



**CONSPIRACY VS PREDICTION OF DEAN KNOOTZ AGAINST COVID-19:
 PLOT ANALYSIS AND LITERARY SOCIOLOGY IN THE NOVEL
 "THE EYES OF DARKNESS"**

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Abstract

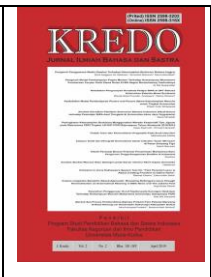
This research was conducted with the aim of finding out how the plot analysis and literary sociology of the novel titled "The Eyes of Darkness" proves the truth of the conspiracy against the emergence of artificial viruses and predictions made by author Dean Koontz on the pandemic situation of the coronavirus outbreak-19 today as depicted in the novel. This research uses descriptive qualitative methods with structural approaches so that it is drawn a thorough and structured analysis. The primary data taken comes from the novel while the secondary data is obtained from a literature study conducted as a reference material to compare the existence of the two viruses, namely the Wuhan-400 virus depicted in the novel and the Corona-19 virus that occurred in the current situation. From the results of the discussion came the conclusion that there are some similarities of the symptoms caused by these two viruses although there are differences in the rate of death caused. In addition, the social situation of the people depicted in the novel also has similarities with the situation when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out. This is seen from the comparison of the economic side of society and the political turmoil that occurs.

Kata Kunci :

Alur, Sosiologi Sastra,
 Covid-19.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan tujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana analisis plot dan sosiologi sastra terhadap novel berjudul "The Eyes of Darkness" membuktikan tentang kebenaran adanya konspirasi terhadap munculnya virus buatan dan prediksi yang dilakukan oleh penulis bernama Dean Koontz terhadap situasi pandemi mewabahnya virus Corona-19 sekarang ini seperti yang tergambar di dalam novelnya tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan pendekatan struktural sehingga tergambar analisis yang menyeluruh dan terstruktur. Data primer yang diambil berasal dari novel tersebut sedangkan data sekunder diperoleh dari kajian pustaka yang dilakukan sebagai bahan referensi untuk membandingkan keberadaan kedua virus, yaitu virus Wuhan-400 yang tergambar di dalam novel dan virus Corona-19 yang terjadi pada situasi sekarang ini. Dari hasil pembahasan diperoleh kesimpulan bahwa ada beberapa kesamaan dari gejala yang ditimbulkan kedua virus ini walaupun terdapat perbedaan dari tingkat kematian yang ditimbulkan. Selain itu, situasi sosial masyarakat yang tergambar di dalam novel juga memiliki persamaan dengan situasi ketika pandemi Covid-19 mewabah. Hal ini dilihat dari perbandingan sisi perekonomian masyarakat dan gejolak politik yang terjadi.



INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 stands for Novel Corona Virus Disease 2019. As the name implies, this virus was discovered by a scientist named Novel in 2019. The virus, which was first infected in China precisely in the Wuhan area at around the end of November 2019, was caused by a new type of coronavirus that attacks the respiratory tract with symptoms of fever of more than 38 ° C, dry cough and shortness of breath with a mortality rate of 3%. Although 80% of cases recover without special treatment and about 1 in every 6 people may suffer from severe illness, most countries around the world, including Indonesia, are affected by the virus and have claimed hundreds of millions of lives overall. (Ministry of Health, 2020)

Even the lock down policy is implemented by most of these countries to break the chain of spread of the virus. So it creates great impact caused by this virus, not only health problems but also penetrate into social, educational, economic and even political problems. Therefore, it can be said that Covid-19 is a deadly virus either directly or indirectly.

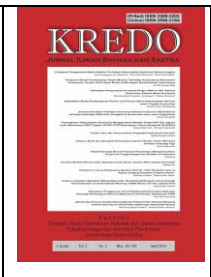
But there is an interesting phenomenon that occurs behind the outbreak of Covid-19. In 1981, author Dean Koontz used a virus name known as Wuhan-400 in his novel "The Eyes of Darkness" in his novel Nearly 40 years adrift, telling how a deadly virus was created and spread that was as close as Covid-19. Coupled with the naming of the virus depicted in this novel, wuhan-400, exactly the same as the area first affected by Covid-19.

Despite differences in incubation period and mortality rates created by Covid-19 and Wuhan-400, both viruses both attack the respiratory tract. As quoted in the 38th chapter of the novel: *"It's like strep throat or the common cold or like cancer, because you can get it again and again...if you're lucky enough to beat it the first time."*

The oddity that occurred with the publication of the novel entitled "The Eyes of Darkness" written by Dean Koontz about forty years ago and told about the deadly virus known as Wuhan-400, in his novel, as well as the phenomenon of the outbreak of Covid-19 that began to be infected at the end of 2019 in the Wuhan area, China which is both diseases that attack the respiratory tract is a big puzzle that must be solved. This mystery is not as good as it is to say this happened by chance for some reason.

Dean Koontz, the author of the novel, mentions a conspiracy behind the virus, which is used as a biological weapon used by those who are able to put power above human morals. Deans Koontz implicitly or expressly, either consciously or unconsciously, as if to have predicted a terrible event that would happen in the future through the term Wuhan-400 in the novel.

To find out and analyze the oddity, the author plans to use plot analysis and literary sociology of the novel. The Eyes of Darkness is a literary work by Dean Koontz in which he pours his imagination and mind into one particular space and time. Jabrohim (in Purnamasari et al., 2017) says that in its most tangible form, space and time are



societies or social conditions, where the various value institutions in them interact. So it can be interpreted that as a literary work, this novel has an attachment to the social situation that occurs in the environment where the plot of the novel was created. This social attachment will later produce a synergistic combination with the values contained in it. This is in line with what Praguesti (2019) said that literary sociology is a study that examines the relationship of literary works with humans in society and its social processes.

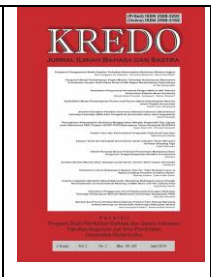
As conveyed above the social attachment that occurs in the environment where the plot of the novel was created behind the author to also analyze the plot or plot in this novel. Analyzing the plot is not only about the time or place but also the feeling created by the author of the literary work. These three sub-discussions (time, place and atmosphere) will be discussed so that the series of events that occur logically and chronologically and that are caused or experienced by the perpetrator can be explained. (Ifan Riyadi, A. Totok Priyadi, n.d.)

The novel "The Eyes of Darkness" tells the story of the struggle of a mother named Christina Evans who wants to save her son, Danny who accidentally exposed the Wuhan-400 virus. Danny, who was killed a year ago along with a boy scout during a school camping activity, was secretly detained in a laboratory in the High Sierra Mountains. As a result, they managed to meet and get out of the laboratory.

The analysis of plot and sociology of literature in the novel entitled "The Eyes of Darkness" has a very important role to answer the oddity about the conspiracy vs prediction of the author against Covid-19. By analyzing the plot, it will be known event by event in a coherent series of stories. While the analysis of literary sociology will create a study about humans in society and about social and social processes. So that with the combination of these two analytical variables is expected to form social entanglements in the flow environment in the novel that can prove the existence of conspiracy vs prediction against Covid-19.

There were several relevant research which inspired this article. The first study was conducted by Siti Isnaniah in 2014. This research makes novels by Habiburrahman El Shirazy as objects of discussion with the study of sociology of literature and educational values. In her explanation Siti Isnaniah sought to examine the representation of Islamic teachings on the novel. While the second study is a study conducted by Ridwan in 2010. Ridwan tried to examine the sociological aspects of social, political and religious change in najib mahfuz's realist novels. Both of these studies have similarities with taking aspects of sociology as a study in analyzing selected novels. However, Siti is more inclined to the aspect of literary sociology to examine the representation of Islamic teachings while Ridwan is more likely to discuss sociological aspects of social, political and religious change.

The selection of the title of this study is based on the following two reasons. First, because Covid-19 is an



outbreak that has been, is and will be infected in the near future. Taking this into account, the emergence of a novel written nearly forty years ago that tells the story of a deadly virus that has a background similar to Covid-19 is something that triggers great curiosity. Second, the novel "The Eyes of Darkness" by Dean Koontz has the value of human imagination to the extraordinary environment that seems able to break through space and time and create predictions similar to current conditions.

THEORETICAL STUDIES

Definition of Literary Works

Literature in Sanskrit is Shastra which means a text containing instructions or guidelines, from the basic word 'sas' meaning instruction or teaching and 'tra' meaning tool or means. According to Hudson (2006:10) literary works are:

“Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, that they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.”

From the above opinion it can be concluded that literary works are related to the drama of human life and activities. That way, supposedly the experience that has been written in literary works can entertain people who read it or even people should be able to find the

aesthetic side of art in literary works through the style of language used.

According to Chapman (2013:133) it is revealed that:

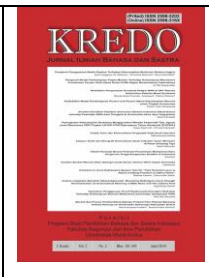
“Literature is offered as a live tradition that students can enter into and renew, rather than as a fixed body of information about specific texts, authors and terminology. Literature is experience, not information, and students must be invited to participate in it, not simply observe it from the outside.”

Based on the above opinion, it can be concluded that literary works are experiences not only information that is observed from the outside but also students can participate in it. This is in line with the opinion that states that: "Literature can reflect contemporary values such as politics and its function." (Ioana & Marin, 2014)

In addition Purba (2010:8-9) reveals that: *"In reality literary works are not only based on delusion, but a combination of reality and delusion."* So, all that the literary writer reveals in the literary work is the result of the thought processed by his imagination, to be interesting and can be enjoyed by the public.

Literary works themselves cannot be separated from their creators or authors. Murry in Minderop (2010:60) says:

“To know a work of literature is to know the soul of a man who created it, and who created it in order that he should be known.”



Everything in a literary work is the full expression of its author. Murry uses the words "the soul of the man who created it" as a full representation of the author's imagination of the entire content in the literary work.

In literary works there is a cultural content that reflects how the conditions of certain societies and about the activities they do as a form of existence in a state. This is in line with the opinion that: "Culture is heavily influenced by literature." (Ingram et al., 2021)

On the other hand, Connolly in Sinhal (2009:128) says that: "*Literature is the art of writing something that will be read twice.*" Literature is the art of writing an essay. Essays included in literary works have special characteristics in terms of language, content and way of presentation.

Literary works have two main elements of story building. These elements are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements are themes, plot, characters and characterization, viewpoints, backgrounds, messages and language styles.

While extrinsic elements are elements that are outside the literary work but indirectly affect the building of the literary work such as the background of the author and the state of the age the literary work was written. This is in line with the opinion that: "Textual characteristics are connected to readers' literary appraisal of texts." (Koolen et al., 2020)

Based on the view of the above experts about the definition of literary works it can be concluded that a literary work is a work of art with elements

contained in it made by the author in conveying his ideas or thoughts through beautiful writing in the hope that it can be enjoyed and benefit the connoisseur.

Definition of Novel

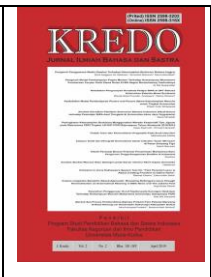
Novel is derived from the Italian novella, in German novelle which means a small new item and later interpreted as a short story in prose. (Purnamasari et al., 2017) Based on this opinion, it can be interpreted that the novel is one of the works of literature in the form of prose.

Novels are long-designed prose and present characters and feature a series of events and backgrounds in a composed manner. (Mika, 2013) This opinion reveals that in a novel there is a process of design that contains intrinsic and extrinsic elements that build in a literary work.

Novel is described as a work of fiction prose that is long enough not too long but not too short (Nurgiyantoro in Rahmayanti & Arifin, 2020) This opinion states that the content of a novel tells about a long plot determined by the author himself so that the plot in a novel is quite varied but broadly speaking a novel story is not too short and not too long.

One of the things that distinguishes novels from other literary works is that the content in a novel is longer and more complex and also has no structural boundaries. (Ibeng, 2021) This opinion reveals that the characteristic of a novel lies in a plot that is quite complicated but has no provisions in terms of the structure of its contents as well as rhymes that have rhymes.

Based on the opinion of the above experts, it can be concluded that the novel is a form of literary work that



contains about conflicts depicted from a complicated plot and has a story content that is not too long but not too short and has no binding limitations on the structure of the content of the novel.

Definition of Plot

Storylines are often called story frames or plots. Plots are the most important physical element of various other physical elements. Plot is also the main framework of a very important story that becomes the backbone of a story that determines the reader understands the whole story in all causes and effects in it.

While according to Stanton in Nurgiyantoro (2007: 167) suggests that the plot is a story that contains a sequence of events, but each event is only connected by cause and effect, one event caused or caused the occurrence of another event.

Meanwhile Cooper & Dancyger (2012: 105) revealed that:

“The plot is the series of scenes that leads the character from dilemma to confrontation to resolution, following a line of rising action.”

So, the plot is a story that is arranged regularly and develops from the beginning of the emergence of problems, the process of solving problems until the problem is completely solved.

Then, (Resseguie, 2019:19) says that: *“The plot is the sequence of events or incidents that make up a narrative.”* This means that a plot is a series or event contained in a narrative.

On the other hand, Aminudin (in Hartati, 2017: 120) states that the plot or plot is a series of stories formed by the stages of events so as to establish a story that presents the perpetrators in a story.

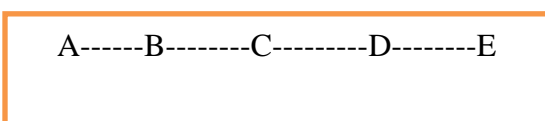
From some of the understandings of the above experts it can be concluded that the flow is a sequence of events that will cause and effect at one time there is a series of events or events in a story that is not only chronologically sequential but also affects each other.

Divisions of Plot

According to Nurgiyantoro (in Adityaningrum, 2016:12) divides plots based on time order criteria. The time sequence in question is the time the event is told in the fictional text that is being displayed, namely progressive plots, flash back plots and mixed plots.

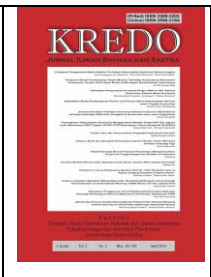
First, progressive plots or straight plots are events that are narrated chronologically, sequentially from the beginning, middle and end stages. Broadly speaking progressive plots or straight plots will be depicted as follows:

Figure 1. Progressive Flow Scheme



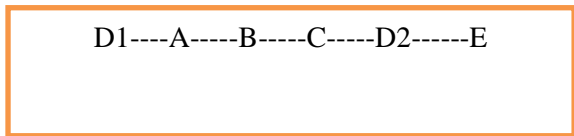
Symbol A symbolizes the early stages of the story, B-C-D symbolizes subsequent events, where C is the climax of the story. E is the story-solving stage.

The second plot is known as the flash back plot. Flash back plot or reverse highlight plot is the events that are narrated are not chronological. The story does not start from the beginning, it



can be from the middle stage or even from the final stage, only then to the early stages of the story. Usually directly present conflict or even conflict that has tapered. Here is an overview of the schematics of the reverse highlight plot:

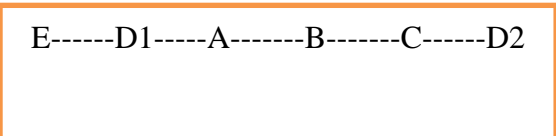
Figure 2. Flash Back Flow Scheme



D1 is the beginning of conflict-in-mind storytelling, A-B-C is a spotlight event, universe D2 is deliberately created to assert conflict D1. E is the anti-climax of the story.

The third is a mixed plot. A mixed plot is one that may broadly be progressive, but in it, no matter how many conflict events there are often back-highlight or flash back conflicts. The scheme of the mixed plot is as follows:

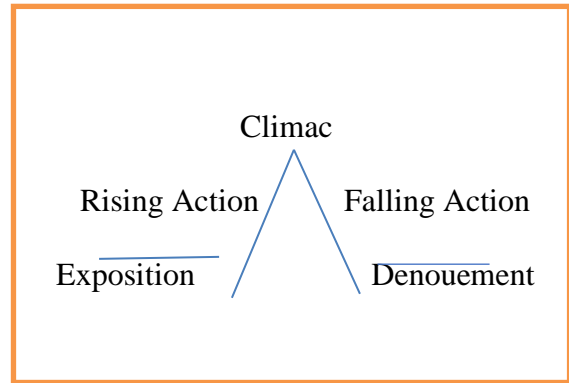
Figure 3. Mixed Flow Scheme



A-B-C is a biography of the character in the film, D1-D2 is a chronological story in the film. While E is a continuation of the events of D2 placed at the beginning of the story.

According to Freytag, (in Starbird, 2020) the storyline/plot has certain stages. This theory is known as the Gustav Freytag Pyramid.

Figure 4. Gustav Freytag Pyramid

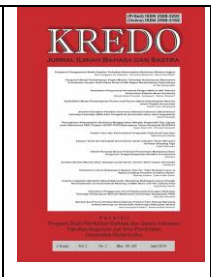


The first stage is known as exposition or the initial situation stage or the introduction of the situation. Exposition is a part of the story that introduces background information that is important to the reader e.g. information about the setting, events that occur before the main plot, the background story of the character and so on.

The second stage is called Rising Action or the stage of increasing conflict. This stage begins with the occurrence of complexity or complications that are realized into the fabric of events. Here have begun to be explained the initial conflicts that cause frustration, tantrums, fears or anger. This conflict is getting more complicated so that it makes the character more depressed and trying to get out of the conflict.

The third stage is climax or peak stage. Climax is the culmination of the play's practice and the culmination point. At this point all problems will unravel and get an explanation through character practice or through dialogue delivered by the character.

The fourth stage is known as Falling Action. At this stage there is a



decrease in the emotion of the play as well as the emotions of the reader. Falling action also serves to provide preparation for the reader to reflect on the flow that has been read.

The last stage is called Denouement. At this stage conflict is resolved and normality is created for the character and the release of tension and anxiety. Etymologically, the word denouement comes from the French word meaning knot. This means the denouement stage is the unraveling or release of plot complexity.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the storyline or plot has a certain type and certain stages. The type of storyline of one story can be the same or different from another story. As well as the flow stages contained in it.

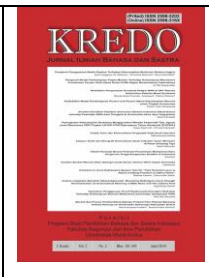
Definition of Literary Sociology

Semi (in Aisha et al., 2019) reveals that the literary sociology has a perception that literature is a depiction of people's lives. This means that the sociology of literature examines the social and societal aspects that occur in the literary work. In other words through these literary works, the author tries to express phenomena in society and social order that include the results of human interaction with the surrounding nature such as family, environment, state, economy, politics and so on. Expert opinion states that: "*Sociology as a discipline underwent major changes the condition of society as well.*" (Zolberg, 2000) Other experts argue that: "*Studies in the sociology of literature also focus on the attribution of meaning to texts in which meaning is*

identified with the vision on social phenomena a text is believed to convey.." (Verdaasdonk, 1985). In line with what Semi said, another opinion says that the sociology of literature is a branch of literary science that studies literature in relation to social reality so that an overview of how humans adapt to their environment means that the sociology of literature examines the relationship of literature with its supporting society. (Sumiyardana, 2017)

From these two expert opinions can be taken a common thread that literary sociology tries to provide a real picture of social and community conditions and the relationship of interaction between humans and their environment so that readers get a complete picture of social facts, social events and social behavior.

Furthermore, Watt (in Sumiyardana, 2017) says that there are three things that can be discussed from the relationship of literature and society. First, the social context of the author who takes issue with the social position of the literary in society and its relation to the reader's society. Second, literature as a reflection of society, the extent to which literature can be considered to reflect the state of society. Third, the social function of society. From this exposure it can be assessed that there are aspects that need to be considered, namely the social background of the literary and supporting communities, the social conditions of the community depicted and how these social conditions can affect society significantly.



Based on the presentation of the opinions of the experts above, it can be concluded that the literary sociology examines all the social aspects in a literary work so that the reader can know how the social conditions of society that occur in the literary work.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is qualitative research with descriptive methods. To analyze the flow and relate it to the conflicts and realities that occurred when Covid-19 began to spread, the approach used is a structural approach that is one of the approaches in literary science used to find out the structures that build literary works. In this case the structural approach is used to find out the flow structure used based on Nurgiantoro's theory and the description of conflicts that occur in the groove based on Freytag Pyramid. Then the results of the analysis will be compared to the conflicts that occurred in the community when Covid-19 began to spread and draw a common thread how the condition of conflict in the novel and its reality in the community.

As for whether Dean Knootz managed to predict the current situation when the Corona-19 virus broke out in the novel he wrote about 40 years ago, the author analyzed the novel's text with a literary sociological approach so that it is expected to be found about the description of social and societal conditions that occur in the novel. Then the findings will be compared with real conditions about how social conditions of the community when Covid-19 outbreak in almost all regions of the world including Indonesia.

The primary data used is the contents of Dean Knootz's novel "The Eyes of Darkness" which is read thoroughly and then analyzed. Analysis is also carried out with the help of related references about news or circumstances that occurred in the Covid-19 outbreak. To that end, the author also performs a library method to find sources and references related to the topic of discussion in this study. Thus it can be known the conformity or discrepancy between what is depicted in the novel and the real conditions in society.

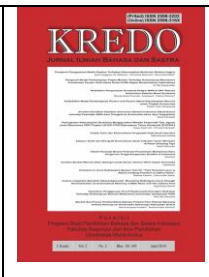
RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Plot Analysis and Conspiracy in The Novel "The Eyes of Darkness"

The plot depicted in this novel is a mixed plot. This can be known from how the conflicts that occur are described sequentially at the beginning then in the middle of the author recounting events that occurred in the past then returning to the future. The presentation of this flow is done based on the theory of Nurgiantoro and Gustav. The plot in the novel begins with an introduction to the main character, Tina Evans, whose son Danny died a little over a year ago. He tries to 'move on' from the events that befell his son and make a new show. As stated in the novel:

"The new show was titled Magyck!...Nevertheless, even as preoccupied with Magyck as she was, she had adjusted to Danny's death only with great difficulty."

Then the conflict in the plot begins to murble when he realizes there is something strange about his son's



death and intends to dismantle his grave with the help of Elliot Stryker, a lawyer who is also a former member of the secret intelligence. But in their efforts to prepare legal proceedings for the legality of the demolition of Danny's grave, there were many events that hinted that there were parties who did not want the grave dismantled. This makes Tina Evans and Elliot Stryker question about Danny's death and begin to suspect that there is a huge conspiracy that masks up the actual fact that Danny is still alive. As stated in the novel:

“There’s something about Danny’s death, something strange about the way all those scouts died. The truth of it isn’t anything like the version everyone’s been told. The truth is a lot worse. Something so terrible that some powerful people want to hush it up.”

In this section Dean Koontz tries to unmask the conspiracy that occurred in the novel that is the reason why this oddity occurred.

Furthermore, the conflict reaches its climax when they want to find out about Project Pandora and its relationship with Danny. After a series of strange events that occur and Tina Evans realizes about the uniqueness of Danny who has psychic abilities that are able to send information, energy or power in cosmic consciousness and able to utilize the ability that has been obtained. And this assumption convinced Tina Evans that Danny was still alive. As stated in the novel:

“He must be psychic. He has some power and he’s reaching out,

trying to tell me he’s alive, asking me to find him and save him. And the people who’re holding him don’t know he’s doing it. They’re blaming the leak on none of their own, on someone from Project Pandora.”

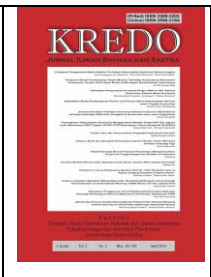
From this quotation, there are two conflicting sides where on the one hand Tina Evans wants to find out the whereabouts of her son in Project Pandora

and on the other hand those who conspire to cover up the truth assume that there are traitors in the project.

The anti-climax of the plot is depicted when Tina Evans and Elliot Stryker manage to infiltrate the Pandora Project building in the High Sierra Mountains and meet two doctors who work on the project and they are the ones who handle Dani's case. Both doctors are assigned to oversee the development of Danny's condition. One of the doctors named Carl Dombey after an argument finally wants to be cooperative and try to give an explanation of the big secret of the incident that happened to Danny. As described in the novel:

“He had a unique disease, a man-made disease created in the laboratory. He’s the only person who’s ever survived it. He has a natural antibody in his blood that helps him fight off this particular virus, even though it’s an artificial bug.”

After that the actual facts were revealed about a virus called Wuhan-400 which was deliberately created as a deadly biological weapon created by the



Chinese side. Although in fact in addition to China, other countries also secretly developed this DNA recombination experiment project. In the final part of the novel Dean Koontz tries to describe that the Chinese use Wuhan-400 to wipe out a city or country without having to commit any difficult and expensive decontamination before they enter and take over the territory. This is according to what Dean Koontz says in the novel:

“Wuhan-400 is a perfect weapon. The Chinese could use Wuhan-400 to wipe out a city or a country, and then there wouldn’t be any need for them to conduct a tricky and expensive decontamination before they moved in and took over the conquered territory.”

From the plot depicted when Dean Koontz tries to describe the actual events that hit Danny, he uses a reverse plot and reveals that the incident that happened to Danny, Tina Evans' son there was an element of accident. Here Dean Koontz uses his imagination to make the plot look very realistic. As described in the novel:

“It was an accident, a quirky son of a bitch named Larry Bollinger, accidentally contaminated himself while he was working alone one morning in this lab. He didn’t turn in an alarm. He walked out of the lab, went to his quarters, dressed in outdoor clothes and he tried to escape on foot. He ran into Mr. Jaborski and the scouts but Mr Jaborski take him to the wildlife center where a rescue effort could be mounted. He got hysterical.

That was when the security team arrived and they were forced to shoot him. They brought everyone here and put them in isolation. One day later all of them were dead except Danny.”

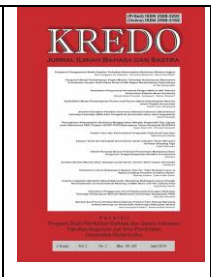
From the series of conflicts that occur in the back and forth of the novel, it can be known that Project Pandora is a secret project created by the authorities to make a biological weapon called the Wuhan-400 virus. Here if we compare with the real conditions that occurred when the Covid-19 virus outbreak there is an equation that the corona virus first broke out in the city of Wuhan, China. In addition,

from the symptoms that arise from the Wuhan-400 virus depicted in the novel with the Corona-19 virus that occurs now there are also similarities. This is as illustrated in the novel:

“It’s like strep throat or the common cold or like cancer, because you get it again and again if you’re lucky enough to beat it the first time.”

Although the risk level of death posed by these two viruses is different. Dean Koontz described the Wuhan-400 virus as more dangerous than the coronavirus. As described in the novel:

“Wuhan-400 kill-rate is one hundred percent. No one is supposed to survive. The Chinese tested it on God knows how many political prisoners. The virus migrates to the brain stem and there it begins secreting a toxin that literally eats away brain tissue like battery acid dissolving cheesecloth. It destroy the part of the brain that controls all of the



body's automatic functions. The victim simply ceases to have a pulse, functioning organs or any urge to breathe."

Dean Koontz also describes the secret conspiracy that occurred behind the emergence of the Wuhan-400 virus as stated in the novel:

"Six years ago, the Network had been formed and the President had given George the task of developing a reliable South American bureau of the new intelligence. After three years the President had declared himself delighted with the accomplishments in South America, and he had asked George to take charge of one of the Network's domestic bureaus—Nevada—which had been terrible mismanaged. The network was clandestine and must remain clandestine if it was to have any value."

From this quote it is known that the conspiracy originated from the formation of the Network as a secret intelligence agency that runs The Pandora Project.

Then in another part of the novel is illustrated how Project Pandora is run according to the following quote:

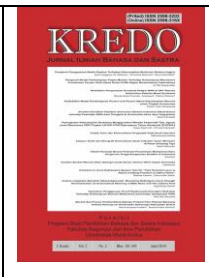
"What goes on in this place? Military research? Yes. Strictly biological weapon? Biological and chemical. Recombinant DNA experiments. At any one time, we have thirty to forty projects underway. I thought the US got out the chemical and biological weapons race a long time ago. For public record, we

did. It made the politicians look good. But in reality the work goes on. It has to. This is the only facility of its kind we have. The Chinese have three like it. The Russians, they're now supposed to be and more virulent strains of viruses, because they're broke, and this is a lot cheaper than other weapons systems. Iraq has a big bio-chem warfare project and Libya and God knows who else."

From this quotation, it is known that Pandora's project is where to develop biological and chemical weapons and in addition to the United States, there are other countries that run similar projects. Dean Koontz tries to illustrate that what happens in the novel can be a reflection of the fact that the Wuhan-400 virus was the result of a secret conspiracy that occurred from the authorities to control certain areas, both economically and politically.

Analysis of Sociology of Literature and Prediction in The Novel "The Eyes of Darkness"

Some of the background places depicted in this novel include the social conditions of the people in the city of Las Vegas and several other major cities in Europe and America before finally the setting of the place depicted focused on the High Sierra Mountains. The social conditions of the society depicted are a reflection of the culture of metropolitan communities in large cities that have a dense rhythm of life and are full of social conflicts. Dean Koontz gives a fairly specific account of how cultural, social and societal conditions and the tensions that become social problems that occur when Tina Evans, Dani's mother tries to



trace the pseudo-death experienced by her child.

If the novel is analyzed with a literary sociological approach, it will appear how social and societal conflicts occur that is evidence that Dean Koontz seems to be trying to provide an idea of how the process of the emergence of new viruses that are laboratory-made viruses. From the initial plot seen when Tina Evans and Elliot Stryker began to suspect about Danny's death and tried to take legal routes to take care of the legality of the demolition of Danny's grave, a series of events emerged that indicated that there was a big secret behind Danny's pseudo-death. The social situation depicted in the novel is full of intrigue as to how the accuser attempts to cover up Project Pandora, run by a secret intelligence organization called Network.

In the novel, Dean Knootz gives a description of the conflicts that occurred in a society filled with tensions caused by a secret mission carried out in developing an artificial virus called Wuhan-400. Here when compared to the social reality that occurred during the covid-19 pandemic, it can be seen the similarity of conditions that occur, including about the panic that occurs due to deaths caused by the virus that is spreading. The condition of social in the real society where covid-19 is endemic is almost the same as that reflected in the novel and from the description given about how the community responds and reacts to the virus makes the reader as if experiencing the situation in the novel itself. The novel also depicts gripping conflicts about how the Wuhan-400 virus infected a scout group led by Mr.

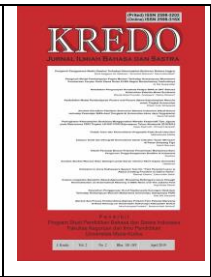
Jaborski whose members were Danny, Tina Evans' son.

When compared to the reasons for the emergence of the Wuhan-400 virus and corona-19 virus have some similarities, namely there is an economic and political motive for the ruler to control the economy and politics as it is known after the Corona-19 virus spread, governments in various countries implemented a lock-down that caused an economic crisis due to its drastically declining growth due to hampered economic activity. As revealed (Purwanto, 2021) that most countries in the world's growth is negative even there is a recession. Only a handful of countries in the world have been able to survive and grow positively in the face of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, namely China, Vietnam and Taiwan. Outside of these three countries, pandemics have devastated the economies of the world's countries. There is a conformity of the current situation on the

grounds of the emergence of the Wuhan-400 virus depicted in the novel that:

“The Chinese could use Wuhan-400 to wipe out a city or a country, and then there wouldn't be any need for them to conduct a tricky and expensive decontamination before they moved in and took over the conquered territory.”

And from the naming of the virus that appears in the novel and the initial location of the Covid-19 outbreak is equally Wuhan. This is evidence as if



present events through this novel about 40 years ago.

There is certainly a reason why Dean Koontz chose to use Wuhan city and not to use the name of any other city. This is the trigger for many people who give the assumption that the first Covid-19 outbreak in the city of Wuhan is in accordance with the naming of the virus in the novel.

From the exposure reported in the media when the public faced the covid-19 pandemic, it can be seen how the economic crisis became one of the significant impacts of the existence of the virus that is endemic due to local government policies such as lock-downs set to reduce the spread of the virus. Here is a look at how the indirect effects of viral pandemic conditions have changed social and societal order. This condition occurs not only in the novel but also in fact now.

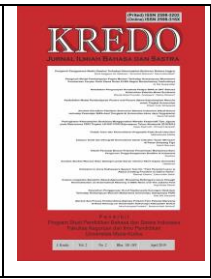
The virus can directly cause death from respiratory infections in the respiratory tract attacked by Wuhan-400 and Covid-19 viruses. People exposed to the virus should be quarantined and isolated and treated. There are two final results to be seen. First, the treatment was successful and the patient recovered and second, the treatment was unsuccessful and led to death. On the other hand, the consequences of the existence of a virus that spreads in the community and becomes a pandemic also causes deaths that also occur indirectly that make the wheels of the economy become obstructed and do not run properly. Many people lose their jobs and are unemployed and do not earn as normal.

In addition to having an impact on economic conditions, this pandemic condition also affects the political situation in exposed countries. The rulers of the country make the pandemic moment an opportunity to rally political forces to control a certain territory. On the other hand, there are also circumstances where there are certain groups or groups whose movements become limited so that their political influence becomes reduced due to pressure from other parties who become political opponents.

The existence of this virus both Wuhan-400 and Covid-19 both make certain parties stronger politically and garner sympathy from the public for its existence in solving social and societal problems in areas exposed to the virus.

There is even a review of the daily mail that is revealed that is now revealed on the cover page of this novel stating: “*Did this thriller predict the coronavirus outbreak?*”. This means that many people have thought that it is true that Dean Koontz tried to predict the present events in his novel published 40 years ago. The public in fact has assumptions about the condition of the spread of Covid-19 today is the same as the conditions in the novel where the Wuhan-400 virus is endemic and claims the lives of exposed people.

Here we can also see about the perception of society that compares the social and societal conditions in the novel with the conditions of reality that occur where there are significant similarities so that this further strengthens the assumption that the author of this novel who seems to have



succeeded in using his imagination in describing the social conditions of society when the virus is endemic and the characteristics of symptoms caused by the virus. In other words, there has been suspicion in the real world that after reading the novel entitled "The Eyes of Darkness" against the ability of the author's imagination is so extraordinary that the assumption arises that the conspiracy that occurred in the novel also occurred in the real world after comparing certain aspects in the content of the novel. On the other hand, there is also the assumption that the author has managed to make predictions about how

the condition when the virus outbreak in certain regions and countries.

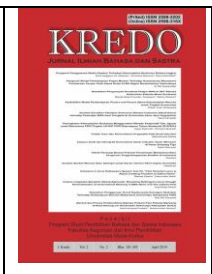
Based on the two sub-discussions presented, it can be seen the relationship between theories, methods, findings and relevant research. Based on the plot theory and findings in the novel, it can be explained that "The Eyes Of Darkness" is a novel that has a mixed plot type while the social situation of society described by Dean Knootz in his novel has some similarities with the reality conditions when the Covid-19 virus outbreak in various parts of the world. Of the two

relevant studies presented in the introduction, the analysis in this article bears similarities to the research

conducted by Siti and Ridwan who both discuss sociological aspects of social and political change. While the difference lies in the ignorance of religious aspects in the novel "The Eyes Of Darkness" which was discussed in Siti and Ridwan's research.

CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation that has been done, it was concluded that the plot analysis and literary sociology applied in proving conspiracies and predictions by the author of the novel named Dean Koontz has similarities with the situation of the Covid-19 pandemic now although in its depiction there are several differences in terms of the level of ferocity of the two viruses. From the exposure of the conflicts contained in the novel with social situations in society now gives rise to the conclusion that Dean Koontz's imagination seems to penetrate space and time. The novel "The Eyes Of Darkness" was written about 40 years ago, but from the name of the virus used and the state of the pandemic in which the coronavirus that spread from around 2019 is the same, namely Wuhan. Regardless of whether this is a coincidence or not, it is clear that the existence of this novel is now phenomenal and gets the attention of many circles because of the similarities that the author describes and the social situation in today's societ



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