

# FROM STUDYING LITERATURE TO WRITING DRAMA

## SCRIPTS: A CASE STUDY

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### Abstract

The focus of the study is to encourage the students of the sixth semester of English Department, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Pamulang (UNPAM), Tangerang Selatan, Banten, Indonesia, to write the drama scripts for the drama performance to be performed. Writing script is the idea to develop the students' ability to write and explore their interests in literature especially in drama. The data from the drama scripts were analyzed through the drama elements such as genre, plot, characters, and theme. Group of the students from each class had to produce a drama script based on the literature subject they studied in the previous semester. Most topics of the drama scripts were about old literature, new literature, and some of the aesthetic works. Yet, they could express their feeling and ideas related to the contents of the script as the young people terms in society. The result of the study showed that they were able to include the drama elements such as genre, plot, characters, and theme.

**Keywords:** *Drama Scripts, Drama Performance, Elements of Drama, Genre*

### INTRODUCTION

A lot of people enjoy reading and working on literary works such as writing poetry, novels, drama scripts, and performing a play on the stage, as literature is a word that is often related to art, culture, aesthetic work, and a result of creation. We are not allowed to connect an aesthetic work of literature with moral (Osman, 1997). Literature is one of the important aspects either orally or written. Literature is one of the human imaginative activities to be creative in expressing emotional abilities without using intellectual thought (Ratna, 2007). In poetry there are beautiful ideas and rhythm. Another literary work is novel. A novel writer can present characters with more than one

emotions that can make the plot of the story interesting. A literature work always has connection to human experiences and imagination. Whereas (Obediat, 1997) states that literature helps students require a native - like competence, express their ideas in good English, learn the features of modern English, learn how the English Linguistic system is used in dialogues.

Drama is one of literature subjects taught not only in schools but also in Universities (Drama in Webster's New International Dictionary, 1958) is a story written with movement through dialogues. A drama script after it is prepared can be performed by characters on the stage. When watching a drama performance, usually the

audiences do not know what types of play are being watched. The most important for them is the plot of the story, and the characters who perform. Romance, tragedy, and comedy are genre of drama performances loved by audiences. For example, in a tragedy, the main character has important role, in general the event happens naturally, usually the audiences feel sad when there is a bad thing happens to him or her.

In most English Departments in Indonesia the students learn literature subjects such as prose, literary appreciation, poetry, and drama performance. In English Department, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Pamulang (UNPAM), Banten, Indonesia, literature subjects are given in semester III (Introduction to Literature), IV (History of English Literature), V (Drama, Children Literature), VI (Literary Appreciation, Poetry, Drama Performance), VII (Literary and Film Studies, Literary Criticism). Among these subjects two of them, Literary and Film Studies and Drama are loved by the students, as a result they got very good score on these subjects. Why the students enjoyed studying these two subjects can be known from the study conducted by (Ardian, 2015). The result of Ardian's study shows that the reason 'Film' was loved most by the students was because the film was interesting, easy to understand, easy to understand literature and literary work, and easy to analyze.

Drama subject was enjoyed very much as well because drama has close relationship with character that can emerge creativities, can be as an

example, can result group work's work that can be performed in drama performance. To understand literature, the students in semester III had to study fiction. Fiction is literary work that deals with imagination (Nurgiyantoro, 2012; Kennedy, 1987; Madden, 2002). Drama subject was given in semester V. drama means to act or to do (Tarigan, 2011). Therefore, drama focuses on act, movement, that is performed or presented in the form of dialogues.

In drama classes, English Department lecturers often gave some examples of drama scripts that presented interesting character types that had various abilities of roles in a play. Teaching drama can give benefit as well in teaching a foreign language (Mengu, 2002). Structure of drama consists of plot that is events (*a series of connected event*), consisting of the changing of characters, to make the plot interesting. Understanding the drama subjects which are in the form of examples given to the students, especially related to English and American plays, and tasks to analyze a literature work with groups and individual tasks can make the students are able to write drama scripts.

The objective of the study in this paper is to encourage the students of the sixth semester of English Department, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Pamulang (UNPAM), Tangerang Selatan, Banten, Indonesia, to write the drama scripts for the drama performance to be performed. The results of their works were analyzed based on the drama elements the studied before.

## MATERIALS AND METHOD

The data gathered for this study were obtained from eight drama scripts of eight groups of the students (from eight classes of semester VII in 2015). The researchers discussed the materials for the research with the lecturers of the drama performance classes. After the groups completed their works, the results were given to the researchers to be analyzed. Each group had different topic because they were free to choose the topic; it could be from the real old literature; new literature. However, it could be changed into the students creativity using their own dialogues. Critical thinking can lead to produce innovative idea, art, and beauty (Zubir, 2012). In a drama performance class, the students were given many examples of scripts to help them to produce their own scripts. A script is the foundation of any production that has an important place for the success of any drama performance (Udonisor & Tosin, 2012).

The steps to do the scripts analysis, firstly, by reading the script many times, secondly, by identifying the genre or type of drama and its elements. Thirdly, by reading the dialogues in detail to see deeply the drama elements included in their dialogues. The researchers did not pay attention to the grammatical errors the students wrote, because the dialogues were the key points of the research was to see the students' achievement in understanding the theory of

learning drama theory, in this research is the elements of the drama itself. Through use of creative drama students can actively participate in the learning process (Bayraktar & Okvuran, 2012).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

An analysis of the data revealed that most of the scripts have the elements of drama such as plots, theme, characters, and also genre.

### Data 1 Latter Matter

This script is categorized as a new literature. It is regarded as tragedy consisting of 11 characters (Katia, Jacob and Wayan, etc). The theme of this script is about murder and greediness. It has a complete structure of a plot as follows: **Beginning** : Katia tells happy news, a businessman is going to marry her, but he wants her to change her life totally. *"Yes,...I am going to marry a businessman"* (Katie, Scene 1). **Climax**: Jacob (Katia's son) takes a revenge to all the people who make him suffering (Mark, Karimah, Laiqa, and his own mother, Katia. *" Mom, thanks for letting me live in this world. But I don't like the way you live and tricked daddy. He really loves you actually. You use me as a tool to satisfy your evil desire. I can't stand of it. Bye, mom! See you in heaven!"* (Jacob, Scene 9). **Resolution**: Jacob is betrayed by his own close friend, Wayan who also wants to have jacob's wealth. He stabs Jacob. *"Fuck you!. It's enough for me to treat you! It's like a hell helping you doing this and that. I don't need to wait you die. I make you die!...Ha...ha...ha...I am rich now...!! Ha...ha...ha..."* (Wayan, scene 10)

### Data 2 The Trimus

This script is categorized as farce in genre, consisting 17 characters (Trimus: Jimeng, Brendon, Nanang). The theme is friendship and adventures. It has a complete structure of plot as follows: **Beginning:** The trimus plans to flee from their dormitory. *"Alright, tonight, we have to flee from this terrible place!" (Jimeng, )*. **Climax:** Rojak and his friends kidnap Salmah as she rejects Rojak's intention to marry her. The trimus fights against Rojak and his friends to save Salmah. *"Of course....let us find the strategy first! Cipan cipan!! (whisper) Wey Nang, you beat Rojak, and I save Salma. Don, you then take Anah. How? Agree?"* **Resolution:** The village chief thanks the Trimus and they are back to the dormitory....then plan another adventure

#### **Data 3 Joko Kendhil**

This script is categorized as tragic comedy, consisting 28 characters (Joko Kendhil, Ari Wisesa, Seno Aji). The theme is fighting for love. It has a complete structure of plot, however this script lacks of dialogues on climax and resolution. It is described as follows: **Beginning:** Joko Kendhil wants to get married since he is going to be 20 years old and he intends to join in the sword fighting competition. *"I really want to get married; I can't stand waiting" (Joko Kendhil, Act 2)*. *"Everybody is allowed, they said (pause)...Am I wrong?" (Joko Kendhil, Act 4)*. **Climax:** Joko kendhil, Ari Wisesa and Seno Aji are last contestants. They need to fight to get the two princesses. No dialogue for this, only the narration says that Joko Kendhil can fight well using Sword that he did not do it before.

**Resolution:** Joko kendhil and Ari Wisesa married the princesses.

#### **Data 4 Lutung Kasarung**

This script is categorized as comedy, the amount of drama and comedy are almost equally balanced. There are 13 characters such as Guru Mida (Lutung Kasarung), King Prabu, Purba Sari and Purba Rarang, etc. The theme is real love. The plot is described as follows: **Beginning:** Guru Minda was cursed into a monkey (lutung) for his behaviour in the kahyangan. King Prabu appoints Purba Sari becomes a King and this make her sister Purba Rarang envies on her. *"... You will be sent to the earth to be a monkey, and the curse will be vanished if someone love you sincerely" (Unknown Object, Scene 1)*. *"Why purba Sari, my father? You are not fair." (Purba Rarang, Scene 2)*.

**Climax:** Purba Rarang gives poisonous herbal scrub to Purba Sari. It makes her body full of red stinky bumps. King Prabu asks Purba sari accompanied by Patih to leave the kingdom into the Jungle. *"Patih, please take Purba Sari leave the Kingdom, It is for the sake of our kingdom" (King Prabu, scene 7)*. **Resolution:** Lutung Kasarung gives Purba Sari herb to cure her illness, and bring him to her Kingdom to be her husband. *"Thank you utun, you save my life. Now I can return to my family, let's come along with me" (Purba Sari, Scene 10)*. *"He is my friend and he becomes my husband" (Purba Sari, Scene 11)*.

#### **Data 5 Beyond the project**

This script is categorized as comedy, consisting 15 characters (such as Carlos, Louis, Aleece, etc.). The theme is team work. It has a complete

structure of plot. It is described as follows:

**Beginning:** the students get different idea of doing the assignment given. *"This is about group, about team, not personal case" (Carlos, scene 1).* **Climax:** Louis gets out of the class and throws the table. *"Get damn it all of you!!if all of you have your own way to create this script, just go ahead! I won't involve anymore in this rama! Now all off you can decide where the story goes on as you like! I AM DONE! I AM OUT! (Louis, act 1, scene 1).*

**Resolution:** The students find Louis and have some discussion on the script to have a better drama performance and they can do it in a team. *"Guys, sorry for all emotional that I had blew up, I just wanna give my best directions, to get the best result"(Aleece, Act 4 scene 1)*

#### **Data 6 Suitcase**

This script is categorized as satiric comedy, consisting of 15 characters (such as Andi, his boss, etc.). The theme is fate. It has a complete structure of plot. It is described as follows:

**Beginning:** Andi throws his suitcase because he thinks it brings him unlucky fate. *Monolog: "... Knowing you here does not help at all. Just get away of my life..." (Throwing the suitcase). (Andi, scene 1).* **Climax:** Some scenes on the suitcase. Some scenes in this script did not provide with the dialogue, it made this climax not clear. **Resolution:** the suitcase is back to Andi. *"One more thing...I found this suitcase, my son brought it home. It is yours, right? Fix your problem when come back when it is done" (Boss, scene 6)*

#### **Data 7 Oesman**

This script is categorized as satiric comedy, consisting of 12 characters (such as Oesman, his master, etc.). The theme is heroic. It has a complete structure of plot. It is described as follows: **Beginning:** Oesman always remembers the way of his parent 's death. He intends to revenge. His master, Ki Ageng penangsang gives him mysterious ring. *"You will find your answer when you wear that ring, just prepare yourself, you'll understand". (Master, scene 1).* **Climax:** Oesman puts on the ring. Oesman has a fight against the gangster's boss, who is actually the grandson of his master Ki Ageng Pinangsang. *"I know that move! Who are you? There is only one other person who knows that.... (Oesman, scene 6).* *"I am Aryo Penangsang ! (Trying to stand but he is badly hurt) (Gangsters' Boss, Scene 6).* *"So, may be, you are the descendent of Ki Ageng Penangsang.... (Oesman, scene 6).* *"How could you know the name of my great grandfather?" (Gangsters' Boss, Scene 6).* **Resolution:** Oesman takes off the ring...and realize what his master means. Then he fights against the colonial to save his country. *"So, do you wanna learn the greater one Oesman? (Master, scene 7).* *"No Master, I have experienced something greater than mere martial arts in the future. Thank you master.... (Oesman, scene 7).*

#### **Data 8 Jaka Tarub and the Seven Chilies**

This script is categorized as a parody, consisting of 14 characters (such as Jaka Tarub, the Queen, the chilies, etc.). The theme is a man marrying an angel living together against the odds. It has a complete structure of plot. It is described as

follows: **Beginning:** Juan (Jaka Tarub's friend) asks Jack (Jaka Tarub) to get married. "*Listen Jack, when you see a girl you love, come close to her and takes her hand like this, hold it and say: "WILL YOU MARRY ME?" (Jack and Juan holding hands) (Juan, Chapter 1).* **Climax:** Jack takes one of the seven chillies' scarf when they are taking bath in the river and Jack pretends knowing nothing. "*My scarf lost. I couldn't find it, please help! (Wulan, chapter 3).* "*I'll be glad to help but it is too dark now. You'd better follow me home and stay there till morning, my mom is there too. She must be very happy.*" (Jack, chapter 3). **Resolution:** Nanang Wulan finally meets her sibling in the wood next to the stream after running away from Jaka Tarub. "*Nawang Wulan, is that you?" (Dorothea, one of the chillies, chapter 4).* "*Nurul...Dorothea!!! (hug) I'm so thankful to find you here". (Wulan, chapter 4).*

## CONCLUSION

This study shows that the students of the sixth semester in English Department, Faculty of Letters Universitas Pamulang were well understood about the literature subject especially drama theory. They were also able to produce the drama scripts based on the theory given such as the elements of the drama. It was proven from the result of their scripts which were very creative and innovative in creating the new nuance of the original drama scripts such as Lutung Kasarung and Jaka Tarub and the Seven Chillies without neglecting the original messages. However, there were some scripts which did not provide the appropriate

dialogues in some scenes. The dialogues are the major element in drama, so it will determine the success of the drama itself.

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