

# Sexual Deviance in *Tatiek Indriany Putri Sala* Novel

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**Abstract:** *TatiekIndrianyPutriSala* (hereinafter referred to as TIPS) is a Javanese novel written by Any Asmara which its publisher still had the "guts" to publish during a massive Government seizure of what they considered as cheap romance novels. The novel TIPS was grouped under *roman panglipurwuyung* type of romance novels. This literary genre was developed in the 1960s up to early 1970s and has the following characteristics; (1) written in a register that is easily understood by the general public, (2) having a narrative that is presented in a simplistic manner, (3) the narrative is generally peppered with sensational erotic events, and (4) the cover of the novel displays an exotic natural realism image. Known as an author from the "pioneer generation," Any Asmara was deemed very productive and had contributed to the thriving development of *roman panglipurwuyung*. In general, the theme of *panglipurwuyung* is romance. As a work of a "respectable" poet, does TIPS also follow the tendency of *panglipurwuyung* to present a romantic theme? If so, how does TIPS' romantic theme correlate with traditional Javanese norms of romance? To answer these questions, this research applies structural theory in an attempt to correlate the piece to a classical Javanese literary work of *SeratCandrarini* by R.Ng.Ranggawarsita.

**Keywords:** *panglipurwuyung*, *SeratCandrarini*, Any Asmara, romance, classical literature.

## 1. Introduction

Current modern Javanese literature has produced many literary texts. Suripan (1975: 55), in the book *TelaahKesusastraan Modern*, mentioned that the first modern Javanese novel is *SeratRiyantoby* R.M. Sulardi that was published by BalaiPustaka in 1920. Since 1945, modern Javanese literature grew and thrived, both in the form of *cerkak*, abbreviated from *critacekak* (short stories), and novels, published in Javanese magazines as series (to become a novel) or published in book form, by both Government publishing or private publishers.

A quantitative development of modern Javanese literature occurred in the 1960s when pocket Javanese romance novels gained popularity. During then, the novel mostly became a "required reading" among teenagers and was discussed widely. The pocket novel was later known in the realm of Javanese literature as *roman panglipurwuyung* romance or 'solace' novels. The term was coined due to the novels' function as a form of "consolation". Suripan (1975: 72) explained that the surge of romance and pocket novels in the 1960s was caused by the following four occurrences.

1. Javanese writers wanting to maintain the development of Javanese literature.
2. In addition to their entertaining property, the literary works also helped develop the Javanese language.
3. Provide a role model for the society.
4. Have within them some political aims (containing propaganda).



Basically it is not difficult to recognise *romanpanglipurwuyung*. Widati (2001: 26) explains that *roman panglipurwuyung* have the following characteristics: (1) written in a register that is easily understood by the general public, (2) the narrative is presented in a simplistic manner, (3) the narrative is generally peppered with sensational erotic events, and (4) the cover of the novel displays an exotic natural realism image. Such characteristics can be seen in several *romanpanglipurwuyung*, such as *Gara-GaraRokMepetRambutSasak* (All Because of Short Skirt and Teased Hair), *RandhaTeles* (Wet Widow), *Asmara TanpaWeweka* (No Caution Romance), *GodhanePrawan Indo* (The Flirt of the Mixed-Blood Virgin), and *PrawanKaosan* (Shirt-Wearing Virgin). In general, this literary genre narrates love stories with the underlying theme of romance. It cannot be denied that the development of *panglipurwuyung* during the 60's was due to the many modern Javanese literature authors that were born in that era. Widati (2001: 11) says that there are three authors who are regarded to be in the pioneer generation, i.e., Soebagijo I.N., Poerwadhie Atmodihardjo, and Any Asmara. The three authors are known as the pioneer generation not only for the era that they were in, but also because they introduced genuinely new and "awakening" literary works. "New" means that the literary works they present no longer referred to the rules of classical Javanese literature that had been developed earlier, while "awakening" means that it initiated Javanese literary authors' writing of modern Javanese literary works.

Any Asmara is the most senior figure among the pioneer generation (Rass, 1985: 23). The name Any Asmara is a pseudonym, while his real name is Achmad Ngubaini Ranuasmara. He was born in Banyumas on August 13, 1913. His writing skill was developed by self-taught. In addition, his fame was supported by his productivity in writing. He published 70 novels (partly *romanpanglipurwuyung*) and 750 short stories. Some of them have already been examined, both for scholarly or scientific works, such as thesis-writing. According to Suwondo (2004: 8), the works of Any Asmara tend to be a moralistic kind of romance novel seasoned with sensational or sadistic events and coloured with rather erotic twists. Any Asmara's pocket novels also took part in flourishing the *romanpanglipurwuyung* around the 1960's and 1970's.

One of Any Asmara's novels that has not been examined is a novel entitled *TatiekIndrianyPutriSala* (hereinafter referred to as TIPS), which was published by CV Dua A in Yogyakarta in 1972. In addition, the novel TIPS is one of the novels which its publisher still had the "guts" to publish after the massive Government seizure of *romanpanglipurwuyung* which was considered cheap by the New Order Government.

The novel TIPS depicts a story of the everyday life of the noble class, which is framed with events of sexual deviance. In this context, sexual deviance means sex out of official marriage. This becomes a matter that deserves to be discussed considering that Javanese cultural norms have been a guidance for the people, which have been obeyed, respected and was passed down from generation to generation. The Javanese norms exist in both oral form and written form, which is in *serat*. One of the *serat* that teaches about guidance for women in the family is *SeratCandrarini* written by Raden Ngabehi Ranggawarsita. This *serat* outlines the main traits of women, which were personified in five wives of Raden Arjuna.

## 2. Method and Theory

The research method used in this research is descriptive analysis method. Descriptive analysis method begins with a search of the facts contained in the object of study, which then will be analysed (Ratna, 2004: 53). The purpose of the descriptive method is to describe the text and the content of the text. In addition to describing, the study also seeks to analyse and interpret contextual conditions that occur in the community. To support the research, literature study is also applied. Furthermore, the study also uses structural theory as explained by Burhan Nurgiyantoro (2015) in the book *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*.

### 3. Result and Discussion

TIPS narrates the story of the family life of a noble man, RadenBei (RB) Sindupratata. RB Sindupratata had a wife named RadenAyuKusdinah (RA), both of which had a large age gap. This caused a dissatisfaction in RA Kusdinah's sexual desire at a later time in the marriage. She sought to release her sexual desire by having an affair with a man named Raden Mas (RM) Suryokusumo, who was actually her husband's nephew. This affair continued until RM Suryokusumo became a son-in-law of RB Sindupratata and RA Kusdinah because he got married with their daughter, Rr. Ambarwati. Such deviance was not known by RB Sindupratata and Rara (Rr) Ambarwati.

The sexual intercourse between RA Kusdinah and RM Suryokusumo became a habit, which both of them could not stop. Even, as a result of such action, the affair within the noble family was spread. RM Suryokusumo became a young man who easily felt lonely, to the extent of him also having sex with Mirah, his housemaid. The women who had an affair with Suryokusumo then had children. While RA Kusdinah gave birth to a baby girl, Mirah and Rr. Ambarwati each gave birth to a baby boy. Not long after the birth of the three babies, Suryokusumo was involved in a corruption case. The court decided to terminate him from his job and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment in Surabaya. The affairs between RM Suryokusumo, RA Kusdinah, and Mirah later evolved into a new issue. The characters of Tatiek, Sunardi, and Birawa, who were siblings because of the same blood from RM Suryokusumo were involved in a love triangle. Tatiek was the daughter of RM Suryokusumo with RA Kusdinah, Sunardi was the son of RM Suryokusumo with Rr. Ambarwati, while Birawa was the son of RM Suryokusumo with Mirah. At the end of the story, the love triangle between Tatiek, Sunardi, and Birawa, resulted in their deaths.

The series of romance-themed events dominating the novel TIPS have logical underlying reasons. Several of the reasons have placed TIPS as a *roman panglipur wuyung*. First, to emphasise the theme, the emergence of romance stories indicates that the Narrator wants to highlight the main idea, which is love story. Second, as a means of entertainment, TIPS as a *roman panglipur wuyung* is indeed known as a literary work that presents the elements of entertainment. Hence, it is expected that the readers can enjoy every event unfolded in TIPS. Third, as a means of education, all romance stories narrated in TIPS turns out to be an extraordinary romance story. The romance story that is emphasised is the romance leading towards sexual relationship out of marriage or (as mentioned by the writer) sexual deviance which caused complicated problems. The third reason became an antithesis against the view that *roman panglipur wuyung* has no educational value. On the other hand, TIPS written by Any Asmara presents events that provide educational values to the readers. The dominant romance story becomes a self-reflection for the readers in living their life. Based on the research, in general it can be considered that the theme of the novel TIPS is romance. This is proven by the romance stories occurring among the characters in each event. At the beginning, the romance story was between the characters Tatiek Indriany and Sunardi. Then, the next romance story occurred between the character R.M. Suryokusumo and Rr. Rara Ambarwati, then Suryokusumo also had a romance with his prospective mother-in-law, R. Ayu Kusdinah and his maid, Mirah. The story ended with a sad event as the characters Sunardi, Tatiek, and Birawa lost their lives. Such event was caused by the romance. Furthermore, at the end of the story, R. Ayu Kusdinah had just learned that three young men and woman were siblings because they had the same father.

To be specific, the theme of the novel TIPS based on the above events can be considered as "sexual deviance". "Deviance" (*penyelewengan*) according to the Great Indonesian Language Dictionary (2008) means the process, manner, act of perversion, deviation, betrayal, and misuse. As for the "sexual" can be interpreted as a sexual relationship between a man and woman. Thus, "sexual deviance" in this research is defined as 'sexual intercourse performed out of the norms or rules'.

Sexual deviance cases in the novel TIPS occurred in the noble family of Raden Bei Sindupratata, which was because of the unsatisfied sexual desire of his wife, Raden Ayu Kusdinah. The

big age gap in the married couple caused Raden Ayu Kusdina to look for another man to release her lust, which was her husband's nephew, Raden Mas Suryokusumo.

The sexual deviance committed by Raden Ayu Kusdina and Raden Mas Suryokusumo became a habit, which could not be stopped by both. As a result of such deed, the sexual deviance in the noble family was increasingly spread. R.M. Suryokusumo also committed the sexual abuse with his maid named Mirah.

The action done by R.M. Suryokusumo, R. Ayu Kusdina, and Mirah later on would become a new polemic. The children from their affairs were then involved in a romance. The characters Tatiek, Sunardi, and Birawa were three young people, who are siblings because they have the blood of R.M. Suryokusumo. Tatiek was the daughter of Suryokusumo and R. Ayu Kusdina, Sunardi was the son of Suryokusumo with Rr. Ambarwati, while Birawa was the son of Suryokusumo with Mirah.

The sexual life in the family of RB Sindupratata, especially RA Kusdina, can be associated with a classical Javanese literary work of Ranggawarsita, *Serat Candrarini*. In this *serat*, Ranggawarsita explains how a wife acts to her husband by taking examples of the traits and behaviours of Raden Arjuna's five wives. Depiction of the five wives of Raden Arjuna (Wara Sembadra, Dewi Manohara, Dewi Hulupi, Ratna Dewi Gandawati Dewi Srikanthi) is a guidance for women to maintain harmony in the family. The advices contained in this *serat* is also intended for the noble class, so it is appropriate to juxtapose it with TIPS.

Referring to *Serat Candrarini* for the qualities that must be possessed by a wife, the character R. Ayu Kusdina in the novel TIPS had deviated or perverted from the nature of a woman to her husband. One of the traits that was violated by R. Ayu Kusdina based on *Serat Candrarini* is being faithful as shown by Wara Sembadra, *setyeng priya datan lenggana sakarsa*, which means faithful to her husband and must not obey her desire (*pupuh Sinom*, stanza 4, line 9). In addition, Wara Sembadra also possessed the nature of sincere, *legawa anrus ing bati*, which means she was always willing physically and mentally (*pupuh Sinom*, stanza 7, line 4). R. Ayu Kusdina turned out to indulge her own lust without considering the fact that she had already had a husband. She betrayed her husband's love and loyalty, R.B. Sindupratata.

The norm that was also violated by R. Ayu Kusdina was "being polite" and "highly moral" as shown by Dewi Manohara, namely *susila anoraga*, which means 'her behaviour was full of modesty or decency' (*pupuh Dhandhanggula*, stanza 5, line 6). Furthermore, Dewi Gandawati has the trait of *ngladosi kanthi dadia ing kakung*, which means 'always being devoted to her husband' (*pupuh Mijil*, stanza 6, line 1). The deeds of R. Ayu Kusdina do not reflect moral behaviour. She committed sexual abuse with her prospective son-in-law, Suryokusumo, even it still continued after he officially became her son-in-law. The abuse was done secretly without being known by R.B. Sindupratata. This indicates that R. Ayu Kusdina did not have devotion to her husband.

The association between the classic and modern Javanese literature as reflected in the novel TIPS and *Serat Candrarini* can be interpreted much further. The events in the novel TIPS that were considered to "break" the Javanese norms based on *Serat Candrarini* indicates a shift of values among the Javanese noble families. Although both literary works were present at different times, but both had a similarity, which was discussing noble families.

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