

## Abstract

### **Soeharto's Power and Its Symbols (Analysis of Soeharto's Power and Its Symbols in the Text of a Short Stories Anthology "Soeharto dalam Cerpen Indonesia")**

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The research interprets symbols of Soeharto's power found in the text of short stories anthology, "Soeharto dalam Cerpen Indonesia" (Soeharto in Indonesian Short Stories), edited by M. Shoim Anwar. Totally, there are 17 short stories that have been analyzed.

Using qualitative approach – by revealing meanings and symbols within the stories – the researcher looks at the socio-political context to support the analysis. Theory of symbols, power and ideology, structuralism, semiotics, hermeneutics, language and literature are applied in this research. In his analysis, the researcher classifies the stories into two: those written during Soeharto era and those composed in the post Soeharto era.

The research finds out that symbols are dominantly used by the authors of the short stories to represent Soeharto's authoritarian power. The symbols of the authoritarian Soeharto are represented by mocking and satirizing phrases, such as: "Celeng" (pig), "Ki Druhun", "Raja" (King), "Paman Gober" (from cartoon fiction), "Raja Ketoprak" (King in the Javanese drama), "setan" (satan), "Rahwana" (giant and evil character in Hindu' epic Ramayana), Adipati "Arya Penangsang" (King in the ancient Javanese era). Besides, positive symbols taken from character in Javanese' Hindu epic are also used, such as: Semar (wisdom character).

Generally, the symbol represented in the stories – written in and after Soeharto era – are satirizing. However, in the stories written during Soeharto era, the symbol are more conotative, reflecting more and multiple meaning.

*Key words:* interpretation, meaning, symbol, message, power and ideology, character, new order, authoritarian