

## Abstract

Yeni Murdani Istoroyekti. 2010. *Road to Self-fulfillment: Narratives of Three Professionals' Literary Engagement.*. Yogyakarta: English Language Studies. Graduate Program. Sanata Dharma University.

Literature can function as an agent of change. There are many examples of how literature has meaningfully worked in people's lives. As in social life, literature functions as the parameter of social change whilst in education, literature has proven to develop the language learning process. Similarly, in professional world, literature has helped professionals to be more aware of their social roles. Therefore this research attempts to disclose the stories of professionals' literary engagement especially in their attainment of self-fulfillment. Building the argument from the functional benefit of literary engagement, this research seeks to see the place of literature as attaining the superlative value as human being which in this research called self-fulfillment.

Narrative research provides both researcher and participants' a space to reflect the meaning of the phenomenon being researched. Upon this important facet, narrative research is thus a story and an approach as well as methodology itself. There were three research participants from different backgrounds involved in this research. As the nature of the research is narrative, therefore stories of each participant are the crucial which was taken from several guided interviews with participants.

The result of the research is that literature functions as model that inspires them to achieve self-fulfillment. Literature does not directly lead to self-fulfillment but gives respective inspiration of what to do to attained the goal (self-fulfillment). On the types of literature, written discourse is the most significant literature to read because it lets participants to explore literature with their imagination. Apart from reading literature as part of job, literary consumption is part of leisure activity which gives significant benefit. Upon the achievement of self-fulfillment, it is found that self-fulfillment is both a goal and a process. It is a goal to achieve, and it is a process where participants always seek to fulfill and improve. Literature offers vicarious world different from those of participants' which in this state participants can contemplate and learn from.

## Intisari

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Sastra bisa berfungsi sebagai agen perubahan. Ada banyak contoh mengenai pengaruh sastra terhadap kehidupan manusia. Dalam kehidupan bermasyarakat, sastra berfungsi sebagai tolak ukur perubahan social. Sedangkan dalam dunia pendidikan, sastra sudah terbukti bermanfaat dalam peningkatan proses pembelajaran bahasa. Hal serupa juga terjadi dalam dunia pekerjaan, bahwa sastra membantu para pekerja ahli (*professional*) menjadi lebih peduli dengan peran social mereka. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memaparkan persinggungan para pekerja ahli (*professional*) dengan sastra terutama dalam pencapaian *self-fulfillment*. Bahwa sastra mempunyai manfaat fungsional, menjadi titik tolak penelitian. Penelitian ini mencoba untuk mencari posisi sastra dalam pencapaian hakikat tertinggi manusia.

Penelitian narrative memberi ruang bagi peneliti dan partisipan penelitian untuk mereflesikan fenomena yang diteliti. Maka dari itu, penelitian naratif merupakan sebuah cerita, pendekatan, dan sekaligus metodologi. Tiga orang pekerja ahli yang mempunyai latar belakang yang berbeda ikut berpartisipasi dalam penelitian ini. Karena penelitian bersifat naratif, cerita dari setiap partisipan merupakan data utama. Data ini diambil dari beberapa interview dengan para partisipan.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa sastra berfungsi sebagai model yang menginspirasi para partisipan dalam mewujudkan diri (*self-fulfilled*). Sastra tidak secara langsung berperan aktif tetapi memberi ide tentang apa yang harus dilakukan dalam pencapaian tersebut. Tentang jenis sastra yang dibaca, tulisan merupakan bentuk sastra yang paling signifikan dibaca. Sastra tulisan memberi para partisipan ruang untuk mengeksplorasi imajinasi mereka. Selain pembacaan sastra sebagai syarat pekerjaan, konsumsi sastra para partisipan hanya sebagai hiburan pengisi waktu luang. Dalam hal pewujudan diri, mewujudkan diri merupakan sebuah tujuan akhir dan proses yang akan selalu dipenuhi dan ditingkatkan kualitasnya. Sastra menawarkan dunia yang berbeda dari dunia 'nyata' para partisipan yang pada tahap ini sastra memberi ruang untuk berkontemplasi dan belajar.