

AHMAD RASHID TALU THE PIONEER OF THE RENEWAL OF MALAY SITE LITERATURE IN 1889-1939

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Received: 02 Oct. 2021, Revised: 13 Des. 2021, Accepted: 25 Des. 2021

ABSTRACT

Ahmad Rashid Talu Pioneer of Renewal of Malaysian Malay Literature 1889-1939, ideas that underline Ahmad Rashid Talu's creative process, image, and thought. The concept that underlies the creation of Ahmad Rashid Talu's literary works is his persistence in changing society and the nation by carrying out a movement of change and renewal by writing, namely literary works in the form of novels. Ahmad Rashid Talu made direct observations of every area he visited while traveling in Malay Malaysia. Then literary works are written based on imagination and feelings that reveal various social diseases that occur in people's lives which are motivated by socio-culture. Every literary work contains an open message to pursue the progress of the Malay nation or state of Malaysia.

Keywords: Ahmad Rashid Talu, Pioneer, Malay, Society, Socio-culture.



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INTRODUCTION

Ahmad Rashid Talu or commonly known as Ahmad bin Muhammad Rashid Talu is a literary figure who was born in 1889 in Lorong Lumut (*Lumut Line*) Pulau Pinang and died in 1939 due to an illness he suffered. His father and grandfather named Sheikh Abdul Majid bin Abdullah Talu came from West Talu Pasaman and West Sumatra Province. Ahmad Rashid's mother passed away his father remarried a Malay woman Pulau Pinang. Ahmad Rashid Talu grew up on Pulau Pinang Bandar, Tanjung then lived in a merchant environment and family. Malay Malaysia has literary figures who are active in the process of writing literary work, and these literary works have a major influence on change and development for people's lives as well as the Malay Malaysia nation or state. Ahmad Rashid Talu is a progressive figure, thinks sharply, and is far-sighted, and dares to express his opinion and views constructively by writing literary works.

The education taken by Ahmad Rashid Talu was up to the third grade of the junior high school name in Malay Choerasta, Penang. Ahmad Rashid Talu was considered by his parents as a rebel and in the end that Ahmad Rashid Talu fled. Ahmad Rashid Talu lived a life as a traveler who visited several areas in Malay Malaysia such as Kedah, Perak (Taiping), Selangor (Kuala Selangor), Johor (Muar), and Singapore, and even further away from that, he had also been to the Southern countries of Thailand and Hongkong (Sadon, 1996). At the Ahmad Rashid talu wandered in the areas he visited and then Ahmad Rashid Talu discovered various social diseases that became a habit of community and had even shackled the lives of the Malay Malaysia community.

Some of the Malay Malaysia social diseases that exist in the community include education problems, community weaknesses, gender, economy, socio-culture, feelings of fear, always acceptance, old groups hindering the progress of young people, and so on. This social disease has become a habit that people do in their daily lives do not experience the will and the nation or state is also left behind from other countries. With various diseases that Ahmad Rashid Talu found in every area he visited, then Ahmad Rashid Talu wanted to get rid of this habit that had been passed down from generation to generation. Therefore, Ahmad Rashid Talu wrote literary novels with the main aim of changing people's lives so that they change attitudes, mindsets and prioritize education, science and eliminate these habits. Novel literary works pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu developed very well and succeeded in bringing about enormous changes and renewals. The publications of several literary works pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Tali succeeded in bringing about changes in various fields such as in the fields of education, economy, gender, attitudes, mindset, socio-culture, social mobility, social integration, and other things.

Tabel. 1. Literary Works Novel Ahmad Rashid Talu

No	Novel title	Years	Publication year	Amount page	Novel issues
1	True Friend	1972	Pulau Pinang	177	The fall on the Malay nation
2	Salmah's Steps?	1928-1929	Pulau Pinang	628	Emancipation of women (women's freedom)
3	Twelve Times of Passion	1929	Pulau Pinang	634	Suffering and poor people (Malay Malaysia)
4	Who's Evil?	1929	Pulau Pinang	349	Humans are evil and aware and turn into good
5	Black Trap	-	Pulau Pinang	100	Wrong man
6	Ramah Bint Abdullah	1934	Pulau Pinang	100	Greedy people are more concerned with wealth and position
7	Sad	-	Pulau Pinang	33	The original of tradition (habits of the Malay Malaysia society)
8	Mistaken	-	Pulau Pinang	32	Feelings of jealousy and ending in death
9	Twice Congratulations	-	Pulau Pinang	34	People who are patiently waiting for happiness

With the renewal brought by Ahmad Rashid Talu, it has played an important role in bringing a very large influence on the lives of the Malay Malaysia community, so that Ahmad Rashid Talu is labeled as a writer ahead of the times, who has been able to bring renewal in his time. This is because all of Ahmad Rashid Talu's novels raise stories from events in the Malay Malaysia community that he observed during his layover in areas while wandering. In addition, the novel provides motivation and contains a very large message, namely prioritizing education and women's emancipation as well as things that will make Malay Malaysia society advanced and modern (Sadon, 1996). Every novel published by Ahmad Rashid Talu also contains its message about a movement of change and renewal for Malay Malaysia who has a modern life and an advanced economy.

METHODS

This research is a descriptive-qualitative study that examines Ahmad Rashid Talu the

Pioneer of Malay Malaysian Literary Renewal in 1889-1939. The literary works pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu are considered capable of bringing great renewal and change to the life of the Malay Malaysia community nation or state. Library research data collection techniques (Hastuti, 2013), document or archive studies, interviews, as well as other sources or documents related to Ahmad Rashid Talu and his works. The data processing techniques used in this study are heuristics, interpretation, and historiography.

FINDINGS

1. Study of Malay Malaysia literature

Society is a group of people who live together in a social environment and produce culture. Between society and culture, there is a mutual relationship (Soekanto, 2014). In addition, religion also influences the culture that is found in every community group, ethnicity, or nation. Religion means having faith in a certain belief that affects human life (Soekanto, 1993). Religion also has a relationship with culture, from that culture produces a very strong tradition that is maintained by the community. Then the tradition is maintained from generation to generation to maintain the culture of the previous ancestors. The Malay Malaysian community maintains bad habits or is said to be a social disease that they have maintained for a long time, even entrenched and shackles the life of the Malay Malaysia community. However, Ahmad Rashid Talu has always been moved to eliminate various social ills that exist in people's lives, by writing literary novels that will bring change in a person, or a group, or a group of people that starts with attitude, thinking, and then slowly eliminating the basics of social disease, then more concerned with education and science and making people's lives modern and the of Malaysia catch up with other countries.

Ahmad Rashid Talu was originally an author or artist who was on the edge of change who succeeded in creating a new literary form and succeeded in becoming a new voice and adapting to the spirit of the times at that time. Ahmad Rashid Talu is a writer who is creative and good at reading situations and seeing a phenomenon in the social environment with various attitudes, behavior, social diseases that are seen and felt by Ahmad Rashid Talu both physically and spiritually. The phenomenon seen and felt by Ahmad Rashid Talu a touch to make reforms in various aspects of life which will be written by Ahmad Rashid Talu in his literary works. With that, it is a change in the creative spirit of the era owned by writer Ahmad Rashid Talu. Thus, the literary novel pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu was written based on a description of a story or social phenomenon that occurred at that time in Malay Malaysia. The spirit of the time owned by Ahmad Rashid Talu has been seen at the time of writing and the literature he produces.

2. The influence of the environment on the soul of literature

Ahmad Rashid Talu was born in Pulau Pinang and only attended junior high school at Malay Choerarta in Lebu Carnovan. Ahmad Rashid Talu was considered by his parents as a rebel because he did not match his parents, namely his father and stepmother, then Ahmad Rashid Talu fled in several areas in Malay Malaysia but when he fled Ahmad Rashid Talu married a widow named Raja Hawa King Busu, but when his father found the address of Ahmad Rashid Talu and brought it back, Ahmad Rashid Talu was forced to divorce his wife, and forced to return to Pulau Pinang. The family environment accompanied by the social environment brought Ahmad Rashid Talu to write a literary work about the social ills that were shackled to the Malay Malaysia community, then he

met a friend named Syad Sheikh al-Hadi who is also a novelist but the novel is still in the form of a saga. Furthermore, Ahmad Rashid Talu recounted all the experiences he and what he was seeing in every area various social diseases are still actively carried out by the community and have even become a habit in the community which is considered to have brought a very far-reaching influence on society and the nation or state, namely the backwardness of the society. From other countries who flock to pursue progress and want to be modern. But what is seen in the Malay Malaysia community is that they don't care about progress and social science the attitudes and mindset of the people are weak and don't dare to express opinions and only accept what is conveyed by old people who have little knowledge. Therefore, Ahmad Rashid Talu wants to free the Malay Malaysian community from the shackles that bring people's lives behind and bring renewal or change to develop into a modern society and an advanced nation or country in various fields.

Then Syed Sheikh al-Hadi encouraged Ahmad Rasid Talu to put all that was in his mind and his heart to be put into writing, namely writing a literary novel. With the encouragement of Syed Sheikh al-Hadi, finally, Ahmad Rashid Talu learned to write novels and saw the procedures for using character traits, how to convey good language, and good characterizations, as well as the setting and how to tell, be told in a literary work. In the end, after Ahmad Rashid Talu understood all these things and began to write a literary work by telling a story about the social ills that existed in people's lives at that time. The publication of the first literary work entitled "*True Friend*" which was pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu was published in 1972, with the publication of the first novel has been able to bring visible changes in people's attitudes and mindsets, as well as the publication of subsequent novels which were pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu who succeeded in bringing about a very big of the people and nation pr state of Malay Malaysia.

3. The Role of Literature as a Media for National Character Development

Literary work is an alternative way of building a personality, culture, nation, and state for the community (*character and cultural engineering*) which is closely related to the structural background of a society (Kuntowijoyo, 1987). Some of the functions of literary works in people's lives include: 1) literary works as renewal, change or reform; 2) literary works as mere entertainers; 3) literary must teach something with entertainment; and 4) literary work also function as motivation or driving force in nation-building. On the other hand, literature is also said to be against life, for example with the birth of literary works with certain themes (*true friend, Step Salmah?, Twelve Times of Passion, Who is Evil? Black Trap, Friendly Bint Abdullah, Mistake Sad, Twice Happy*), and this literary work became an opponent in his time (Saini, 1986). Based on this, related to the literary work pioneered by Ahmad Rashis Talu, although it was considered as an opponent or contrary to the costumes or habits of the people at that time, it was able to bring new inspiration to the life of the Malay Malaysia community which was driving force for renewal and change towards good and bad life, the nation or state that has good character for the community and the Malay Malaysia nation or state has progressed until now. Because every issue of literary novels pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu can bring the reader to fee; the stimulation of the stories contained in the literary works, then gives its color and sense of interest from the characters or characterizations that are told in it. This is because Ahmad Rashid Talu was able to bring change and renewal in this time. Thus, the award obtained by Ahmad Rashid Talu was labeled by the Malay community and the Malaysian state as "*a writer ahead of the times*".

4. The Influence of Literature in Malay Malaysia

Various social problems and diseases that existed in the Malay Malaysia nation or state were considered to threaten the development and progress at that time in Malay Malaysia (Talu, 1987). Several factors make this Malay community not progressing, including 1) The Malay community is not advanced because the community does not have sufficient knowledge for them to eat and speak naturally in their activities. They think that they don't have the right to act and do what they want and can't talk want to say because they don't know, and they just live like that and so on; 2) The Malay community does not think that without knowing the Malay community will be weak and difficult to find answers to change in a more advanced direction. Furthermore, science is a place or tool for thinking and can change life for the better, and science can be done through the educational process; 3) Social problems that will hinder progress are diseases of pride, envy, hatred, jealousy, negative feeling, blaming each other, and revenge. If other people have advantages such as having more material and the other person's life is better and happier, then this envious person has shortcomings and feels social jealousy increasing which becomes a grudge in his heart, then he will try to kill or eliminate that person; 4) Diverting others to get their rights, and prioritizing the people he cares about, for example, his closest people or close relatives; 5) Reprimand of the splendor of greedy black lust; 6) The Malay community always thinks and has a closed nature; 7) Malay people often fantasize or fantasize and only imagine; 8) Malay people love the habits and do not want to make a change; 9) The Malay community is always carried away by the feeling of hatred towards their enemies, therefore their whole life and actions are controlled by their feelings.

The Malay community feels reluctant about the truth and thinks that what is right is wrong and what is wrong is right with the term "*brave because it is right and afraid because it is wrong*" (Talu, 1987). Based on the views and thoughts of Ahmad Rashid Talu he began to write a literary work (novel) with the main aim of making a change in Malay Malaysia society. Literary work has its impression in the community, seen from its material basis, such as 1) race (hereditary psychological traits, feelings); 2) time (soul of an era); 3) environment (differences in literary position) (Swingewood, 1972). Based on the perspective of Marxism, literature is said to be a reflection of society (Swingewood, 1972), generally seen around the 19th century this was influenced by historical situations and conditions (Eagleton, 1976). Therefore, based on a view of Marxism that uses this historical perspective to be able to understand in forming a new life for society, with a literary work produced by Ahmad Rashid Talu by looking at certain classes in the life of the Malay Malaysia community, and looking far ahead to farm a new change and renewal for people's lives and Malay Malaysia nation or state to have a modern life and a developed nation or country.

With the publication of the first novel by Ahmad Rashid Talu namely *true friend* in 1972, it succeeded in influencing people's attitudes and mindsets. Likewise with the publications of other novels can bring a big influence on the lives of the Malay Malaysia community so that they become the advanced and modern Malay society and nation of Malaysia to this day. The influence that is very visible in the life of the Malay Malaysia community, namely 1) marriage based on self-choice; and 2) the importance of education for the community. An explanation of the influence of literary works pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu, namely: 1) Marriage based on self-choice is the Malay community at that time marriage was a battlefield because girls who married their partners were determined by their parents and they should not argue even refused with a mate chosen by the parents (Awang, 1973). Therefore, Ahmad Rashid Talu is very concerned about the figure of Malay women namely on Pulau Pinang. Because women in Pulau Pinang are very weak

and their position is distinguished from that of men. For example, women just stay at home, cannot go to school, and their mate will be chosen by their parents. Thus, Ahmad Rashid Talu is trying to change the position of these women so that they are equal and equal to men. There is no difference in position between men and women, and women are also given freedom. The publication of a novel entitled brought great changes to people's lives, and women were given the same freedom as men, and women's marriage problems were based on their own choices; 2) The importance of education, the Malay Malaysia community initially did not attach importance to education and knowledge. However, after the publication of several literary works by Ahmad Rashis Talu which succeeded in attracting the attention of readers and encouraging the Malay Malaysia community to change, education and knowledge become very important for the community. Because the message contained in Ahmad Rashid Talu novel is to encourage jealousy of British education and the importance of science, to pursue progress and to avoid negative practices and to eliminate laziness, compete with prejudice with oneself and others, and eliminate other things. Related to those that will harm, to have a better life or a modern life.

From the whole literature published by Ahmad Rashid Talu, it has had a major influence on the lives of the people and nation or the state of Malaysia, while initially lived in poverty, the economy was low, people were dense and did not dare to express their opinion, lived in shackles with various social poets, did not get right which is in accordance of Malaysia is also far behind from other countries. Then after the publication of several literary works pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu managed to bring a big influence and big changes both in the lives of the people who became modern in various fields and the Malay nation or state Malaysia became advanced even today.

CONCLUSION

Ahmad Rashid Talu is a Malay Malaysian writer who was a pioneer in the renewal of Malay Malaysia literature in 1889-1939 which had a great influence on the community. Ahmad Rashid Talu was born in 1889 in Lorong Lumut (*Lumut Lane*) namely Pulau Pinang Malay Malaysia and died in 1939 due to an illness he suffered. His father is from Minangkabau (West Sumatra), his grandfather Sheikh Abdul Majid bin Abdullah is a cleric from Talu, Pasaman, West Sumatra. Ahmad Rashid Talu studied up to junior high school at the Malay Choerasta school, Penang up to the third grade. Then as a teenager, Ahmad Rashid Talu lived wandering o several areas namely Kedah, Perak (Taiping), Selangor (Kuala Selangor), Johor (Muar), and Singapore, and he had also been to the Southern countries of Thailand and Hongkong. In every area visited by Ahmad Rashid Talu, various social diseases are seen in people's lives that have become habits, or traditions. The social disease makes the Malay Malaysia community backward and left behind from other countries, both in terms of education, socio-culture, economy, and so on. There, Ahmad Rashid Talu wants to carry out a movement for change and renewal of society by writing literary work. The literary work pioneered by Ahmad Rashid Talu succeeded in influencing the community and its readers and bringing changes in the lives of the Malay Malaysian community and nation. Because the literary works written by Ahmad Rashid Talu are based on his experience and raised problems that occurred in the community at that time so that they were able to bring changes to modern literary renewal as well as to the life of the Malay Malaysia community and state in a more advanced direction and become a society and country that modern.

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