

# Medical Issues According to Doctor and Patient POV and Its Role in Story Development

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## Abstract

This research discusses medical issues analysed from doctor's and patient's point of view, and the role it plays in story development of Indonesian literary works. In classifying novels that put medical issues in its plot, the researcher focuses on there research it into three categories, the ones, medical problems based on a doctor's perspective, medical problems based on the patient's perspective, and the third is the role of medical problems in the development of a story novels which talks about patient's point of view, This research uses qualitative research with content analysis of five novels. Based on data collection and analysis which is related to medical problems from the doctor's perspective, can be found that there are subjective representations from doctors in assessing patients. Furthermore, for medical issues based on the patient's perspective, it can be found that there is an ethical assessment that the patient describes regarding the doctor's performance given to him. Apart from that, there are patient resilience efforts in fighting the disease. As for the role of medical problems in story development, there are two findings in the research, namely from the plot and character development.

**Keywords:** *Medical Issues, Doctor POV, Patient POV, Story Development*

## INTRODUCTION

### Medical Issue in Indonesian Novel

Medical problems in initiating a literary work can be actualized through imagery or fiction in fictional prose such as novels, poetry, sagas, etc. Medical issues are not only oriented towards micro health problems, but also touch on medical phenomena at the macro level. Macro medical phenomena means that the problems identified in medical matters not only address the health problems experienced by patients, but also touch on the issue of providing health services. In practical terms, providing good health services can allegedly support the acceleration of a patient's recovery. Providing good health services is an important substance in realizing health services. Apart from that, the provision of health services is the most basic input to see the quality of health services. A treatment can be said to have adequate quality if it meets the criteria including being effective, safe, and centered on comprehensive patient needs (Observatory & Emro, 2014).

In Indonesian novels themselves, it seems that there are not many studies related to medical problems, although there are also several short articles about them. However, furthermore, the movement of literary criticism is related to medical phenomena or matters related to medicine. There is an article in the journal RIMA (Australia), Helen Pausacker and Charles A Coppel discuss the relationship between love, illness and the image of women in novels. -Melayu Pasar novels by Peranakan Chinese authors (2001). There is also a German researcher, Helga Blazy, in her book discussing the image of children in Indonesian literature, discussing "sick children" in a separate chapter (2010). And CW Watson, a Dutch expert on

Indonesian literature and culture, discusses the motif of shamans and black magic in Indonesian literature in a book about Witchcraft and Sorcery in Southeast Asia (2009).

Medical-themed novels in Indonesia are considered part of colonial culture which originates from non-fiction stories. The majority of stories depicted in the current era of modernization focus on treatment systems that provide a kind of persuasion to patients so as to speed up the rate of healing of the illness they are experiencing. But furthermore, many literary works in Indonesia, especially novels with medical themes, discuss and explain things that are mystical or lead to spells. Usually the focus is placed on story elements related to moral judgments such as witchcraft, amulets, magic, etc. (Balde, 2018). That is the uniqueness of medical-themed novels in Indonesia. Not infrequently, there are novels that criticize the code of ethics of a doctor which is felt to violate the ethics of a doctor towards his patients.

More specifically, the situation in medical treatment services in Indonesia from a non-fiction perspective when compared with medical treatment in the West, doctors in Indonesia generally tend to be quiet, if the patient doesn't ask, the doctor rarely provides information related to the diagnosis. Usually the information given to patients only focuses on information related to treatment (drug dosage). This kind of thing is what makes secret conspiracies so much criticized in literary works. In fact, the condition of medical services in Indonesia so far can be said to be quite far behind other countries in the Asian region. This lag can be seen from the aspects of administrative services, medical services, and priority treatment of patients while in the ER. Based on data from The Ranking Web of World Hospitals (2023) from CSIC, hospitals in Indonesia are ranked in the hundreds in the world. Even the top ranked hospital in Indonesia currently, namely Mitra Keluarga Group Hospital, is ranked 774th in Asia and 3,858th in the world. This shows that there must be a significant evaluation for workers working in the medical sector in order to improve the quality of service. In general, the ranking of a hospital can be determined from its administrative services and also its medical treatment services.

### **Medical problems based on a doctor's perspective**

Medical problems analyzed from the doctor's perspective include the representation of doctors in diagnosing illnesses in patients, the representation of doctors in displaying health indicators and disease indicators, the representation of doctors in persuading patients to recover, the representation of doctors showing spiritual enthusiasm for patients, the medical problems described and analyzed in this research is based on a novel story. In this research, the representation of doctors in diagnosing patients' illnesses is touched upon in the novels entitled *Sang Pembius*, *Mimpi Cinta dan Asa*, and *Perikardia*. Clinically, medical diagnosis is a clinical assessment of the experience or response of individuals, families and communities to health problems, risks of health problems or life processes. Apart from that, the diagnosis given by the doctor to the patient is of course based on the client's physical, sociocultural, psychological and spiritual response to their individual health problems, so critical thinking skills are needed in the diagnostic process.

Medical issues in perspective doctor, which discuss the representation of doctors in diagnosing patients, can be found in research, one of which is responsive diagnosis. In the representation, there is something interesting, that is when the doctor gives a quick diagnosis there is a different results between the diagnosis and the patient's laboratory results. This is indicated by data *with peripheral oxygen levels of only 80%, it is likely that there is a severe lack of oxygen in the body. These are the symptoms of happy hypoxia which is often recognized*

too late and ends fatally. "The patient has low oxygen levels but should still be conscious, but why is he not conscious" (SP, 5). Furthermore, what is interesting about the doctor in diagnosing the patient in the novel is that when he speculates, the problem that occurs is that the doctor only makes a prediction without doing in-depth research.

The second representation is the doctor's efforts to display health indicators and illness indicators to patients. The doctor's efforts to display indicators of health and disease indicators in the novels *Sang Pembius, Mimpi, Cinta, dan Asa* and *Perikardia* can be seen from the three methods. The three methods used are anamnesis, inspection and palpation. Uniqueness occurs when the doctor has conveyed the health potential experienced by the patient, but sometime later, it turns out that the diagnosis in conveying the health indicators was not correct. This is indicated by data *Doc, the patient's pulse and toes are starting to move!* "A short message and a good body response that is usually experienced by patients like this, of course this brings good hope for me. OK, that means the patient is healthy, I said. But the saturation is very low, doc. I had time to think again whether maybe my diagnosis was wrong (SP, 22).

Next, what is no less important is the doctor's efforts to persuade the patient. The communication process that exists between doctors and patients aims to provide a bilateral understanding. In this case, it is believed that the doctor is trying to provide persuasion or what is usually called emotional encouragement to the patient. There are several findings in the representation of doctors in persuading patients in the novel. The findings include the persuasion techniques used by doctors to persuade patients to be motivated to recover. The persuasion techniques contained in doctors' persuasion towards patients in these novels include fear-generating persuasion techniques, integrated persuasion techniques, and emotional appeal persuasion techniques. The most interesting thing about the persuasion techniques found in the novel is the persuasion techniques found in the novel *Mimpi, Asa dan Cinta*. Namely marked with the quote) "Now Adi rest, okay, endure the pain while praying to Allah okay" the storm will definitely pass. "Adi will definitely be strong in facing this, keep your spirits up, don't be afraid." "Yes, doc." Adi replied. I moved to leave the gurney before the canthus. My tears produce their production (MAC, p. 23).

### **Medical Issues based on the Patient's Perspective**

Medical problems from the patient's perspective here include the patient's representation in expressing expressions when struggling with pain, the patient's representation in expressing an assessment of medical services, and the patient's representation in expressing psychological enthusiasm. The medical problems described and analyzed in this research are based on novel stories. The representation of patients in showing things in medical life is touched upon a lot in the novels entitled *Little Letter to God* and *Stopping at You*. In both fictional and non-fictional realities, the representations given by patients aim to provide true information related to the situations and conditions they experienced while being treated or even narratives conveyed before the patient died. Many of the representations presented by the patient characters in the story are related to the patient's resilience.

Furthermore, adversity quotient is considered a new concept in overcoming difficulties and is seen as a science that analyzes human persistence in facing life's challenges, difficulties, pain or problems that occur in life (Stoltz, 2018). Resilience in patients is the efforts made by the patient to continue to be able to fight the pain they suffer. Resilience in the context of fiction is the elaboration and exploration of moral values that refer to an individual's tendency to face difficulties and pain. Resilience in facing difficulties and pain is influenced by psychology

which results in individuals being able to recover from previous normal conditions (Shivaranjani, 2014).

The most interesting about medical issues based on the patient's perspective is the representation of the patient's resilience in fighting his illness. In this part, the patient really uses all the strength he has to fight the disease. So what can be seen is the fictional reality depicted in the story as if it seems real. The characterized can be by the quote *I can barely see normally, even the minus glasses that I usually wear to help my vision can no longer be used. Because the lump on my face makes the size of my face bigger. Not only that, I also felt tight to breathe. If I'm not strong enough, I have to lie down with my right face as a base. It felt like sleeping was hell when I woke up because of the pain in my swollen face. It felt like a thousand knives were slicing the important organs that work deep in my heart and the nerves of my brain. But I always realized that I was definitely not alone, there were still many other people who were suffering much more than me* (SKT, 66).

Furthermore, what is interesting about medical issues from the patient's perspective is the perception efforts made by the patient regarding the medical services they receive. In this section, patients do not only assess the performance of the doctor who is treating them. But also the patient who plays the main character compares the hospital infrastructure when he was treated at that time compared to the hospital he had visited before. The patient's perception is considered to be interesting in a fictional story. This is because in non-fiction reality, the majority of people when they are related to services definitely compare the services and performance of the medical personnel in them. The patient's perception regarding assessing the hospital's performance by comparing it with the previous hospital can be described as the following data *after a few moments, things calmed down and I waited for the blood to stop. Now that I'm starting to get it under control, the pain is starting to subside. Treatment at Ciptomangunkusumo Hospital is faster than at the hospital I was treated at previously* (SKT, p. 197).

### **The Role of Medical Issues in Story Development**

Basically, stories can develop due to existing social realities and cultural backgrounds (Zulela, 2013). A story is an expression that uses words about an event experienced by a human or other creature that is narrated. Furthermore, the analysis of the medical role here is a fictional story. Fiction stories are images related to life, humans and humanity, all of which are written artificially (Nurgiyantoro, 2013). The depiction of a fictional story can be seen through life events through the lives of the characters in living their lives as revealed through the characters, the storyline and the surrounding setting.

In the analysis of the role of medical problems in the development of this story, there are perceptions in three ways, namely the development of medical stories based on character development, the development of medical stories based on story lines, and the presence of plot twists. The most interesting thing about the role of medical problems in the development of the story here is the plot twist. When it comes to character development, the majority of the characters in these novels experience character development. What is of concern here is that development and change are not the same. Character development means that the character experiences growth, while change means change. As for the plot development that occurs in the novel, the majority have a progressive plot.

In this discussion the role of medical problems in story development is focused on the plot twist. Every story in a novel generally has what is called a shock effect. The aim is to make readers more curious about the continuation of the story. The shock effect can be displayed through a sudden change in the plot or what we usually call a plot twist. A plot twist is a change in the storyline in a short story, film, drama, soap opera, novel, or other form of story. These changes usually contradict the story described by the author at the beginning of the story. This change usually makes readers, listeners or viewers surprised and disappointed. The function of implementing a plot twist in a story is so that readers, viewers or listeners do not easily guess the plot of the story being presented. With a plot twist, it is hoped that readers, listeners or viewers will continue to be curious. This is with the aim of the reader or listener following the storyline until the end (Fiska, 2018).

The most interesting shock effect from this research is marked by the quote *What did you do to Zahra. Maintain your honor, you educated people!* "Sorry, what did Doctor Satria mean? Please don't think badly or think I will do something stupid to Zahra." I tried to explain. "Zahra was experiencing shortness of breath, doc!" "What is this!" Then Doctor Satria showed me a photo of me holding Zahra's body. Where is that photo from? I was just stunned and silent, lost in curiosity. Since Doctor Satria shouted, I have been completely silent. To explain what was in the photo, it felt like my whole body was being held captive (SP, p. 163). Furthermore, based on its location in the story, plot twists according to Fiska (2018) practically consist of classic plot twists, middle plot twists, and double plot twists. Those related to the types of plot twists include disclosure, discovery, unreliable narrator, non-linear narrative, and red herring. The layout and types of plot twists are said to be able to develop the story. The expressions in the plot twist really make the story develop because of the medical setting.

## CONCLUSION

In general, this research is initiated related to problems and phenomena that occur in fictional reality, namely medical problems found in Indonesian novels. The findings that can be found are three main things, including medical problems based on the doctor's perspective which relate to the problems faced by doctors in providing diagnoses and persuading patients. When giving this diagnosis there are problems that trigger medical problems carried out by the doctor, namely when the initial diagnosis given by the doctor is different from the laboratory results after research has been carried out. Regarding medical issues from the doctor's perspective here, it can be evaluated through the eyes of researchers, that even though doctors are professionals, it turns out there is still room for error. The problems experienced by doctors in diagnosing illnesses in patients are largely influenced by the patient's level of education. The lower the level of education, the more difficult it is for the patient and even the patient's family to interpret the doctor's diagnosis

Furthermore, related to medical problems examined from the patient's perspective, there are research findings, including the existence of patient resilience efforts in dealing with pain. In this resilience effort, there are also problems that patients have to face, namely when they are fighting pain but are not supported by adequate infrastructure. This is shown in the data above in the quote. Furthermore, the most interesting thing about medical problems from a patient's perspective is when the patient compares the services of medical personnel and infrastructure in the hospitals he has visited. This suggests that even though the patient is enduring pain, he still has an assessment of the existing infrastructure. The third step is the patient's perception in persuading the family. What is interesting here is that novelty can be

found, that even though a patient is in pain, he is still able to persuade his family not to worry about him. And he looks fine.

The last one is related to medical issues in story development. As has been previously narrated, fictional stories can develop because of the development of the plot, characterization, and shock effects of the story. In general, all the main characters in the novel under study experience character development as well as plot development. What is a unique finding in this research is the plot twist in the story. The plot twist is related to a violation of the code of ethics committed by a doctor outside his practice hours. More precisely, when he is alone with his senior child. The doctor tried to have sex with his senior daughter. This is something that should not be done. So from here a major conclusion can be made in this research, that the fictional reality that occurs in the stories of Indonesian novels is actually based on real life or non-fiction life experienced by the author. In this case, coincidentally the author of the novel is also a doctor, so in developing the existing story, he developed the story based on existing field facts.

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