

Application of Theory of Malay Methodology in Light of the Rural Through an Art Approach

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Abstract: One of the elements that brings to the story character alive is the aesthetic aspect. Aesthetics is one of the areas that examines the concept of beauty. In line with that, aesthetic aspects can be traced through language style. Language style shows the ability of authors to express the theme of a story and thus reveal a sense of beauty. In the context of studying a text revealing Islam or not, the internal aspect of aesthetics is a key aspect to be emphasized. The analysis of this paper is based on the novel *Light of the Rural* (1992) by Azizi Haji Abdullah. The focus of this study was to show whether the aesthetic aspects of Islam that were applied were matched to the novel studied and reflect the aspects of Islamic beauty and thus conform to the approaches adopted in this study that was Art Approach. The Art approach is an approach that focuses on aspects of beauty based on Islamic aesthetic values and not contrary to the Islamic creed. Furthermore, this paper study uses the Art Approach through Theory of Malay Methodology as analytical framework. The findings showed that the aesthetic aspects had a direct relationship with the novel studied and highlight the Art Approach features which emphasize the aspects of beauty based on Islamic aesthetic values.

Keywords: aesthetic, beauty, language style, theory, art approach, religious methodology

1. INTRODUCTION

Aesthetics aspect is the vital element in an art. It expresses the feeling of beauty, joy and happiness in something valuable and gives a deep thought. It correlates with the feeling of beauty whether it is internal or external. Hence, the author highlights the use of language style. The use of it is appropriate to express the beauty aspect and gives few impacts to the public. The word aesthetics originates from Yunani word, *aisthetikos* or *aesthesis* that lead to the meaning of sensitivity (Anwar Wadjiz, 1980: 5). Meanwhile, based on Fourth Edition of *Kamus Dewan* (2015: 401), aesthetics is defined as the philosophy line that investigate the concept correlated to the beauty, taste and others. In Malay literature context, few opinions were taken based on local philosophers like Muhammad Haji Salleh (2000: 237) aesthetics means beautiful especially in Malay literature based on stories, language or the drawings of characters in it including the feeling of sad, sorrow and others. Hashim Awang (1987: 26) depicts that aesthetics is the research or science about the beauty in literature or arts. In fact, based on the meanings, it can conclude that aesthetics is the feeling of satisfaction from the beauty and it could not be evaluated and assessed physically as it can be seen based on meanings.

Moreover, in a masterpiece, the aspect of beauty could elevate the values of the literature to a higher level and assessed in public as quality and great. In fact, Braginsky (1994: 18) states that the beauty term is the basic when it comes to the quality masterpieces. Every literature masterpiece has its own beauty in expressing feeling and giving deep impact to the public. It has its own magic to another level. Besides that, in other excerpt, the holy Quran is also highlighting to the beauty of God's creation to the people. He created the beauty so that people would enjoy the beauty, Surah al-A'araf verse of 31. It means:

O Children of Adam, take your adornment at every mosque, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess.

(*Mushaf Tajwid with the translation to Malay*, 2006: 154)

The verse means The God is glad when His people are likely to wear beautiful attire. Muslims are also encouraged to prepare themselves with good actions and behaviour. They are encouraged to wear beautiful and clean decorations. The religion itself recommends the people to keep themselves clean in life with Islam's recommendations. Hence, decorate and beautify themselves is one of the ways to be grateful based on the advantages given. In line with that, in Islam perspective, the beauty is encouraged if not disobeying Islam's pillars. On what is done would be in moderate. This is because Islam prevents the Muslims to exaggerate and it will cause Allah's anger. He is described as the almighty and the most beautiful.

Hence, based on the priority, the aspect of beauty is the focus that should be highlighted and emphasized. Based on the shown beauty, the ability of the author can be seen based on the masterpiece that gives great impact to the public. The beauty of masterpiece would express the soul and the attitude of an author. The unclear elements of beauty would deteriorate the plot of the story. The public will not feel the impact of the masterpiece read. Therefore, in the context to investigate the elements of Islam, the elements of beauty should not be seen recklessly and should be highlighted by the author. The language style expresses the beauty of Islam needs to be highlighted to show the masterpiece as Islamic.

In line with that, the masterpiece discusses the Islam aesthetics is correlated to the novel and showing the beauty of Islam. The details of this masterpiece will investigate the novel of *Light of the Rural* (1992) analysed by using Art Approach. The research includes the elements of language style.

2. THEORY OF MALAY METHODOLOGY

Theory of Malay Methodology is created by Hashim Awang on 1989 based on human behaviour comprising lifestyle, belief, culture and the behaviour of humans. The theory is based on the book entitled *Tajul Muluk* comprises vast knowledge and the guide for humans particularly in Malays. It discusses the origin of human and universe based on Islam and comprising of six matters such as human questions, health, characteristics, dreams, prediction and residential. Therefore, the Theory of Malay methodology is based on human's relationship related to the universe and correlated to their lives. The theory is produced based on the way to live and weltanschauung (worldview), universe perspective (cosmology) and religion (Islam) for Malays that have great and unique masterpieces (Hashim Awang, 1999: 5-6).

Based on this, Hashim Awang (2002: 12) divides Theory of Malay Methodology into two which are the Universe Methodology and Religion Methodology. Both methods have been known entirely as an approach. Next, the Universe Methodology divided into three categories which are Useable Approach, Morale Approach and Prediction Approach. The Universe Methodology is formed based on two factors which are life and Islam. The method is based on universe method of human background especially the Malays (Muslim). The masterpiece is defined as the universe and depict the Malay literature. In fact, it is clearly shown this method highlights the universe as part of them and Malay community.

The second division of Theory of Malay Methodology is Religion Methodology. The Religion Methodology divided into three categories which are Preaching Approach, Community Approach and Art Approach. Religion Methodology based on faith and Islam creed. It existed based on religion of Malays. In line with this, the methodology based on the values of faith and Islam. It is based on Quran and Hadith based on aesthetics and the moral that support the existence of Allah, the characteristics, the almighty, wealth and perfection. The Art Approach is focusing on the beauty aspects and aesthetics values in a masterpiece. The beauty aspect includes parable, sound and how to interact. In fact, the approach is based on Islam is focusing on the beauty aspect by achieving perfection. It should be executed in order as to follow the rules of Islam. The beauty aspect in literature could unite the Muslims and have faith to Allah.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The analysis is using an Art Approach of Religion Methodology in Theory of Malay Methodology. Based on the approach, aesthetics is the vital element to express the image of Islamic masterpiece. It should be in line with the content of the masterpiece. In fact, the element is not balanced to one another, it could not be elevated as Islamic masterpiece. The beauty of literature is based on Islamic aesthetics and not the opposite of Islamic creed.

The manipulation of the beauty in the masterpiece is important to express the feeling of faith and regretful to the almighty God. The aspect of aesthetics should be stressed to produce a quality masterpiece. It should bring the aspect of beauty and positivity in order to give lessons to the Muslims.

The Art Approach used in this novel is appropriate to the masterpiece written by Azizi Haji Abdullah which is the novel *Light of the Rural* (1992) based on religion theme. It describes the rival and family conflict with full of religion questions. It shows the that the beauty is the main pillar of the research. It highlights the aspect of beauty from this research. The Art Approach is highlighting the beauty aspects based on Islam and it is not the opposite of Islamic ways. This method is used to estimate the degree of beauty based on Islamic views.

In conclusion, the research will analyze the aspect of beauty that correspond to the Art Approach in line with the content of Islamic written by Azizi Haji Abdullah in the novel of *Light of the Rural* (1992). Hashim Awang (1994: 13) assumes that the Art Approach used is based on language styles. In this context, the elements of beauty is in language style and will be expressed in simile, metaphor and symbols.

4. ANALYSIS

The novel of *Light of the Rural* (1992) is about Datin Husniyah who leads the main character in this masterpiece. Her transfer to a district in Baling depicts her actions in transforming her family into the real values of Islamic. The pattern of society gives her new values in life. Azizi Haji Abdullah depicts the ending of the plot by showing someone who is bad in religion and transformed into a better person. The character can sacrifice her wealth just for the sake of Islam. The novel expresses the use of language style that instil religious values from the author to reflect the language based on religious as an effort to guide humans to be a correct path on earth. The language aspect affects the plot of the masterpiece and based on language to determine the strength and weakness.

For this research, the use of language used should describe Islamic elements. Therefore, it is clearly that the use of language will anticipate the elements of beauty from Islam. Therefore, it the use of language style will show the elements of beauty and gives an impact to the public. It is to arouse the feeling of regret to the almighty Allah. In line with this, the analysis of the novel will be analysed by using the Theory of Malay Methodology to focus the aesthetics elements based on Islam. The aspect of beauty or aesthetic is to depict the image of Islam. It will be analysed by using language style.

4.1. The Elements of Beauty of Language Style

The language style used by the author is to convey a meaning to arouse few impacts to the public. The language style in a masterpiece is presumed as the main pillar and make the plot as real. In line with that, the use of language style is appropriate and could produce the beauty in a masterpiece. Next, Hashim Awang (1987: 290) depicts the language style by using the words to express thought and feelings. The Art Approach is seen in using language style. It is to boost the author to express abstract and unseen things evaluated by the eyes. The language style contains intrinsic and extrinsic elements to affect the public. The language style plays important role of an Islamic masterpiece. It is the pillar to arouse the effects of beauty to the public. In the novel of *Light of the Rural* (1992) will be expressed by using language style which are simile, metaphor and symbol.

4.1.1. Simile

Simile is to compare two different things even they are the same. It has two divisions and another one is to make the comparison. In fact, the comparison used should be suitable with the context. Usually, it has language style, image, and can be assumed by senses (Md. Sidin & Mohd Saleeh, 1998: 151). It as a comparison of explicit and imaginative. A simile draws resemblance with the help of the words “like” or “as”. Meanwhile, based on the Fourth Edition of *Kamus Dewan* (2015: 1495), it means a clear example to depict comparison or one another. Keraf (2000:138), define simile as depict the comparison about the explicit to one another. Whereas, Cuddon in (Umar Junus, 1989: 30), the use of simile is to clarify an image given.

Based of the definitions given, simile is the language style used to compare two things in order to convey the meanings indirectly. Indeed, Azizi Haji Abdullah wrote the masterpiece by using simile to express his religious values. The use of simile would affect to the focus of the meanings and its beauty. He sketches the examples used to depict the religious values. Therefore, based on *Light of the Rural* (1992), Azizi created the use of simile to convey the life of Malay society that full of challenges and adventures. The language style is depicted by these phrases:

Ahhh, how can I express the joy of my triumph. As if I managed to ask some people to follow the religion of Islam. The night was like *Lailatul Qadar* (the night of decree) as if I got many benefits by doing my worship.

(Azizi Abdullah, 1992:117)

The present of Datin Husniyah to Baling would make his life as complete as before. She made herself close to Islam. By the simile of the “Lailatul Qadar” (the night of decree) the audience could interpret the thoughts behind the symbol and images. In line with that, “Lailatul Qadar” (the night of decree) can be found on the ten last of Ramadan¹ experienced by all Muslims once a year. It is clearly showing that the language style could give the beauty aspect to a literature that has Islamic elements. Therefore, the author enlightens how Datin Husniyah expresses her gratefulness upon her change to better Muslimah. It would also express Datin Husniyah’s grateful signs to be given guidance to enjoy the new phase of life as a good Muslim. She was as happy as the “Lailatul Qadar” (the night of decree). The language style of simile is used to show the author’s expression of beauty and the values of Islam. In fact, the excerpt shows how the author standardizes the language style of simile to be directly in expressing the elements of beauty. In other words, Azizi Haji Abdullah shows the messages by using simile to convey meanings. The author depicts the language style to express her transformation as the beginning and respect from Allah. This is to achieve the joy in the world and here after. Therefore, the matter is in line to the Art Approach based on Theory of Malay Methodology.

The Lailatul Qadar (the night of decree) is also mentioned in Surah al-Qadr (1-5) which mean:

“We have revealed this (Quran) on the eve of Lailatul-Qadar. And how can you find out if he has the grandeur of the night of Lailatul-Qadar better than a thousand months? That night, the Angels and Gabriel came down with Allah’s permission, taking with them everything (which was destined to happen next year). Good night (the blessing) until dawn. ”

(*Mushaf Tajwid with the translation to Malay*, 2006: 598)

The meanings of the verse stated showing that the “Lailatul Qadar” (the night of decree) is the awaiting night from all Muslims. It is such a bless and it was the night of Holy Quran was received. The Muslims are encouraged to feel the night wholeheartedly to the almighty Allah.

4.1.2. Symbol/Images

Symbol or images brings meanings. The symbol describes the indirect meanings. The symbol according to Pierce (1965: 249) is the signs that refer to the objects showing to the rules, basically the combination of general ideas. Symbol is arbitrary and conventional. It gives the vague meaning than the real object. It can be something to represent a group or abstract ideas. In an Islamic masterpiece, the symbol or image should convey the messages of Islam in line with the novel. If the symbol or image does not express the religious values, the main objectives do not elevate the faith and creed of Islam.

It is clearly that symbol or images has strong relationship with humans and the cultures. Based on ten novels analyzed, it shows the author that convey the Islamic messages based on symbol and images. Azizi expresses his symbolic expression by conveying direct and indirect meanings. The use of symbol or image give the clear descriptions to the plot of the story. Based on the symbol and images, the public could interpret the thoughts and philosophy based on the symbols. Therefore, the use of symbol elements or images could give the beauty aspect of a novel to Islamic literature.

In line with this, the beauty aspect should be translated direct and indirectly to show the impacts to the public. Bukhari Lubis (1994: 5-6) tells about the beauty of outer should be as the same as the inner beauty in an art. The beauty of form should be in line with the main beauty so that the aesthetics created will be eased by the god. The production of the literature is an encouraged action to express beauty and arranged arrangements especially the beauty of meaningful values of the universe created by Allah.

Next, the use of symbols brings few meanings to the messages conveyed. This can be seen based on the verse:

When Datuk Senin is performing takbiratul ehram, he heard sounds from behind. He felt of hundreds of *angels* around with soft wings.

¹The ninth month of the Muslim year, during which fasting is observed from dawn to sunset

(Azizi Haji Abdullah, 1992: 171)

Based on the excerpts, it shows that Datuk Senin started to go to the mosque to perform prayers as together and joining the religious classes conducted. He always wakes up late at night to pray and recite holy Quran. The life in Baling has really transformed his lifestyle. He feels that his previous life is full of sins and bad actions. The light of transformation has changed their whole family. Therefore, the word of “angel” is used by the author to depict the presence of the people came as faithful and pious. Based on Fourth Edition of *Kamus Dewan* (2007: 985), the word angel means the creatures created by the god from the light and it always obey to the almighty Allah and never disobey any rules. In this context, the word of “angel” is to describe the people who are performing the prayers together in the mosque. They are among the pious and have strong faith to Allah. Therefore, based on the verses, the author conveys the Islamic messages by using symbolic language styles. It is in line with the Art Approach that shows the Islamic elements in Islamic arts. The selection of the words used by the author is to meet the aspects of beauty and appropriate to Islam’s conditions. Therefore, the matter is in line to the Art Approach based on Theory of Malay Methodology.

Besides that, the angel is the creature created by Allah to obey, performing prayers and doing all the actions as directed. In fact, the angels have been mentioned in Quran in the Surah of al-Anbiya verse (19-20) which mean:

And remember that all in the sky and earth are belong to the Allah; and the angels accompanied will never be boastful and will always obeying to Him and they will never feel tired and restless.

(*Mushaf Tajwid translated to Malay*, 2006: 323)

The meaning of the verses above clearly shown that Allah SWT is the almighty creator and He is the one who arranges everything especially the earthlings. The angels have their own class compared to other creatures and they will never be being arrogant to fully obey to Allah SWT. They will never feel tired to whole heartedly obeying the rules of Allah.

4.1.3. Metaphor

In reference to Fourth Edition of *Kamus Dewan* (2015: 1029), metaphor is the use of words to convey a meaning or another meaning from usual as the comparison or exemplary. In literature, metaphor is the language style that has different meaning based on the actual one or the phrases. It refers to the linguistics process which is some of the characteristics of the objects are being lifted to another objects. In fact, the condition is applied based on the second object and the first object will be the answer. Therefore, metaphor is the same characteristics of the first and the second object.

Besides that, metaphor is a general feature that acts as medium to draw or describing a related concept to another. The use of metaphor is based on the image of a matter conveyed. The use of metaphor is related to the behavior and personality in expressing something. In fact, it is clearly showing that metaphor is a way to express a matter by using another different meaning based on the expressions.

Next, metaphor is an Islamic novel plays important role to convey the messages and aims from the author. Metaphor is consisted of two words. It related the relationship of abstract and the real things. The real things are expressed by the imagination of the author in conveying selected messages. The use of it is based on characters created by the author. Therefore, metaphor describes different meanings conveyed in both novels to express religious values. In line with that, based on the novel *Light of the Rural* (1992), Azizi created the use of metaphor based on Malay Muslim community achieved from language, thoughts and human’s actions.

The changes in Datin Husniyah after getting the guidance can be seen from the plot. The da’wah² received has changed completely to be a real Muslimah who obeys herself to Allah. The da’wah occurred with her voluntary has changed her whole life. In line with this, the author shows the language style of metaphor to express Islamic messages. The use of metaphor can express how the author correlate the abstract to the real things:

I cried whole heartedly. I don’t know why. I feel so embarrassed. I don’t feel embarrassed to the preaching of Tuan Guru Haji Had that I feel to

²Da’wah is an Arabic word which means to invite, call or summon someone. This term is often used to describe when Muslims share their faith with others, in order to teach them more about Islam.

offend me. I feel ashamed to myself. I feel weirder when I cry and feel more regret. My chest is on war. Somehow, some bad feelings are fading like greed, arrogance and boastful. I like to cry more and more to clean myself as to go through the *road of taubat*.

(Azizi Abdullah, 1992: 107)

The guidance received by Datin Husniyah does not stop there. She was seen to attending religious activities conducted by musolla in her village. The da'wah by Tuan Guru Haji Had has changed Datin Husniyah's life to a better life in Islam. Her soul is previously insufficient with faith is now filled with guidance and lights. Based on the verses, "the road of taubat" is identified as metaphor that brings different meanings from the real phrases. The use of "the road of taubat" shows how the author expresses his thoughts from abstract to the real ones. Metaphor is the features of the same characters from the first and the second object. The first one is the origin and the second one is to convey the meanings. Based on the excerpt, the road is the first object that is being conveyed as the road of changes to Allah SWT.

However, the word taubat³ is the second object to convey the first object which expresses the struggles of not doing any sins or repeating the same mistakes. Indeed, the words are clearly showing the features of the first and the second object. The author uses the metaphor of "the road of taubat" to combine both meanings to revert to Allah's pathways and will not repeat the same mistake. The metaphor of "the road of taubat" depicts the feelings of regrets among humans on how to get back to the real path and asking for forgiveness. It is clearly showing that Allah SWT has received her repentance even she had done a lot of countless mistakes.

The verses above express her regret of Datin Husniyah not to repeat the same mistakes before. The metaphor of "the road of taubat" shows how the feelings of regret. The almighty God has received her repentance as in Surah At- Taubah verse- 117 which mean:

"Allah has indeed received the repentance of the Prophet and the people of Muhajirin and Ansaar who followed him (in battle) in times of trouble, after having almost lost their hearts (from the Prophet to fight); then Allah accepted their repentance; surely Allah is Most Merciful, Most Merciful to them

(*Mushaf Tajwid with the translation to Malay language*, 2006: 205)

The meaning of this verse explains that Allah Almighty is the Most Merciful and Most Forgiving who always promises forgiveness to His servant who has done wrong. Each of His servant living on earth needs to constantly seek forgiveness without ever giving up and seeking forgiveness from the One. The door of repentance will always be widely open to those who want to find the happiness and happiness of the world and the hereafter.

Thus, the language style emphasizes the scope of the aesthetic aspects found in the Art Approach, which clearly showing the beauty aspects of language used and are based on Islamic aesthetic values. The above excerpt shows how the author balances the aspects of the metaphorical language style and content of the text, which is the metaphor used to match the text of Islamic studies. The Art Approach generated through Hashim Awang Theory of Malay Methodology has proved to fulfil the analytical framework used in this study. The aesthetic aspect of the metaphorical language is the beauty of Islamic ethics and does not violate Islamic law. Therefore, the production or writing of a work is a practice that is required to be executed in a systematic manner, in accordance to Islamic rules and regulations.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the analysis done to the novel of *Light of the Rural* (1992) that used the Art Approach from the division of Theory of Malay Methodology produced few important conclusions. The beauty elements are highly shown based on Art Approach of language style. The analysis executed to the masterpiece that has Islamic elements needs to have good values and positivity to the Muslims. What is seen clearly that the beauty of the masterpiece can be assessed based on quality and grade. Besides that, the use of Art Approach in Theory of Malay Methodology by Hashim Awang expresses good practice and appropriate. This is because the theory focuses the elements of beauty based on Islam's pillars. In line with this, Islamic aesthetics inculcated is correlated to the novel. It is also expressing the Art Approach by highlighting aesthetics of Islam. It is also believed that the use of language style of art

³Sincere and pure repentance

Islamic based has better arrangement that the others. The language style used should be guided and suitable to the Islamic needs. Therefore, the language style should be appropriate so that it would not deteriorate the beauty of the masterpiece. Then, the use of language plays vital role to give aesthetic impacts effectively and explicit. The manipulation of language style of Islamic based elements is very crucial to strengthen the faith and regret among the Muslims.

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