

**REPRESENTATION OF EDUCATION ON MOVIE “JEMBATAN  
PENSIL” BY HASTO BROTO  
(A SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE ANALYSIS)**

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**Abstract**

A movie entitled “Jembatan Pensil” by Hasto Broto tells about the children at a village in Muna Island, South East Sulawesi, they find difficulty to get education. This paper will describe the movie by using sociology of literature approach. Based on the result of the analysis, Jembatan Pensil movie represents that at a village in Muna Island, there is inequality on education and how difficult the track makes obstacle to education enter the village. In other hand, the government doesn't pay attention to the situation, and make the education is difficult to be reached. Character Ondeng comes to be hero to repair the brittle bridge by saving his money. Mental retardation of Ondeng is a satire to society and government.

**Keywords :** Jembatan Pensil, movie, representation of education

**Introduction**

John Dewey states that education is the process of living through a continuous reconstruction of experiences. Dewey does not believe in an ultimate aim of education. He provides no fixed and final goal of education. To him, education is experience which is subject to constant change with the changing pattern of life. The process of education is a continuous process of adjustment. Dewey agrees to the function of education as preparation for life, if it refers to life now and the immediate future. Because of that, education is important in someone's life. Education's issues can be seen on literary products, included movie.

Movie is a series of moving pictures, often telling a story, usually shown in a theater or on television (Cambridge Dictionary). An

Indonesian Movie “Jembatan Pensil” by Hasto Broto talks about a spirit of the children in Muna Island to get education. Every day, they must walk and go through a long journey and difficult access to go to the school. Some of them has physical defect, but they do not get surrender. In this movie, education is described if the education is difficult to be accessed. It happens because there is a problem about facility which can support education like road access and less of care from the government and society.

Movie is kind of mass media. In Indonesia, the development of movie is progressive, the movie can give significant effect in delivering messages (Rivers & Peterson, 2008). Movie is reputed as agreeable medium to represent the reality of life from the ideology conflicts and

as a document of social-culture reality or politics. The representation is constructed by how the movie shows. In this paper, the representation of education on movie “Jembatan Pensil” is described as a document of social culture reality. For getting the data, the researcher identify this film by using Actan sheme and sociology of literature approach about the character and the setting of the movie.

### **Methodology**

A product of literature cannot be understood by just looking its structure. It is because the content of its literature is about the society’s problem. Jakob Sumardjo (1979) states that literature is society’s product. By this statement, a literature can be learned by sociology. Sociology of literature is a study about the society. Damono (1984) defines that sociology of literature is an objective study and scientific about human in the society, study about institution, and social process.

According to Damono’s book “Sosiologi Sastra, Sebuah Pengantar Singkat”:

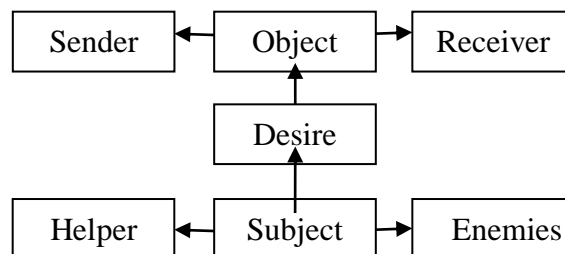
1. Communication of sociology of literature, place the author in social context, then research how far to know all of the aspects that give effects for its product of literature.
2. Interpretation of the text sociologically, analyze

description about world and society in a literature’s product, then research how far the description is matching with reality.

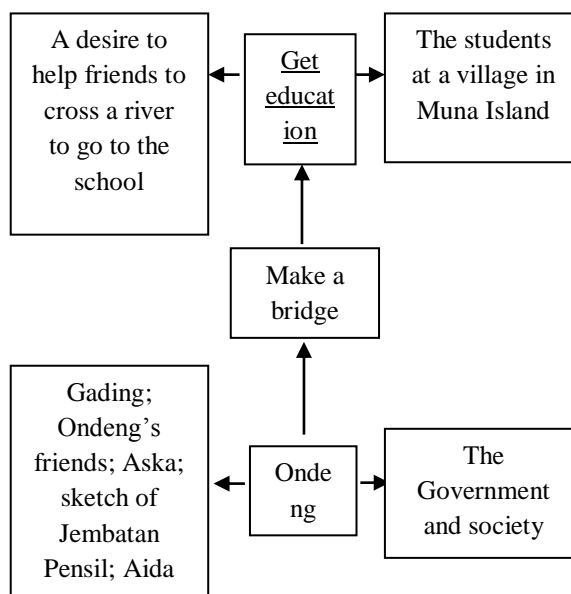
Related to sociology of literature approach, it relates to economy, politic, law and education. Study of sociology is described by the influence of society to literature product and the position of the literature in society. The movie “Jembatan Pensil”, the structure of the movie will be analyzed by using Actan scheme and for the content will be analyzed by sociology of literature approach.

### **Discussion**

The story of “Jembatan Pensil” movie will be described by using Actan scheme. By using Actan, the relationship that happens in the movie can be seen. There are six functions of Actan in three oppositional pairs. The scheme of three oppositional pairs is described as follows :



According to Greimas, the sign (arrow) on Actan scheme is important, because it connects the function of each actan. Sender is someone/something which become source of idea, and its function as activator of story. Object is someone/something which looked for or wanted by subject. Subject is someone/something which has order to get object. Helper is someone/something which helps subject to get object. Receiver someone/something which is gotten the object. Enemy is someone/something which block the subject to get object. And this is Actan scheme on *Jembatan Pensil* Movie :



Based on the scheme, Ondeng's desire (helps his friends and society to build a bridge) is the most important part in the movie. Ondeng wants to build this bridge in order to make his friends easier in going to the school to reach the education. Despite there is some help to Ondeng, the object is difficult to be reached. It is because there is careless of the society and government.

Based on the movie, the education access is difficult. It is shown by how difficult to build a bridge (*Jembatan Pensil*). The use of title "*Jembatan Pensil*" is related to education world, we know that pencil is a tool to make a note in classroom activities. In other word, the building of this bridge also can be meaningful, it means that if to get better education is need cooperation from all elements, society and government.

In this movie, the relation between the characters represent the conflict that happened in the movie. A character can be as helper or enemy. Character of Ondeng is the main character in this movie. Ondeng is described as someone who has mental retardation, but he is very enthusiastic and cheerful. He always wait his friends in point of bridge to make sure they are safe, because the condition of bridge is very brittle.

The empathy of Ondeng appears when he dreams to make a bridge for his friends. Beside of that,

he saves his money. Although he has limitedness, Ondeng has great skill in drawing, and he uses his skill to draw a sketch of a bridge. By this skill, it motivates him to draw a sketch of bridge, the shape is like pencil. And this sketch is made as a design of bridge. The goodness of Ondeng is always remembered by his friends after Ondeng passed away because he got accident in the sea, when he was sailing.

In carrying out his mission, Ondeng is helped by his friends, they are Aska, Inal, Nia, and Yanti. Character of Aska is described as a smart student, honest, and care. Careness of Aska can be seen by he always guides Inal (a blind student) when they go to the school. Character of Inal is described as optimistic student, he always goes to school with the other friends. His blindness is caused by when he helps his mother, he breaks the stone, and piece of the stone contact to his eyes, and the minimum of health access make Inal got response slowly, and finally it affected the condition of his eyes, he was blind.

Nia is Inal's sister. The character of Nia is described as good girl, honest, cheerful, and smart. The next character is Yanti, she is good girl, beautiful, smart, faithful, and she has dream to be a doctor. The reason why she wants to be a doctor, because there is no doctor in her village, she hopes if her dream comes true she can help the society

of her village, she is also Ondeng's friends. Ondeng's friend who can make his dream comes true is Gading. Gading is a young man, he is a fisherman. He always goes to sea with Ondeng's father. He likes to help others. When Ondeng's father passed away, Ondeng lives with him. Then, when Ondeng passed away, he continues Ondeng's dream to make a bridge to Ondeng's friends.

Aida, is a child of teacher, and she graduates from university in Jakarta. She is a good woman and care to the society. She is also creative, it can be seen by how she teaches her students. Teacher in this movie has characteristics humble, it is shown by he makes a free school (SD Towea) to the society there. He never gets fee from the government. Character of Farida, she is teacher's wife. She is petulant woman, but she is hard worker and wise. The next character is Pamone, he is Ondeng's father, and he is fisherman. He has characteristics as wise man. He passed away when he was sailing.

Character of Attar, is the most naughty student. He is cruel and he likes annoying the other friends. Character of Actar is described as antagonist character, he likes to mock another student in the class. Arman is Actar's brother, he likes helping each other, honest, and responsible. Based on those characteristics of each character in this movie *Jembatan Pensil*, it represents that a character is as

representative of certain idea. The idea is related to proponent and opponent to education.

The education is influenced by the setting in the movie. The main setting in the movie is Meleura Island, Muna Regency, South East Sulawesi. There is a brittle bridge. This setting is the place where often through passed by Inal, Nia, Yanti and Aska when they will cross to go to SD Towea. The school, SD Towea is the place for students to study. It is built by teacher, by using his own money. This setting is the most appear in the movie. Beside of that, there is a mosque, it appears that if there is recitation of the Qur-an, it shows that the society there are religious.

The other settings are yard of Inal's house, Nia's house, and Ondeng's house that represent their friendship. Ondeng's house also represents to show how society look Ondeng, despite he has limitedness, but he has many friends and many people care to him, it shows that Ondeng is a good boy. The place such as fish-market, cow husbandry, and boat to show the identity of some characters who has middle to under class. It represents that based on movie *Jembatan Pensil*, education is difficult to be accessed by these class, another word is the society, who are in middle to under class cannot reach education easily, they get more challenges, from the access and facilities.

A hill in the Muna Island is also one of the settings in the movie, the scene is when Aida asks all of the students to learn in nature. This hill, also became place when Gading teaches Ondeng many things, one of them is giving Ondeng message "a fisherman.

his life or his die is at the sea". Although, education in the movie is described as difficult to be reached, but they are still try to get the education. In the movie, the description of the education is have no limitation by building. Education can be learned wherever and whenever, and unlimited by formal education. It is shown that how Aida teaches the students in the nature, he teaches about biology by showing the caves, plants, and the others of natural appearance. From Aida, we can learn that the learning process can be done wherever, it is shown by she always asks the students to learn in nature. As example, when she asks the students to study at Liang Kabori Cave. By visiting the cave, Aida teaches writing in the cave, and gives the motivation to the students if they should be useful for their society.

In this movie, the main character, Ondeng, he passed away. After that, Ondeng's dream is realized by Gading. The setting of time in this movie explains that how the time is used by the character in studying. The formal education, they get from the morning to afternoon,

whereas in afternoon to evening they study with Aida to learn about the environment.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the movie “Jembatan Pensil” represents how the society who are in middle to under class or the society who are far to the city, are difficult to get education. Character of Ondeng, he is described as person who aware about education and care to his society although he has defective. This character is used to make the onlooker of this movie to have more awareness to the education, then the onlooker after watch this movie can have more spirit to reach education, to learn, to study, to get more knowledges by feeling Ondeng’s spirit.

From this movie, education can be done wherever and whenever. It is seem by the students not only study in formal education, but after they get formal education, they also study with Miss Aida, and they learn in nature (informal education). Beside of that, this movie has value as a persuasive media to the onlooker to do cooperation in built this country: that if a country wants to become developed country, especially in education aspect, it is the duty all of the citizen, not just one or two people.

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