

STUDY OF INTERTEXTUALITY IN NOVEL “CANTIK ITU LUKA” BY EKA KURNIAWAN

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Abstract

This article aims to analyze the intertextuality in the novel “Cantik Itu Luka” by Eka Kurniawan, which is one of the famous works of modern Indonesian literature. This research uses a qualitative method with an intertextual approach, which focuses on the relationship between this text and other literary works, both local and international. In this study, the author will identify intertextual elements such as quotations, allusions, and influences from previous texts that make up the narrative of the novel. Initial predictions from the results of the study show that the use of intertextuality in “Cantik itu Luka” not only enriches the meaning of the story but also serves as a social critique of gender and identity issues in Indonesian society. Thus, this article is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how Eka Kurniawan uses intertextuality to create a dialogue between literary texts and broader socio-cultural contexts. Through this analysis, it is hoped that readers can see the relevance and contribution of this novel in the development of contemporary Indonesian literature and how intertextuality can be a tool to convey critical messages in literary works. This research also opens up opportunities for further exploration of the impact of intertextuality in other modern literary works.

Keywords – *Intertextuality, Beauty is Wound, Eka Kurniawan, Social Criticism, Modern Literature*

Introduction

The study of intertextuality in literary works is an approach that is gaining increasing attention among academics and literary enthusiasts. One of the novels that is interesting to analyze from this perspective is “Cantik Itu Luka” by Eka Kurniawan. This novel, first published in 2002, has become one of the most famous and widely discussed works of modern Indonesian literature. With a complex storyline and deep characters, Kurniawan manages to create a narrative that not only evokes the reader's emotions, but also depicts Indonesia's social and cultural realities in a unique way.

Intertextuality in “Beautiful Is Wounded” Intertextuality refers to the relationship between one text and another, where elements from previous works can influence the meaning and interpretation of a new text. In the context of “Cantik itu Luka”, intertextual analysis will reveal how Kurniawan integrates quotations, allusions, and influences from various literary works, both local and international. This approach not only enriches the meaning of the story, but also provides a critical perspective on gender and identity issues in Indonesian society.

Research Objectives This article aims to analyze the intertextual elements in the novel “Cantik Itu Luka”. Using qualitative methods and intertextual approaches, this study will identify how Kurniawan builds narratives through dialogue with other texts. The results of the analysis are expected to show that the use of intertextuality in this novel serves as a profound social critique of women's conditions and gender dynamics in Indonesia.

The Significance of Kurniawan's Work By Eka Kurniawan not only contributes to the development of contemporary Indonesian literature but also opens up opportunities for further exploration of the impact of intertextuality in other modern literary works. Through this study, it is hoped that readers can understand more deeply how intertextuality can be a tool to convey critical messages in literary works, as well as see the relevance of this novel in a broader socio-cultural context.

Thus, this article will not only examine the technical aspects of intertextuality but also explore the social meanings contained in "Beautiful That Wound", providing new insights for readers and literary researchers.

Methodology

This research theory uses the approach of intertextuality, which is a theory that was first introduced by Julia Kristeva in the 1960s. Intertextuality refers to the relationship between one text and another, where each text is considered as a mosaic of quotations and transformations of other texts. In the context of literature, this theory emphasizes that a work does not stand alone, but rather is intertwined with previous works through various elements such as quotations, allusions, and the influence of writing style.

In this study, intertextuality was used to analyze the novel "Cantik Itu Luka" by Eka Kurniawan. The research will focus on how Kurniawan integrates intertextual elements to build a narrative that is rich in meaning and provides social critique of gender and identity issues in Indonesian society. Thus, the theory of intertextuality will be the main framework in this analysis, allowing researchers to dig deeper into the relationship between this text and other literary works.

This research method uses a qualitative method with an intertextual analysis approach. Here are the steps to be taken in the study:

1. **Data Collection:** Collecting data on the novel “Cantik itu Luka” as well as other relevant literary works both locally and internationally. This includes texts quoted or referenced in novels as well as works that have similar themes or issues.
2. **Identify Intertextual Elements:** Identify intertextual elements in the novel, such as direct quotations, allusions, and references to other texts. The researcher will note specific parts of the novel that show a relationship with other works.
3. **Text Analysis:** Conduct an in-depth analysis of the intertextual elements that have been identified. Researchers will explore how these elements contribute to the overall meaning of the novel and how they create a dialogue between “Cantik itu Luka” and the socio-cultural context in Indonesia.

4. Social Criticism: Analyzes how the use of intertextuality in novels serves as a social critique of gender and identity issues. The researcher will consider how Kurniawan uses references from other texts to strengthen his social argument.

5. Preparation of Results and Conclusions: Compile the results of the analysis in the form of a clear and systematic narrative, and draw conclusions about the contribution of intertextuality in the development of the meaning of the novel and its relevance in the context of contemporary Indonesian literature.

Through this method, the research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how Eka Kurniawan utilizes intertextuality as a tool to convey critical messages in her work. In addition, this research also opens up opportunities for further exploration of the impact of intertextuality in other modern literary works.

Finding and Discussion

This research aims to explore the intertextual elements found in the novel *Cantik itu Luka* by Eka Kurniawan. Intertextuality, a concept put forward by Julia Kristeva, states that each text is part of a network of other texts, and the meaning of a literary work is formed through the relationships between texts. Based on this theory, this study analyzes how Eka Kurniawan uses intertextual elements in the novel to enrich narrative meaning and convey social criticism.

This research successfully identified several significant intertextual elements in *Pretty That Wound*. The results of these findings are presented in the form of tables and descriptions that explain the influence of intertextual elements on the narrative in the novel. Here is a summary of the key findings:

Intertextual Elements	Description	Example
Quotes	The novel contains excerpts from classic and modern literary works that enrich the narrative.	A quote from a famous poem or novel used to describe a character's condition.
Alusi	An allusion to Indonesian mythology and folklore that gives depth to the theme.	References to folk tales that reflect women's struggles.
Socio-Cultural References	Describe the social and cultural conditions of Indonesia, especially gender and identity issues.	Mention of traditions or social norms that affect the life of the main character.
Dialogue with Other Works	The creation of a dialogue between this novel and other texts, both local and international.	A comparison between the character's experiences with characters from other works such as "Madame Bovary".
Social Criticism	The use of intertextuality as a tool to convey criticism of gender and identity issues.	Narratives that show the social impact of patriarchal norms on women.

Based on the results of this analysis, it can be concluded that Eka Kurniawan intelligently uses various intertextual elements to build a complex and profound narrative. This creates layers of meaning that allow the reader to interpret the novel from a variety of perspectives. In this case, the use of intertextuality not only serves to enrich stories, but also as a means to convey sharp social criticism of various issues in society.

Discussion

In this discussion, the results of the research are outlined by referring to the theory of intertextuality put forward by Julia Kristeva. According to Kristeva, each text is a network consisting of quotations from other texts. Therefore, the understanding of a text cannot be done in isolation, but must be seen in the context of the relationship between the texts more broadly. With this approach, we can see how Eka Kurniawan uses intertextual elements to enrich the story and build social criticism in *Cantik itu Luka*.

1. Quotes and References

The use of quotations and allusions in *Cantik itu Luka* shows how Eka Kurniawan participated in a wider literary tradition. This text not only stands alone, but is connected with other literary works, both classical and modern. In Kristeva's theory of intertextuality, text is a mosaic of quotations that form a new meaning by incorporating elements from other works. In the novel, excerpts from famous literary works are used to describe the psychological and social conditions of the main characters. For example, references to works related to women's suffering or the exploration of beauty that is central to the narrative. The allusions to Indonesian mythology and folklore also enrich the dimension of the novel's meaning, adding depth to themes such as beauty, suffering, and women's struggles in the face of patriarchal systems.

2. Socio-Cultural References

In *Cantik itu Luka*, Eka Kurniawan carefully integrates Indonesian socio-cultural elements, especially those related to gender and identity issues. The novel powerfully illustrates how social norms, especially those related to women, affect the life experiences of individuals. Through intertextual elements, Kurniawan invites readers to reflect on the impact of the patriarchal culture that dominates Indonesian society. This socio-cultural reference is very important in the context of reading Indonesian literary works, because it provides insight into the social conditions that affect the formation of characters in stories.

Kurniawan describes how women in Indonesia, especially in the context of this novel, are trapped in social constructs that limit their freedom. The mention of traditions, norms, and taboos in Indonesian society becomes an intertextual element that connects stories with existing social reality. It invites readers to understand how culture and traditions can affect one's life experience.

3. Dialogue with Other Works

One of the aspects that stands out in *Cantik Itu Luka* is how this novel creates a dialogue with other works, both local and international. In this case, the works of world literature serve as a reference that enriches the narrative and provides a broader perspective. For

example, there is a clear dialogue between *Beautiful That Wound* and Gustave Flaubert's novel *Madame Bovary*. These two works share a similar theme, namely the struggle of a woman who is trapped in a life full of disappointment and unhappiness. By including elements from other works, Kurniawan not only enriches the narrative, but also invites readers to see the experiences of his characters from a broader perspective, both in the context of global and local literature.

4. Social Criticism

One of the most powerful dimensions of *Pretty That Wound* is the social critique expressed through intertextual elements. Eka Kurniawan uses references from other literary works to strengthen her arguments on gender and identity issues. This novel depicts the impact of patriarchal norms on women, who are often trapped in roles defined by society. In this case, intertextuality serves as a tool to convey a profound social message.

The social criticism delivered by Kurniawan is sharp, describing how the patriarchal system limits women's freedom, even in the most personal aspects. By connecting this work with other works that have similar themes, Kurniawan not only discusses gender issues in the Indonesian context, but also opens up a broader discussion about the condition of women in global literature.

5. Theoretical

Krizeva's intertextual approach provides an important perspective in reading *Beautiful That Luka*. This novel is not just a story, but a complex semiotic practice in which various sounds and meanings interact with each other. This confirms that reading a literary work cannot be done by seeing it as a separate entity, but rather must be seen in the context of a broader network of texts. Every element in the novel, from quotations to sociocultural references, contributes to the overall understanding.

Thus, through the careful use of intertextual elements, Eka Kurniawan succeeds in creating a work that is not just a story, but also a profound social critique of gender and identity issues in Indonesian society.

Conclusions

This study aims to identify and analyze the intertextual elements in the novel *Cantik itu Luka* by Eka Kurniawan. Through this study, it was found that the use of intertextuality in the novel plays an important role in enriching the narrative meaning and providing a deep social dimension. Intertextual elements such as quotations, allusions, socio-cultural references, dialogue with other literary works, and social criticism, all contribute to constructing complex narratives and conveying important messages about gender, identity, and the patriarchal system in Indonesian society.

The application of Julia Kristeva's theory of intertextuality in this study shows that *Cantik Itu Luka* is not only a stand-alone literary work, but a text that is connected to a network of other texts. Through the use of quotations and allusions, Kurniawan not only refers to classical and modern literary works, but also creates dialogues that enrich narrative meaning and allow readers to see themes such as beauty, women's suffering, and social injustice in a

broader context. References to Indonesian mythology and folklore, as well as depictions of socio-cultural conditions related to gender issues, also show how social norms shape the character's experiences in the novel.

The social criticism conveyed in this novel is also very clear and sharp. Eka Kurniawan uses intertextual elements to voice criticism of the roles and restrictions imposed on women in Indonesian society. This shows that the use of intertextuality not only enriches stories, but also serves as a tool to convey profound social messages about gender inequality and the existence of women in patriarchal systems. By creating a connection between this work and other literary works, both local and international, Kurniawan shows how literary traditions can provide new insights in understanding existing social conditions.

Overall, this study confirms that *Cantik Itu Luka* is a work full of meaning and dimensions that can be understood more deeply through an intertextual approach. Eka Kurniawan's use of intertextual elements not only enriches the story but also invites the reader to reflect on relevant social issues, as well as realize that literary texts are always within a wider network, which includes social, cultural, and historical contexts. This makes *Cantik Itu Luka* an important example in contemporary literary studies, making a significant contribution to our understanding of literature, identity, and socio-culture in Indonesia

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