

## Ipung Novel by Prie Gs and Sang Alkemis Novel by Paulo Coelho (Comparative Literature Study)

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### **Abstract:**

*Literary works in Indonesia, including novels, both in terms of ideas and content, are heavily influenced by works from abroad. This influence is caused by many things, for example Indonesian writers who idolize foreign writers, similarities in social situations and conditions, or even unplanned similarities because Indonesian writers unconsciously intensively read one of the works of foreign writers. This research attempts to compare the novel Ipung by Prie GS with the novel the Alchemist by Paulo Coelho. Comparisons are only limited to pouring out the ideas, genres, and motives contained in the two novels. This research is a descriptive qualitative research that describes a number of ideas, genres, and motives concerning the basic issues of creation, and the message can be expressed accuratel. Based on the research results, it was stated that the novel Sang Alkemis by Paulo Coelho influenced Prie GS novel Ipung, both in terms of ideas, genres, and motives.*

### **Keywords:**

*ipung; the alchemist; idea; genre; motive*

## **I. Introduction**

The monetary crisis in Southeast Asia since 1996 had an impact on the Indonesian economic crisis. The Indonesian economy is unable to face the global crisis that is hitting the world. In fact, the monetary crisis also caused a political crisis in Indonesia. In addition, the Soeharto regime government or commonly known as the New Order implemented ABRI's dual function system which locked in the freedom of every citizen (civilian) to participate in government. On the other hand, every citizen who protests will be considered an enemy of the State (labeled a communist).

The engineering that was built by the New Order government was not limited to politics. In the field of law, the government intervenes. This means that judicial power must be exercised to serve the interests of the rulers and not to serve the community in full justice. In fact, law is often used as a tool of justification for rulers.

Political, legal, and economic crises are the causes of social crises. The implementation of repressive and undemocratic politics has led to political conflicts as well as conflicts between ethnicities and religions. All that ended in the outbreak of various riots in several areas. Inequality in the Indonesian economy made the largest contribution to the social crisis. Unemployment, limited basic food supplies, high prices of basic foodstuffs, low purchasing power of the people are factors that are vulnerable to social crises.

Other developing countries, such as Brazil have experienced the same thing. Prior to 1980, the Brazilian government used military force as an authority to grasp people's freedom of thought. Thus, the Brazilian people made a transition to a better democracy. However, the transition process had a significant impact on the people's economy. As a result, economic growth is slow and Brazil is experiencing a food crisis.

Furthermore, Brazilian society lost its identity as a nation. Violence occurs everywhere, rape, robbery, even the most important problem is the people's mental which is increasingly worrisome. From this incident, a novelist named Paulo Coelho emerged with his work *The Alchemist*. A novel that fosters the spirit of life in Brazilian society. An inspirational novel that changed the outlook on life of Brazilians.

Meanwhile in Indonesia, the multidimensional crisis that hit the Indonesian nation has reduced public confidence in President Suharto's leadership. The inability of the government to build a democratic political life, enforce the implementation of the law and the judicial system, and carry out economic development in favor of the people at large has created a crisis of trust. From this incident gave birth to a reformation era to overthrow the Soeharto government.

The New Order government was deemed incapable of creating a just society in prosperity and prosperity in justice based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Therefore, the aim of the birth of the reform movement was to improve the life order of the community, nation and state. The difficulty of the community in meeting basic needs is the main factor or cause of the birth of the reform movement.

The reform period was unable to bring the economic and social crises to an end. In fact, crime in Indonesia is increasing rapidly. In fact, the new government led by BJ. Habibie and continued by Gus Dur, and then Megawati had many problems. This causes people to lose their identity, lose their confidence as a nation. So, in the post-reform era, many motivators emerged to foster the spirit of community life. For example, Mario Teguh, Tsung Waringin, Andrie Wongso, Hari Subagja, and so on.

In addition, motivational novels have also emerged. One of them is "Ipung" by Prie GS which was published in 2008. The novel tells of a village boy who has a big dream, namely to become an intellectual. The novel contains many wise words and motivational words conveyed by a character named Wuryanto (Lik Wur). Thus, the motivation from Lik Wur sparked the enthusiasm for Ipung to dare to compete with city children.

The emergence of the novel "Sang Alchemist" and "Ipung" was caused by almost the same events, both in Brazil and in Indonesia. The two novels published after the transition or reformation period have not been able to improve economic and social conditions. So, in this situation, society needs motivations to find self-confidence again. In addition, literature is written based on imagination and experience, both experience of events and psychology (Pramulia, 2019: 64).

From this description, the idea of the novel *Ipung* written and published in 2008 is influenced by the novel *Sang Alchemist*, written in 1982. The circumstances behind the writing of the novel *Ipung* are exactly the same as the novel *Sang Alchemist*. Brazilians have lost confidence due to sluggish economic growth after the transition, and in Indonesia people have lost their identity due to the post-reformation economy.

## II. Review of Literatures

All literature has similarities and differences. The similarities and differences lead to studies to compare and look for the causes of similarities and differences. According to Bassnett (1993: 12), the name comparative literature comes from a French anthology series published in 1816 entitled *Cours de Litterature Comparee*. The term in the German version of *Vergleichende Literaturgeschichte* which first appeared in Moriz Carriere's book in 1854, while in English was introduced by Matthew Arnold in 1848.

Comparative literature is still young. At first the comparative literature study originated from the comparative study of science, then the comparative study of religion was born, then comparative literature was born. The birth of this comparative literature is due to the awareness that literature is plural, not singular.

Basnett (1993: 20) adds that the term "comparative literature" Only emerged during the transitional period when the colonized countries struggled to gain independence from the Ottoman "empire, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, from France and Russia. A newly formed country, so that national identity cannot be separated from the national culture. The emergence of comparative literature coincided with the emergence of a spirit of nationalism in the transitional era, at which time the colonized countries were looking for their identity.

According to Wellek and Warren (1989: 40), the term comparative literature was first used to study the study of oral literature, folklore and its migration, how and when folk tales entered into more artistic literary writing. The term comparative literature in this case includes the study of the relationship between two or more literatures. Comparative literature is equated with a thorough literary study.

According to Hutomo (1993: 15), comparative literature can be briefly defined as a discipline that includes three things. First, old comparative literature, namely comparative literature concerning the study of manuscripts. This comparative literature is usually handled by Philology. Second, oral comparative literature, namely comparative sasata concerning oral texts that are conveyed from mouth to mouth, from one generation to another and from one place to another. This oral text can be in the form of an oral tradition, but can be expressed in the form of oral literature (an artistic oral tradition). Third, modern comparative literature, namely comparative literature concerning modern literary texts.

According to Hutomo (1993: 5) basically comparative literature is based on the national literature of a country. According to Hutomo (1993: 11-12), comparative literary study is based on 3 things, namely: (a) Affinity, namely the relationship between intrinsic elements (internal elements) of literary works, for example structural elements, styles, themes, and atmosphere contained in the work. Literature, and others, which are used as material for writing literary works. (b) Tradition, namely elements related to the historical creation of literary works. (c) Influence.

Although broadly speaking there are three definitions or groupings of comparative literature, it turns out that there are theories and methods that can be used by all three, or they can borrow from each other their analytical methods and techniques. That way, comparative literature will be an interesting study and not a study that is limited to a particular environment.

According to Damono (2005: 1; 2009: 1), comparative literature is an approach in literature that cannot produce its own theory. It can be said that any theory can be used in comparative literary research according to the object and purpose of the research. In some writings, comparative literature is also referred to as study or study. In the steps it undertakes, the comparison method is the main one.

Comparative literature has the objectives, among other things, to strengthen the universality of the concepts of universal beauty in literature, to judge the quality of a literary work of a country by comparing it with the quality of works from other countries, and to improve the quality of the beauty of the literary works of a country in comparison. With literary works of countries in the world. This research will compare based on the point of view of ideas, genres, and motives between novels *Ipung* by Prie GS from Indonesia with *Sang Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho from Brazil.

### III. Research Methods

This research is qualitative in nature which will describe descriptively the comparison between Prie GS's novel *Ipung* and Paulo Coelho's novel *Sang Alkemis*. Through descriptive descriptions of the research objectives, it is hoped that a number of ideas, genres, and motives concerning the basic issues of creation and mandate can be accurately expressed. The data source of this research is the novel *Ipung* by Prie GS and the novel *Sang Alkemis* by Paulo Coelho, while the data refers to words that are directly related to ideas, genres, and motives. The data analysis steps include data reduction, data presentation, interpretation, and conclusions.

### IV. Results and Discussion

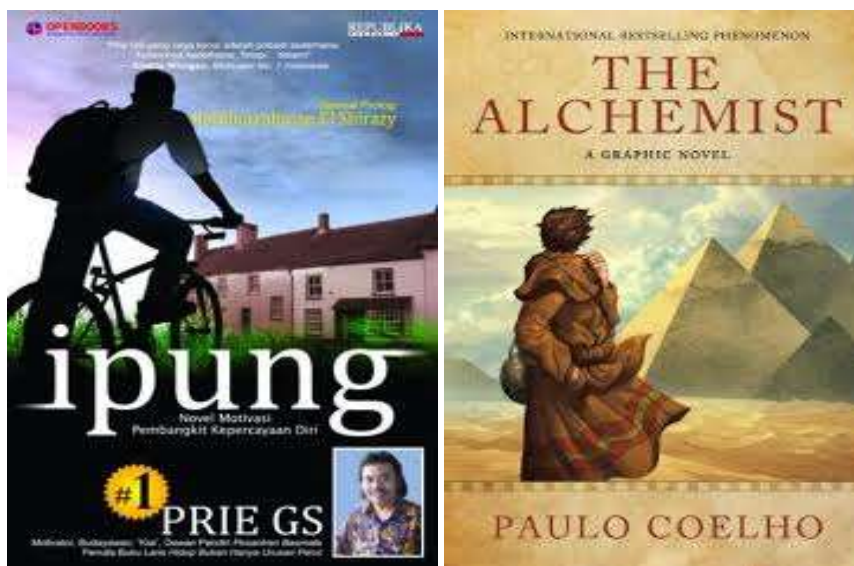
The appearance of the novel "The Alchemist" and "Ipung" were caused by upheavals that occurred in their respective countries. The two novels published after a period of transition or reform have not been able to improve economic and social conditions. So, in this situation, society needs motivations to find self-confidence again.

The novel *The Alchemist*, with the main character Santiago, tells of the simplicity and persistence of a man to achieve dreams obtained from inspiration (dreams). But behind the story there are amazing writings. In it there are philosophical thoughts about life, love and struggle as well as terms that are rarely used in everyday language.

The novel *Ipung* with the main character *Ipung* tells of the simplicity and persistence of a young boy to achieve his goals. The language used is simple. Every word that uses the local language is easy to interpret because the meaning of the word is written below. There are aphorisms that serve as guidelines at the end of each chapter. But behind this simple language there is something amazing. In it there are philosophical thoughts about life, love and struggle as well as terms that are rarely used in everyday language.

From this description, the idea of the novel *Ipung* written and published in 2008 is influenced by the novel *Sang Alchemist*, written in 1982. The circumstances behind the writing of the novel *Ipung* are exactly the same as the novel *Sang Alchemist*. In Brazil, people lose confidence because of the sluggish economic growth after the transition, and in Indonesia the people lose their identity because the economy has slumped after the reformation. Thus, both novels contain a lot of motivational words for their readers. The goal is for readers to find their self-confidence and identity again.

Similar ideas can also be found in the making of novel covers, where the front cover of the novel depicts a character who sees a monument in almost the same style. This can be interpreted that to achieve goals requires hard effort. The following is the cover of the novel *Ipung* and *Sang Alchemist*.



The two novels are the same genre, namely motivational novels. Both novels raise the problem of teenagers who are looking for identity to achieve their dreams. The journey to achieve dreams contains life tests experienced by the main character. However, the main character in the two novels has a motivator to raise the spirit of life.

The novel *The Alchemist*, the main character (Santiago) wants to fulfill a dream obtained from inspiration (looking for treasure). Meanwhile, the novel *Ipung*, the main character (Ipung) wishes to fulfill his dreams (ideals). Both novels are a form of motivation for society to restore self-confidence.

*Ipung's* novel is also influenced by content, which contains many motivational words that are actually directed at the reader. These motivations, both expressed by the characters and the narrator, aim to raise people's confidence from adversity. The deterioration of the society was due to the similar conditions and socio-political situations in Brazil and Indonesia.

The novel *The Alchemist*, a character who says a lot of motivational wise words is *The King* (Melkeisidek), although there are some from Santiago. The citation is as follows.

\*) "The greatest lie: That at one point in our lives, we lose control of what happens to us and our lives become controlled by fate" - *The King*

\*) "Destiny is what you always want to achieve. Everyone, when they are young, know their destiny, at that point in life, everything is clear, and anything is possible. They are not afraid to dream, crave everything they want come true in their life. But with as time passed, a mysterious force began to convince them that it was impossible for them to realize this destiny" - *The King*

\*) "And when you desire something, the entire universe comes together to help you reach it" - *The King*

\*) "In the early days of their lives, humans already knew the reason for their existence, perhaps this is also why they gave up too quickly, but that's how it is" - The King

\*) If you start by promising something you don't already have, you will lose your desire to seek it - the King

"Love is not a name if you just stay there like the desert, or explore the world like the wind. It's not love, if you just look at everything from a distance like the sun. Because when we love, we always try to be better - Santiago

Meanwhile, in the novel *Ipung*, the character who expresses words of wisdom and motivation is Lik Wur (Uncle *Ipung*). In addition, there are several narrators who express motivational words. Here's an excerpt.

\*) And trials are not just grief. It can also be both happy and happy (p. 18)

\*) Be a successful bandit or a successful smart person, the city is the place (Lik Wur, 20).

\*) Life is not a series of impossibilities (20)

\*) Love is not only awaited, but also taken (32)

\*) This life is hard. And a thin body is not a guarantee that you have to lose against life (Lik Wur, 37)

\*) Not all branches of life must be won (Lik Wur, 41)

\*) Women really like to make you happy. But remember to set the time. There are still many life problems that are bigger than just women (Lik Wur, 42).

Thus, as a final conclusion, Prie GS's novel *Ipung* is heavily influenced by Paulo Coelho's novel *Sang Alkemis*. The two novels appeared against the same background, namely the economic and social upheaval in their respective countries. Prie GS managed to capture the success of Paulo Coelho in changing the outlook on life of Brazilian society for the better. So, Prie GS wrote a novel with the same genre because of the same circumstances and situations.

The objectives of the two novels are also the same, namely to foster a spirit of life, self-confidence, and to seek identity as a nation. This can be read in the motivational quotes contained in the two novels.

## V. Conclusion

The emergence of the novel "*Sang Alchemist*" and "*Ipung*" was due to the upheavals that occurred in their respective countries. The two novels published after a period of transition or reform have not been able to improve economic and social conditions. So, in this situation, society needs motivations to find self-confidence again.

The novel *Sang Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho influenced Prie GS's novel *Ipung*, both in terms of ideas, genres and motives. The idea of the novel *The Alchemist* with the main character Santiago tells of the simplicity and persistence of a man to achieve dreams obtained from inspiration (dreams). Meanwhile, the novel *Ipung* with the main character *Ipung* tells of the simplicity and persistence of a young boy to achieve his goals.

In genre, the novel *Sang Alkemis* by Paulo Coelho influences Prie GS's novel *Ipung* as a motivational novel for the community, because the core of the story is the struggle of the main character to live life. The two novels also contain a lot of motivational words, both delivered by the characters and the narrator. The two authors (Paulo Coelho and Prie GS) insert motivational words to compose stories and encourage readers to be influenced.

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