



Original Article

Social Aspects in the Drama Bait Al Asybach (Ian Watt's Sociological Study of Literature)

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Abstract:

The objective of this study is to reveal the social critique embedded in the drama Bait Al Asybach, focusing on the shifts in moral and spiritual values within society. This drama portrays how cemeteries, which should be sacred and peaceful places, have been neglected by humans who prioritize personal and materialistic interests. The study aims to analyze this phenomenon through a sociological literary approach, specifically Ian Watt's theory. The research employs a qualitative approach utilizing sociological literary theory to analyze the social aspects reflected in the drama Bait Al Asybach. The findings show that Bait Al Asybach critiques materialism, hedonism, and human indifference toward noble values, as illustrated by immoral behaviors occurring in cemeteries. The drama serves as a medium to reflect on social conditions and invites the audience to reconsider the values they uphold in daily life, emphasizing the importance of preserving spiritual values in society.

Keywords: Bait Al Asybach; Ian Watt; Sociological Literature

Introduction

Drama is a form of art that not only offers entertainment, but can also function as a means to reflect the social and cultural conditions of society. Through dialogue, characters and storylines, drama is able to reveal various problems that exist in social life, including values that are developing or even being degraded. One example of a dramatic literary work that reflects social and cultural issues is the drama Bait Al Asybach. This drama not only presents a tense horror story, but also raises sharp social criticism regarding changes in spiritual and moral values that have occurred in society (Heard et al., 2017).

In the drama Bait Al Asybach, the cemetery, which should be a peaceful and sacred place, has now become an arena for meetings between humans and the



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supernatural forces that inhabit that place. The demons who inhabit the cemetery feel uneasy about human behavior which increasingly disrespects death and the place of eternal rest. Humans who previously feared and respected holy places now prefer to visit cemeteries for personal interests that are far from moral values, such as looking for lottery numbers, committing obscenities, and ignoring the meaning of death itself ([Momeni, 2016](#)). This shows how theater can function as a medium to explore and criticize deviant social behavior, as well as how the values that exist in society can be degraded along with changing times ([Moore et al., 2007](#)).

Based on this, the drama *Bait Al Ashbach* can be analyzed using a literary sociology approach, which considers literary works as a mirror of social reality. This approach makes it possible to explore criticism of the social structure, morality and values that exist in society, as well as how these changes are reflected in everyday life ([Xiao & Zhu, 2019](#)). One theory that can be used to analyze this drama is Ian Watt's literary sociology theory, which emphasizes the role of literary works as a reflection of certain social and cultural conditions ([Bloom et al., 2020](#)).

Drama, in this context, functions as a space for dialogue that allows the audience to engage emotionally and intellectually with the social issues raised. Through complex characters and storylines, the audience is invited to reflect on the actions and decisions taken by the characters in the drama, as well as their impact on society as a whole ([Joseph, 2018](#)). Thus, the *Bait Al Asybach* drama not only provides entertainment, but also invites the audience to think critically about the values that exist in society and how they can contribute to better social change ([Sonn et al., 2015](#)).

This research aims to reveal the social aspects contained in the drama *Bait Al Asybach*, with a focus on criticism of materialism, hedonism and the shift in spiritual values in society. Through sociological analysis of literature, it is hoped that a deeper understanding can be gained regarding the moral message conveyed by this drama and how literary works can function as an effective tool for social criticism ([Olesen, 2020](#)). In this way, the drama *Bait Al Asybach* is not only a work of art, but also a critical reflection on existing social conditions, and encourages audiences to reflect on the values they adhere to in their daily lives.

Methods

This research methodology uses a qualitative approach with sociological studies of literature to analyze the drama *Bait Al Asybach*. This approach was chosen because drama as an art form can not only be analyzed as an artistic work, but also as a medium for understanding the social and cultural realities contained within it. This research aims to reveal the social criticism contained in the drama, especially regarding materialism, hedonism, and the shift in spiritual values in society.

Results and Discussion

Result

In the darkness of the silent night, in a place that should be a silent witness of the soul's journey, a sacred cemetery has now turned into a battlefield between supernatural forces and human greed. The drama of *Bait Al Asybach* reveals a terrible reality: the cemetery, a place that was once respected as a symbol of peace, is now a place full of riots, filled with people with all their dirty and lustful deeds.

The demons who inhabit this place—tuyul, living trees, ngesot nuns,

kuntilanak, and even devils—are experiencing deep confusion. They were shocked to see the reality. *"Is it true that humans are now starting to become aware of death?"* asked one of the demons in a voice full of doubt. However, quickly, another demon replied sarcastically, *"Aware of death? How is that possible? They are crazier about chasing positions, robbing property, even looking for lottery numbers! And the most surprising thing is, they dare to commit perversion behind a tree!"*

The demons felt more and more threatening unease. For thousands of years they harassed humans, but humans—instead of being afraid of them—treated them as if they were teachers. *"Their behavior is creepier than ours,"* said one of the demons with sharp sarcasm.

They could no longer hold back the feeling of despair. A place that should be a sacred space, a resting place for departed souls, is now insulted by human behavior that knows no boundaries. *"This anxiety is not only ours, but also for the spirits who reside here,"* they added in a disappointed tone.

The ending of this theater is not just a closure to the story, but a hard slap to the audience. An inspiring message: *"People should have good intentions, to respect and reflect on the meaning of life and death in this place. Don't disturb what is unseen."*

Bait Al Asybach is not just a theater—it is a mirror that shows how low humans are who are no longer able to respect a place that should be a symbol of sacredness. A warning that human greed and ignorance have turned everything noble into base. This is sharp and heart-shaking criticism, inviting us to reflect again and appreciate life in all its invisible dimensions.

Discussion

Through the lens of literary sociology studies, the drama "Bait Al Ashbach" not only presents a gripping story, but also offers sharp social criticism of changing values in modern society. Ian Watt, in his work, emphasizes that literature functions not only as a reflection of social reality, but also as a tool for exploring and criticizing existing social structures ([Mutiara, 2023](#)). In the context of "Bait Al Asybach", this drama functions as a medium to highlight how society has been alienated from the spiritual and moral values that should be maintained ([Hann, 2016](#)). This is in line with the view that literary works can play a role in forming and maintaining moral values in society ([Husna, 2022](#)).

This drama raises the conflict between humans and the supernatural, represented by the demons who live in cemeteries. A place that should be a symbol of peace and respect for death, has now become an arena full of immoral behavior. Cemeteries, which should be respected as sacred spaces, are turned into places for various immoral acts, such as looking for lottery numbers, engaging in lewdness, and focusing on material attainment. This phenomenon reflects how modern society has lost respect for noble values and prefers to pursue temporary worldly pleasures ([Nowack & Schoderer, 2020](#)). This shows that indifference to death and the meaning of life has replaced spiritual understanding which should be the moral basis of society.

One of the moving dialogues in this drama is when a demon asks, *"How is it possible that humans are aware of death, but still crazy about positions? Still looking for lottery numbers? Even perverts behind trees?"* This is a strong satire on materialism and hedonism which now dominate people's outlook on life ([Husna, 2019](#)). In Ian Watt's study of literary sociology, literary works such as "Bait Al

Asybach" play a role in depicting social reality where moral and spiritual values has been replaced by personal interests and momentary pleasures (Mahon, 2016). This drama shows how human selfishness has changed the social structure, from a mutually supportive society to an individualistic society, focused on satisfying personal needs without paying attention. shared values (Abbasi, 2023).

The drama also raises the theme of social alienation, where humans become alienated from the noble values that should govern their behavior. In this drama, the demons no longer seem to recognize the humans they once knew, who at least still have a fear of the supernatural and respect death. On the contrary, humans in this drama are increasingly moving away from these values, replacing the fear of death with immoral actions (Vujošević, 2014). This phenomenon illustrates how social shifts bring about deep moral decay in society, and highlights how existing social structures have failed to maintain higher values (Mueggler, 2014).

The depiction of the gap in values between humans and demons is also a highlight in "Bait Al Ashbach". Even though demons are terrifying supernatural creatures, they are symbols of humans' inability to understand and appreciate noble values. In one of the dialogues, one of the demons states, "*Their behavior is scarier than ours.*" This reveals how existing morality and social values are increasingly being degraded, while humans are trapped in greed and indifference to higher things (Anyanwu, 2018). This shows that in the modern context, spiritual values are often neglected, and society is more focused on temporary material achievements (Bray, 2021).

Through Ian Watt's literary sociology approach, "Bait Al Ashbach" presents an in-depth social criticism of changing values in modern society. This drama not only depicts a moral shift in society, but also invites the audience to reflect on spiritual and social values that are increasingly fading (Zuiderwijk & Janssen, 2014). In this way, "Bait Al Ashbach" becomes more than just a performance; it is an important reminder to value what is higher than mere personal interests and worldly pleasures (Nicholson & Howard, 2018). In this context, literary works function as a reflection tool that can help society return to nobler and more basic values (Wood, 2020).

Conclusion

Bait Al Asybach presents a sharp social critique of the shift in moral and spiritual values in modern society, where respect for death and holy places is starting to be neglected. Through interactions between humans and the supernatural forces that inhabit cemeteries, this drama depicts how ignorance of noble values and human materialistic and hedonistic tendencies can damage the existing social and moral structure. Using Ian Watt's literary sociology approach, Bait Al Asybach invites the audience to reflect on their behavior and outlook on life, and reminds them that greed and indifference to higher things can have a negative impact on the social and spiritual order of society.

Suggestion

Research on social aspects in drama *Bait Al-Asybach* Through a sociological approach to literature, Ian Watt offers in-depth insight into the relationship between literary works and the social conditions of the society that gave birth to them. This drama reflects social dynamics, values and conflicts that are relevant to the realities of life, which can be revealed through analysis of story structure,

characters and themes. Ian Watt's approach, which emphasizes the relationship between literature and social change, helps explain how *Bait Al-Asybach* not only functions as a cultural reflection, but also as a medium for criticism and social transformation. It is hoped that this research can contribute to the study of the sociology of literature, especially in understanding the interaction between literary works and their social context.

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