SOCIAL CONDITION AS REFLECTED IN ANDREA HIRATA’S NOVEL, “LASKAR PELANGI”

A THESIS

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ABSTRACT


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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.6 Background of the Study

Everyone has their will to express what in their mind. No matter it is, sadness, romantic, anger, or whatever he feels about the surroundings, people need to express it. There are many ways to do, whether to speak it or just write it. For written-way expressing, literature is one of the mediums. What is literature? Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly speaking, "literature" is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Literature represents a language or a people: culture and tradition. But, literature is more important than just a historical or cultural artifact.

Wellek and Warren (1977:94) states “Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation”. They are conventions and norm which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature ‘represent’ ‘life’; and ‘life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, eventhough the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary. Literature introduces us to new worlds of experience.

The product of literature named literary works, and it has some, such as Drama, Novel, Prose, Short Story, Poem, etc. Prose derives from Latin word ‘prosa oratio’, means ‘straightforward’. Prose includes novel, short stories, romances, essays, and so on. Drama derives from the Greek word ‘dram’ which
means ‘to do’ or ‘to act’. Drama is performed on a stage. Poetry derives etymologically from the Greek word ‘poiesis’ which means ‘a making, forming, creating (in words), or the art of poetry, or a poem’.

Novel is a long prose narrative that usually describes fictional characters and events in the form of a sequential story. Novel can be divided into two, fictional and non-fictional. Fictional novel is a novel that is created with minded contents, everything in it is just made by the author, while non-fictional novel, can be known as true story novel, is when the contents of the novel is made by the experience of somebody in life, and be expressed in the novel. The genre has historical roots in the fields of medieval and early modern romance and in the tradition of the novella.

The story in novel certainly has characters, the characters most certainly are human being. So does Laskar Pelangi. Laskar Pelangi is a novel by Andrea Hirata which written based on real event in live. This novel talks about realities and education in Indonesia that time. Actually the laskar pelangi is a nickname given by his teacher, Muslimah because of their hobby to climb filicium trees after rain. They regarded the rainbow as their symbol of their ideals. The eleven children of the rainbow troops named Ikal, Lintang, Mahar, Sahara, Akiong, Harun, Trapani, Syahdan, Kucai, Borek and Flo. They always go together and do all the joy and sorrow together.

The Belitong village children were never give up although the condition never in line with their expectations, living in the poverty. They always try, try, and try anymore. They thirst with science which just they know from the
newspaper from the capital city which comes late every month. But they always try and they for the first time, a bad school can won the science olympiade.

There are some social problems faced by the characters in the novel, and they can be proofs to prove how the social condition that time is. How they struggle for being alive, facing some social problems in every condition they are within. The writer is interested in analyzing social condition in the novel, especially where the novel takes place and time. So, the writer titled this study “Social Condition in Belitong reflected in Andrea Hirata’s Laskar Pelangi”.

1.7 Problems of the study

The problems of this study are:

- What are the social problems reflected in Andrea Hirata’s Laskar Pelangi?
- How are the social problems figured out in the novel?

1.8 Objectives of the study

By concerning to the problems of the analysis as mentioned above, the writer does expect to be able to achieve the objective below:

- To elaborate and reveal the social condition in Belitong as reflected in Andrea Hirata’s Laskar Pelangi

1.9 Scope of the study

In the literary work such as novel, it has intrinsic and extrinsic unsure. Intrinsic elements are characters, plot, setting, point of view, theme, and intends. While extrinsic elements are moral value, social values, and cultural values, they
can be known by knowing social background of the author, background of the literary work, when the novel was written, and biography of the author. The scope of this study is the extrinsic element, which is the social condition of Belitong reflected in the Laskar Pelangi. In analyzing social condition, we have to find some social problems in it.

1.10 Significances of the study

The significances which are hoped in doing this analysis are, to enrich the scientific research dealing with the discussion of social condition reflected in literary works. This analysis could give some information about social condition of Indonesia, especially in Belitong, at the time as reflected in the novel. This analysis could also practically be used as a consideration for the readers who are interested in learning the relation between literary works and the social condition around the literary works are made.
2.2 Review of Study

2.2.1 Literary sociology

Literary sociology comes from sociology and literature. Literature is a reflection of society. Through literature, the authors reveal the problems of life. Literary works received influence from society and also be able to make an impact on society. Sociology can be defined as the science or systematic knowledge about the life of human groups in relation to other human beings is generally called society.

Literature presents a picture of life, and life itself is a social reality. In this sense, life includes relationships between people, between people with individuals, between people, and between the events that occur in someone’s mind. However, the events that occur in someone’s mind that often the material of literature, is a reflection of someone’s relationship with other people or with the public and foster particular social attitudes or even to trigger certain social events.

Sociology is the study of human social institutions and processes are objective and scientific society. Sociology is trying to figure out how society is possible, how it progresses, and how they stay there. By studying the social institutions and the problems of economic, religious, political and others - all of which form the social structure-we get an overview of the ways people adapt to their environment, socialization mechanisms, civilizing process that puts members of the public in their respective places. Indeed, sociology and literature share the
same problems. As well as sociology, literature also deals with people in the community as a business man and his efforts to adapt to changing society. Thus, the novel can be considered as an attempt to re-create the social world of human relationships with the family, the environment, politics, the state, economy, and so that is also a matter of sociology. It can be concluded that sociology can provide a useful explanation of the literature, and it can even be said that without sociology, our understanding of the literature is not yet complete.

Approach to literature that considers the social aspects are called the sociology of literature by using text analysis to know structure, to be used to understand the deeper social phenomena outside literature.

Sociological approach to literature the most widely practiced today paid great attention to the documentary aspects of literature and its foundation is the idea that literature is a mirror of its time. This view assumes that literature is a direct mirror of the various aspects of the social structure of kinship, class conflict, and others. In the literature it is the task of sociology is to connect the experience of fictional characters and situations created by the author with a state historical origin. Themes and styles that exist in the literature of a personal nature must be changed into things that are social.

2.2.2 Sociological approach to literature

Sociological approach to literature the most widely practiced today paid great attention to the documentary aspects of literature and its foundation is the idea that literature is a mirror of its time. In the literature it is the task of sociology is to connect the experience of fictional characters and situations created by the author.
Real relationship between literature and society by Wellek and Werren (1956: 84) can be studied through:

a. Sociology of Author

Regarding the issue of author as producer of literary works. Concerned about social status, social ideology author, and order outside the literary author. In this case, including some factors that affect the author in creating literature. Is it for gaining some financial aspect, or just be professional or it is a hobby, for the idealist ones.

b. Sociology of Literature

Concerning the existence of the work itself, which contains the contents of a literary work, goals, and other things are implied in a literary work itself, and related social problems. It also analyzes whether literature reveals social phenomenon, such as the condition when the work is created, moral values, condition of politics, education, or religion in life that time.

c. Sociology of Reader

Reader questioning and social influence of the work, i.e the extent to which the social impact of literature for its readers (Wellek and Werren, 1990: 111). In this way, author has to know who the main target of his work is.

Some insight and opinion on the sociology of literature concluded that this approach is an approach to literature by not leaving aspects of society, including the background of the life of the author and readers of literary works.
Literary works known to us as the work of the imagination that was born not on empty soul but also the reality of what happened around author. It is certainly not out of the elements that build the literature covering intrinsic elements (literary elements that build from within) and extrinsic elements (elements that construct literary works from the outside). One example is the study of literature extrinsic social conflicts that are covered in the study of the sociology of literature.

Sociology is the scientific study of literature and objective of the human society, the institutions and social processes. Sociology examines the social structure and social processes including social changes that studies social institutions, religious, economic, political and so on at the same time and social structure in order to obtain a picture of how humans adapt to the environment, social and cultural mechanisms. Literature as sociology dealing with human beings, because their presence in the community to be enjoyed and utilized by the community itself. Literature as social institutions uses language as a medium because language is a form of social expression that represents a snapshot of life.

According to Wellek (1977), there are basically two approaches in analyzing literary works, namely intrinsic and extrinsic approach. The elements are the elements in the adaptation of the content of literary works, such as theme, plot or plot, characterization, style and characterizations. While extrinsic elements such as external influences contained in literary works that include sociology, politics, philosophy, anthropology and others. Science is supporting the development of literature; the sciences are so closely related to the literature.
Extrinsic element of literary analysis is the analysis of literature itself in terms of its content, and all may see the relation with realities outside of literature itself.

In this analysis, the writer uses extrinsic approach, especially sociological approach, because it is the most suitable approach to understand about social life in this novel. The sociological approach or approach something extrinsic usually disputed tract of literature and society are narrow and externally. That question is usually about the relationship of literature and social situation, economic systems, social customs, and political. It is understandable that when someone wants to know the state of sociological work of a particular period is written, we are not necessarily familiar with the society that existed at that time, but at least we can know where the theme of which is roughly at the time the dominant sociological approach.

Something that needs to be understood in a sociological approach is that even if an author describes the social conditions in the environment, but it is not necessarily the people voice their wishes. From the sense that it does not represent the desires or distribute certain population groups, the author definitely distribute or represent his own conscience, and if he happened to say something that is volatile in the community this is a chance to capture the sharpness of his mind these cues. From the views above it can be concluded that the analysis of the sociology of literature aims to explain carefully the functions and linkages between elements that build a literature of social aspects of authors, readers, and social symptoms.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

3.5 Method of the study

The term of “method” refers to some steps that be done by researcher, which will be taken in conducting the study. The steps are as follows:

3.5.1 Method of the Research.

In the process of completing this thesis library research is the relevant theories to support the analysis from the written sources, such as text books, internet, thesis, and dictionaries. Nawawi (1991: 30) states Penelitian kepustakaan dilakukan dengan menghimpun data dari berbagai literature baik diperpustakaan maupun di tempat lain (Library research is carried out by accumulating all the data from the various literature either in library or the other places that provides the data which are needed for the analysis of this thesis. In addition qualitative research is the relevant theories to analysis the data. Strauss (1990: 17) states qualitative research is a kind of research that findings not arrived at by means of statistical procedures or other means of quantitative. It refers to the meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of things.

In doing the study of this thesis, it focuses on social conditions which are described in Andrea Hirata’s novel, Laskar Pelangi. The study walks on the method is called descriptive qualitative method. Through this method, described about what really happened in Belitong at the time, reflected in the novel.
3.6 Sources Data

The data presented in this analysis are intended to describe the social condition reflected on the novel. This study, the writer uses library research method, because the data are taken from some books and supported by some data which are taken from internet. The data which is going to be analyzed in this proposal is Andrea Hirata’s novel, *Laskar Pelangi*.

3.7 Data Collecting

Saifuddin Azwar in his book *Metode Penelitian* states that “Data Penelitian dikumpulkan baik lewat instrumen pengumpulan data, observasi, maupun lewat data dokumentasi”. Based on the theory above, the data are collected from a novel, *Laskar Pelangi*.

The steps in collecting the data in this analysis are;

1. Reading the complete novel.
2. Figuring out the social condition reflected on the novel.

3.8 Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, a descriptive method is appeared. According to Azwar (2004: 126)

“Analisis deskriptif bertujuan untuk memberikan deskripsi mengenai subjek penelitian berdasarkan data dari variabel yang diperoleh dari kelompok subjek yang diteliti dan tidak dimaksudkan untuk pengujuan hipotesis”.

Based on the theory, the present analysis walks on particular theory composed by Wellek and Warren in Sapardi Djoko Damono’s *Sosiologi Sastra* which states that literary works in wide or narrow sight affects the readers of these
works and ultimately, those works give a significant influence toward social condition existing at the time. (Damono 1977:3-4)
CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND ANALYSIS

The existence of chapter 4 is to answer the problem of the study namely to show what is the social condition that reflect in the novel. The writer will answer the problem based on analyzing side by side. When it is finished to be analized, people will get the answers of problem of the study.

Talk about social condition that reflected in *Laskar Pelangi* the writer will analize from three side, hopely by analizing the three side the problem of the study will be clearly found.

4.1 Belitong

It is a medium sized island of about 3,000 square miles (7,800 km²), it consists of moderately rugged terrain with several hills. The highest one is Mount Tajam with the height of only less than 500 meters (1,600 ft). Belitong is bordered by the Gaspar Strait, the South China Sea and the Java Sea. Its turquoise blue sea is moderately calm and shallow, making for great sailing, snorkeling and swimming. Belitong is popular for its abstract granite boulders and brilliant white sand beaches in Tanjung Tinggi, Tanjung Kelayang, Tanjung Binga and Lengkuas Island.

Belitong is a source of tin, clay, iron ore and silica sands. The Dutch mining company NV Billiton Maatschappij derives its name from the island's name. Billiton merged with BHP in 2001 to form the largest diversified resources company, BHP Billiton. The island is also a producer of fishery products, pepper, coconut, and palm oil. People work as farmers, fishermen and miners. The island
is easily accessible with 4 daily 50-minute flights from Jakarta. Due to the fantastic white sand beaches and picturesque offshore islands, tourism is starting to become a larger part of the local economy.

4.2 School

School is dominantly explain in the novel it is described by showing the reality of difference between PN Timah school and Muhammadiyah school. In this case the writer will analize it from three side as here below explained.

The existence of the different building caused an irony of school condition of the novel. There is a big different of the building here as showed in some paragraphs

\[Diujung\ bangku-bangku\ panjang\ tadi\ ada\ sebuah\ pintu\ terbuka,\ kosen\ pintu\ itu\ miring\ karena\ bangunan\ sekolah\ sudah\ doyong\ sehingga\ akan\ rubuh.\ (bab\ 1\ hal\ 1\ par\ 2)\]

The paragraph above is the explanation of SD Muhammadiyah building, it can be concluded that it is unsuitable building to use for studying from the condition of the door, the building it self as if to ruin. It is clearer explained by the paragraph below

\[Tak\ susah\ melukiskan\ sekolah\ kami,\ karena\ sekolah\ kami\ adalah\ salah\ satu\ dari\ ratusan\ atau\ mungkin\ ribuan\ sekolah\ miskin\ diseantero\ negeri\ ini\ yang\ jika\ disenggol\ sedikit\ saja\ oleh\ kambing\ yang\ senewen\ ingin\ kawin,\ bisa\ rubuh\ berantakan\ (bab\ 3\ par\ 1\ hal\ 17)\]
There is a hyperbole of the paragraph above namely by the condition of the building even the goat which will reproduce move it will ruin, a contradiction that really never be but it is the reality of the school. It is really different with PN Timah school, it is described by these some paragraph

Lonceng kami adalah besi bulat berlubang-lubang bekas tungku. Dipapan tulis terpampang gambar matahari dengan garis-garis sinar berwarna putih...... (Bab 3 par 5 hal 18).

The statement above is a continuing of school condition and an addition of reflection of the school building

Jika dilihat dari jauh sekolah kami seolah tumpah karena tiang-tiang kayu yang tua sudah tak tegak menahan atap sirap yang berat. Maka sekolah kami sangat mirip gudang kopra. Konstruksi bangunan yang menyalahi prinsip arsitektur ini menyebabkan tak ada daun pintu dan jendela yang bisa dikunci karena sudah tak simetris dengan rangka kusennya. (Bab 3 par 7 hal 19). Maka pada intinya tak ada yang baru dalam pembicaraan tentang sekolah yang atapnya bocor, berdinding papan, berlantai tanah atau kalau malam dipakai untuk menyimpan ternak,..............(Bab 3 par 9 hal 20).

The statements above are also a continuity of reflection at the school added more the change of status in the afternoon and the night. In the afternoon as a school and in the night as stable. Can not be imagined how the smell of the room in the morning. It is really different with PN Timah school, it is described by these some paragraph
Gedung-gedung sekolah PN didesain dengan arsitektur yang tak kalah dengan rumah bergaya Victoria disekitarnya. Ruangan kelasnya dicat warna-warni dengan tempelan gambar kartun yang edukatif, poster operasi dasar matematika, pemetaan kimia, peta dunia, jam dinding, foto penjelajah yang inspirasi, dan ada kapstok topi (par 2)

Not only in building but also a big gate that makes SD PN Timah different with SD Muhammadiyah but also school services for the students such as library, canteen, daily supervisor school, art, laboratory, entertain facility, sport centre and swimming pool and each class have medical box so it has made a big differentiation with SD Muhammdiyah in this story who has only six class of building, it is used by elementary in the morning and junior high school in the afternoon. (Par 3).

4.3 Teacher

Teacher as the main agent of change for student also has a big different in the novel it is described by the statement below

“....... dan tahun ini pak Harfan pesimis dapat memenuhi target sepuluh, maka diam-diam dia sudah mempersiapkan pidato pembubaran sekolah didepan para orang tua murid (bab 1 par 17 hal 5). And continued in the next chapter clearly showed the submission of their selves when Pak Harfan said” Kita tunggu sampai pukul sebelas” (Bab 1 par 18 hal 5)
Kami kekurangan guru dan sebagian besar siswa SD Muhammadiyah kesekolah memakai sandal. Kami bahkan tak punya seragam......................... (Bab 3 par 3 hal 18-19).
The view of the lack of the teacher is not the strange thing in this country even at the time of childhood of the writer, because till today the situation like that still exist and it is an irony for the government today to repair education system either teacher and building of the the school itself. But nothing of uniform of the school add the reflection of a private school who would be opposite with the school condition.

The statement above is reflection of Pak Harfan, headmaster of SD Muhammadiyah, he has been for ten years teaching almost never got salary from his job, even the statement show he fulfill his daily family need from his garden. It really pities the people who actually got salary equal with his sacrifice as a teacher, but he did not get it in this story. He did it by the religion served. In the next paragraph is also told how the style of pak Harfan. He wearied an old cloth. The reflection of Bu Mus as their teacher for nine years in the school. Even the subtitle of this chapter is *perempuan-perempuan perkasa* in other word is wonder woman. This chapter is special described about bu Mus a girl whom only got
certificate Sekolah kepandaian Putri which has no relation with teaching in this chapter informed that she wants to continue his father ambition founder of SD Muhammadiyah (Bab 4 par 2 hal 29) and in the next clearly showed Bu Mus condition

_Tekad ini memberinya kesulitan hidup yang tak terkira, karena kami kekurangan guru-lagipula siapa yang rela diupah beras 15 kilo sebulan? Maka selama enam tahun di SD Muhammadiyah beliau sendiri yang mengajar semua mata pelajaran..... Setelah sehari mengajar semua mata pelajaran , beliau menerima jahitan sampai jauh malam untuk mencari nafkah , menopang hidup dirinya dan adik-adiknya. (Bab 4 par 2 hal 30)_

The statement above is also has the same experience with Pak Harfan has another job outside of teacher namely tailor in the night. There is also his responsibility to fulfill his young sister need. Another irony is she is the only one teacher for all subject from the first till the sixth grade of elementary school.

_“setiap pelajaran ada gurunya masing-masing walaupun baru kelas satu” (par 7)_

The statement above is the reflection of PN Timah teacher one teacher for one subject not like SD muhammadiyah all in one from the first class till the third grade of junior high school have one teacher.

**4.4 Students**

Students is the most one explained in this novel either from the characters or their family life. There is the strange role of school that SD Muhammadiyah faced namely target of ten students and have the risk if it can not
be reached. As people know the can fulfil the standard with a child who has the low mental

It is not enough till the time one of the most interesting to analyze the conditioning is to fill the lack of the student they even add the student who actually take a school at the private school for the people who has the low of mentality and has been fifteen years old when he register in the first class of elementary school. It is showed of the sentences below

“Kami serentak menoleh dan di kejauhan tampak seorang pria kurus tinggi berjalan terseok-seok. Pakaian dan sisiran rambutnya rapi. Ia berkemeja lengan panjang putih yang dimasukkan kedalam. Kaki dan langkahnya membentuk huruf x sehingga jika berjalan membentuk huruf x sehingga kalau berjalan seluruh tubuhnya bergoyang-goyang hebat. Pria itu adalah harun. Pria jenaka sahabat kami semua, yang sudah berusia lima belas tahun dan agak terbelakang mentalnya. Ia sangat gembira dan berjalan cepat setengah berlari tak sabar menghampiri kami. (Bab 1 par 25 hal 7).

It is a funny and also touch our heart where a critical situation is solved by the present of Harun who basically the oldest among of them and has the low mental.

The thing that interested too is the school namely sekolah Muhammadiyah and the reason why they registered their children there. It is described by the sentence’ Adapun sekolah Muhammadiyah, juga sekolah paling miskin di Belitong” (bab 1 par 11 hal 4) from the three of the reasons that described in the eleventh paragraph is the first and the third reason who said SD Muhammadiyah has no regular school fee just free donation from the students. And the third reason they didn’t pass in the other school.
It is better if the social condition of the students one by one explained it is described below

Shahdan, is a child of fisherman is same like Lintang, he thinks all the place is all the same. He has no sense of fashion and no people inform him the different of school and pool. (par 13).

Akiong is a Tionghoa ethnic (the only one of Tionghoa main character in this novel). He has a big face and has standing hair like porcupine, toothless etc. (Par 25) He is also trust in magic, traditional believe like showed in par 26 it is written like the paragraph below

_Dia sangat naïf dan tidak peduli seperti jalak kerbau. Jika kita mengatakan bahwa dunia akan berakhir besok maka ia akan bergegas pulang untuk menjual ayam satu-satunya miliknya, bahkan meskipun sang ayam sedang mengeram. Dunia baginya hitam putih dan hidup bagai jembatan papan lurus yang harus dititi. Par 16 hal 68)_

Kucai is an unlucky man who got bad nutrient when he was baby because he has myopia. The bad of hi physics does not make him feel prestige, shy or another adjective related with, but he is populist, opportunist, and has a big mouth (par 18 page 69). Beside of that he has a wide network so, diligent to speaking and he is really suitable as politician, and he is the chief of the class. (Par 21 page 70)

Trapani, he is a handsome man, he is really honor his mother till to hung teacher’s bicycle must get permission from his mother (par 44 page 75), tame is also one of his own life style it is seemed from how he is delivered to school by his mother even though he lives next to school, and it is happen till the third grade of school. (Par 43 page 75)
Sahara is the only one girl in the class, honest, full of attention, and stuck. (par 45 page 75)

Harun, a man who register to be student when he was fifteen years old has a bad mental, he is polite, friendly and always tidy. He cannot understand all the subject, his habitation is how he always gives the same question in every asking and answering section. (Par 53 page 77)

Boreka a man who has high obsession and it is only from an ex-can which found unintentional. This situation seemed from the paragraph below.

Pria terakhir adalah borek, pada awalnya adia adalah murid biasa, prestasi sekolahnya juga sangat biasa, rata-rata air, tapi pertemuan sengajanya dengan sebuah kaleng minyak bekas penumbuh segala bulu telah mengubah total arah hidupnya. Gambar di kaleng itu memperlihatkan seorang pria bercelana dalam merah, berbadan tinggi besar, berotot kawat tullang besi, dan berbulu laksana sebuah gorilla jantan (par 54 page 78).

The statement above shows the condition of Borek who has full of obsession and he got it at the story.

Lintang is more than enough is decrypted chapter ten and eleven fully explain about Lintang condition. It seems from some statement below.

Dapat dikatakan tak jarang lintang mempertaruhkan nyawanya demi menempuh pendidikan, namun tak sehari pun ia bolos, delapan puluh kilometer ia tempuh setiap hari pulang balik naik sepeda (par 17 page 93. Kesulitan itu belum termasuk jalan yang tergenang air, ban sepeda yang bocor, dan musim hujan berkepanjangan dengan petir yang menyambar-nyambar (par 18 page 94)

Both statements above show far distance of his house and the school and the danger along the road about 80 kilometers, crocodiles, flood road, rainy season, etc. A pity condition which never think before and show the lack of school
existence in every village so he must ride his bicycle for 80 kilometers and it will be return activity every day. It is amazing thing and people can say that Lintang never give up because of condition but he makes it be a motivation so he can go everyday for studying. The condition has made him has everyday high spirit that enable him to do it for a long time. And it can be said as a great job.

Langit ketujuh is the appreciation for Lintang such as his brain. He almost knows everything and he has an absolutely beautiful mind it is showed by the statement of a paragraph

Meskipun rumahnya paling jauh, tapi kalau datang ia paling pagi. Wajah manisnya senantiasa bersinar walaupun baju celana dan sandal cunghainya buruknya minta ampun, namun sungguh kuasa Allah didalam tempurung kepalanya yang ditumbuhi rambut gimbal awut-awutan itu tersimpan cairan otak yang enecer sekali. Pada setiap rangkaian kata yang ditulisnya secara acak-acakan tersirat kecemerlangan pemikiran yang gilang-gemilang. Dibalik tubuhnya yang tak terawat, kotor, miskin serta berbau hangus. Dia memiliki an absolutely beautiful mind, ia adalah buah akal yang jernih, bibit genius asli, yang lahir disebuah tempat nun jauh dipinggir laut, dari sebuah keluarga yang taksatupun bisa membaca (par 20 page 108-109)

Mahar is not directly descrypted with explain his social condition. But it can be clearly said that he is an genius actor who always late to be known. But there is a paragraph which fully explain his social condition.

Tampak jelas jari-jari kurusnya yang berminyak seperti lilin dan ujung-ujung kukunya yang bertaburan bekas-bekas luka kecil sehingga seluruh kukunya hampir cacat. Sejak kelas dua SD Mahar sudah bekerja sampingan sebagai pesuruh tukang parut kelapa di sebuah toko sayur milik seorang Tionghoa miskin. Tangannya berminyak karena berjam-jam meremas ampas kelapa sehingga tampak licin, sedangkan jemari dan kukunya cacat karena disayat gigi-gigi mesin parut yang tajam dan berputar
kencang, mesin itu mengepulkan asap hitam dan harus dihidupkan oleh orang dewasa dengan cara menarik sebuah tuas berulang-ulang, bunyi mesin itu juga merisaukan, suatu bunyi kemelaratan, kerja kersas dan hidup tanpa pilihan. Ia membantu menghidupi keluarga dengan menjadi pesuruh tukang parut karena ayahnya telah lama sakit-sakit.(par 27 hal 134).

He is descrypted as a poor man, it seems from his responsibility to cost his family because of his father has been sick for a long time. He works as coconut rasper. On the statement clearly explain how his hand got scar because of the rasper. It can be said he works till midnight or he works in the morning before he went to school it is seemed from the sign of coconut oil is still in his hand eventhough he has been at school at the statement. In addition the scar of coconut rasper symbolize what a hard the job of coconut rasper.

There are some statement that show the existence of Muhammadiyah teach their student good morality and respect religion roles. It seems from the statement.

“Kita tidak akan pernah menjadi bagian dari segerombolan penipu! Sekolah kita adalah sekolah Islam bermartabat, kita akan menjual kehormatan kita demi sebuah jam tangan plastik murahan” (chap 13 page 152-153 par 44)

That was an disagreement statement at political party which only take the benefit for a moment.

Kucai mengangkangi dahan tertinggi, sedangkan Sahara, satu-satunya betina dalam kawanan itu, bersilang kaki diatas dahan bawah terbawah. Pengaturan seperti itu tentu bukan karena budaya patriarky begitu kental dalam komunitas Melayu, tapi semata-mata karena pakaian sahara tidak memungkinkan ia diatas kami. Ia adalah Muslimah yang menjaga aurat rapat-rapat. (chap 14 par 6 page 159)
The statement above clearly descrypts they fully respect religion role even though they are still children. They did it because of the religion’s roles not cultural roles. Here of the statement it is clear told about the rule of Muhammadiyah school really lead them in their daily activity, even in their spent time.

4.5 Society

The stratification of society is one of the most famous social condition in this novel, in can be looked from subtitle tower of Babel. If people know about the famous story holy bible clearly explain the story where it began from the arrogant of Babel people till they planned to build a tower which the top reach the sky and in the last the tower is ruin. It has similarity with Belitung in the next

Some statement that show social condition of stratification is a gate between the servant of PN Timah with people around as explained below

Persis bersebelahan dengan toko-toko kelontong milik warga Tionghoa ini berdiri tembok tinggi yang panjang dan disana-sini tergantung peringatan "DILARANG MASUK BAGI YANG TIDAK MEMILIKI HAK"

............................................................................................

di Belitong tembok yang angkuh dan berkelok-kelok sepanjang kiloan meter ini adalah sebuah pengukuhan sebuah dominasi dan perbedaan status sosial. (Bab 5 par 2 hal 36)

The statement above is a gate that makes differenciation between both PN Timah is rounded by wall along kilometers so they are separated with another people. It is added by stament below
PN tidak hanya memonomoni faktor produksi terpenting tapi juga mewarisi mental bobrok feodalisis ala Belanda. Sementara sering dialami oleh warga pribumi dimanapun yang sumber daya alamnya diexploitasi habis-habisan, sebagian komunitas di Belitong juga termarginalkan dalam ketidakadilan kompensasi tanah ulayah, persamaan kesempatan, dan trickle down effects. (Bab 5 par 14 hal 40)

PN Timah is compared with Netherland system namely feudalism, region population feel put aside while their natural source is used by PN. It is also decrypted in Belitong.

Chapter six shows the condition of PN Timah live they live in the place which has a gate with Melayu Belitong. It is clearly explained situation of house

Setiap rumah memiliki empat bangunan terpisah yang dsambungkan dengan selaras-selaras panjang. Itulah rumah utama sang majikan, rumah para pembantu, garasi dan gudang-gudang. Selasar-selasar itu mengelilingi kolam kecil yang ditumbuhi the blue water lily yang sangat menawan ditengahnya terdapat patung anak-anak gendut semacan Manequin Piss legenda negeri Belanda. (Bab 6 par 5 hal 43)

It is also added before in one paragraf about the construction of the house and the car that they have.

Hanya beberapa jengkal di luar lingkaran tembok tersaji pemandangan kontras seperti langit dan bumi. Berlebihan jika disebut daerah cumuh tapi tak keliru jika diumpamakan kota yang dilanda gerhana berkepanjangan sejak era pencerahan revolusi industri. Disana, diluar lingkar tembok Gedong hidup komunitas Melayu Belitong yang jika belum punya anak enam belum berhenti beranak-pinak. (Bab 7 par 2 hal 50)
The statement above is a description about a real different of PN Timah and Melayu population. It is not till there the social condition out of the wall is 360 percent different, there is no the rich man some of state school and a village school (Bab 7 par 3 hal 50). All building unite in one location without long planning (par 3) even outside of the wall house of Tionghoa community is different like Tionghoa generally till today they live and work there at the same house (par 5)

There are also seven jobs that live there, worker of PN Timah, shopper, civil servant, jobless, officer of office in village and retired people. All people, goat chicken and all building unite in on location (par 6)

It is also explained menu of urban people who do not know appetizer main course and dessert, like the statement below

_Tidak seperti digedong, jika makan orang urban ini tidak mengenal appetizer sebagai perangsang selera, tak mengenak main course atau pun dessert. Bagi mereka semuanya adalah menu utama. pada musim barat ketika nelayan enggan melaut, menu utama itu adalah ikan gabus tak jarang baskom kecil nasi langsung dijadikan piring. Disitulah ada seguyur gangan, yaitu masakan tradisional dengan bumbu kunir. Ketika makan mereka tak diiringi oleh karya Mozart Haffner no 35 in D major tetapi diiringi rengekan anak-anaknya yang minta dibelikan baju pramuka. (par 6 hal 53)._

In the last sentence of the statement above it is how they are difficult to fulfill their children’s need because as people know uniform as a primer need of school must be forced so their parents buy that.

Centre of excellence is symbol to descript of tyranny of education in Belitung especially symbolize PN Timah school in one of the subtitle of one
chapter, it is proved by the situation of the building, library teachers, students etc. The building is decrypted in this statement below

People can get the reflection of social condition by studying the characters one by one as clearly decrypted in this novel.

Shahdan, is a child of fisherman is same like Lintang, he thinks all the place is all the same. He has no sense of fashion and no people inform him the different of school and pool. (par 13).

Akiong is a Tionghoa ethnic (the only one of Tionghoa main character in this novel). He has a big face and has standing hair like porcupine, toothless etc. (Par 25) He is also trust in magic, traditional believe like showed in par 26 it is written like the paragraph below

\[\text{Dia sangat aktif dan tidak peduli seperti jalak kerbau. Jika kita mengatakan bahwa dunia akan berakhir besok maka ia akan bergegas pulang untuk menjual ayam satu-satunya miliknya, bahkan meskipun sang ayam sedang mengeram. Dunia baginya hitam putih dan hidup baginya bagaikan jembatan papan lurus yang harus dititi. Par 16 hal 68)}\]

Kucai is an unlucky man who got bad nutrient when he was baby because he has myopia. The bad of hi physics does not make him feel prestige, shy or another adjective related with, but he is populist, opportunist, and has a big mouth (par 18 page 69). Beside of that he has a wide network so, diligent to speaking and he is really suitable as politician, and he is the chief of the class. (Par 21 page 70)

Trapani, he is a handsome man, he is really honor his mother till to hung teacher’s bicycle must get permission from his mother (par 44 page 75), tame is also one of his own life style it is seemed from how he is delivered to school by
his mother even though he lives next to school, and it is happen till the third grade of school. (Par 43 page 75)

Sahara is the only one girl in the class, honest, full of attention, and stuck. (par 45 page 75)

Harun, a man who register to be student when he was fifteen years old has a bad mental, he is polite, friendly and always tidy. He cannot understand all the subject, his habitation is how he always gives the same question in every asking and answering section. (Par 53 page 77)

Boreka a man who has high obsession and it is only from an ex-can which found unintentional. This situation seemed from the paragraph below.

Priya terakhir adalah borek, pada awalnya adia adalah murid biasa, prestasi sekolahnya juga sangat biasa, rata-rata air, tapi pertemuan sengajanya dengan sebuah kaleng minyak bekas penumbuh segala bulutelah mengubah total arah hidupnya. Gambar di kaleng itu memperlihatkan seorang pria bercelana dalam merah, berbadan tinggi besar, berotot kawat tullang besi, dan berbulu laksana sebuah gorilla jantan (par 54 page 78).

The statement above shows the condition of Borek who has full of obsession and he got it at the story.

Lintang is more than enough is decrypted and explain to show the social condition of Belitong in the novel. It seems from some statement below.

Dapat dikatakan tak jarang lintang mempertaruhkan nyawanya demi menempuh pendidikan, namun tak sehari pun ia bolos, delapan puluh kilometer ia tempuh setiap hari pulang balik naik sepeda (par 17 page 93.

Kesulitan itu belum termasuk jalan yang tergenang air, ban sepeda yang bocor, dan musim hujan berkepanjangan dengan petir yang menyambar-nyambar (par 18 page 94)
Both statements above show far distance of his house and the school and the danger along the road about 80 kilometers, crocodiles, flood road, rainy season, etc. A pity condition which never think before and show the lack of school existence in every village so he must ride his bicycle for 80 kilometers and it will be return activity every day. It is amazing thing and people can say that Lintang never give up because of condition but he makes it be a motivation so he can go everyday for studying. The condition has made him has everyday high spirit that enable him to do it for a long time. And it can be said as a great job.

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Ayahnya, yang seperti orang Bushman itu, sekarang menganggap keputusan yang menyekolahkan Lintang adalah keputusan yang tepat, paling tidak ia senang melihat semangat anaknya menggelegak. Ia berharap suatu waktu dimasa depan nanti Lintang mampumenyekolahkan lima orang adik-adiknya yang lahir setahun sekali sehingga berderet-deret rapat seperti pagar, dan lebih dari itu ia berharap Lintang dapat mengeluarkan mereka dari lingkaran kemiskinan yang telah lama mengikat mereka sehingga menyulitkan mereka untuk bernapas (par 21 page 95)

The statement above show us the condition of parents that feel proud of their children if have an education, and it is same too in Lintang’s father. To show his pride he even buy a bycicle which specially for a man to support his son.

Gubuk itu beratap daun sagu dan berdinding lelak dari kulit pohon meranti, apapun yang dilakukan orang didalam gubuk itu dapat dilihat dari luar karena dinding kulit kayu yang telah berusia puluhan tahun merekah pecah seperti lumpur pada musim kemarau. Ruangan didalamnya sempit dan berbentuk memanjang dengan dua pintu di depan dan belakang. Seluruh pintu dan jendela tidak memiliki kunci (par 29 page 98).
From the statement above it is a picture of Lintang’s house which actually unsuitable for home. But it is a reality of description of his house wall of the house which full of hole, it is really narrow to be a home for fourteen people there. In the last there is an interesting explanation even it is quite crazy but it can be believed by this statement

*Diluar bangunan sempit memanjang tadi ada semacam pelataran yang digunakan oleh empat orang tua untuk menjalin pukat. Bagian ini hanya ditutup-tutupi beberapa keping papan yang disandarkan saja pada dahan-dahan kapuk yang menjulur, bahkan untuk memaku papan-papan itu pun keluarga itu pun tak punya uang.* (par 30 page 99)

An exaggerated which can be logically caught by brain by looked the other reality, his father is the only one man who works to provide their need every day. Fourteen people daily bread everyday is unbelievable thing if it is fullfilled with fisherman job like Lintang’s father in this novel, so it can be received logically if they do not have money to buy nail. (par 32 page 100)

The writer feels interested to find the meaning of sub title langit ketujuh. It is a description of his genius like the statement who written in the novel. Langit ketujuh symbolize his brain, he was very genius the impossible one which rarely happen in the school that reflected in the novel but it is clearly reflected in the novel. He almost knows everything and he has an absolutely beautiful mind it is showed by the statement of a paragraph

*Meskipun rumahnya paling jauh, tapi kalau datang ia paling pagi. Wajah manisnya senantiasa bersinar walaupun baju celana dan sandal cunghainya buruknya minta ampun, namun sungguh kuasa Allah didalam tempurung kepala yang ditumbuhi rambut gimbal avut-awutan itu tersimpan cairan otak yang enecer sekali. Pada setiap rangkaian kata yang ditulisnya secara acak-
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That was an disagreement statement at political party which only take the benefit for a moment.

"jika kita berhasil melintasi pelangi maka kita akan bertemu dengan orang-orang Belitong tempo dulu dan nenek moyang orang-orang sawang” (chap 14 par 13 page 161)

The statement above is reflection of Mahar story about fairy tale. It show us about his logical thinking about magic power, even it is almost of five chapters explain about his illusions. And in the novel it is told how his school academic decrease rocketly and it is worse when Flo (a child of PN Timah worker who live in Gedong move to Muhammadiyah school). Who knows it is a characteristic of actor or nihil imagination which causes he is changing.

*Kami orang-orang Melayu adalah pribadi-pribadi sederhana yang memperoleh kebijakan hidup dari para guru mengaji dan orang-orang tua disurau-suaru sehabis salat magrib. (chap14 par 16 page 162)*

Those statement above is an addition of clearness story of melayu Belitong namely they are simple person, and they got it from ustad and parents in mosque after sholat maghrib. It show the careness of religion’s principal and the rule of parent in teaching their children after sholat maghrib. It can be concluded
they got it everyday so some statement show their disagreement of them at bad
job.

....... orang Sawang tak jarang menjadi korban stereotip
dikalangan mayoritas Melayu. Setiap perilaku minus tak
ayal langsung diasosiasikan dengan mereka.
........................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................
Orang Sawang senang memarginalkan diri sendiri.
........................................................................................................
.......................................................................................................
Mereka tak memahami konsep
aristokrasi karena kultur mereka tak megenal power
distance. (chap 14 par 23 page 165)

Sawang ethnic is one of minority etnic which have habit isolate with
people around, they did not know birocration concept. They only know a king as
their ethnic leader, it seems from the statement above clearly explain how they
live and work. It show the existence of primitif people in Belitong at the time.

......................................................................................Permainan kuno nan legendaris itu
disebut tarak, Cuma ada stu hal yang agak berlaku umum,
yaitu pohon-pohon karet yang buahnya sekeras batu selalu
berada di tempat-tempat jauh didalam hutan. .............
Didalam tarak, dua buah karet ditumpuk kemudian dipukul
dengan telapak tangan, buah yang tidak pecah adalah
pemenangnya (chap 15 par 3-4 page 168-169)

Seiring dengan semakin gencarnya hujan mengguyur
kampung orang-orang Melayu Belitong, aura tarak
perlhan-lahan redup. (chap 15 par 5 page 169).

Tapi lebih dari itu, yang paling seru adalah permainan
tanpa nama yang melibatkan pelepah-pelepah pohon
pinang hantu. Satu atau dua orang duduk diatas pelepah
selebar sajadah, kemudian dua atau tiga orang lainnya
menarik pelepah itu dengan kencang, maka terjadilah
pemandangan seperti orang main ski es, tapi secara
manual karena ditarik oleh manusia. (chap 15 par 10 page
171)
The three of paragraph above explain about traditional games which they did for each season, as example tarak is played when dry season and will changed when rainy season is coming, the interesting moment that show the social condition is their way to get it all especially for tarak game. And the more interesting thing of social condition that show in the stament is how they are creatively play game with environment source. One more is how the character of children who greatly happy playing games never give their attention about the risk that happen if they do that.


The paragraph above is Belitong’s population activity when dry season, Tionghoa ethnic do their habit and it is said they are only a little bit clean people there. It is really different with sawang ethnic who sleep out of their house caused of hot temperature of the season if they sleep under the roof.

Nama burung pelintang pulau selalu menarik perhatian siapa saja, terutama dipesisir. Sebagian orang malah menganggap burung ini semacam makhluk gaib. Nama burung ini mampu menggetarkan nurani orang-orang pesisir sehubungan dengan nilai-nilai mitos dan pesan yang dibawanya (chap 16 par 15 page183)

Orang-orang Melayu pesisir percaya bahwa jika burung ini singgah dikampung maka pertanda dilaut sedang terjadi badai hebat atau angin puting belitung. (chap 16 par 19 page 184)
Both paragraph above show the social condition of Melayu who live next to the beach that believe in ‘burung pelintang’. It is believed that if it passes their village means disaster will come such as bad storm and hard wind will come. A myth that has been existed for along time and still believed till at the time of the story told.

The paragraph above show the social condition of their mind about market, it sounds good for one situation and will be disaster in one situation. It means the lack of educated people has made them isolated.

The statement above is a good citizenship of people in Belitong where they can live peacebly, either they are sensitive of quite radical. But in the statement there are three ethnic who speak according to their mother language. It can be realized that they understand each other concern with the place where the story is taken place namely market, or they have been living together for a long time so they can understand each other.
Podium kehormatan merupakan tempat terhormat yang ditempati makhluk-makhluk terhormat, yaitu kepala operasi PN Timah, sekretarisnya, seseorang yang selalu membawa walky talky, beberapa pejabat tinggi PN Timah, pak Camat. Pak Lurah, kapolsek Komandan Kodim, para Kepala desa, para tauke, Kepala Puskesmas, para kepala dinas, Tuan pos, kepala cabang Bank BRI, kepala suku sawang beserta ibu. (chap 18 par 11 page 219)

The paragraph above explain the situation of independence day of Indonesia where the seat of PN Timah Manager, district, etc is different with people around. A social condition which really same with around the place of Indonesia.

Aku menjadi semacam manajer pembelian, Syahdan tak perlu mengayuh sepeda, cukup duduk dibelakang, memegang kotak-kotak kapur kuat-kuat dan menjaga mulutnya rapat-rapat, karena hubungan antar ras adalah isu yang sensitif ketika itu. Kami menikmati ketegangan perjanjian rahasia ini dan selama beberapa bulan setelah itu aku menjadi tukang kapur yang berdedikasi tinggi, sebaliknya Syahdan, tentu saja melalui rekomendasiku pada bu Mus, selalu ikut denganku. Ia gembira karena dapat semakin lama meninggalkan kelas sekalius leluasa mendekati putri tukang hok lo pan. (chap 20 par 8 page 251)


Both paragraph above explain the social condition of prohibition of mix marriage, even in relationship as girl or boyfriend is really prohibited. A culture role that they respect very much. It is showed by the statement. “jangan sampai ketahuan ibuku. Kataku cemas, “bisa-bisa aku kena rajam”. If it is freely translated has the meaning if my mother know this relationship I will be killed. It is really hard.
Chiong Si Ku atau sembahyang rebut diadakan setiap tahun, sebuah acara semarak dimana seluruh warga Tionghoa berkumpul. Tak jarang anak-anaknya yang merantau pulang kampung untuk acara ini. Banyak hiburan lain ditempelkan pada ritual keagamaan ini, misalnya panjat pinang, komidi putar, dan orkes melayu, sehingga menarik minat setiap orang untuk berkunjung, dengan demikian ajang ini dapat disebut sebagai media tempat empat komponen utama kelompok subetnik dikampung kami: orang Tionghoa, orang Melayu, orang pulau bersarung, dan orang Sawang berkumpul. (chap 20 par 40 page 259)

(..........................). Chiong Si Ku adalah bukti nyata tak terbantah terhadap teori yang dipercaya para antropolog tentang kecenderungan egois, tamak, merusak, dan agresif sebagai sifat-sifat dasar homo sapiens. (chap 20 par 49 page 262)

Both the statement above is a free celebration of ethnic culture day, and the good social condition of the situation is they have each rule in this celebration, in this case they celebrate Tionghoa celebration but Sawang and Melayu people join with them celebrate it. It is a great thing that show they fully respect each ethnic even there is a hard condition that force them so that they did not have relationship or marriage with different ethnic.

Pada suatu ketika Melayu Belitong sempat terisolasi karena mereka tinggal disebuah pulau kecil yang dikelilingi samudera, sementara tidak semua peta memuat pulau ini, sementara tidak semua peta memuat pulau ini. (.........................) satu-satunya akses suku ini kepada dunia luar adalah melalui sebuah pintu baja setebal 30 centimeter. Bagi orang belitong, pintu baja itu adalah tabir pemisah kehidupan jahiliah dan dunia modern, sekali-gus laksana teropong kapal selam yang timbul untuk melongok-longok dunia luar. (chap 21 par 4 page 275)

The paragraph above show us the condition of their living place is so far from the centre of capital city cause them like isolated, there is a gate that makes
them isolated. It is a description about their social status in citizenship or how their relationship with outsider people.

*Karena dikampung kami tidak ada sawah maka kapal-kapal itu memutuskan untuk membawa barang-barang penting saja, dan koran dianggap kurang penting, maka koran-koran itu terlambat selama tiga puluh dua tahun, kami tak tahu apa yang terjadi dijakarta. Tapi setelah koran-koran itu tiba kami tak kecewa meskipun telah terlambat selama itu karena ternyata sang kepala suku masih orang yang sama. (chap 21 par 11 page 277-278)*

The paragraph above explain us about they are very bad in news especially the information from capital city, perhaps it is one of the reason they are very ancient, daily newspaper which should publish every day will arrive Belitong in some months next, what a pity.

There are so many description of social condition that reflected in the novel but all the explanation above have represented the social condition that reflected in the novel.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

After finding the social condition that reflected in the novel of Laskar Pelangi the writer will conclude the study in some condition. The condition is here under:

1. Rural situation is described from their habit, traditional thinking such as their belief about ghost, anchestral spirit and magical power.

2. Education is described badly such as they study in the old building, people say that unsuitable building to use for studying, the lack of the teacher for teaching and the role of students quantity clearly explain in some chapter added by the distance of school from Lintang’s house.

3. The existence of social stratification in the novel, not only in their living place but also in education system. There is the differentiation of living place for PN Timah and rural people. In addition housing complex shows the situation clearly.

4. Poverty is clearly explain in Lintang’s life when he stopped in the second class of Junior high school after his father passed away. It is also caused of unfertile soil so it is unsuitable for planting or agriculture.

5. Religious people is the next social condition in the novel, they respect very much religion’s role either in playing time or in their daily life. It is also
described by the rule of parents and ustad advise their children after sholat maghrib

6. Faith. It is described by their mindset to conclude some situation, they know it by natural phenomena, such as fisherman will not go fishing if a magic bird flying pass them and they think it is the sign of the storm will come

5.2. Suggestion

Talk about literature is never free from literary sociology. Literary sociology is one of the study that relates literary with sociology which means social side of people can be related with literature. It is very interesting for studing. By the study of literary sociology people can understand what the people mean by their writing or their story.

Based on the reason above it is suggested that literary sociology has important role in knowing social condition and for the readers, students especially the students of english department who prefer literature than linguistics is better do more resesarch another novel with study the social condition that reflected in the novel

The last but not at least there is the most important thing that people get by this thesis namely the struggling of poor people to reach their dream and finally they reach, poverty, stratification of society, school condition cannot stop their will to study, this is also may inspire people who read this thesis about success,
success is those who never stop trying even though unsupported condition and situation.

The best moral value of this novel is “When everything around you goes wrong or even when your hope was gone you need to fight back what’s wrong, move along and make it true”
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APPENDICES

Biography of Andrea Hirata

Hirata was born in Gantung, Belitung on 24 October; he has not made his year of birth public. While he was young, his parents changed his name seven times. They eventually settled on the name Andrea, while the name Hirata was given by his mother. He grew up in a poor family not far from a government-owned mine.

Hirata started his tertiary education with a degree in economics from the University of Indonesia. After receiving a scholarship from the European Union, he did his master's degree in Europe, first at the University of Paris then at Sheffield Hallam University in Britain; his thesis dealt with telecommunications and the economy.

Hirata released Laskar Pelangi (The Rainbow Troops) in 2005. The novel, written in a period of six months, was based on his childhood experiences in Belitung; he later described it as "an irony about a lack of access to education for children in one of the world's wealthiest islands.". The novel went on to sell five million copies, with pirated editions selling 15 million more. It also spawned three sequels: Sang Pemimpi (The Dreamer), Edensor and Maryamah Karpov.

Laskar Pelangi was adapted into a film of the same name in 2008 by directors Riri Riza and Mira Lesmana; the film became the most-viewed Indonesian film of all time, being seen by 4.6 million viewers during its theatrical run. He also worked at the telecommunications company Telkom Indonesia, eventually quitting to
focus on writing. In 2010 the international rights for the *Laskar Pelangi* tetralogy were bought by American agent Amer & Asia; the rights were later acquired by Kathleen Anderson Literary Management. Afterwards, Hirata opened a library in his hometown.

By 2010, he was spending weekends in Belitung and weekdays in Java. He later published his first English-language short story, "Dry Season", in *Washington Square Review*. That same year, he spent three months attending a writer's workshop at the *University of Iowa*. In 2011, television network *SCTV* announced a 15-episode serial adaption of *Laskar Pelangi*; Hirata had previously said he would not allow such an adaptation, but later relented as he felt the network could guarantee quality. By 2012 the English translation of his novel *Laskar Pelangi* had been picked up by *FSG*, *Penguin Books*, and *Random House* for sale in twenty countries; Hirata was the first Indonesian writer to be published with FSG. That year he was a speaker at the *Byron Bay Writers Festival*. 
Sinopsis Novel – Laskar Pelangi (Andrea Hirata)

Judul Novel : Laskar Pelangi

Pengarang : Andrea Hirata

Tahun : 2005

Sinopsis Novel :


Saat semua tengah gelisah datanglah Harun, seorang yang keterbelakangan mental. Ia menyelamatkan ke sembilan temannya yang ingin bersekolah serta menyelamatkan berdirinya SD Muhammadiyah tersebut. Dari sanalah dimulai cerita mereka. Mulai dari penempatan tempat duduk, pertemuan mereka dengan Pak Harfan, perkenalan mereka yang luar biasa di mana A Kiong yang malah cengar-cengir ketika ditanyakan namanya oleh guru mereka, Bu Mus. Kejadian bodoh yang dilakukan oleh Borek, pemilihan ketua kelas yang diprotes keras oleh
Kucai, kejadian ditemukannya bakat luar biasa Mahar, pengalaman cinta pertama Ikal, sampai pertaruhan nyawa Lintang yang mengayuh sepeda 80 km pulang pergi dari rumahnya ke sekolah.


Seperti saat kisah percintaan antara Ikal dan A Ling. Awalnya Ikal disuruholeh Bu Mus untuk membeli kapur di toko milik keluarga A Ling. Ia jatuh cinta pada kuku A Ling yang indah. Ia tidak pernah menjumpai kuku seindah itu. Kemudian ia tahu bahwa pemilik kuku yang indah tersebut adalah A Ling, Ikal pun jatuh cinta padanya. Namun, pertemuan mereka harus diakhiri lantaran A Ling pindah untuk menemani bibinya yang sendiri.

Kejadian tentang Mahar yang akhirnya mnemukan ide untuk perlombaan semacam karnaval. Mahar menemukan sebuah ide untuk menari dalam acara tersebut. Mereka para laskar pelangi menari sperti orang kesetanan, hal tersebut dikarenakan kalung yang mereka kenakan dari buah yang langkah dan hanya ada di Balitong, merupakan tanaman yang membuat seluruh badan gatal. Alhasil mereka pun menari layaknya orang yang tengah kesurupan. Namun berkat semua itu akhirnya SD Muhammadiyah dapat memenangkan perlombaan tersebut.
Namun, pada uatu ketika datanglah Flo, seorang anak yang kaya pindahan dari SD PN, ia masuk dalam kehidupan laskar pelangi. Sejak kedatangan Flo di SD Muhammadiyah tersebut yang membawa pengaruh buruk bagi teman-temannya terutama Mahar, yang duduk satu bangku dengan Flo. Sejak kedatangan anak tersebut nilai Mahar seringkali jatuh dan jelek sehingga membuat bu Mus marah dan kecewa.

Hari-hari mereka selalu dihiasi dengan canda dan tawa maupun tangis. Namun di balik semua kecerian mereka, ada seorang murid yang benama Lintang yakni anggota laskar pelangi yang perjuangannya berhadap pendidikan perlu di acungi jempol. Ia rela menempuh jarak 80 km untuk pulang dan pergi dari rumahnya ke sekolah hanya untuk agar ia bisa belajar. Ia tidak pernah mengeluh meski saat perjalanan menuju sekolahnya ia harus melewati sebuah danau yang terdapat buaya di dalamnya. Lintang merupakan murid yang sangat cerdas. Terbukti saat ia, Ikal, dan juga Sahara tengah berada pada sebuah perlombaan cerdas cermat. Ikal dapat menantang dan mengalahkan Drs. Zulfikar, guru sekolah kaya PN yang berijazah dan terkenal, dengan jawabannya yang membuat ia memenangkan lomba cerdas cermat.

Namun sayang, semua kisah indah laskar pelangi harus diakhiri dengan perpisahan seorang Lintang yang sangat jenius tersebut. Lintang dan awan-kawan membuktikan bahwa bukan karena fasilitas yang menunjang yang akhirnya dapat membuat seseorang sukses maupun pintar, namun kemauan dan kerja keraslah yang dapat mengabulkan setiap impian. Beberapa hari kemudian, setelah perlombaan tersebut Lintang tidak masuk sekolah dan akhirnya mereka kawan-
kawan Lintang dan juga bu Mus mendapatkan surat dari Lintang yang isinya, Lintang tidak dapat melanjutkan sekolahnya kembali karena ayahnya meninggal dunia. Tentu saja hal tersebut menjadi sebuah kesedihan yang mendalam bagi anggota laskar pelangi.

Beberapa tahun kemudian, saat mereka telah beranjak dewasa, mereka semua banyak mendapat pengalaman yang berharga dari setiap cerita di SD Muhammadiyah. Tentang sebuah persahabatan, ketulusan yang diperlihatkan dan diajarkan oleh bu Muslimah, serta sebuah mimpi yang harus mereka wujudkan. Ikal akhirnya bersekolah di Paris, sedangkan Mahar dan teman-teman lainnya menjadi seseorang yang dapat membanggakan Belitung.