

COMPARING PERSPECTIVES CONTEXT ON DISAPPOINTMENT AND LOVE IN "DEATH OF A SALESMAN" AND "NGERI NGERI SEDAP"

Jonathan Marbun¹, Reja Ananda Sembiring², Nurhayati Purba³

Sastra Inggris, Universitas Methodist Indonesia

Email : jonathanmarbunaja@gmail.com¹, rejasembiring41@gmail.com²,
nurhayatipurba07@gmail.com³

ABSTRACT

This study compares attitudes towards disappointment and love between Arthur Miller's novel "Death of a salesman" and Bene Dion Rajagukguk's novel "Ngeri-Ngeri sedap". The comparison shows that both novels have different attitudes towards disappointment and love. Depiction of cultural pressure in both novels affects the character's understanding. Eastern civilization in "Pride and Prejudice" refers to disappointment, while Asian civilization in "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap" manifests how parents love their child. This study finds that the disappointment and love in the two novels are different, and these are based on the cultural environment and experience-based of the characters.

Keywords: Disappointment, Love, Comparative Analysis.

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INTRODUCTION

Disappointment and love are all common context that have been sublimely incorporated into the threads of human existence and shape our experiences, feelings. In literature, as a portrayal of humanity, these context are often studied in rich and penetrating ways, like in these two novels, 'Death of a salesman' by Arthur Miller and 'Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap' by Bene Dion Rajagukguk, pose strong analyses of these issues from different cultural perspectives.

As readers who were deeply influenced by the disappointment and love in Bene Dion Rajagukguk's 'Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap', the researchers interested to compare the novels which is not similar in terms of language but have the same context. Having developed an emotional stake in the film adaptation of Arthur Miller's 'Death of a salesman', the researchers felt sought to read the original book also adaption in film and compare it with 'Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap'.

'Death of a salesman' is the story The family is full of love but also disappointment, misunderstanding, and unspoken pain. Biff, once full of promise, has grown distant and disillusioned with his father's hopes. Their relationship is strained by past secrets and broken expectations. Happy tries to follow in his father's footsteps but remains shallow and disconnected. Willy's failures and regrets slowly drive the family apart. In contrast 'Ngeri-Ngeri

Sedap' The story shows how love in a family can be complicated, but also strong and forgiving. Even though there is conflict, the bond between parents and children remains. The novel employs a distinct attitude towards disappointment and love with respect to the social and religious aspects of Indonesia.

It is the aims of this paper to contrast the views of disappointment and love in these two novels. By contrasting similarity and differences in portraying human life preceding cultural pressure, this study aims to examine the reasons behind similarities and differences of human feelings, beliefs, and values facing the greatest challenge of life by comparative thematic analysis.

Research Questions:

1. How do the novels in adaption to film portray the context and what impact does it have on the character's perspectives on love and disappointment?
2. How does the context of the novels shape the character's understanding of disappointment and love?

RESEARCH METHOD

2.1 Research Design

The researchers applied a Qualitative Research where this method focuses on understanding the meaning of the story specifically on the context. The researchers also used a Comparative Case Study where this method involves comparing and contrasting the two novels to identify perspectives on the context.

2.2 Data Collection Methods

- Close-reading: Carefully read and annotate the novels to identify context, motifs, and characters development.
- Note-taking: focus observations while reading the novels.

2.3 Data Analysis

The data analysis involves two main approaches: thematic analysis is used to identify and compare context relating to disappointment and love in both novels, allowing for an in-depth exploration of the author's perspectives on these universal human experiences. The second approach is comparative analysis which is used to compare the depiction of context between the two novels including characters development, and the cultural context in both novels, highlighting similarities and differences that reveal the unique cultural and literary context of each work.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Comparative literature is a branch of literary science that compares and analyzes two or more literary texts from different languages and cultures. This comparison aims to understand the literary practices of different cultures, languages, and times in comparative analysis, thus producing complex and entertaining literary properties that cross national, linguistic, and cultural boundaries ([CLRN team](#), 2025). The researchers choose the modern definition of comperative that known universally as to comparing two or more things. Such as this paper, to compare two novels that are popular in their own countries which they are Arthur Miller's 'Death as a salesman' and Bene Dion Rajagukguk's 'Ngeri Ngeri Sedap'

Previously, the researchers have sorted out some important sentences contained in each novel. The following are:

'Death as a Salesman' by Arthur Miller

1. *"Pop, I'm nothing! I'm nothing, Pop. Can't you understand that?"* - Biff (Miller,1985)
This quote shows that emotional breakdown shows his disappointment in himself and the false expectations his father placed on him.
2. *"The man never knew who he was."* – Biff (Miller,1985)
This quote reflects Biff's final realization and deep disappointment in Willy's lifelong self-deception and failure to understand his true identity.
3. *"I am not a dime a dozen! I am Willy Loman, and you are Biff Loman!"* – Willy (Miller,1985)
This quote shows expresses his desperation and disappointment when Biff challenges the illusions of greatness he always believed in.
4. *"Be liked and you will never want."* – Willy (Miller,1985)
This quote shows teaches his sons that popularity is the key to success, reflecting the cultural pressure to gain social approval rather than work ethic or integrity.
5. *"I'm the New England man. I'm vital in New England."*- Willy (Miller,1985)
This quote shows clings to the image of success expected by society, even as he is being pushed out. This shows the cultural pressure to appear successful at all costs.

'Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap'by Bene Dion Rajagukguk

1. *"Kadang orang tua itu terlalu keras, bukan karena benci, tapi karena sayang."* (Bene, 2014)
Translate: *"Sometimes parents are too harsh, not out of hatred, but because of love."* – Sarma (Bene, 2014)
This quote reflects how love in the family is often hidden behind strictness or cultural expectations.
2. *"Walau beda pandangan, jangan lupakan bahwa kita tetap keluarga." ."* – Pak Domu (Bene, 2014)
Translate: *"Even if we see things differently, never forget that we are still family"*
This quote shows A powerful statement of unity despite differences.
3. *"Apa pun jalan yang kalian pilih, kami tetap orang tua kalian."* - Pak Domu (Bene,2014)
Translate: *"Whatever path you choose, we are still your parents."*
This quote declaration of unconditional love, despite conflict or disappointment.
4. *"Kami marah, kecewa, tapi kami tetap sayang."* – Pak Domu (Bene, 2014)
Translate: *"We are angry, disappointed, but we still love you."*
This quote shows that in family, love can coexist with frustration but never disappears.
5. *"Kami memang keras, tapi itu cara kami menunjukkan perhatian."* - Pak Domu (Bene, 2014)
Translate: *"Yes, we are strict, but that's how we show we care."*
This quote reflects how parental love is expressed through discipline and authority.

Portrayal of disappointment and Its Impact

In "Death as a Salesman", disappointment is portrayed as a central force that shapes the lives and relationships of the characters, especially Willy Loman and his family. *"Pop, I'm nothing! I'm nothing, Pop. Can't you understand that?"* - Biff (Miller, 1985). This quote shows that emotional breakdown shows his disappointment in himself and the false expectations his father placed on him.

In "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap" disappointment is portrayed through the strained relationship between the parents, especially Pak Domu, and their adult children. *"Kami marah, kecewa, tapi kami tetap sayang."* (*"We are angry, disappointed, but we still love you."* - Pak Domu (Bene, 2014). This quote shows that in family, love can coexist with frustration but never disappears.

Impact on Character Perspectives

The depiction of disappointment in both novels affect the character's perspective on love. In "Death as a salesman", Willy teaches his sons that popularity is the key to success, reflecting the cultural pressure to gain social approval rather than work ethic or integrity. As Willy says, *"Be liked and you will never want."* - Willy (Miller, 1985)

Thus, this analysis shows the depiction of disappointment and love in both novels has significant differences, which are influenced by the context of the characters.

Western Culture in "Death as a Salesman"

Arthur Wiliam's "Death as a salesman" reflects the values and pressures of the, where success is measured by wealth, social status, and popularity. The novel's character, for instance, Biff and Willy, illustrate through their broken dreams, unmet expectations, and emotional struggles. They express how disappointment can stem from unrealistic hopes and the refusal to accept reality.

Asian Culture in "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap"

Bene Dion Rajagukguk's portrays the essence of the Eastern culture that considers culture and society. The protagonist of the novel illustrates that disappointment is a means to reaffirm faith, belief in God and influence of culture.

Both novels influence cultural background on the characters' understanding of disappointment love. In "Death as a salesman" through the characters, it is discovered that love and relationships can be a source of meaning and strength in one's life. While in "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap", the protagonist shows that death can be an opportunity to strengthen faith, trust in God and influence of culture.

CONCLUSION

A comparative analysis of the novels "Death as a salesman" by Arthur Wiliam and "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap" by Bene Dion Rajagukguk shows that the two novels depict diverse opinions regarding disappointment and love. Death in the two novels affects the understanding of disappointment and love by characters.

Disappointment in "Death as a salesman" is a central theme that reflects the gap between dreams and reality, and it deeply affects. Disappointment in "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap" is an experience that is religious and full of hope, faith in God and influence of culture.

The cultural background plays an important role in determining character's understanding of disappointment and love. Western culture in "Death as a Salesman" revolves around the ideals, individualism, and material success. while Asian culture in "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap" revolves around spirituality and society.

Thus, this analysis shows that the depiction of disappointment and love in both novels has significant differences, which are influenced by the context and experiences of the characters.

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