

The Stigma of Netra Disability in Eko Ramaditya Adikara's Mata Kedua Novel

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ABSTRACT

The Mata Kedua Novel as the object of this study presents a picture of a number of stigmas that occur and are experienced by people with disabilities in Indonesia. In addition, the author of the novel is a blind person who certainly knows, understands, and is involved in disability issues, so the novel looks alive and real with the characterization of the main character as a student with a visual disability. The main character in the novel also shows his way and ability to break the stigmas that are deeply rooted and attached to a blind person like himself. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the stigma of visual disability in the Mata Kedua Novel. This research is important because it is hoped that through the results of this research the Indonesian people and policymakers will be able to understand and view disability as a group of individuals who want equality and fair policies. The approach used in this study is the concept of stigmatization from Goffman to identify the process of stigma formation. The method used in this study is qualitative. The results showed that there were four processes of stigmatization, namely labeling, stratification, segregation, and discrimination that formed the stigma in the novel Mata Kedua.

Keywords: stigma, disability, novel.

1. Introduction

The issue of disability in literary studies in Indonesia is still not in demand by researchers. This problem is very crucial because without exploring the intricacies related to the issue of disability, ordinary Indonesians will never be able to understand and appreciate the importance of a value of equality, rights, and obligations that must be upheld in an independent and democratic canyon.

The presence of the novel *Mata Kedua* in literary works shows a number of stigmas of disability that are deeply rooted in the views of society. This novel tells the story of the struggle of the character Aku, namely the character Rama in finishing school at one of the high schools in Jakarta. His blindness and presence in the school reaped pros and cons, both from the teacher and the students. The dislike of a language teacher with the presence of Rama's character in his class which is considered to interfere with the lesson and other students shows a form of stigma and discrimination against students in the realm of education.

The issue of stigma against disability is clearly illustrated in the novel and Rama's character with his various actions in blindness overturns the paradigm of other characters regarding the stigma, be it labeling, stereotification, segregation, or discrimination. Therefore, researchers apply the theory of stigma Erving Goffman.

The issue of disability rights is even contained in the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD) which each country is obliged to adopt all

legislative and administrative policies following the convention which include the following:

"(B) Recognizing that the United Nations, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, has proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind.

(C) Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination," (United Nations, 2016: 2).

The definition of disability in Law 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities states that persons with disabilities are everyone who experiences physical, intellectual, mental, and/or sensory limitations for a long period and who in interacting with the environment can experience obstacles and difficulties to participate fully and effectively with other citizens based on equal rights. Disabilities have several variations based on the obstacles they have, one of which is a visual disability or what is often known as visual impairment. This condition makes the person who experiences it unable to see well in part or total the objects around him. However, this condition does not mean that the person loses their power or ability to play a role and activity.

Goffman (1963) revealed that the concept of stigmatization is a process that starts from labeling, stereotification, segregation, and discrimination. These

four processes form a stigma of disability among people with disabilities.

This novel was also chosen by researchers because it provides a lot of motivation, experience, and insight into life, and can become entertainment. This is as one of the criteria for a literary work is *dulce et utile*, which is useful and fun (Wellek and Warren, 2013: 22).

2. Stigma Theory

According to Goffman (1963) stigma is a physical and social attribute that degrades the social personality of the individual, excluding the individual from recognition of the individual. Stigma is a trait that discredits a person as a person who is "not entirely equal" to people in general and usually gives rise to negative things. Goffman's definition concludes an eroded personality because at this point it is not physically equal to the rest.

Goffman (in Salim, 2021: 129) reveals that the concept of stigmatization is a process that starts from labeling, stereotification, segregation, and discrimination. These four processes form a disability stigma against people with disabilities. Society often creates various labels in the social environment. Each individual has the opportunity to obtain a label, whether it is carried out systematically through certain mechanisms, such as governance mechanisms or those that occur based on the daily interactions of community members from this labeling, other stigmas that have been mentioned above are born. Here is the definition of the type of stigma expressed by Goffman (in Salim, 2021: 129) according to some opinions of experts.

Labeling is a form of distinction by embedding labels based on the differences owned by each individual in social life. (Link & Phelan in Scheid & Brown, 2010). But not all differences are made into an issue that causes labeling. Labeling can occur when the difference comes from a group that feels it has "more power" than the person being labeled. And that difference is something that stands out and is visible (known). Stereotification is a frame of mind or cognitive aspect consisting of knowledge and beliefs about certain social groups and certain traits (Baron & Byrne, 2003). According to Rahman (2013), stereotypes are beliefs about certain characteristics of members of a particular group. Stereotypes are cognitive components that are beliefs about personal attributes shared by people in certain groups or certain social categories (Taylor, Peplau, & Sears, 2009).

Segregation or separation is the separation between the parties of the group that is stigmatized or stigmatized and the party of the group that is not stigmatized or the stigmatizer. The relationship between labels and negative attributes would be a justification when the labeled individual believes that he or she is indeed different so it can be argued that the process of giving stereotypes is successful (Scheid & Brown, 2010).

Discrimination according to Taylor, Peplau, and Sears (2009), states that discrimination is a component of behavior that is a negative behavior towards an individual because the individual is a member of a certain group. Discrimination is closely related to unfair and unbalanced treatment.

3. Research Methods

The relevant type of research used in this study is qualitative research using descriptive methods. Qualitative research is research that is carried out by not prioritizing numbers but prioritizing the depth of passion for the interaction between concepts that are being studied empirically. This procedure produces findings obtained through data collected by various means, including documents or archives and tests.

This involves researchers in total in this study to look at the problem of net disability stigma contained in the novel *Mata Kedua*. The research method is a way to obtain knowledge regarding the object, as stated by the theory. The descriptive method is a method that is carried out by describing material objects to be studied qualitatively, then followed by analysis (Faruk, 2012: 3).

This is also confirmed by Sutopo (2002: 29), qualitative data is data in the form of words, and images, not numbers. The data obtained from primary data sources are in the form of a number of text citations that show the forms of the stigma of net disability contained in the novel *Mata Kedua* and are supported by secondary data in the form of a number of reviews of the stigma theory from Erving Goffman in applying data analysis. Both data are analyzed and given interpretation.

Data sources are the main thing in research. Data are all information or raw materials that are sought and collected deliberately by the researcher according to the problem under study (Subroto, 1992: 34).

The source of data in this study is the novel *Mata Dua* published by the publisher Andi in 2013 with a 368-page book thickness, as well as valid data on a number of stigma theory reviews initiated by Erving Goffman.

Miles and Huberman (2009: 49) say, that during data collection, researchers move forward and backward between reviewing the data that has been obtained and re-examining the data, to obtain new, more quality data. In this activity, the researcher will devote all abilities, especially mastery of the concept of stigma to take the data needed.

4. Discussion

A. *The Stigma of Net Disability in Eko Ramaditya Adikara's Mata Kedua Novel*

The concept of disability stigma expressed by Goffman can be formed through four processes starting from labeling, stereotification, segregation and

discrimination. Various labels were then created and embedded, both those labels were given systematically and those that occurred in everyday life by society. Thisization label then gave rise to stereotifications that developed in society, containing negative views on disability. As a result of this labelization and stereotification, it ends up referring to the difference in treatment between the labeled person and the unlabeled person. That form of distinction then gives birth to segregation (separation), since the disability is considered incapable of adjusting to the environment of people who are considered "normal". From this labeling, stereotification, and segregation, then causes a lot of

discrimination experienced by disabilities in various sectors.

The issue of stigma is seen in the novel *Mata Kedua*. This can be seen through the background of the social environment, the conflicts that occur, and the characterization of a number of figures who are pro or contra towards the main character. The author of this novel shows the stigmatizing processes that occur, such as labeling, stereotification, segregation, and discrimination. Furthermore, through the main character, the author seeks to break down the stigma in his way.

The forms of stigmatization found in the novel *Mata Kedua* are as follows Tabel 1:

Labeling	Stereotification	Segregation	Discrimination
Labeling as 'Disabled'	Public schools are not for people with disabilities	Persons with disabilities are placed in Extraordinary Schools (SLB)	Bad attitude of a teacher towards students with disabilities
Labeling as 'The Tribute'	People with visual disabilities cannot play video games	Persons with visual disabilities are placed in certain fields	The emergence of bullying from other students against students with disabilities
Labeling as 'Blind Man'	Persons with disabilities are considered 'disorders'		
	People with visual disabilities cannot follow karate		
	People with visual disabilities are considered unable to enjoy movies in theaters		
	People with visual disabilities are considered to be able to transmit their blindness		

Table 1. The forms of stigmatization

1. Labeling

In the novel, *Mata Kedua* labeling occurs because of the things attached to a person with a disability according to existing realities. The labeling is constructed not starting from the view of the blind disability itself but arises from erroneous assumptions, subjective analysis, and deconstruction of the reality that exists in the net disability. In this case, the main character i.e. the character Rama acquires three deep labelings, namely the disabled, 'The tribute', and the 'Blind man'.

The designation as 'disabled' or 'Blind man' was formed due to the different physiques of Rama's character and was considered imperfect by society, as well as one of the senses he possessed cannot function. Meanwhile, the nickname 'The Tricycle' came from one of the student figures named Cindy because of the character Rama who always walks with a cane. This is what makes people call him according to the conditions and attributes that are realityually attached to him. This is illustrated in one of

the following quotes, which is when friends at his school supported him to participate in an English speech competition between city-level schools because of his skills. in English,

"I can do it too, is it just a blind person who is good at English ?!" Cindy half-snapped... "Ye udeh, if that's the case elo come along aje! Isn't it good? Gih, sono list!" Ardan continued. I kept quiet, waiting for Cindy's help. "Idiiiih, it's not my level to be a competition like that... especially if the opponent is a blind man like him!" (Adikara, 2013: 215-216).

The picture implies that the designation 'Blind man' has been inherent and entrenched in society even though before them it has been proven that both disabled and non-disabled shows equality. People with disabilities have different abilities, advantages, and disadvantages and are as stratified as non-disabled people.

In this case, Cindy's character can be used as a representative of the picture of the society that still treats and views people with disabilities with one eye just because disability looks different. People with disabilities are also able to perform the same activities as non-disabled people even though in different ways, such as non-disabled people reading with a sense of sight, while people with visual disabilities read with the sense of hearing.

In addition, ordinary people still label individuals or groups based on the reality inherent in the individual or group. For example, a person or those who walk on one leg and limp are called or called by the nickname 'Limping people', people who have blindness in their eyes are called by the nickname 'Blind man' as done by both Anton and Cindy who dubbed Rama as 'Blind man'. Although some people with disabilities do not question this, other people with disabilities or their families will feel uncomfortable and even feel offended and humiliated by that.

2. Stereotification

Stereotification in the novel *Mata Kedua* can be interpreted as the negative beliefs or views of people towards a certain person or group that physically and in reality look different from them. In this case, Rama is a character who physically looks different from other characters because of the blindness he carries. This reality gives rise to various negative views or beliefs of people towards the character of Rama as a blind person, especially regarding his abilities and physical differences. As for the emerging forms of stereotification, that is, public schools are not for people with disabilities, people with disabilities are considered 'disorders', people with visual disabilities cannot playing games, not being able to follow karate, not being able to enjoy movies in theatres, and being considered to be able to transmit his blindness. One example of a form of stereotification is seen in the following quote.

"Heh, elo is a drool, huh? It's clear that Elo is blind, how can Elo possibly play games? This morning, I just hit it. That's it! It's better for elo to go home and just hang out with fellow elo!" If it's morning, I can be patient, but it doesn't seem to be for this time, because Cindy's talk just now was agreed by the children around me. "yes, I also don't believe Elo can play games. How can elo play the game if elo can't see the picture," Anton said sarcastically. "Iye iye, no way," said another student I didn't know his voice and name yet." (Adikara,2013:30)

The quote illustrates the stereotification raised by Rama's schoolmates that they are unlikely to be able to play video games. They think that to play video games, the eyes must be used to see the movements of the characters in the game. However, when Rama's character has been in one of the arenas with his friends, that

assumption is disproved because Rama's character plays *mortal combat* games well then explained the reason and how he was able to play it.

"...I pressed one of the buttons to activate the game, and the typical Music of Mortal Kombat 3 began to sound marking the beginning of the game! I then moved the drive stick once towards the bottom, once towards the right, then pressed one of the buttons. From Ding Dong's machine came a voice, "Sub-Zero." Yep, this is my hero, a ninja warrior who has the ability to freeze enemies with his ice fist. Then from ding dong's machine came a voice, "Round One, FIGHT!" which signaled the beginning of the fight. A moment later, I started to get into action with all my opponents..."While playing, I also explained how I, who is blind, can play Mortal Kombat 3. "I can play this game through sound. Well, pay attention to it. I jumped to the left, and my enemy jumped to the right. Well, I know the position of my hero because the sound is on the speaker on the left," I said, pointing to the left direction where sub-Zero's voice had just been heard set foot on the ground....." (Adikara,2013:33)

Based on the quote, implies that people with disabilities are also able to do the same with people with non-disabilities. This refers to another word for disability, namely disability (*different ability*) which means different abilities. In this case, those who are born or become disabled person do not mean they are not capable of doing something, but they do it differently. This is like what Rama did who was able to play video games *without using both eyes*. He uses his sense of hearing in playing the game. The same is true of Rama's character, in enjoying movies, and other activities, which is to focus on his sense of hearing and with other senses that still work, as well as the presence of a number of simple aids for bathing it.

3. Segregation

In the novel *The Mata Kedua* is found and shown the existence of boundaries and segregations or a fairly deep gulf between the blind and the non-disabled. The blind disability is locked in a room of its own, a room inhabited only by fellow blind people. People still view disability as a figure who is unable to compete and should be in the right place such as extraordinary schools (SLB) and so on. As for the form of segregation found in the novel *Mata Kedua*, that is, *people with disabilities are placed in SLB and placed in a certain field. This is illustrated in the following quote.*

"This is your class, so you hope everyone follows your way. Also, you think, why don't

you just go to school in SLB? Isn't it easier for you...? And the teacher also certainly understands your writing, besides, your teacher is also more able to pay attention to you without having to feel distracted, because this school is just for ordinary disciples." (Adikara,2013: 46)

The quote states that currently there are still many who attach a negative stigma to visual disabilities. The figure of educators such as the figure of Mr. Soemanto who should know about equality in education for the whole community regardless of their physical condition has not been able to apply this, but he is the one who is the perpetrator in the segregation.

This stigma of segregation is created starting from labeling and stereotification. This makes disability unable to unite, associate, and be unacceptable in the 'non-disabled person' environment because disability is considered a disorder/obstacle that will destroy existing patterns or systems. This is done segregation so that people with disabilities get the facilities they need without having to struggle to adapt to 'non-disabled people' and 'non-disabled people' disability' will not be bothered by the presence of a disability. Those are the social constructs that are mistaken but still built up today. Furthermore, this creates a new problem, namely in the form of discrimination that must be accepted by disabilities.

4. Discrimination

The process of stigmatizing disability in the theory expressed by Goffman shows that the end result of labeling, stereotification, and segregation will create a structured and deep discrimination. considerable scope. This discrimination can take the form of ridicule, being considered inferior, insulted, unfair treatment, and other negative behaviors carried out by people with power to members certain groups such as people with disabilities. Some forms of discrimination found in the novel *Mata Kedua*, namely the existence of a *teacher's* bad attitude towards students with disabilities and the emergence of bullying from other students towards students disability.

One example of discrimination in the novel *Mata dua* occurs when the character Rama attends a lesson in Mr. Soemanto's class. The sound of Rama's stationery in taking notes wearing braille seemed to disturb the concentration of his teacher who was reading out subject assignments Indonesian. The sound made in the writing of *braille* letters is considered an annoyance by his teacher, thus making Rama feel distressed by the treatment of his teacher who reprimands him with a voice loud. It is evident in the quote below.

"..... Rama, don't make a noise!" The 'pen' in my hand spontaneously slipped off and scrambled on the table. I heard that Ardan also held his breath. My concentration was broken when I heard Mr. Soemanto's voice. He didn't yell but his

voice was loud and firm, more than enough to stop the writing activities of everyone including me. .." You said, you don't make a noise! Writing quietly can be right?!" I don't understand, why am I said to be noisy. Indeed, the sound of my hand beating when making Braille letters can be heard because the class is very quiet and only Mr. Soemanto's voice is heard. But I don't think it's noisy enough. "Sorry sir, but I wrote with this tool, so if it's too fast, it will make a clear sound." "That's why, you said earlier, you don't make a noise!" What?! It's me being stupid, or is there really a miscommunication here...? How can I write without being 'noisy' if Mr. Soemanto reads it too fast? ..." (Adikara,2013:42- 43)

The quote describes the intimidation of Mr. Soemanto's character towards Rama who has a different way from other students in writing. Although Rama is a blind student who attends public schools, he does not feel constrained in the teaching and learning process, while the things that are felt by Mr. Soemanto's character feels the opposite. The way that Rama's character does shows the form of independence and adaptation of a person with a disability in the existing environment. Other students use pens and books to take notes, so Rama's character uses *braille*. Although a disabled person, Rama's character dares to explain that if only Mr. Soemanto reads not quickly, then the braille voice will not be makes a sound that Mr. Soemanto's character considers noisy. Through the quote, it is also implied to explain that this is one of how disability adapts in the public school environment so that the teaching process is carried out. went smoothly.

Acts of discrimination committed by Mr. Soemanto's figures are still found in the world of education. As teachers or educators, they should carry out their noble duties by awakening and motivating their students without exception. However, the reality is just the opposite.

As the only student with visual disabilities in his school, Rama feels that there is an injustice in the process of learning in the classroom. This is following the statements of Taylor, Peplau, and Sears (2009), who state that discrimination is a component of behavior that is a negative behavior towards an individual because the individual is a member of a certain group. Discrimination is closely related to unfair and unbalanced treatment.

5. Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that there are four types of stigma according to Goffman (1963) in the novel *Mata Kedua*, namely labeling, stereotification, segregation and discrimination. The stigma of labeling in the novel *Mata Kedua* shows the beginning of the cause of the emergence of the stigma of

stereotification, namely the mistake of thinking created by the opposite character Rama as the main character in understanding the definition of disability to assume that blindness is incompetence. The stigma of stereotification that arises due to the stigma of labeling of the characters in the novel *Mata Kedua* gives rise to the stigma of segregation which is the *character's* fault in viewing that people who have limitations of studying at an Extraordinary School (SLB). From this stigma of segregation then gave birth to discrimination where some figures failed to understand the meaning of equal education. So that other discriminatory treatments arise.

In addition to showing a million stigmas in the novel, through the characterization of Rama's character as a net disability breaks the stigma that exists. This shows that disabilities do not mean incapacity and helplessness but do so in a different way, namely by utilizing and focusing other senses which still works. It also shows the public that people with disabilities and non-disabilities each have different advantages and disadvantages, as well as different abilities. People with disabilities are obliged to obtain fair policies and rights literacy.

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