Bhabha dan strategi esensialisme oleh Spivak. Di bawah payung poskolonialisme sebagai pendekatan, penelitian ini mengkritik konsep Anderson bagaimana bangsa dibayangkan di dalam karya sastra. Konsep hibridisasi dari Bhabha merevisi homogenisasi yang mendasari konsep Anderson. Selain itu, Spivak dalam konsep strategi essensialisme ternyata berakhir ambigu dan sering disalahpahami. Strategi esensialisme yang disalahgunakan dapat mengarah pada neokolonialisme dan *self-orientalism* yang memperkuat batasan antara Timur dan Barat.

Ketiga novel menunjukkan bahwa Indonesia dan subjektivitas pascakolonial dalam proses yang terus bertumbuh dan dekolonialisasi mental. Melalui hibridasi pada subjektivitas pascakolonial, identitas yang dinegosiasikan selalu menghasilkan ambivalensi. Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa penduduk bekas jajahan masih terikat dengan sisa-sisa mentalitas kolonial seperti inferioritas dan ketergantungan kompleks. Sementara itu, pertanyaan terhadap rumah memicu ambivalensi. Akibatnya, dekolonialisasi menjadi hal yang sulit. Akhirnya, identitas pascakolonial yang dinegosiasikan bersifat cair karena ambivalensi dalam subjektivitas pascakolonial dan kondisi sosial-politik negara yang tidak stabil.

Kata kunci: Ambivalensi, Dekolonisasi, Identitas, Indonesia, Pascakolonial