



REVIEW ON APRILIA YAHYA'S NOVEL

DISTANCE

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for S-1 Degree in Linguistics
in English Department, Faculty of Humanities
Diponegoro University

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2014

PRONOUNCEMENT

I affirm honestly that this final project is composed by me without taking any results from other research of all degrees in any universities. In addition, I establish that I do not take the materials from other publications or someone's work, except for the sources mentioned in references. All of the content in this final project is absolutely my responsibility.

Semarang, March 2014

Masithoh Fenty Pamiluningtiyas

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

The limits of my language are the limits of my world.

(Ludwig Wittgenstein)

Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.

(Rita Mae Brown)

Life is not about how to survive the storm; it is about learning how to dance in the rain.

(Taylor Swift)

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

(Thomas A. Edison)

This final project is dedicated to my beloved father, mother, and brother.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, I would express my greatest gratitude toward the Almighty God, Allah SWT, for blessing health, strength, and inspiration to finish my final project, entitled *Review on Aprilia Yahya's Novel Distance*. On this occasion, I would like to thank the people who have contributed and supported to the completion of this final project.

The deepest gratitude and appreciation are extended to Drs. Jumino, M. Lib., M. Hum., as my advisor who has given his continuous guidance, helpful correction, moral support, advice, and suggestion, without which it is doubtful that this final project could come into completion.

My deepest thanks also go to the following people:

1. Dr. Agus Maladi Irianto, M. A. as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang.
2. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M. Hum. as the Head of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang.
3. Dr. J. Herudjati P., M. Sc. as my academic advisor.
4. Dr. Agus Subiyanto, M. A. as the Head of Linguistics Section, English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang.
5. All lecturers, especially in English Department, academic staff, administration staff, and library staff in Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang.

6. My family, especially for my beloved father, mother, and brother who always support me.
7. All of my friends in English Department 2010, especially for Saomi, Endah, Mawar, Epoy, Cristy, Lidya, and Nyari.
8. Thank you very much for DINAR ASRI goers, my little family in Semarang. I love you all, Guys.

I realize that this final project is still far from perfect. Thus, I will be pleased to receive any constructive criticism and suggestion to make this book review better.

In conclusion, I hope that this final project will be useful for the readers who are interested in reading romantic novels and wishing to know how great the power of love is.

Semarang, March 2014

Masithoh Fenty Pamiluningtiyas

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ABSTRAK

Novel merupakan salah satu karya sastra yang paling digemari banyak orang. Dari bermacam-macam jenis novel, novel percintaan hingga kini masih menjadi favorit para pembaca, terutama kaum remaja. Banyaknya novel percintaan yang beredar dewasa ini menuntut penulis untuk menciptakan ide cerita yang lebih segar dan tidak biasa untuk menarik perhatian para pembaca.

Distance, salah satu novel percintaan yang ditulis oleh seorang jurnalis muda bernama Aprilia Yahya ini menyuguhkan jalan cerita yang tidak terduga dan mengharukan. Kekuatan dari novel ini tidak hanya terdapat pada jalan ceritanya yang berbeda, tetapi juga dari pesan moral, setting di dua negara, gaya bahasa, kosakata dari tiga bahasa, dan sudut pandang yang tidak biasa.

Terlepas dari kekuatan-kekuatan tersebut, Distance juga memiliki beberapa kelemahan, antarlain kurangnya perhatian penulis tentang pesona Jakarta yang sepanjang cerita digambarkan sebagai kota yang selalu semrawut, macet, dan banjir. Dengan adanya kekuatan dan kelemahan tersebut, para pembaca diajak untuk menjadi pembaca yang cerdas dalam menelaah setiap informasi yang tertuang disepanjang jalan cerita.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of three parts which are background of writing, purposes of writing, and the author's biography. The background of writing concerns my reason to use this novel as the object of my final project. Second, purposes of writing expose my aims of reviewing this novel. At last, the author's biography deals with the life of Aprilia Yahya as its author.

1.1. Background of Writing

Novel is one of literary works that attracts readers at various ages and backgrounds. Nowadays, novels are dominated by romantic stories. Many of those can certainly be very boring and monotonous for the readers when an author presents uncreative story ideas. Readers need fresh, new, and different story ideas from those already exist. Therefore, the authors require digging extraordinary romantic stories that can attract the readers to read what they write.

Aprilia Yahya, a presenter and reporter for a private television, tries to answer the wishes of the readers. Through her new novel, entitled *Distance*, the author who had completed her Journalism studies at the Faculty of Communication, Prof. Dr. Moestopo University Jakarta, has poured her creative ideas and invited the readers to feel what the main characters feel there.

1.2. Purposes of Writing

I want to achieve certain purposes by choosing *Distance* as the object of my final project report. First, I would like to dissect the novel by reviewing the contents of the plot. I assess that Yahya's storyline presented in the novel is very interesting and different from romance that I have ever read. Even, Intan Nuraini (an actress) and Hanum Salsabiela Rais (the author of bestseller *99 Cahaya di Langit Eropa*) recommend this novel so much.

Second, I choose *Distance* as the object to show some inspiring characters through their characterization that are created by Yahya. In addition, eventhough this novel is written in Indonesian, Yahya uses setting of place in two countries, namely Indonesia and Germany. That will enrich the readers' vocabulary with little additional foreign words in English and German along the storyline.

Third, I also want to expose the strengths and weaknesses of *Distance*, so the readers have a reference why this novel is electable or not as a recommended book. Finally, I hope this report can be useful for the readers.

1.3. The Author's Biography

Aprilia Yahya was born in Jakarta, on April 29th 1983. She successfully graduated from Journalism studies at the Faculty of Communication, Prof. Dr. Moestopo University Jakarta on 2007. She began to know the world of

broadcasting since 2008. She started her career as a TV Creative at a national private television in West Jakarta.

According to Aprilia Yahya, the world of broadcasting, especially in production division, really opens her mind that she must know her audience well before conveying every message. She tries to pour her brilliant ideas and to show something different from others. She is very aware of the importance of creativity in conveying a message, not only the substance of it.

Aprilia Yahya first joined ANTV news division. Here, she served as a reporter, not as a presenter. At the beginning she built her career, she was forged on the isolated area to cover events. It reawakened her memory during her college. "Yes, I'm a journalist". This sentence always encourages and resuscitates her that it is actually not easy to be a journalist, not only because of a matter of ingenuity and prowess but also because of the mental and physical readiness.

CHAPTER II

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

Distance tells the story of a girl named Hilda, who works as a shopkeeper in “Message” Bookstore. For three years she works in a commercial area in the southern corner of Jakarta with her two best friends, Mancay and Upi. Mancay is a man who has a very strong feminine side, while Upi is Hilda’s close friend who is initially very kind, care, and loyal to her.

The story begins when Hilda and Upi buy a camera in *Pasar Baru*. They catch Reza, Hilda’s boyfriend, who is hanging out with another woman in Menteng Plaza. Although extremely devastated since Reza has lied to her, Hilda always becomes a strong, unruly, and forgiving woman. However, she is extremely shocked and surprised when knowing that her boyfriend’s affair is Lilita Widjaja, a magazine model who had come to her shop some days ago.

On the other hand, in Munich, Sigrid Hermann Funke (Sigi), a student of Faculty of Architecture, is appointed as a delegate to study in a developing country, named Indonesia for a week. On February 1st, Franz Joseph-Strauss Airport witnesses the departure of Sigi, Bastian, his two friends, and Herr Hoch as the lecturer. Initially, Sigi feels very upset to know that Jakarta should be his research place, and why it is not Bali.

Sigi’s resentment in Jakarta takes him to meet Hilda. Their meeting is somewhat unique because it always begins from an accident. Likewise, Sigi has a

motorcycle accident when looking for his aunt's address in Jakarta. Hilda is the one who helps to bring him to the hospital and waits for him until he regains consciousness.

The accident befalls just in days before Sigi has to return to Munich since his delegation duty has been completed. As a result of this, Sigi should be willing to stay in Jakarta much longer for recovery without his friends. Sigi uses this opportunity to find out everything about Hilda and begins to approach her slowly. For him, Hilda is a unique, charming, and very interesting woman. She is extremely different from Maria and Nina who always disturb him at Munich.

Sigi and Hilda's relationship is beautifully intertwined. However, one day, Hilda finds a fact that Sigi is actually Lilita Widjaja's cousin, a woman who has taken her boyfriend, Reza. Knowing this fact, Lilita also tries to hinder their relationship.

In short, it is the time for Sigi to come back to Munich, leaving Jakarta, Hilda, and sweet memories there. However, before he leaves Jakarta, Sigi has time to meet and beat Reza. He considers that Reza is the only one who has made the two people he loves become enemies.

Hilda is increasingly astonished to know who the mastermind behind all these events is. After having been urged by Hilda, Upi also admits that she has designed a scenario to destroy her best friend's relationship. She does it for the reason of envy. She secretly loves Reza. Knowing this, Hilda's feeling is abysmally confused. On the other hand, Sigi who has managed to recover from

her heartbreak will be back to his native country, Germany. But on the other hand, she has to keep her promise to Lilita to not meet him.

In Franz Joseph-Strauss Airport, early Monday, Sigi sets his foot back in Munich. Eventhough he cannot meet Hilda before his departure at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, he remains positive thinking. He decides to go back to Jakarta, and returns to pursue his true love.

A week after Sigi left Jakarta, Hilda suddenly comes back to his life through a remote communication, such as Short Message Service and online via computer. Through this, they can continue their relationship. Hilda tells all of her experiences to Sigi, including the matter of his cousin who has now become her close friend.

Time continues to run. It is already one and a half years after Sigi confesses to Hilda and connects remotely via computer only. Sigi stares at his computer again. He tells Hilda that he will be graduated next month. He really hopes she is able to come, but it is highly unlikely. Finally, he promises that on Sunday, February 10th, he will be back to Jakarta.

Hilda does any preparations to greet her lover, including buying a gift for Sigi. It is Sunday, February 10th, a day for Hilda that has been waiting for. She hurries up and runs down the road towards the airport. She has imagined how awesome this meeting after waiting for a few years. Along the way, she sees a blind girl who had ever been known in the park. The girl seems extremely happy to meet her mother she is looking for, and so does Hilda.

Hilda goes on her way, and then she crosses a deserted street. Suddenly, a motorcycle hits her from her right side. She is bounced and drifted. When she awakes up, she sees many people are flocking around. She tries to communicate and to get a hold of them, but no one else hears her. She turns and looks down at her bloodied body on the black asphalt. She gasps and finally realizes that her body and soul are now separated.

Knowing the tragedy, Lilita immediately rushes to the airport to pick up his cousin. Without saying anything, she drags Sigi to follow her. Sigi initially refuses on the grounds he is waiting for Hilda's coming, but Lilita keeps forcing him. Along the way, Lilita does not speak at all to him. Her mouth feels silenced. Sigi, on the other hand, continues to force her to talk what is really going on. Lilita cannot hold back her tears finally.

Sigi cannot believe the news he has just heard. His heart is fully ached. A beautiful day he has waited for changes into a tremendous sadness when seeing someone he loves is gone. Sigi tries to stay strong and tough as what Hilda had taught him before. He has to continue his life and believes that even her body has been separated, but her love will always live in his deepest heart.

Sigi decides to go back to Munich and carries his fond memories with Hilda, including Hilda's blue small gifts which have not been given directly to him. It turns out to contain a photo when Hilda saw him at first in the museum. Together with the photo, there is a piece of paper that states:

Benar kan? Kita tidak pernah tahu bagaimana kisah hidup kita selanjutnya, kecuali Tangan Tuhan yang menuntunmu. Dan sekarang barulah kau bisa berkata, “Ternyata....” (Yahya, 2013: 224).

Right? We never know how the story of our life is hereafter, unless the hand of God is leading you. And now then you can say, "It turns out"(Yahya, 2013: 224).

CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF THE NOVEL

In this chapter, I would like to discuss a few things with regard to the novel, entitled *Distance*. There are four basic points in this novel which are interesting to discuss. They are the theme, the characters and characterization, the strengths of the novel, and the weaknesses of the novel.

3.1. Theme

Theme is derived from the Latin word, *thema*, meaning a place to put a device. It is due to the fact that the theme is an underlying idea of a story that also acts as a base of departure in describing fiction that is created by the author (Aminuddin, 2009: 91).

Distance generally belongs to a romance. The theme of romance is often raised in a novel or a movie, but the author of this novel has an initiative not only to serve the romance element but also to tell the story of friendship. The content of this novel tells the complicated and unpredictable love story of its characters. This novel, in addition, also presents the story of the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

Hilda is the main character in *Distance*. She suffers a broken heart after finding out that her boyfriend has a relationship with another woman. It is ironic

to know that the introduction between Hilda's boyfriend (Reza) and his affair has been initiated by Upi, her close friend. Upi does it for the reason of jealousy. She secretly likes Reza from the beginning, but he turns out to have a relationship with Hilda. Unfortunately, when Hilda has found her true love, she has to stretch her life in a tragic accident on her way to meet him at the airport.

3.2. Characters and Characterization

There are some characters written in Yahya's novel, entitled *Distance*. They are Hilda, Sigi, Reza, Upi, Lilita, Mancay, Madam Joker, Aunty Inge, and many more. Each character has his/her own characterization, which is different from each other. Thus, I will attempt to describe the characterization of the important characters in this novel, namely Hilda, Sigi, Reza, and Upi.

Hilda becomes the most important character and the center where the story flows. In this novel, Hilda is a shopkeeper in a bookstore. She is described as someone who is psychologically mature, jovial, forgiving, unyielding, and faithful. It can be proven from the way she faces any problem that comes to her life. Her maturity, one of them, can be seen when she has a problem with Reza because of the presence of a third person. She can put herself well and not be childish by confronting Reza's affair. It can be seen from the following quotation:

Malam itu juga, aku memutuskan hubunganku dengan Reza. Tidak di depan Lilita – untunghlah aku bisa berpura-pura tidak mengenalnya waktu Lilita memperkenalkan dia sebagai pacar. Aku hanya cukup meneleponnya tanpa banyak bicara. Ya, tidak perlu cara-cara terhormat

untuk memutuskan hubungan dengan peselingkuh semacam Reza (Yahya, 2013: 46).

In that evening, I end my relationship with Reza. Not in front of Lilita - fortunately I can pretend not to know him when Lilita introduces him as her boyfriend. I just simply call him without much to say. Yes, I do not need any honorable ways to break up with a traitor like Reza (Yahya, 2013:46).

Hilda is also portrayed as a jovial and an unyielding person as her attitude when she meets a blind girl in a park. At that time, she is hurt by the betrayal of the people she loves. She can make the girl smile happily although her own heart is extremely injured. She always wants someone else to be happy despite herself unhappy. She also can not only forgive the betrayal of Reza, but also Upi, her close friend, who has destroyed her relationship with Reza. Those can be seen from the quotation below:

Aku melihat matanya yang bersinar dari pandangannya yang kosong. Dan itulah yang mampu membuatku tersenyum – lagi, setelah lenyap dihapus bayang-bayang Reza. Laras menarik liontin itu dari genggamanku, meraba foto yang datar itu dan menciumnya. Air mata meleleh dari pipinya yang sebelah kanan (Yahya, 2013: 66).

I see her eyes shining from her empty gaze. And that is able to make me smile - again, after having been removed by Reza's shadows. Laras pulls the locket out of my hand, touches a flat picture and kisses it. Tears melt from her right cheek (Yahya, 2013: 66).

Ironis sekali. Aku... bisa-bisanya menginginkan orang lain untuk bahagia, sedangkan aku sendiri... (Yahya, 2013: 67).

It is extremely ironic. I... I want others to be happy, while I am... (Yahya, 2013: 67).

Hilda is a faithful girl. It is proven by her loyalty to the job for three years she has struggled though her boss is very chatty. In addition, her loyalty is also

tested when she has to undergo a long-distance relationship with Sigi, the man from Munich. The following quotation illustrates the point:

Aku mulai sadar dan berpikir bahwa aku masih sangat muda untuk berjalan di atas episode hidupku yang seperti ini. Tapi aku harus bertanggung jawab pada diriku sendiri. Kalau Tuhan mengujiku dalam keterpurukan, maka Dia jugalah yang akan menguatkan, memberi energi atas apa yang semestinya kulakukan (Yahya, 2013: 156).

I begin to realize and think that I am still very young to walk on the episode of my life like this. But, I have to be responsible for myself. If God tests me in a slump, then God, too, who will strengthen me and give energy to what should be done by me (Yahya, 2013: 156).

Besides Hilda, another important character in *Distance* is Sigrid Hermann Funke (Sigi), a German and a man fond of Bayern Munich football club. Sigi's characters that look dominant are clever, emphatic, unyielding, and loyal. His cleverness is shown by his election as a delegate and a spokesman from the Faculty of Architecture to conduct a research in a developing country, namely Indonesia. The following dialogue serves as an illustration:

"Delegasi ini hanya terdiri dari empat orang dalam satu kelompok. Sigrid Funke akan saya rekomendasikan sebagai juru bicara kelompok dalam konferensi. Kewajiban dan hak-hak kalian selama di Jakarta akan disampaikan secara tertulis. Ada pertanyaan?" katanya dengan lugas ketika memanggil aku, Bastian, dan dua orang mahasiswa dari kelas lainnya dalam undangan studi ke negara berkembang selama seminggu (Yahya: 2013: 14).

"The delegation consists of only four people in one group. I would recommend Sigrid Funke as a spokesman for the group in the conference. Your obligations and rights in Jakarta will be submitted in writing. Are there any questions?" he said bluntly when calling me, Bastian, and two students from other classes in the invitation to the study of developing countries for a week (Yahya: 2013: 14).

Sigi also has an emphatic character. It is proven by his attitude when faced with two women who are crazy about him. They are Nina and Maria. Sigi can demonstrate decisiveness when Nina and Maria seduce, tease, and whine to him. It can be proven through Sigi's statement below:

"Hei Maria, dengar ya, aku pergi atau tidak, ada wanita atau tidak, kau mau gila atau tidak terserah. Aku sama sekali tidak ada urusannya denganmu. Sekarang sudah larut, aku mau istirahat. Terima kasih sudah menelepon." Aku baru menekan tombol off, tapi aku teringat hal penting yang harus kuucapkan, "... dan aku tidak ada waktu ketemu denganmu. Tschus," kataku sambil membanting gagang telepon tua itu ke atas kasur (Yahya, 2013: 43).

"Hey Maria, listen to me, I am going or not, there is a woman or not, you are going crazy or not, I do not care. I have absolutely nothing to do with you. It is late, I want to rest. Thanks for calling." I just push the button off, but I remember the important thing to utter, "... and I do not have time to see you. *Tschus*," I said, slamming the old receiver to the top of the mattress (Yahya, 2013: 43).

Additionally, Sigi is a faithful and an unyielding man. As well as Hilda, his loyalty is shown in their long-distance relationships. Even, he has shown his seriousness to return to Indonesia to meet his true love. He also does not easily give up on the pursuit to Hilda's love that is initially difficult to get. After that, he never gives up maintaining the relationship, although it is opposed by his beloved cousin. It can be shown from Sigi's statements to Hilda below:

"I do not have any logical reasons on this. I love you because you are the one who can open my heart, my mind, change my perception of life that is properly going on" (Yahya, 2013: 192).

"Faith is a gift from God. If we believe in God, we will know how to be thankful. Do you get my point?" (Yahya, 2013: 195).

The third important character in *Distance* is Reza, a sixth semester student of the Faculty of Law who is initially Hilda's boyfriend. In this novel, Reza is described as a nice person, easy to get along and not overbearing. However, behind these, he is good at lying and unfaithful. He deserves to be called a liar since he is always good at making excuses to meet Hilda in order to hide the relationship with his affair. He is absolutely an unfaithful man. The following dialogue illustrates the point:

“Sumpah gue penasaran Pi sama sikap Reza. Kemarin dia bolak balik cerita macam-macam dalih pas gue tanya tentang cewek di Menteng tempo hari itu. Sekarang? Weekend? Katanya Jerry telepon mau bikin tugas. Ini kan tidak masuk ak....” (Yahya, 2013: 30).

"I swear, I am curious about Reza's attitude, Pi. Yesterday, he was back and forth all kinds of pretexts story when I asked about the girl at *Menteng*. Now? Weekend? He said Jerry called him that there was a task to do. It is unreasonable....” (Yahya, 2013: 30).

Upi, initially Hilda's close friend, physically has a rather fat with body height of only 150 cm but she is very adept at working. Psychologically, Upi's characterization is clearly illustrated in this novel, among others, spiteful, selfish, and envy. Those differ from Upi who is initially extremely jovial and affectionate to her best friend. The middle of story tells that she does not like to see Hilda and Reza's relationship because of envy and jealous to know that Reza chooses Hilda, not her. She avenges to Hilda by introducing him secretly with another woman. Therefore, Upi decides to stab her close friend secretly because of her selfishness. The following dialogue serves as an illustration:

“Sejak awal gue udah mencintai Reza. Tapi dia lebih memilih lo. Gue nggak suka. Tapi semakin hari gue semakin dekat sama dia, sebagai

sahabat, teman, atau apalah namanya. Dengan terpaksa menyaksikan lo berdua dengannya. Dia sering curhat tentang lo, dia bosan jadi pacar lo. Lo itu kuno dan obsesinya jadi populer semakin terancam kalau dia terus dengan orang konservatif seperti lo. Terlalu banyak hal yang nggak sesuai dengan keinginannya. Maka gue berusaha menjadi pahlawan buat dia. Gue menjodohkannya dengan Lilita. Dan berhasil. Dia menjadi populer sekarang. Well....” (Yahya, 2013: 177).

"Since the beginning, I have loved Reza, but he preferred you. I did not like that. But, the more days I got closer to him, as a friend, a close friend, or whatever its name. I was forced to watch you with him. He often told about you, he was tired of being your boyfriend. You were ancient and his obsession to be popular would be threatened if he continued the relationship with a conservative girl like you. Too many things were not as his wishes. So, I tried to be a hero for him. I set him up with Lilita. And it works. He becomes popular now. Well..." (Yahya, 2013: 177).

3.3. The Strengths of the Novel

There are some points that make *Distance* different from romance in general. First, the strength of this novel is embedded on its storyline. It does not only tell a story but also serves the moral message contained therein. In addition, this novel is also different in terms of the viewpoint of the narrator, setting, style, and vocabulary used.

3.3.1. The Moral Messages of the Novel

In writing a literary work, the author is not only required to produce work simply, but also required to convey messages. The contents of such works must be properly addressed in order to create a work of literature that can also contain a

moral message in it. *Distance* written by Aprilia Yahya is one such example. This romance contains some moral messages that the readers can learn along the plot.

The first moral message conveyed in *Distance* is the meaning of friendship. A true friend should not be jealous to see her friend happy. A close friend can be the biggest enemy in the life of her friend if she cannot take care to keep the relationship, like the story of Hilda and Upi's friendship that leads to the betrayal because of selfishness.

The second moral message from *Distance* is that "a rainbow will come after the rain passed". This novel tells the story of Hilda with all the twists and turns of her life. She suffers because of her boyfriend and best friend's betrayal. She never feels the warmth of a family after her father and mother have divorced. Ironically, she is also expelled by her mother, but she is always strong and tough. She never shows her grief in front of others. Even, she can entertain a blind girl who is crying in the park. The happiness slowly comes to her when she begins to recognize a German, named Sigrid Hermann Funke.

The third moral message implied in this story is the meaning of loyalty. It is shown by the figures of Hilda and Sigi. Although they have been always confronted many problems, their long-distance relationship is maintained. They inspire that loyalty is the root of a relationship. With fidelity, there will be no traitors like Reza and Upi.

The most important moral message told in this story is about the wonderful of God's plan that man has never known. When Hilda and Sigi will be

reunited, a tragic accident happens to Hilda on her way to the airport. Sigi is terribly devastated because of his lovely day has been turned into a dark day.

However, Sigi never regrets God's will for him and Hilda. Hilda has gone, but he can hug her all the time. Although her body is limited on the distance, but her love will always live in his deepest heart. There is a distance separating them, but Sigi always believes that God's plan will be beautiful in its time.

3.3.2. Point of View of the Story

Point of view is the position in which the narrator stands in relation to the story; the standpoint from which events are narrated (Hicks and Hutching, 1989: 113). According to Aminuddin, point of view includes narrator omniscient, narrator observer, narrator observer omniscient, and narrator the third person omniscient (2009: 90).

In terms of point of view, *Distance* is very unique when it is compared with other novels since it uses two viewpoints of its main characters, namely Hilda and Sigi. Hilda and Sigi, in turn, become the narrator of each chapter of the story. In this case, the author uses the type of omniscient narrator's point of view because the narrator also serves as an actor in the story. The narrator, according to Aminuddin, is also a speaker who knows everything about what is in the mind of the main actors and supporting actors, both physically and psychologically (2009: 90).

3.3.3. Setting, Style, and Vocabulary

Aminuddin defines setting as a background of events in a work of fiction. It can be a place, time, and events, as well as having physical and psychological functions (2009: 67).

One of the strengths of *Distance* is in its setting of place where the author describes, namely in Indonesia and Germany. The author has created two setting of places from two viewpoints storytelling done by the main characters, Hilda and Sigi. With these techniques, the readers are invited to use their imagination as if they are being in two different places at once when reading the novel.

In addition, Aprilia Yahya as the author is also able to communicate her ideas through the medium of a beautiful and harmonious language to touch the reader's emotions. She uses vocabularies that are easily to be understood by the readers. Furthermore, they can acquire many new vocabularies and expressions, not only in English but also in German.

Here are such examples of German appearing in the story. They are “*He du, Freak!*” (page 16), *kneiper* (page 17), “*So ein mist!*” (page 39), *Tschus* (page 43), *Frau* (page 100), “*Wo sind Sie?*” (page 104), “*Wer sind Sie, Bitte?*” (page 104), “*He du Treak!*” (page 180), and etc.

3.4. The Weaknesses of the Novel

I would say that *Distance* does not have any weaknesses. Overall, I think that this novel is more perfect when it is compared with the novels that I ever read before. However, there are a few constructive criticisms on this book which can be taken into consideration for the readers.

First, *Distance* does not mention appropriately the characterization of each character appearing in the middle until in the end of the story, such as Onkel T, Sigi's Dad and Mom, Eva, Nina, Maria, Aunty Inge, Uncle Tedy, Ko Tian, and Mr. Cokro.

Second, by using narrator from two main characters in *Distance*, it makes this novel special and different from the novels that already exist. But, on the other hand, the readers will be confused for understanding the story because of the turn of the narrator.

Third, *Distance* is an Indonesian novel, which uses two different settings, namely Indonesia and Germany. Jakarta becomes the setting of place in Indonesia, and Munich becomes the setting of place in Germany. However, as the Indonesian novel, the author does not describe well the beauty of Indonesia, especially Jakarta. She even portrays Jakarta as a chaotic city. It differs when she describes the beautiful city of Munich with all the modern amenities.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

A romance is more preferable by the readers because it is easily understood and imagined in the mind of them. They will easily fit into the story as if they were involved in the plot.

However, with so many romances nowadays, the author must be creative to attract the readers. They do certainly not only want an ordinary storyline from previous novels, but also want something different. They definitely need an interesting and an unusual romance with ending full of surprises.

Distance, a work of a journalist Aprilia Yahya, has answered the wishes of the readers. Yahya as an author is very capable of creating an extraordinary story idea. She does not only create a story, but also conveys moral messages through the story. One of the strengths of this novel lies in the setting of the story, namely Indonesia and Germany. Thus, it can expand the readers' knowledge of the two countries through reading this novel.

In addition to having many strengths, *Distance* also has a few weaknesses. First, it does not mention appropriately the characterization of each character appearing in the story. Second, the author uses two narrators from two main characters in the novel. It makes the readers confused in understanding the story

because of the turn of the narrator. Third, the author also does not describe well the beauty of her own country, Indonesia.

Finally, with many strengths and few weaknesses, *Distance* is increasingly favored by readers, especially for those who like romance. Aprilia Yahya as its author has succeeded in building Sigi and Hilda's characters as the main characters with extraordinary problems and unexpected ending.

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