

FANTASY THEMES OF MARINE RETIREE GROUP

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ABSTRACT

The research applied symbolic convergence theory as the main theories, with the subjective-interpretive paradigm. Through a qualitative approach, this study was conducted by using fantasy themes analysis. The subjects of this study were members of Marines retiree who lives in Tanah Baru and Rangkapan Jaya Baru, Depok. The object of this research was the aspect of communication in the form of verbal and nonverbal symbols of Marine retiree group members in expressing their fantasy themes. Thirteen informants were chosen as the sample with purposive and snowball sampling techniques. This study aimed to find and identify the fantasy themes of Marine retiree group through elements of setting, character, and action. The results show that the story of Marine retiree group is a bridge that connects the experience of the retired members of the Marines in the events of the past with the present time.

Keywords: *fantasy theme, Marines retiree group, hero element, villain element*

INTRODUCTION

Fantasy is a creative way of the situation in understanding emotion, motives, and incident. Fantasy comes from stories, jokes, an event, and analogy (Bridges, 2006), as this fantasy is divided or chained with people that collectively create a reality which has been shared in a group. This out chain process has been known as Symbolic Convergence (Bormann, 1985). Fantasy is a shared condition of an incident which is built by a group of people to describe their collective experienced. The closer someone to others, the more they share fantasies and respond each other. Therefore communication which occurred is formed as a chain that refers as fantasies chain.

The formation process of this fantasies chain has been known as symbolic convergence. Symbolic convergence in a group of Marine Retiree in Depok is made from incidents which are experienced together while they are on duty in Marine Corps. They spend time together in their daily life while on duty in Corps. Not like other organization outside the military, soldiers quite often must leave their family for months and even more than a year in a special operation which signed to them. Therefore, they are together with their group 24 hours a day, for months, or years of their duties. It makes they feel the experience of being together inside and outside.

Marine Corps members, as landing troops with a few soldiers, should face tough operation in a quite long time. In 1975, Soeharto simplified the KKO/Marine Organization (Matanasi, 2011) that made the Marine personnel got reduced. After the president was changed, Marine personnel is gradually increased, and in 2001, it turns to 74.000 personnel (Roza, 2016). Having experienced together as a Marine is more intense than the civil organization, and because of less personnel, Marines spend a lot of their time on duty with their comrade than other corps. At a time when people want to be close to other people, then they will reveal who they are and the closer they are to that person the more the openness itself. This is confirmed in the axiom development of relations

expressed by Charles Berger, namely joy, likeness, and self-disclosure. All of them are the keys to the development of relations towards relationships. Fantasy theme analysis assumes that humans talk about events and issues in the stories and narratives (Palenchar, 2002). And openness is an important element to reveal fantasy in the form of stories which has been told by the Marine retiree.

Fantasy theme is a form of symbolic comprehension which is being presented in symbolic convergence theory. Simply conversation or gossip with friends is the fantasies. It is a way to symbolic convergence or the understanding symbolic with friends as we disclosure ourselves with people whom we meet. Symbolic Convergence Theory explained that gossips are the important part in searching of similarity.

Closeness is a key to express fantasies. The simply conversation about the television show or the holiday's back home is a way to express fantasies which show values that they professed. And it could know through analysis which has done to rhetoric messages by using fantasy theme analysis. Fantasy theme analysis helps audiences to check and understanding the messages and inherent values in every story (Kidd, 1998). Self-exposure is not only important part in building trust and cohesiveness in a group, but it also shows the group fantasy themes. Symbolic convergence happens when a member of the group spontaneously creates chain fantasy which describes energy with the same respond to the certain common theme.

This research uses fantasy theme analysis method which is presented by symbolic convergence theory. Fantasy theme analysis can be a way to identify fantasy themes which contained in stories of Marine retiree group in Depok. According to symbolic convergence theory, the research goals are (1) to discover and identify fantasy themes, (2) to identify the rhetoric vision of Marine retiree group in Depok.

METHODS

Fantasy theme is a content of dramatized messages and threaded in message chain by the participant such as words game, stories, analogy, and speech which liven up interaction in a group. Fantasy theme also focuses on the story of a person with the character in the narrative. Each person will share her/his fantasies because the similarity of experienced or because people who dramatized message have a good rethoric ability. A story, a joke, or a game word usually happens in a group that does not mean anything. Everything does not have any effect in the next interaction. However, sometimes one of the group members takes the message and embellishes the story and might dramatize the message with the style of each story. In a symbolic convergence theory, this participant has known as fantasy chain, and when it happens, they have shared fantasy group.

Fantasy themes of Marine retiree group in Depok are identified in rhetoric matters of its group, which is obtained by interviewed and non-participant observation results of group conversation. 13 people of Marine retiree as research's informant, which is done through a phenomenological approach. In rhetoric matters process of Marine retiree group in Depok, the researcher uses fantasy theme analysis method which is presented in symbolic convergence theory by Ernest G. Bormann. This theory gives a comprehension that when a group achieves symbolic convergence, they get a feeling of sociability which based on similarity experienced and comprehension (Bormann, 1972).

In this research, the first thing to do is identified fantasy themes in the group of Marine retiree in Depok. The fantasy theme has shown a story about group experienced which shows reality construction for its participant. When this fantasy theme is growing, the members share their consciousness together later on or share their reality which is experienced by them from their point of

view. Therefore, they have the foundation in communication each other to create community, to discuss the same experienced, and to achieve comprehension together.

The next thing to do is looking for message dramatization. The strength of rhetoric in stories about a group is in their audience. This strength is clearly seen on the ability to make sort of strong identification between members within the group. Individual inside the group in certain time sometimes could become very enthusiastic and then begin to use dramatic communication to share their enthusiasm with other members of the group. This enthusiasm is shaped as comments about the incidents which they have through in the past, current condition, and their desire for future. After hearing a comment from their comrades, other members usually become spirited and then give their comments regarding the topic which is discussed.

Before found fantasy themes which shown in Marine retiree group's rhetoric in Depok, the researcher dramatized the messages that shown in Marine retiree group's conversation in detailed, which triggered group's fantasies chain. After that, the researcher analyzed the dramatic message and personal narratives from the member of the group to find group's fantasy themes. The difference between common message and the dramatic message is in how the message itself could trigger member of the group to share fantasies as a result of sharing action of group consciousness.

Several dramatizations cause a small symbolic explosion in the form of fantasy chain. However, in message dramatization which caused a fantasy chain can attract of the members, then they will share their fantasies. The more members shared fantasies; then the conversation time will turn quickly. People become spirited, interrupted each other, laughed, showed emotion, and forgot their consciousness. People who share fantasies do all that with responding to each message with the appropriate response.

If people who tell the stories want the story as a joke, they laugh; if the story should be appropriate or mean, they would try to give serious appropriation (Bormann in Ensink, *et.al.*, 1986). Some of the dramatics cause symbolic expression in a long or short fantasy chain. Dramatization happens in the conversation of Marine retiree group in Depok is identified in fantasies chain and also in other circumstances that show a long fantasies chain with other that show up the dramatization messages. Fantasy chain could happen as a result from fantasy theme of group members which attract interest and use it in the new dramatic messages. It triggers other members of the group to share back their fantasy to influence the consciousness of the group. The message dramatization in a Marines retiree conversation can be seen when the members interrupt each other, become excited, laugh together, and share their fantasies. Therefore on several occasions, small chats happen which interrupt the main conversation, even though it does not become relevant, but if we pay more attention, this small chats related to what they are talking about on the main topic.

Message dramatization in this conversation shows a huge symbolic expression convulsion and a very long fantasy chain with the show up of other new fantasy chains. The dramatize message attracts the members of Marine retiree group in Depok to share fantasies with chats rhythm moves faster. It makes the other members of Marine retiree group excited, interrupt each other, laugh, show emotion, and forget their consciousness.

The third thing to do is identified the fantasy theme. The content of message dramatization which splattered fantasy chain is called fantasy theme. This fantasy theme creates when the member of group comments person or incident that shows the enthusiasm of other members. And these comments then trigger them to comment about their own experience according to the context which is discussed. Comments about someone's behavior or incident have signified that the members of group form and organize their experiences. So it can be said that fantasy themes that commentaries on the incidents become a topic of group members that describe their experiences to the incidents.

Fantasy is dramatization activities. A Marine retiree group in Depok uses fantasy themes in their stories to rely on creating the rhetoric vision together to strengthen the values of stories told. The stories provide a frame reference to the members of the group to understand the goals, basic beliefs, and how to act when becoming a part of the group. Through fantasy themes, the life of Marines retiree is presented as a drama with action that shows in metaphorically stage, and they are the actors whose doing many acts. The messages of the group have been continued through the members in the forms of stories which identified heroes, villains, and goals based on how all that stories get in, promote, and embeds vision to the members.

The starting point to do the analyze using the fantasy theme analysis method is messages. Bormann (1976) has argued that messages basically are dramatized context. Communication which is doing by the members is the interpretation of a certain incident. The messages that are sent by this member group are creative interpretation and imaginative from incidents that fulfilled psychological needs or rhetoric. And these messages are so called fantasy themes. The experts agree that themes are found in rhetoric matters could be categorized as settings, character, and action (St. Antoine, *et al.*, 2009). Through stories told, Marines retiree group in Depok could be analyzed and become the bridge which connects the past and current time.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Content from message dramatization that splattered fantasy chain is called as fantasy theme. The starting point to do analysis in using fantasy theme method is the message. The experts agree that themes are found in rhetoric matters that could be categorized as settings, character, and action (St. Antoine, *et al.*, 2009). Through stories told, fantasies of Marine retiree group in Depok could be analyzed and become a bridge that connected the past with current condition. Here are the fantasy themes of Marine retiree group in Depok, which content elements of action, character, and settings. In each fantasy, it may contain one or several of the elements. If the fantasies consist the element, then the researcher will note what element contains in parenthesis.

Each member of the Marines must have been assigned in operations in conflict zones, in addition to the duty Marines as special forces troops and pioneers. It is because of the number of personnel are very small; therefore each member of Marines must have participated in the operation and security in an effort to defend the country.

Assignment in Dwikora operation that is recognized as Veteran and part of the informant who is on assignment in the border of Malaysia-Indonesia is reflected in Mr. Amas Sukandar's fantasies. He said, "It was in the year 1966 in Tanjung Pinang, Tanjung Uban. I was there for six months and got the assignment to Duri Angkang. Marine was smuggled in Malaysia that wore civil clothes; I was troops there. Sometimes I supervised in the land (elements of action and settings)."

People who are joining the fight in East Timor, Dwikora and Irian will get recognition as the veteran, but many of Marines retirees who do not register the needed documents to get the veteran title, including several informants in this research. There are many reasons why they do not want recognize as the veteran member, as Mr. Maryono Basuki, who was on duty in the historical center of publication. He feels ashamed to become a member of the veteran because he did not join the fight. He knows that a journalist and soldiers were in conflict zone back then, but the journalist only takes a record of history and not involve in the fight, so he refuses it because he feels ashamed if considered as the veteran just like his other Marines comrades.

Mr. Basuki's fantasies, "I feel lucky but also ashamed, when my friends fought their lives in East Timor, at that time I was assigned to documenting the battle incidents. I was documenting the Dili's disembarkation incident in 1975. I remember at that time, Marines of land division wore horrible clothes. Although they used simple equipment in the fight, they succeeded to lead the land, succeeded to break defense of Fretilin and Troops (Portuguese special force), succeeded took control of Dili to Baucau, protected the army's infantry troops, and went to the safety zone". All of them are what we called to action, settings, and character elements. Fantasy theme about the war in East Timor appears in the group chat which mentioned where they were placed, the commander that took responsible there, the location where they fought, how was the condition in East Timor, the disaster experienced on fought, and fantasies about tough training on pre-assignment before departed to East Timor. In this theme, there is also the theme with character, action, and setting elements, which appears in individual and group fantasies.

The names of people who were informant commander while they were on duty appeared on Marines retiree group fantasies. Former commander whose name shows up in group conversation and becomes fantasy themes are Sukanto (the former head of Information Service Marine Corps who served in 1975 to 1979), Nugroho Notosusanto (a member of Army in 1977 who was the former head of Historical Center of Republic Indonesia Armed Forces and also the founder of Satria Mandala Museum in Jalan Gatot Subroto, South Jakarta), Dading Kalbuadi (an officer of Indonesia Army and Commander Seroja Operation in East Timor in 1975, he was the former military area commander or Pangdam Udayana from the year 1978 to 1983), Achmad Soediono (Commander Battallion Landing Team 5/Marine in 1975), Safzen Noerdin (Commander Marine Corps in 2004 to 2007), Arthur Solang (a Commander Special Operation Forces of Navy a.k.a Denjaka, Detachment of Deadly Ocean, special force Marine's Anti-terror in 1976), Barzueh (a vice commander of Battallion 6 Marine, Jakarta, 1981), Tatang Sastrawijaya (a Commander of Battallion 6 Marine, 1981), and Benny Baluh (a Commander Marines Troops, pasmar, 2 Jakarta, who lead several battallion in East Timor, 1981).

Individual narrative and group conversation identified fantasy theme about the situation when they were at East Timor regarding the location where it happened. In group's chat is described numbers of dead bodies were brought, mine. The locations that mentioned several times are Larea and Dili. In individual narratives is called several areas in East Timor such as Watukarabau, Lospalos, and Dili and what happened in that area. It can be seen in Mr. Subioto fantasies, "We snatched southern beach of Betano. Then we were moved forward, first to Kamatano, not far from there, we got into Same. So, it was our enemy center, and Fretilin was in Same. But there was indeed a place of tortured of Fretilin's enemies. There was a pool, and when we were swimming there at the break time, suddenly there was the rotten smell. The smell was terrible and strong. Then, we went out from the pool and searched out where the smell came out. After searching out, on the edge of swimming pool that we have thought it was garbage, but there were bodies. So, the swimming pool was surrounded by bodies who tortured by Fretilin." Mr. Subioto explanation is called by action and setting elements in the fantasy theme.

Fantasy theme about their Marines comrades appears in a group's chat as well. How they are in the past and now. Fantasy theme about their comrades while on duty also appears on group's chat between Basuki, Soni, Saparman, and Nyoman. It is described that "Sipon was his bodyguard. He jumped and then fell to the river and got hit by stones. The weapon, people, and even the car destroyed, and that the tire..."

It describes in the conversation between Mr. Riyanto, Mr. Soeratno, and Mr. Sukarnin. Mr. Riyantono said, "But he was from rich family. So, the oldest brother, when we were still the ghosts (still nobody) was an Admiral. The brother was the influenced person, and he was superior to Mr. Giarto..." (Mr. Riyanto). And then Mr. Sukarnin replied, "He got stroke, right Sir?"

Fantasy theme of the group about the pride of Corps appears in topic themes which content of narratives of how tough criteria to become a Marine, how loyal they are, being fond of the people and proud by other corps. The pride becomes Marine can be seen in this conversation, "Mr. Basuki at that time was a sergeant, he was offered by Mr. Nugroho who join the Army with higher rank. I told him, 'Basuki, your place is not here, just join there, you will be great and become field officer.' But I did not know why he did not want to; he wanted to stay as Marine" This event is called by character elements in the fantasy theme.

Tough criteria to be a Marine also appears in the group fantasies' chat between Basuki and Hartanto. They talk about how hard become a Marine; they even say that Wiranto and Hendropriyono who were general of Army did not get accepted as Marine. Fantasy of Marine retiree shows that they still feel as Marine, although they are retired now. The word of retired almost never mentioned in this group. The character in narratives of Marine retiree also refers to their personality and their group. Fantasy theme is formed as the character of Marine appears in chat between Basuki and Hartono that can be seen in quotes, like "the task was tough alone (he..he..)", "self-sacrificed", "he eh, died first".

Fantasy theme that shows of proud by other corps to Marine appears in Kusnoto narrative, "Mr. Dading found my troops about four times. I was proud of it. He came when that incident, then when the Army was clamped, he came again to Kumoro. We were attacked from right and left side, and the Army cannot move. Then, that general came. He said, "Come on Marines help me, your brother was in trouble, they were attacked by the enemies, and then we help them." This narrative is called by action, character, and setting elements of the fantasy theme. In group's chat also appears that they proud becomes Marine reflected in quotes," While he became Danrem, Garuda Hitam, where is it, in Lampung, he studied in Seskogab with me. The guards of his house were *erpekad-erpekad* (RPKAD). There were any problems in his house, then he directly called, scolded, said you are *keple*. *Erpekad* (RPKAD) is just like Marine you know, like that...check..check..check.." (character elements).

Fantasy theme about Marine is fond by society and students in Indonesia appears in Slamet Santoso fantasies. It says, "At the time when May 1998 Riots, many people asked for Marine's help, but our personnel numbers are few. I got so many calls." (action, character and setting elements). Character theme describes actor or people in drama, the content of characteristic or quality of people, and affirm their motives. Character theme provides human elements, which contain the positive (hero) element or the negative (villain) element.

In Mr. Maryono Basuki fantasies says, "Marine likes if their commander looks great in public. He does not like to look smarter or greater than his commander. That is why the subordinate used to polish his commander's shoes, so he looks cool and also they liked to make the comfort bed for their commander. While jogging, he would not run first then his seniors; he would budge, so the commander looked great. And the senior knew that his subordinate was great and he was budged so his commander would look great." (character elements). Mr. Hartanto fantasies, "The senior was proud to be a Marine, so the subordinate also felt the same although they got nothing. But at that time, there was no corruption and took good examples so we were really incredible Unit." (character elements).

Besides that, they also discuss the criminal characters (Villainous Personality) when they were on duty. It can be seen from Mr. Sapparman fantasies about Fretilin. He says,"People of UDT also people of East Timor Timur that were killed by him. It was in school at that time, bleedings were seen, bodies were still there." (Character and setting elements). Besides that, Mr. Kusnoto also talks about his fantasies, he says, "There were hundreds of corpses on the edge of the pools. Then we stand by there to operation. Suddenly there were blood spots, each house we found; there were blood spots on the wall or the floor. Then we found the tools, knives, razor blades, red onion, and chili. It looked like that they were getting tortured. We were prepared from here, but no one came out, so we stand by,

combat alert. After Maghrib to Isha time, there was an explosion. We checked the explosion, and Fretilin caught Siliwangi 328 troops. Their pulses were cut off then put time bomb. It was very cruel.” (Action, character, setting elements).

At 1971 to 1980, coincided with the politic's atmosphere increased in East Timor, the organization structure of KKO or Marine was being simplified. At the new order regime, defense development orientation more focused on the land defense expansion. From this structure changed, it could be seen that numbers of battalion Marine infantry unit were less drastically. It can be seen from Mr. Riyanto fantasies, "... at first, Marine wants to be dissolved, but Mr. Nasution said no, so Marines numbers were being reduced became 5.000.”

Mr. Slamet Santoso fantasies, “We solved demonstration matters in UI, Marine solved it with peace, but the army said that if they did not come to solve it, it would not succeed.” Mr. Amas fantasies, “don't ask anymore about we fought with them (Kopassus/Army). They thought they were in charged. Well, we called them elite, but here in East Timor like this (thumb down), we were the same. Yes, it is true in East Timor, we were always together with them in same, but they were scared.” The story means about when Mr. Amas was on duty with other TNI members in Seroja operation in East Timor in 1976 to 1978.

CONCLUSIONS

Fantasy is an individual interpretation of incidents. For a group of Marine retiree in Depok, the fantasy is formed as stories, slogan, chat, narratives, and nonverbal communication that expressed similarities on their themes. The fantasies are focused on struggling and honesty on duties and in their lives, also their loyalty to their comrades, group, and corps. The manifestation of fantasy of Marine retiree group in Depok inherent in stories and the conversation shows heroic and villains character which connected with important incidents of Indonesian which shown in historical books, but never been told directly from the subject of the history.

The stories of the Marine retiree group in Depok become a bridge which connected their experience about the incidents in the past with the current time, and it turns as their behaviors that shown in values, cultures, and communication. The stories become a triggered key of the chain in the group that could identify in incidents of Lubang Buaya, Marine's anniversary ceremonial, miserable and self-sacrificed in East Timor and Dili.

The heroic theme, pride, sincerity in friendship, and performance in work are the red thread from fantasies of Marine retiree group in Depok. The fantasy themes are described in details are (1) Veteran theme that allowance, facility, funeral placed, and year of duty in East Timor get recognized as veteran recognition, also the reason why they do not want to become a member of Veteran. (2) War theme in East Timor (commander, battle condition and location, disaster, and pre-duty). (3) Marine comrades (past stories and current state). (4) Pride of Corps (tough criteria to be a Marine, Marine's character, being proud of other corps, and likely by society). (5) Heroic and villains character (superior, Soeharto, RPKAD/Kopassus, Fretilin).

The narratives of this group have three rhetorics vision; they are the rhetoric vision as dedicating without ulterior motives although miserable, self-sacrifice and caring for their comrades, and pride of Corps and the identity as a Marine. The incident that could be a triggered key of chain stories of the group may identify in stories of Lubang Buaya, Marine's Anniversary Ceremonial, miserable and self-sacrificed in East Timor and Dili.

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