

THE POWER OF DELUSION
IN *ONE MAN'S BIBLE* NOVEL BY GHAO-XINJIANG

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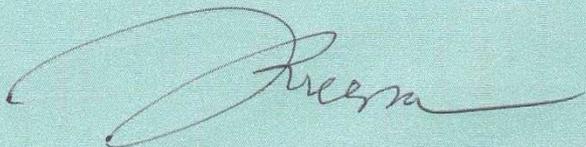
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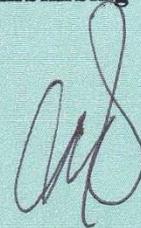
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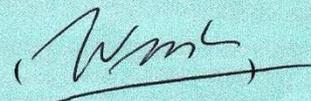
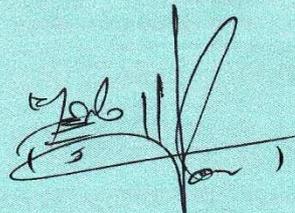
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**The Power of Delusion
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ABSTRAK

Maya Septiana Zulfa 2011: *The Power Of Delusion In One Man's Bible Novels By Ghao-Xinjiang*. Unpublished Paper. Universitas Negeri Padang 2011

Setiap negara memiliki pemerintahan memiliki ideologinya sendiri. Ideologi digunakan sebagai sebuah pondasi untuk berdirinya sebuah negara yang kokoh. Tetapi terkadang untuk mempertahankan kekuasaan orang-orang di dalam pemerintahan sering menggunakan ideologi untuk membuat rakyat percaya kepada pemerintah sebagai penguasa. Banyak cara yang dilakukan oleh pemerintah untuk menanamkan ideologi yang mereka miliki yang dipercaya sebagai sesuatu yang harus dipedomani oleh rakyat, salah satunya adalah dengan menggunakan "*The Power Of Delusion.*" Delusi adalah sebuah masalah kejiwaan yang membuat orang yang menalaminya mempercayai apa yang ada dalam khayalannya, walaupun pada kenyataannya khayal itu adalah salah. Kekuatan dari delusi inilah yang digunakan oleh pemerintah untuk medoctrin dan memanipulasi pikiran rakyat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat bagaimana pemerintah dengan kekuatan yang mereka miliki mengawasi dan memanipulasi pikiran rakyat untuk mempertahankan kekuasaan mereka dengan menggunakan metoda delusi melalui ideologi.

Penelitian ini menggunakan *context based analysis*. Di dalam penelitian ini penulis mencoba menganalisa novel yang berjudul "*One Mans Bible*" karya Ghao-Xinjiang. Penulis menggunakan *theory character analiysis dan setting analisys* untuk menemukan seberapa besar pemerintah menggunakan delusi untuk memanipulasi pikiran rakyat. Disamping itu penulis juga menggunakan *theory power* dan juga psikologi dengan menggunakan konsep delusi.

Berdasarkan hasil analisa yang telah dilakukan oleh penulis, dapat disimpulkan bahwa hasil penelitian ini memperlihatkan bahwa untuk mempertahankan kekuasaan yang dimiliki oleh pemerintah dan menanamkan ideologi yang mereka miliki. Pemerintah menggunakan banyak cara salah satunya dengan menggunakan kekuatan delusi untuk mengelabui pikiran masyarakat.

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In finishing her paper, the writer was helped and guided by her advisor and examiners’. Therefore, the writer would like to express her sincere gratitude towards Muhd. Al Hafizh, S.S.,M.A as her advisor. In addition, her appreciations are also due to the examiners Winda Setia Sari, S.S., M. Hum for the suggestion and comments to complete.

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A CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Basically every country has a different ideology. Ideology is the normative guideline that is used by all groups of society. It is used as a basic ideals and a guidance of their confidence. Besides that ideology is also a cultural practice that will form the basic concept of a country. According to Althusser (1969), “Ideology is a part of imaginary relationships of individuals to the world”. Thus, in other words, ideologies are the traits required by the community as far as a community is able to give meaning to form members. A Community uses ideology as an indispensable element for the history of a nation.

In fact, ideology was often misused by authorities like the government as an instrument of hegemony. The authority’s goal is to maintain power, preserving the dominant element, and perpetuate oppression. Because the authority is used for maintaining power, it makes it is able to seek as much as possible for the ideology that was believed by all classes and groups, both ruling and ruled class. In other to influence the people’s mind, the government tried to use his power. Government does many ways to maintain their power. One of them is by using the power of delusion.

According to gale encyclopedia (2003) Jennifer says that a delusion is a belief that is clearly false and that indicates an abnormality in the affected person's content of thought. The false belief is not accounted for by the person's cultural or religious background or his or her

level of intelligence. The key feature of a delusion is the degree to which the person is convinced that the belief is true.

From this statement it is clear that a person with a delusion will hold firmly to the belief regardless of evidence to the contrary. Delusions are false beliefs that are not really true, and cannot be corrected with a healthy mind which are unreasonable ideas that a person holds, the affected person has at least some level of doubt as to its truthfulness. A person with a delusion is absolutely convinced that the delusion is real.

As an example case of the statement above, in an article entitled *The Separate Realities of Bush and Kerry Supporters (2004)* Pfeifer stated that the American government which was headed by George W. Bush has managed to make people of America delusions of mind. These people truly believe that they are voting for a better world. They expect for a world where moral values are enshrined and terrorism is thwarted by a strong military. They also wish for a world of continued prosperity which extols the superiority of the American dream. In a word, they are deluded. This means the government using the power of delusion.

The power of delusion related to ideology that can be found in education and political field. The main characteristics the power of delusion in the education field is to do a doctrine. The purpose of this doctrine is to make people believe that everything done by the government is correct. In an article entitled *The Underground of American Education (2007)* Gatto said that the ideological purpose of school is to inculcate students into a system of obedience which will prepare them for the workplace and turn into complacent, unquestioning citizens. Teachers are themselves indoctrinated while

they are still in college. Such as in Indonesia during the reign of New Era, thirty-two years Soeharto governments implement policy in the education field by using a doctrine. These systems imposed Soeharto government ideology that can take root in the minds of children. Even from elementary school through college are required to attend refresher P-4 that contains grains of Pancasila.

According to Anne Ahira (2008), “This indoctrination process is not only instill notions of the new era, but also the educational system in the new order era reject all foreign culture into Indonesia, both positive impact and that will bring adverse impact to Indonesia”. The education system like this that makes people becomes afraid to go forward. Thus, the education system at the Suharto government was not to raise the standard of living, let alone to improve human resources, but to make people obey and fear the government policy.

In addition through education, the power of delusion that are used by the government people are using in the political field. Isjware (2001) says that politics is struggled to gain power, running power engineering, implementation and control of power formation and use of power. Thus to say that politics is a tactic or strategy to achieve goal by using all means, and it there are many public lies, and to gain people's trust of government use the power of delusion as a method to manipulate people's minds. With the power of delusion, the government believes they can easily collect period as a source of strength, to maintain their power, and inculcate the ideology that they have.

The method of using the power of delusion in this political field can be found almost in all countries. New Era has abandoned the Indonesian nation has left a considerable inheritance. According to Riddle (2007) there is an error concerning the understanding of political ideology in Indonesia in the New Era. New Era actually wants to throttle the ideology of the banned other than the Pancasila ideology. By using his power the government control of the people, and silencing all protest of the people who could jeopardize the government's power in the new era. In short, in Soeharto government in order to gather strength during his period, Soeharto formed a party and are not requiring all the Indonesian people to vote the party to retain its power for thirty-two years.

Thus, it is clear that the power of delusion done by the government is aimed to maintain their power. The government could easily manipulate the people's minds; by instilling the ideology that they have thus making the people believe all the government's policy will provide a better future. Political education and chosen by the government to apply the method of delusions through ideology, because according to them through their education easily from the basic doctrine without any protest, and politics are used to collect as much-as much mass. Without any support from the people, the powers of government will be destroyed. As recently occurred in Egypt, the discovery of the dark side of government Hosni Mubarak, he was regarded as a leader with the highest corruption, a dictator, and many use the method to shut people's delusions Egypt for thirty years. Hosni Mubarak finally forced to step down from office due to a protest of all the Egypt people.

The issue does not only become the topics in daily life, but it also found in literary work. One of the literary works the expose this issues is a novel which written by Gao Xinjiang on 2002 entitled *One Man's Bible*. Through the character, setting, plot the power of delusion is clearly seen. Nowadays delusion through ideology which makes topic is interesting to be analyzed.

1.1.1 The power of delusion

There are two terms that used in this analysis; power and delusion. The first term is power. As quote in international of the social science (1998) Greiner said power is a measure of an entity's ability to control its environment, including the behavior of other entities. The term authority is often used for power perceived as legitimate by the social structure.

In addition Leonard (2005) said that delusion is that something that appears to be external to the subject. It is thereby distinguished from obsessive ideas. More precisely, we can say that in a delusion, an internal experience appears in the perceptual field. Delusion therefore concerns reality as a whole, which distinguishes it from phobia, where the distortion of reality is more circumscribed, because projection manages to localize conflict, and keep the rest of the subject's mental life intact. In delusion, conversely, the whole of reality is affected, and indeed the delusion, for the subject, is the whole of reality.

Chopra (2003) said that delusional disorder is a psychiatric diagnosis denoting a psychotic mental disorder that is characterized by holding one or more non-

bizarre delusions in the absence of any other significant psychopathology. Non-bizarre delusions are fixed beliefs that are certainly and definitely false, but that could possibly be plausible, for example, someone who thinks he or she is under police surveillance. It can be said that, for the diagnosis which to be made auditory and visual hallucinations cannot be prominent, though olfactory or tactile hallucinations related to the content of the delusion may be present.

In this analysis the power of delusion through ideology deals by government in education and political field. The government tends to do what they take to retain the power. The analysis describes how the power of delusion in education and political field through ideology.

1.1.2 A Brief of Gao-Xinjiang

Gao Xingjian, born January 4, 1940 in Ganzhou (Jiangxi province) in eastern China, is today a French citizen, writer of prose, translator, dramatist, director, critic and artist. Gao Xingjian grew up during the aftermath of the Japanese invasion; his father was a bank official and his mother an amateur actress who stimulated the young Gao's interest in the theatre and writing. He received his basic education in the schools of the People's Republic and took a degree in French in 1962 at the Department of Foreign Languages in Beijing. During the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) he was sent to a re-education camp and felt it necessary to burn a suitcase full of manuscripts. Not until 1979 could he publish his work and travel abroad, to France and Italy.

Ghao- Xinjiang is one of Chinese writers who managed to get the Nobel price of literature in 2000 by two novel *Soul Mountain* and *One Man Bible's*. Ghao two novels were later re released again after translation by Mabel Lee in 2002. These two works Ghao were the background of political during the Cultural Revolution in China. In the novel are equally from experience of being forced to be revolutionary by the government of china during the Cultural Revolution happened. As a quote from Robert Nagle (2002) in his article "*Ghao Xinjiang and Soul Mountain: Ambivalent Storytelling:*

"This story is political warning. You say if the ending of the story is changed it could become a morality tale to warn people against lechery and lust. The story could also be turned into a religious tale to exhort people to convert to Buddhism. The story can also serve as a philosophy for getting on in society --to teach the morally superior man that each day he should investigate his own personal conduct, or that human life is suffering, or that suffering in life derives from the self. Or the story could be developed with numerous intricate and complex theories. It all depends on how the storyteller tells it. The Grand Marshall protagonist of the story has a name and surname so a great deal of textual research, examining historical texts and old books, could be carried out. But as you are not a historian, don't have political aspirations, and certainly neither wish to become an expert in Buddhism, nor to preach religion, nor to become a paragon of virtue, what appeals to you is the superb purity of the story. Any explanation is irrelevant, you simply wanted to retell it in the spoken language."

From this quotation it is clear that in each of his works Ghao trying to reveal about the depravity of the ruling. Ghao think that the authorities only think bout themselves. Every day the try to clean them yourself from the mistakes they have made, and try to fool people by saying that they do for the people.

In *One Man's Bible* is the second novel by Ghao Xin-Jiang to appear in English. He say that life under the Communist regime. Whether in "beehive" offices in Beijing or in isolated rural towns, daily life is riddled with paranoia and fear, as revolutionaries,

counterrevolutionaries, reactionaries, counter reactionaries, and government propaganda turn citizens against one another. It is a place where a single sentence spoken ten years earlier can make one an enemy of the state. Gao evokes the spiritual torture of political and intellectual repression in graphic detail, including the heartbreaking betrayals he suffers in his relationships with women and men alike.

1.1.3. A Brief *One Man's Bible*

One Man's Bible (2002), a novel written by Gao-Xinjiang presents the power of delusion. Delusion is a mental disorder problem that leads to false beliefs or imaginary and cannot be accepted by common sense. Someone who is delusional will believe what is in his/her mind although it was not true. In this novel, we can see the power of delusion that is used by governments by maintaining their power. The government makes the power of delusion through ideology. The power of delusion through ideology it can be seen: in education and in politic.

The power of delusion can be found in education. In education field, it can be used in ideology which power of delusion happens. In this case the government should be aware that ideology must be inculcated at an early age. The government considers education is one of the easiest ways to enter an ideology. Through instruction provided by teachers to their students and also through the textbooks that must be learned by all students at the school, the students will follow what has been taught to them. In this novel, the governments of China under Mao Zhe doing rule requiring all students and youth to read and study books all about Mao. This is one of the methods undertaken by

the government to do the delusions and used effects the mind of the public. Thus, that society will believe all that done by the government despite the fact that both are wrong.

On the other hand in education the government used the political field to instill an ideology to the public. Political field is used to describe the power of government as the ruler. In other than politics is also used to reproduce the masses in order to maintain power. The government has used the power of delusion to influence people's minds, by establishing the party as an organization that absolute and requires the public to vote for a party. This is done by the government for the government to more easily control their society. Thus, that people can not oppose all government policies and assume all of the government is the most correct.

1.2 Problem of Study

There are many issues that can be in Gao-Xinjiang novel *One Man's Bible* (2002). On the other hand, the power of delusion is as the main issue in the life of character. In order to the power of delusion, research question are needed. Those research questions are:

1. How does the novel expose the power of delusion?
2. To what extent do the fictional devices character, plot and setting give contribution in exposing the meaning the power of delusion?

1.3 Purpose of Study

This study is going to find out how far does Gao-Xinjiang novel *One Man's Bible* expose the power of delusion. This is going to investigate to what extent fictional devices such as characters plot and setting give contribution in disclosing the power of delusion.

1.4 Previous Study

The analysis of this novel which is focused on the power of delusion has been not found yet. However there are several studies in journals that can give contribution and inspiration in analyzing this novel through the power of delusion.

The first analysis was written by Nithya Khrisnaswamy (2004) entitle *One Man's Bible: In search of ordinary*. In this analysis, Khrisnaswamy explains that *One Man's Bible* is one man's journey in search of freedom, and ultimately, an ordinary life, as Gao says repeatedly through the book. To be left alone to do the things that one really wants, to lead what one perceives as an ordinary life, is too high a demand in a totalitarian regime, as it was during the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s China. The book relates, in fictional form, Gao's own participation in the Revolution and his rejection of its goals. In order to speak from the distance of an observer, he travels between the "he" of the past and 'you' of the present.

The second study is written by Alan Wold (2007), entitled *Inconvenient Truths: The Communist Conundrum in Life and Art*. In this analysis he explain about Agnes Smedley biography: *The Life and Times of an American Radical*, This was the first

endeavor to detail the intimate experiences and literary-political career of journalist and novelist Agnes Smedley (1892–1950) in North America, Europe, and Asia. The co-authors were the husband and wife team of Stephen R. MacKinnon, a well-published academic specialist in Late Imperial and twentieth-century China, and Janice R. MacKinnon, an importer of antique Chinese furniture. The MacKinnons described their labor as “basic detective work” on several continents over a period of 14 years. Such industriousness was required to reconstruct Smedley's dispersed archive of publications in multiple venues as well as to “collect her letters, track down.

The analyses above give contribution and inspiration to this study. Those analyses showed how the government makes the power of delusion through ideology. It has big influence to human psychology and difficult for people survive from it. However, the focus of this study is different from previous study. This study focuses on finding out that the power of delusion by analyzing character, and setting in the novel

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The analysis of the novel *One Man's Bible* deals with the concept delusion and power. Delusion means false belief based upon a misinterpretation of reality. It is not, like a hallucination, a false sensory perception, or like an illusion, a distorted perception. In this sense, delusion represents a critical risk. Sigmund Freud speaks accordingly of a necessary restoration of the object (1924), whether it is a matter of the high level of libidinal or narcissistic tension evident in extreme cases, or a fundamental questioning of identity and relations with others that is at stake.

Michael (2005) stated that:

“Delusion is therefore something other than error. Being delusional remains compatible with an accurate apprehension of reality. We can even consider the delusional individual as deprived of the freedom to established flexible relationship between reality and truth.”

These statements show that delusion is a mental disorder that can happen to everyone.

Psychiatric problems like this occur because of a pressure in one's mind. A person affected by these delusions will assume everything in it is true imagination.

Delusion is usually done by superior groups that have power. Power is the ability to influence or coerce others and control their behavior in order to fulfill some desires or purpose. Power involves the use of authority and coercive force to others even it against their will. According to Hans. J. Morgenthau (1950), power is linked with the possession of certain tangible resources, including population, territory, natural recourses, economic, politic, education, and military strength. Thus, according to Morgenthau, power is the use of such recourses to provoke the behavior of other entities.

Many experts have divided the forms of power. Michael Foucault (1982) divided power is not something that are single or have a core, but power is something that continues to spin. Furthermore, Foucault also mentions that the powers cover all aspects of social life; their shapes was varied, there are everywhere and are very close to life day-to-day, this he pointed out to criticize the views of people who think that the realm of power is related to the discipline. Further, Foucault's ideas about power are

also trying to resuscitate that something other than repressive nature; real power can also be shaped indoctrination value.

Power used by the authorities to bring down his opponents and the hegemony of the mass. This is called political power. According to Steven Lukes (1974) in his book entitled *Power: a Radical View*, stated that power has a significant effect on the properties of the definition. Firstly, it is no longer behaviorists. If someone's wants are being manipulated, then their actions may either be indicative of a genuine want in the real interests of that individual, or the result of some form of want manipulation. Power also has significant consequences for the answer of the question above. The possibility of manipulation of wants means that it is no longer possible to observe conflict in all cases of power. This does not mean that, according to the three-dimensional view of power, there may be cases of power where there is no conflict of interests. Lukes here suggests that there may be a 'latent' conflict between the one with power, and the individual's 'real interests'. These would be interests that only concern the individual - they are purely the result of the individual's existence, and their own value-system, as opposed to one imposed by a powerful external source.

Mckenty (2005) in his essay entitled *what is political power* stated that:

“The term 'political power' describes a phenomenon in which a person in authority gains the right to influence and pressurize the official policy that can serve his interest well. Though the misuse or influence is being done usually done by one person only, you can also use the term when a collection of people are doing the same thing to serve their interest.”

From the concept, a person or a group of people have power with themselves but they don't use them to gain any benefit for themselves, but in that case also the power is

certainly vested in them, whether they use it or not. The people who use political power are usually elected by the people themselves and instead of serving people they start showing the power to the people who have elected them.

Moreover, the form of this analysis is text based interpretation by examining it fictional device. Guerin (2005) explains that text based interpretation focuses on the work itself. It signifies that the meaning of the whole story is found in the text by looking the interrelationship of the formal elements of a text. It focuses on character and setting. Character is the crucial elements of a text. Madden (2002) said that character which the author draws on literary work brings readers to life and lets him to get know them as people reality. In this analysis the protagonist, the narrator is the representative of the people that as victims the power of delusion through ideology by government.

Another element that supports the study is setting. Setting does not only mean place and time in the novel but also the atmosphere of the story. Madden (2002) said that:

“Setting in fiction is the location and atmosphere of the story. It has a direct and indirect impact on character and conflict. It supports and emphasizes the story meaning.”

From the sentence above, it can be seen that setting has big influence on characters. Setting and characters cannot be separated. Cultural Revolution is setting in this analysis. Almost all people believe in all the rules and policies of the government, because at that time delusional government to manipulate people's minds.

1.6 Methodology

The analysis this novel is done through text based interpretation. Furthermore, it is also done by analyzing fictional devices; character and setting. Both characters and setting are inseparable because they are interrelated each other. Character is as a victims' of the power of delusion through ideology by government. While setting, gives contribution in exploring the meaning through the atmosphere which creates conflict. Moreover these elements are analyzed based delusion and power.