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Sociological Analysis of Social Values in Short Stories Published in 2015

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Abstract

Literary works, particularly short stories, often serve as cultural reflections that embody and transmit social values within society. In Indonesia, newspapers remain an important medium for disseminating literature to the public, offering both entertainment and moral insights. Recognizing this potential, this research seeks to explore the social values embedded in selected short stories published by *Harian Singgalang* in 2015. The primary objective is to identify and analyze the categories of social values portrayed in the seven best short stories published during that year. Employing a sociological approach and a qualitative descriptive method, the analysis is guided by Kluckhohn's theoretical framework on cultural values. The findings indicate that six of the seven stories embody social values reflected in various aspects, including the pursuit of ethical and meaningful life, the importance of competence and productivity in work, the awareness of existence within space and time, the skillful use of nature's resources, and the cultivation of harmonious relationships among people despite social differences. The study demonstrates that short stories in mass media not only entertain but also function as effective vehicles for reinforcing essential cultural and social values.

Keywords

Cultural Values, Short Stories, Social Values, Sociological Approach.

1. Introduction

Literary works are the result of an author's creative thinking, expressed through stories using language as a medium. Literary works emerge from a combination of the social realities of the surrounding environment and the author's creativity. Through literary works, authors strive to elevate existing values in order to understand the meaning and essence of life, as literary works are a reflection of social life. Literature consists of three genres: prose/fiction, consisting of novels and short stories; poetry, which conveys implicit meaning through beautiful words; and drama, which presents stories through dialogue and performance (Sari et al., 2022).

Harian Singgalang provides a dedicated space for literary works, publishing not only short stories but also poetry and serial narratives (Novelia, 2020). Therefore, the researcher chose short stories from Harian Singgalang as the research object. The short stories to be studied were published in the January-February 2015 edition, with a research focus on social values. Literary works are the result of a creative process born from a combination of the author's imagination, experience, and observations of social reality. In creating works, authors use language not only as a means of communication but also as an aesthetic medium capable of conveying ideas, emotions, and values. Literary works contain aesthetic and social dimensions; they reflect, critique, and even shape societal views (Mansyur, 2018; Kasmanah, 2021).

The emergence of social values in short stories cannot be separated from the socio-cultural context of the society in which the author lives (Mana et al., 2024). For works published in the daily newspaper "Singgalang," the Minangkabau setting, with its customary values, religion, and the dynamics of social life in West Sumatra, is an important factor influencing the story's content. Values such as mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*), respect for elders, customary-based social relations, and criticism of contemporary social issues often serve as sources of inspiration for the authors. Thus, the published short stories not only showcase individual creativity but also reflect the collective experiences of the community and the values inherent in their daily lives (Kluckhohn, 1951; Sidiq & Manaf, 2020).

In general, literary works are divided into three main genres: prose, poetry, and drama. Prose, like novels and short stories, prioritizes explicit storytelling with relatively straightforward narratives. Poetry, on the other hand, emphasizes the density of meaning and the beauty of language through aesthetically structured word choices. Drama relies on the power of dialogue and interaction between characters to construct a story, usually intended for performance (Atmazaki, 2007; Redega & Eriend, 2025).

Extensive research on Indonesian short stories has addressed aesthetics, themes, and stylistic aspects, yet studies focusing on the representation of social values in the 2015 edition of Singgalang short stories remain scarce (Rahmah & Putri, 2019). Most analyses emphasize national works or mainstream publications, often overlooking regional literature. However, regional stories such as Singgalang provide distinctive insights into local socio-cultural conditions. Literature, as a reflection of life (mimesis), processes reality through imagination, shaping readers' worldviews while serving both entertainment and moral education (Aurora & Atmazaki, 2020). Thus, this study fills a significant gap by examining social values in local media texts. According to Romadhan (2023), short stories are highly popular in mass media, while Wulandhari and Parmin (2021) and Eriandi (2023) emphasize their brevity, focus on pivotal moments, and reliance on character, setting, and climax. Based on this focus, the research problem is formulated as follows: This study examines how social values are represented in the short story "Singgalang" from the perspective of the Sociology of Literature. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to describe the social values contained in the short story "Singgalang."

The articulation of local social values in regional literary texts published by local media remains limited. The short stories in *Harian Singgalang*, reflecting Minangkabau cultural and social life, provide valuable material for analysis. This study examines how social values are represented in the 2015 *Harian Singgalang* short stories from a sociological perspective, focusing on five aspects: the essence of life, human work, humans in space and time, human–environment relations, and human–human relations. Of the seven stories analyzed, six align with Kluckhohn’s (1951) theory, showing that life values promote better living through skills, time management, environmental awareness, and harmonious social relationships.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Sociological Approach to Literary Studies

It is important to consider the literature being reviewed and how to manage it. Literary works are essentially creative products that reflect social realities (Zainal et al., 2022). As a medium of expression, literature provides space for authors to capture human experiences, values, and social dynamics. Singgalang Publishing House allocates a dedicated section for literary works, particularly short stories, poetry, and serialized narratives, which serve as important cultural texts for understanding social values. For this study, short stories published in the January–February 2015 editions of *Singgalang* have been selected as the primary object of analysis, with a specific emphasis on their representation of social values (Winarsih et al., 2022).

The short story, as a literary form, has been widely acknowledged for its popularity and accessibility. According to Gusnawati et al. (2020) and Kottacheruvu (2023), “short stories are one of the favorite forms of reading in the mass media, especially in weekly newspapers and entertainment magazines.” Similarly, Laoli et al. (2024) define a short story as a concise narrative fiction that captures a significant moment in a character’s life. Characters, as central figures, are constructed with moral qualities and personal traits, which are revealed through speech and action. The setting, consisting of the time and place of the narrative, provides context for these actions, while the brevity of the form emphasizes the narrative’s climax or turning point (Fitriani & Ardiansyah, 2021; Kasih et al., 2022).

In the broader categorization of literary genres, Halawa et al. (2023) outline three main divisions: prose, poetry, and drama. Prose includes novels and short stories as narrative forms; poetry conveys implicit meaning through aesthetic language and structured form; while drama communicates stories through dialogue and performative texts. Within this classification, the short story occupies a significant role due to its ability to condense social and moral realities into brief yet impactful narratives. Hence, the selection of short stories from Singgalang publishing house serves as an appropriate object of study to explore the embodiment of social values in contemporary Indonesian literature.

2.2. The Role and Function of Literary Works

Literary works are the products of a creative process born from the interplay of imagination, personal experience, and the author’s observation of surrounding social realities. In their creation, authors utilize language not merely as a tool for communication but also as an aesthetic medium capable of animating specific ideas, emotions, and values (Anwar et al., 2020). These works possess both aesthetic and social dimensions; they reflect, critique, and even help shape societal perspectives. This aligns with the mimetic view of literature, which holds that literary works are a reflection of life, where observed reality is processed through the imagination to present a portrayal of life that can influence the reader’s worldview. Thus, literature serves a dual role: as a means of entertainment and as a vehicle for moral and social education (Halimah et al., 2020).

Generally, literary works are divided into three main genres: prose, poetry, and drama. Prose, such as novels and short stories, emphasizes explicit storytelling with a relatively straightforward narrative structure (Fransori, 2021; Pasaribu et al., 2023). Poetry, conversely, prioritizes condensed meaning and linguistic beauty through meticulously chosen, aesthetically arranged words. Drama, on the other hand, relies on the power of dialogue and character interaction to construct a story intended for performance (Atmazaki, 2007). Based on this focus, the research problem is formulated as follows: What social values are present in the short stories from “Singgalang” from the perspective of the sociology of literature?

The objective of this research is to describe the social values found in the Singgalang short stories. According to Thahar (2001), “Short stories are one of the most popular forms of reading in the mass media, especially in weekly newspapers and entertainment magazines.” Furthermore, Notonegoro (2007) states that a short story is a brief work of narrative fiction that captures a single, particularly significant moment in a character’s life. A character is an individual who leaves a lasting impression on the reader’s mind. Characters are defined by their moral qualities and traits, which are expressed through their speech and actions (Ummah & Irma, 2022; Serlinika & Solihati, 2023). The setting refers to the location and temporal sequence in which the events occur. The concise nature of a short story is, to some extent, relative. A key feature of a short story is its building tension leading to a climax or turning point.

3. Methods

This research applies a descriptive qualitative method, employing text or content analysis to examine social values in literary works. The data are drawn from seven selected short stories published by Singgalang News, considered the best among its publications. The stories analyzed include: *Flying* by Bunawan (2015), *Just Go with It for Now* by Prinanda (2023), *The Death of The Boss* by Gusrianto (2023), *The Hot-Tempered Neighbor* by Rizal (2015), *It Turns Out* by Taufik (2015), *Oh My Poor Mother* by Priondono (2023), and *The Man with The Sailboat* by Ilma (2023).

The research process began with data collection, which consisted of several systematic steps. First, a data inventory was carried out by carefully reading and comprehending the selected stories. At this stage, the researcher identified and recorded textual elements related to aspects of social values found in the narratives. Second, data reduction was conducted to refine the initial findings. Only the parts of the stories that were directly relevant to social values were retained, while unrelated or less significant details were set aside.

After reduction, the next step was data classification. Here, the remaining data were organized into categories and tabulated according to specific dimensions of social values. This stage aimed to ensure that the textual evidence could be examined systematically and compared across the different stories. Fourth, data analysis was undertaken using the sociology of literature approach. This method emphasizes the connection between literary texts and their social context, enabling the researcher to interpret how each story reflects, constructs, or critiques social values. Finally, the results of the analysis were summarized to draw broader conclusions about the representation of social values in the chosen short stories. This concluding stage did not merely restate the findings but synthesized them into a coherent understanding, highlighting patterns and insights that emerged throughout the analysis. This method allowed for an in-depth and contextually grounded exploration of the texts, ensuring that the research captured not only the literary features of the short stories but also the broader social significance embedded within them.

4. Results

4.1 Representation of Social Values in Short Stories

Based on the analysis of Bunawan's (2015) short story "Flying," four indicators were found that illustrate social values. These four indicators are: (a) Togetherness: The characters in this short story engage in actions that illustrate the importance of togetherness and solidarity among humans. The togetherness demonstrated by the characters is their involvement in a group, both physically and emotionally. The characters involve themselves and share experiences, feelings, and goals. In the context of the story, the togetherness experienced by the characters occurs in their lives in society, in the form of individual involvement in shared activities, effective communication, and emotional connection. (b) Empathy: The characters in this short story demonstrate empathy and understand the feelings of others. The empathy demonstrated by the characters is related to their ability to understand and feel the feelings of others. In this short story, the characters place themselves in the shoes of others. Contextually, the characters demonstrate empathy with the aim of understanding the feelings of others and understanding how others feel and think. The characters place themselves in the shoes of others when they understand problems from their perspective. (c) Humanity: This short story shows universal human values, namely compassion and care. The human values carried out by the characters in this short story are actions related to compassion, namely feelings of empathy and compassion for fellow human beings, and respect, namely appreciating and respecting human dignity and rights. (d) Hope: This short story provides a message of hope and optimism in facing difficulties. The form of hope of the characters in this story is a positive and optimistic state in the characters about the future, which can provide motivation and enthusiasm to achieve their desired intentions. Contextually, the hope that exists in the characters means optimism, namely, believing that the future will bring good things.

The analysis of the short story "Jalani Saja Dulu" by Prinanda (2023) reveals four distinct indicators that embody social values. These indicators are: (a) Togetherness: The narrative depicts characters engaging in actions that emphasize the importance of unity and collective solidarity. This sense of togetherness is manifested through their active participation in group dynamics, both physically and emotionally. The characters immerse themselves in shared experiences, emotions, and goals, reflecting communal engagement through collaborative activities, meaningful communication, and deep emotional bonds. (b) Empathy: The characters consistently demonstrate the ability to understand and internalize the emotions of others. This empathetic engagement is illustrated through their capacity to mentally and emotionally adopt another's perspective. Within the narrative context, this empathy serves to foster mutual understanding by enabling the characters to understand the emotional states and cognitive frameworks of others, particularly when facing challenges from alternative perspectives. (c) Humanity: The story articulates fundamental human values through themes of compassion and conscientiousness. The characters' actions reflect these values through acts of kindness rooted in empathetic concern for others and a deep respect for human dignity and human rights. (d) Hope: The narrative conveys a message of forward-looking optimism and positivity in the face of adversity. The characters embody hope through a persistent positive outlook on future possibilities, which serves as a motivating force and an inspiring force for realizing aspirations. Within a contextual framework, this hope represents a strong belief that future outcomes will yield good results.

Based on the analysis of social values in Gusrianto's (2023) short story "The Death of the Juragan," the characters' actions identified several indicators of social values. The first is equality. The characters' actions illustrate fundamental equality between humans, regardless of social status or material wealth. This equality is manifested as a condition in which all individuals or groups are recognized as having

equal rights and are entitled to equal treatment, free from discrimination or preferential distinctions. The second is justice. The narrative portrays the characters as examples of the importance of justice, emphasizing the ethical imperative not to judge others based on their power or economic status. The third is death as a universal equalizer. This story utilizes death as a powerful motif that serves to remind readers of the shared mortality of humanity and the essential equality in facing the inevitability of life. Reflection on life emphasizes the importance of contemplative introspection and spiritual preparation for the afterlife. The character's reflective journey describes a process of introspection and self-assessment aimed at increasing personal awareness and understanding.

An examination of the character portrayals in the short story "Tetangga Pamarang" by Rizal (2015) reveals several indicators that explain the story's core social values. These indicators are: tolerance. The narrative emphasizes the importance of tolerance and acceptance of individual differences. Empathy. The characters demonstrate a capacity for empathy, actively seeking to understand the emotional state of their aggrieved neighbor. This empathetic engagement is manifested through their ability to cognitively and affectively understand others' feelings, demonstrating genuine concern and effective communication. The story highlights the important role of constructive dialogue in resolving conflicts and maintaining family relationships. Finally, emotional maturity illustrates the importance of emotional maturity in dealing with challenging situations and interpersonal disputes.

A textual analysis of Taufik's (2015) short story "Account" reveals several indicators in the characters' actions that embody important social values. First, self-acceptance. This narrative emphasizes the crucial role of self-acceptance and acknowledgment of one's abilities and limitations. The main character's self-acceptance is demonstrated through openly expressed ideas without defensive resistance. Within the context of the story, this acceptance extends to acknowledging and appreciating the differences and uniqueness of others, particularly through the character's constructive criticism. Second, openness: The character demonstrates transparency and candor in dealing with personal emotions and thoughts. Third, self-reflection: This work highlights the value of introspection and contemplative examination in understanding one's own and others' emotional states. The character's reflective practice involves critical self-assessment, particularly regarding personal challenges and difficulties. Finally, emotional maturity: This story emphasizes the importance of emotional maturity in facing difficult circumstances and making wise decisions.

The narrative analysis of Priondono's (2023) short story "Oh My Poor Mother" reveals several behavioral indicators that embody significant social values. The narrative underscores the importance of respecting and glorifying the mother figure as a foundational pillar within both the family and the broader social structure, while also illustrating a deep emotional attachment and sincere concern for a mother who has endured many hardships for her family's well-being. Maternal altruism is portrayed through acts of self-sacrifice that highlight the invaluable social role of motherhood. Furthermore, the story conveys a strong sense of existential contemplation, emphasizing the need for life evaluation and gratitude toward those who have played a crucial part in one's personal development.

A study of the character portrayals in Ilma (2023), "The Sailboat Man," identifies several thematic indicators that convey important social values. The narrative depicts steadfast resilience and persistent determination in the face of life's difficulties, shown through the characters' capacity to confront challenges while maintaining psychological strength. It also illustrates optimistic hope, as the characters demonstrate forward-looking attitudes and positive anticipation when dealing with future uncertainties. Furthermore, the story highlights independence,

emphasizing autonomous abilities and resourcefulness in overcoming obstacles through personal initiative. In addition, it portrays philosophical reflection by underscoring the importance of metaphysical contemplation and the pursuit of a deeper understanding of life's purpose.

4.2 Classification and Comparison of Social Value Indicators

Based on a comprehensive analysis of seven selected short stories from the 2015 Singgalang short story collection, this study identifies the following spectrum of social values:

Table 1. Example of Social Values Spectrum

No	Short story title and author	Social Value Indicators	Indicators
1	Flying by Bunawan (2015)	1. The essential values of human beings in relation to one another 2. The essential values of life 3. The essential values of human beings in space and time	1. Togetherness 2. Empathy 3. Humanity 4. Hope for the efforts made
2	Jalani Saja Dulu by Prinanda (2023)	The value of human nature in space and time The value of the essence of life	1. Resilience 2. Acceptance 3. Independence 4. Self-Reflection
3	The Death of the Juragan by Gusianto (2023)	The value of human nature with each other The true value of life	1. Equality Justice 2. Death Self-Reflection
4	Tetangga Pamarang by Rizal (2015)	The value of human nature with others The value of human nature in space and time	1. Tolerance Empathy Effective 2. Communication Self-Maturity
5	It turns out that by Taufik (2015)	The value of human nature in space and time The value of the essence of life	1. Self-acceptance Openness 2. Self-reflection
6	Oh, My Poor Mother by Priondono (2023)	The value of human nature in space and time The value of human nature with others The value of the essence of life	1. Emotional maturity 2. Award Love 3. Sacrifice 4. Self-reflection
7	The Sailboat Man by Ilma (2023)	The value of the essence of life The value of the essence of human beings in space and time	1. Resilience Hope Self-Reflection 2. Independence

Table 1 presents examples of short stories along with their identified social values and specific indicators. Each story highlights different aspects of human experience, such as togetherness, empathy, resilience, tolerance, and self-reflection. For instance, Flying by Bunawan (2015) emphasizes values of humanity and hope, while Prinanda's (2023) Just Go with It reflects resilience and independence. Stories like Gusrianto's (2023) The Death of the Boss and Rizal's (2015) Angry Neighbor explore justice, equality, and effective communication. Other works, including those by Taufik (2015), Priondono (2023), and Ilma (2023), reveal themes of self-acceptance, sacrifice, emotional maturity, and hope. The table demonstrates how literary works embed essential values of life and human nature across diverse contexts.

4.3 Implication and Relevance of Social Values in Education and Society

The social values identified in the seven short stories, such as togetherness, empathy, justice, and sacrifice, can be implemented in educational contexts and in social life. In literary education, these short stories can be used as teaching materials to instill positive character in students through a values-based learning approach. Teachers not only teach the intrinsic aspects of literary works but also relate moral messages to students' social experiences. Furthermore, these values can be integrated into school character education programs, so that students more easily understand the importance of empathy, solidarity, and resilience in facing life's challenges. At the societal level, these short stories can be used as a medium for cultural reflection to strengthen social cohesion, foster awareness of justice, and foster intergenerational concern.

Although these short stories convey noble social values, their implementation in real life is not always smooth. One major challenge is the gap between the ideal values (*das sollen*) reflected in literary works and the social reality (*das sein*) in society. For example, the value of togetherness, strongly depicted in the stories, often clashes with the culture of individualism or pragmatic interests in modern life. Likewise, the idealized value of justice often clashes with discriminatory practices, social inequality, or weak law enforcement. Another challenge is limited public interest in reading, which prevents the moral messages in literary works from being widely absorbed. Furthermore, cultural globalization and the dominance of digital media have increasingly marginalized traditional values taught through literature.

To make the social values of short stories more applicable, several steps need to be taken. First, the integration of short stories into the educational curriculum needs to be strengthened with a critical discussion-based learning model, so students can compare the values in the texts with their social realities. Second, local governments and cultural institutions can organize literacy activities that utilize short stories as a means of social dialogue, for example, through community discussions, literary festivals, or short story-based drama performances. Third, further research can be directed at interdisciplinary studies, for example, using approaches from the sociology of literature, character education, and cultural communication, to demonstrate the relevance of literary values in contemporary life. With these steps, the social values contained in short stories do not only stop at the level of academic analysis, but also make a real contribution to the moral and social development of society.

5. Discussion

An analysis of seven short stories published by Singgalang in 2015 reveals various manifestations of social values that correspond with Kluckhohn's (1951) theory of cultural value orientation. This framework encompasses perspectives on the essence of life, human endeavour, interpersonal relationships, humanity's connection with nature, and the temporal-spatial dimension of human existence. These values are articulated through character development, narrative conflicts, and implicit moral propositions within the plot structures. Therefore, this strategy is recommended as an effective method for improving writing instruction in similar educational contexts.

In Bunawan's (2015) "Flying," the thematic preoccupations with solidarity, empathy, shared humanity, and hope establish a foundational social framework emphasizing communal interdependence. This aligns with Kluckhohn's (1951) proposition regarding the human necessity for emotional connectivity and social reinforcement in constructing meaningful existence. The narrative further positions hope as an essential psychological resource when confronting adversities, a concept that sociological literary interpretation might frame as reflecting collective societal needs for optimism amid transformational periods.

“Just Go with It for Now” accentuates values of resilience, acquiescence, self-sufficiency, and introspection (Prinanda, 2015). These thematic elements resonate with Kluckhohn’s (1951) conceptualization of human orientation toward life’s fundamental nature, particularly emphasizing adaptability and endurance. Through a sociological lens, the portrayal of perseverant characters may represent strategic coping mechanisms employed by socioeconomically marginalized groups as they navigate structural limitations (Sultoni et al., 2021).

“The Death of The Boss” explores egalitarianism, equitable justice, mortality as an existential equalizer, and a contemplative examination of life (Gusrianto, 2015). These narrative components reinforce the immutable equality of human dignity when confronting mortality. Kluckhohn (1951) classifies such values within an egalitarian worldview wherein social stratification ceases to determine inherent human worth. The story functions as sociocultural commentary on persistently entrenched systemic inequities and hierarchical social structures (Sugiarti et al., 2023). “The Hot-Tempered Neighbor” elevates tolerance, empathetic engagement, constructive communication, and emotional regulation (Rizal, 2015). These values underscore the imperative of sustaining harmonious relational dynamics within heterogeneous social environments. Sociological literary analysis interprets this narrative reflection as indicative of contemporary urban societal requirements for communication-based conflict mediation and affective management.

“It Turns Out” presents self-acceptance, transparency, introspective practice, and emotional maturity as core values (Taufik, 2015). These interrelated concepts constitute the bedrock of wholesome social interaction by fostering individual self-awareness. Within Kluckhohn’s (1951) taxonomy, such attributes belong to essential human values that conceptualize individuals as self-evaluating and self-actualizing entities capable of reflexive development (Ummah & Irma, 2022; Serlinika & Solihati, 2023). “Oh My Poor Mother” emphasizes filial reverence, compassionate devotion, self-sacrifice, and existential contemplation (Priondono, 2015). These values epitomize kinship relationships as fundamental to societal character formation. Sociological literary interpretation suggests the narrative’s depiction of maternal sacrifice potentially idealizes feminine roles in preserving familial stability amid socioeconomic challenges. “The Sailboat Man” accentuates perseverance, optimistic expectation, autonomous capability, and philosophical reflection (Ilma, 2023). These values highlight human resilience against tribulations, which Kluckhohn (1951) associates with agentic striving toward life objectives through obstacle transcendence.

This study applied a sociological literary approach, viewing literature as a reflection of social reality. Using Notonegoro’s framework, Kluckhohn’s (1951) five orientations, short stories were analyzed as vehicles of social value through character and setting. “Oh My Poor Mother” illustrates hardship as a transformative force, while “The Death of The Boss” critiques materialism, echoing Marxist views. Temporal values appear in “The Hot-Tempered Neighbor” (past trauma), “It Turns Out” (present reconciliation), and “Bawang” (future hope). Human-nature relations emerge in “The Sailboat Man,” showing cooperation and conflict with natural forces.

6. Conclusion

This study reveals that Singgalang’s seven short stories published in 2015 encapsulate five core categories of social values: ontological, productive, temporal-spatial, ecological, and social-relational. Each story demonstrates how literature, even in concise narrative forms, can articulate life’s purpose, human effort, temporal positioning, environmental interaction, and interpersonal connectedness. These findings confirm the enduring cultural function of short fiction as both a mirror of social reality and a catalyst for reflection and transformation. Theoretically, this research contributes to Indonesian literary studies by reaffirming the relevance of

vernacular literary forms in transmitting sociocultural values and sustaining critical discourse. It highlights how short stories operate not only as aesthetic texts but also as cultural artifacts that preserve and critique societal norms. Practically, the study implies that educators, cultural practitioners, and policymakers can utilize short stories as accessible tools for instilling ethical, ecological, and social awareness in broader communities.

Nonetheless, this investigation is limited by its focus on a single year's corpus and its reliance on sociological and value-based frameworks. Such constraints may overlook alternative interpretations offered by other critical perspectives, including gender, postcolonial, or psychological lenses. Future research could expand by incorporating longitudinal analyses across multiple decades of regional short fiction, or by comparing Indonesian short stories with those from other cultural contexts. Such comparative work would provide deeper insight into the universality and particularity of social values embedded in literary texts. By broadening methodological scope, subsequent studies can further enrich our understanding of how literature continues to shape and reflect collective consciousness in dynamic social settings.

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Data Disclosure Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.



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