



## The Connotation Meaning of Education in Rumah Kaca Novel of Pramoedya Ananta Toer

Muhammad Zainul Arifin; Suyitno; Raheni Suhita

Department of Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia

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### **Abstract**

This study discussed the connotation meaning of expressions containing the sense of education. This study used a semantic review. The method used was descriptive qualitative, which analyzed and described the data objects. The data of word research contained connotations related to education. The data was the novel of Rumah Kaca by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. Data collection used were observation and note-taking technique. The validity used the source and theory triangulation. The results found that words were containing 16 good connotations and five bad connotations.

**Keywords:** *Meaning; Connotation; Education; Novel*

### **Introduction**

The process of interaction happens between independent learners and the education system currently used in Indonesia. Education must be carried out in a loving manner instead of scaring people. Freire stated that it needs a contextualization of learning that must link knowledge with real-life (Heriawan, A. & Reksa, 2018:156). This statement teaches an education system that must free students to be themselves. Ki Hajar Dewantara did the same thing by making the Taman Siswa school. He formulated that educators need to follow students, not the other way around. The concept of "Panca Darma" is about the basis of independence, the origin of nationality, the foundation of humanity, the basis of culture, and natural nature.

A novel as a literary work cannot be separated from the author's real-life experience written with beautiful imagination and language. Manuaba (2003:276) stated that Pramoedya Ananta Toer's work is interesting to study because it presents a lovely language. There are lots of quotes related to the world of education in Rumah Kaca novel.

More specifically, Pramoedya's novel has a straightforward language but full of suggestions in its meaning (Wibowo, 2015:55). Thus, the choice of words to express sense needs to be arranged so that it is not ambiguous. Understanding of connotations will help students use words that are appropriate to be conveyed in certain context situations. The meaning of connotation is the communication value of a group of words based on what it refers to and exceeds the conceptual sense (Leech, 1981:12). For example, the

word rose in conceptually means plants and flowers. In its connotation, roses can be symbolized as love, affection, romance.

(Mabhoot, N., & Mitra, 2016) conducted a study on the importance of connotations in understanding culture by students in Iran who were considered less knowledgeable about the expressions in textbooks. Knowledge of connotations will help students become better speakers. The meaning of connotation is related to emotional feelings, which can tell the author's feelings that he wants to convey to the reader (Byone, 2019:35).

Based on the explanation above, the writer examined the words that contained values of connotative meanings. This research aimed to describe the connotations regarding the world of education contained in *Rumah Kaca* novel by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The benefit of this research was expected to add insight knowledge about meaning.

### ***Literature Review***

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship of sign and the signed things. Semantics is the study of meaning (Chaer, 2009:2). In line, (Griffiths, 2006:15) explained semantics is the study of the word and sentence meanings, abstracted away from contexts of use. Accordingly, it can be concluded that semantics is the study about the importance which outlined from the contexts.

Meaning is limited by the ideas expressed by the combination of words, divided into two types. The first is a word that is related to the world. For example, the word red indicates blood. Second, a word has a meaning that determines its semantic relationship in other words, for instance, narrow versus broad (Dixon, 2005:8). From the definition, it can be concluded that semantics refers to punctuation and the theory of meaning related to connotation. The value of sense that is attached to the purpose is seen in the context.

(Chandler, 2002:140) explained that the word's connotation meaning is related to the memory or connection related to culture, social, or personal. It can be said that talks have connotative meaning from someone. The connotative meaning is closely associated with language users' feelings, so the use of language in an area will have a different connotation with another. A particular situation will influence its meaning.

The meaning of connotation not only includes the characteristic of form but also consists of a psychological and social aspect. Meanwhile, Barnes's theory (in Clara, 2018:123) explains that denotation is an objective meaning and remains in the first stage, while the user of the sign gives the connotation as a subjective and varied meaning in the second stage. It emphasizes the interaction among the texts. The utterance that is spoken or written that is presented remains in someone's memory and processed in semantics form, not in linguistic form.

(Suwandi, 2011:99) differs connotation into two, individual and collective connotations. Individual connotation is more challenging to be analyzed by someone physically or mentally. Collective connotations can be divided into three groups. There are good, bad, and neutral connotations. So, it can be concluded the meaning of connotation is the meaning that appears among the meaning of denotation, which is related to the culture in a society that contains an emotional value.

### ***Methodology***

The research used a qualitative design with description data. The qualitative model used was text analysis, which focused on one phenomenon. The data in this study were expressions that contained connotations in the novel of *Rumah Kaca* by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The data collection technique used

in this study was the observation method and the note-taking technique. The data validity was the source and theory triangulations in testing the data's credibility and triangulating the data sources by examining evidence from sources used for coherent justification with the expected research (Creswell, 2009:191). The analysis technique used the Miles, B.M., & Huberman (Miles, B.M., 1992:17-20), which consisted of a model of data collection and classification, data reduction to summarize, select, and compile data, then conclusion drawing.

## Result and Discussion

Based on the theories, the writer used Suwandi's idea (Suwandi, 2011:99) about collective connotations to analyze the text in Rumah Kaca. This study presented the connotative meanings which were interpreted text by text.

### a. Connotation Meanings of “Perguruan Tinggi”

#### 1. The data tabel of connotation meanings of “Perguruan Tinggi”

No	Data	Good	Bad
1	<i>Mahasiswa beasiswa</i> Scholarship student	V	
2	<i>Mahasiswa bebal</i> Stupid student		V
3	<i>Keranjingan kuliah</i> Lecturing craze		V
4	<i>Mahaguru</i> Proffesor	V	
5	<i>Insinyur Geologi</i> Geology engineer	V	
6	<i>Ijazah sarjana</i> Barchelor certificate	V	
7	<i>Universitas Prancis</i> French university	V	
8	<i>Degenerasi</i> Degeneration		V

A student is a term for people who are currently studying in college. Many people have a dream to look at the university level, especially if they successfully get a scholarship. There are some terms and conditions to get a scholarship. Scholarship students are people who have excellence or intelligence in specific fields. Moreover, scholarship facilities them so they have opportunities to get good values. The meaning is different from data which is in the following:

“ <i>Bebahagiaalah kalian, mahasiswa-mahasiswa bebal, karena kalian dibenarkan berbuat sesuatu</i> ” (Toer, 2011:53)	Happy are the stupid students because they are given a justification to do whatever they want.
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The stupid student has a bad connotation. Stupid interpreted as challenging to understand. The stupid student has the ancient connotation of not understanding the times and the globalization. They need to study and understand everything that needs to be done. The phrase of scholarship student and stupid student refer to people as an object. There is another connotation in the form of a verb as follows:

“Mereka hanya mahasiswa-mahasiswa yang baru keranjingan kuliah ilmu politik” (Toer, 2011:243).	They were just students entranced by what they heard in some political science lectures.
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The word *keranjingan* means infatuated with or fond of having a bad connotation. The word *keranjingan* can mean someone who has learned a little thing, but he/she dared to make various statements. Having passion is the beginning of the learning process, then being humble, and feeling that the knowledge is not enough. Lecturing happened when students and lecturers discuss a scientific field.

“Ia hanya tertawa dan membuka kuliah seperti mahaguru yang netral sedang menerangkan sesuatu secara objektif” (Toer, 2015:325)	He just laughed and then began another lecture as if he were some neutral professor giving an objective explanation.
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The word *mahaguru* is someone who is considered to have a depth of knowledge. In higher education, someone who has excellent ability and qualification considered to have the professor title. A word is a form of good value to use and to arouse personal interests. In the academic environment, someone who has a degree must also have a graduation certificate, which is a sign of someone completing their education. It was based on the data found in the following:

“Seperti orang yang baru turun menerima ijazah sarjana” (Toer, 2011:449)	...as if he were some fresh-faced college graduate.
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After getting the graduation certificate, a person has a title embodied in his name. Each country has its title. In Indonesia, students will get a bachelor's degree in education (S.Pd) after completing studies at the faculty of teacher training and education (FKIP) in a college or university. It means that it has the right meaning in the form of a place to gain knowledge.

“Bahwa tuan-tuan minyak ini pada mulanya adalah insinyur-insiyur geologi Gubernur di Bandung” (Toer, 2011:335)	That the local oil barons started as engineers working for the government in Bandung.
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The word of *insinyur* in the past was used for people who had completed undergraduate engineering studies. In contrast, geology meant the science of the structure, composition, and history of the earth. It is relevant when a geological engineer becomes a master of oil because the knowledge obtained in college is used appropriately by analyzing petroleum used by humankind. A person who has a graduation certificate needs to learn so that their knowledge is still up to date.

“Orang seumur aku yang tak mau belajar bertenang-tenang dan menikmatinya akan panen degenerasi yang cepat dan semakin cepat” (Toer, 2011:190)	Someone of my age who did not know how to be calm and enjoy the peace would achieve only rapid and even more rapid degeneration.
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The word *degenerasi* can mean setbacks or generational degeneration (KBBI V). People can experience it because they stop to study. It means that learning is not only about formal school, but it is to actualize oneself. There is a saying, "when a person stops learning, he starts to be stupid." People who do not want to learn will be left behind because science is always developing with new things by the time.

## b. Connotation Meanings of “Sekolah”

### 2. The data table of connotation meanings of “Sekolah”

No	Data	Good	Bad
1	<i>Sekolah Dasar Tionghoa</i> Chinese schools	V	
2	<i>Kurikulum</i> Curriculum	V	
3	<i>Sekolah Boedi Moeljo</i> Boedi Moeljo school	V	
4	<i>Sekolah Gadis Jepara</i> Jepara school for girls	V	
5	<i>Bahasa kosmopolit</i> Cosmopolitan language		V

A school is a place for students to gain knowledge. In this novel, it is explained that school can be a conflict of interest.

“ <i>Sekolah Dasar Tionghoa Hwee Koan justru tegar menolak pengajaran bahasa Belanda dan malah mengajarkan bahasa Inggris</i> ” (Toer, 2011:250)	“the Hwee Koan Chinese schools still insist on teaching English rather than Dutch” (Toer, 2011:250)
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The context is in the colonial era, which provided instruction for the Indigenous aristocracy. Some articles write the advantages and disadvantages of teaching Dutch for Indigenous people, which is used as the basis for a learning curriculum that requires the Dutch language. The colonialists wanted to teach the Dutch language because the Indigenous people could be the colonizers to oppress their people. A good understanding is one way of learning the language. Talking about school is related to the curriculum in education.

“Soerjopranoto telah membangun sebuah sekolah dasar dan lanjutan yang memungungi kurikulum Gubermen” (Toer, 2011:510)	Soerjopranoto had established a primary school and high school that completely turned its back on the government curriculum.
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The topic is about the different curriculum, which is the basis for the educational process. An evaluation was carried out in the application of the curriculum in academic units. This foundation relates to the output of a graduate. When the curriculum is not under the required result, it is necessary to reform it. In Indonesia, there have been several changes in the curriculum. The latest curriculum being revised is the 2013 curriculum.

*Boedi Moeljo* and *Sekolah Gadis* help the education sector by establishing schools related to Indonesian culture's local wisdom. As a social organization, both of them receive subsidies from the government to continue learning. These schools had educated people who were ready to ignite the spirit of nationalism against colonialism. In the past, education was not necessary, especially for women.

“ <i>Ayahanda Tuan telah mendirikan sekolah gadis yang cukup bagus di Blora</i> ” (Toer, 2011:533)	Your father has established quite a right school for girls in Blora.
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This quote made people aware that education is essential for anyone. People used to think that every woman only needed to be *manak* (give birth), *macak* (do makeup), and *masak* (cook). They did not care about education. *Sekolah gadis* was founded to change the old parents' mindset who thought of women as second class. Women have the same rights to get an education, but they do not forget their

nature. The fast progress causes any differences in using the primary language in education because various languages are taught.

“Seperti Hindia ini, juga bahasanya menjadi kosmpolit jadi tidak karuan dan acak-acakan” (Toer, 2011:300)	As in the Indies, then its language would become cosmopolitan too; it would fall into chaos.
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The word *Kosmpolit* means an allusion which does not have the same primary standards in education. In the colonial era, the language used was Dutch, but each region had its language in its teaching. For example, indigenous and Chinese schools taught English, an official subject, and eliminated Dutch language lessons.

### c. Connotation Meanings of “Proses Pembelajaran”

#### 3. The data tabel of connotation meanings of “Proses Pembelajaran”

No	Data	Good	Bad
1	<i>Metode gabungan</i> Combination method	V	
2	<i>Mempersenjatai pendidikan</i> Education equipped	V	
3	<i>Buku pelajaran wajib</i> Official textbooks	V	
4	<i>Membanting tulang dalam kuliah</i> Working their guts out	V	
5	<i>Mata pelajaran sastra</i> Literature class	V	
6	<i>Dididik untuk jadi kuli minyak</i> educated to be a oil worker		V
7	<i>Rebut ilmu pengetahuan</i> Learn all the knowledge	V	
8	<i>Pelajar baru</i> new educated Native	V	

Teaching and learning have introduced event-based-learning, which shows facts around learning as in the quote.

“Mereka lebih menghargai laporan tertulisku yang menggunakan metode gabungan antara pemeriksaan dan wawancara, penelitian sosial dan latar belakang sejarah” (Toer, 2011:83)	They were even more impressed with my written reports that used a combination of interrogation and interview, social research, and historical background.
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It invites people who learn to know what phenomena exist by using a particular perspective to explore certain things. So that learners need to learn from the facts then analyze them. For example, students are given accurate facts about the COVID-19 outbreak. Then students are invited to investigate how to prevent and suppress the outbreak, and what the best or worst possibility so that students can express their opinions according to the available data. The development of education and science develops fast, so educators need to be realized, as contained in a quote below.

“Mempersenjatai anak-anakku dengan pendidikan dan ilmu pengetahuan yang mencukupi untuk masuk hidup dalam jamannya sendiri” (Toer, 2011:156)	My children would be equipped with enough education and learning to cope with the new times, times, and times they were entering.
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The quote explains the need for self-actualization, mainly because of the development of technology. Thus, the use of the word in the sentence makes a good taste. Nowadays, the Z generation is more comfortable to operate the device. The question is how educators should be up to date with this development, so there is no inequality between them. However, the current development does not mean that the past learning method is terrible. There is nothing wrong with a combined education between the Z generation and the old generation—for example, a combination of natural resources and textbooks contained in the quote.

<p><i>“la tak menggunakan buku wajib, tetapi alam sekitar ia pergunakan sebagai bahan pelajaran. Buku pelajaran wajib ia anjurkan agar dipelajari sendiri di rumah”</i> (Toer, 2011:408)</p>	<p>She didn't use the official textbooks but utilized the natural surroundings all around her. She advised her students to study the book themselves at home.</p>
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The use of official books is essential for students to repeat lessons that have been learned at school. Besides, the use of the natural surroundings as a learning material or media also needs to be done, according to the sentence "the more nature used as teaching material, more attachment for students' mindset about future." If there is more emphasis on teaching materials using facts or obtained from the surrounding environment, it can increase learning interest. Based on the quote, people who do not like certain subjects are good at others.

<p><i>“Semua pun tahu, anak-anak di Holland membanting tulang dalam kuliah mereka, pelajaran-pelajaran yang mungkin tidak berguna untuk hidup dan penghidupan mereka kelak”</i> (Toer, 2011:45)</p>	<p>Everyone knew that the children in Holland were working their guts out in their studies, studies that might never be of any use to them in their lives or seeking a livelihood.</p>
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Teachers should consider that there are people who do not understand calculations, but they are good at composing, analyzing, etc. The word *membanting tulang* in the data means children's abilities need to be appreciated and developed. It is not uncommon for schools to be like factories that produce the same things. People who have abilities are considered more capable than ordinary people. It is the responsibility of an educated person to convey society's aspiration.

<p><i>“Mencoba memahami tulisan-tulisan ini mengingatkan aku pada mata pelajaran sastra di sekolah menengah dulu”</i> (Toer, 2011:320)</p>	<p>As I tried to understand these writings, I was reminded of literature classes at high school.</p>
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Writing that has a high meaning is called literature. Minke's writing that picked up by Pangemanann made him remember literature lessons. The connotations arising from these sentences constituting beautiful writing that not anyone can understand. A proper analysis or interpretation is needed to understand a literary work.

Education is vital for everyone. The essence of education is a change in behavior. If education does not emphasize a difference in students, it needs to be questioned. It does not match the quote as follows.

<p><i>“Aku hanya lulusan sekolah desa tiga tahun, dididik untuk jadi kuli minyak”</i> (Toer, 2011:337)</p>	<p>I had been to school for only three years; I had been educated only to working their guts out for the oil companies.</p>
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Education has been considered necessary because educated people become the right hands of many people. Being an oil worker can happen without studying into a school. At that time, invaders did a monopoly so these people could serve the Governor.

“ <i>Rebut ilmu pengetahuan dari mereka sampai kau sama pandai dengan mereka</i> ” (Toer, 2011:340)	Learn all you can from them, so you become as smart as they are.
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There is a saying, "seek knowledge to China." The meaning is to seek knowledge as much as possible, even though it is far. Learning science can be from any time, such as studying the knowledge and then using it in real life. The word *rebut* can be interpreted as learning.

“ <i>Raden Mas Minke dibuang. Syarikat tidak mati, bahkan sekarang telah ditemukan seorang pelajar baru, yang dicadangkan untuk menggantikannya</i> ” (Toer, 2011:216)	Raden Mas Minke was exiled. The Sarekat did not die, and now they have found a new educated Native who is being prepared to replace Minke.
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The phrase *pelajar baru* has a good connotative meaning. Raden Mas Minke was a knowledgeable person who led the Islamic trade union (SDI). He was also the Medan newspaper leader, who was exiled because he was considered dangerous for the continuation of colonial rule in Indonesia. The members of the union group under his leadership had overgrown, which were feared to inflame the Indonesian people's fighting spirit. By being alienated, the leader of the company could kill the organization. Unfortunately, it did not happen, although they had a prospective and educated leader. In Pram's novel, there is also a quote as follows.

“ <i>Berbeda dengan terpelajar Pribumi Filipina, mereka di Hindia sini masih disibuki dengan soal-soal perkelaminan</i> ” (Toer, 2011:400)	Unlike their counterparts in the Philippines, the educated Natives of the Indies were still preoccupied with matters of sex.
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The word *perkelaminan* means sexual intercourse, which is an intimate relationship with the opposite sex. So *perkelaminan* has a bad connotation. Educated people should have broader insights than people who have not.

## Conclusion

According to the discussion, it can be concluded that there are three groups. First, the connotation of college has 5 meanings with good taste and 3 bad meanings. Second, the school connotation consisted of 4 good meanings and 1 bad meaning. Third, the connotation of the learning process has 7 good meanings and 1 bad meaning. The meaning emphasizes on community beliefs and experiences that formed through education. There is also a stimulus used to touch personal interests as a form of satire.

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