

## FUNCTIONALISM IN LOIS LOWRY'S *THE GIVER*

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### Abstrak

Functionalism merupakan konsep sosial yang digunakan untuk menunjukkan hubungan antara stabilitas sebuah negara atau komunitas dengan kontribusi penduduk yang tinggal di dalamnya. Emile Durkheim sebagai penemu konsep, melalui Pierce di dalam buku *Emile Durkheim, Essays on Sociology and Philosophy* oleh Wolff (1964), mengatakan bahwa ke-stabil-an suatu negara atau komunitas dipengaruhi oleh kontribusi masyarakat dalam menjalankan tugasnya. Analisis ini menggunakan metode studi pustaka dan metode deskriptif-kualitatif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan mengumpulkan dan menganalisis data yang menunjukkan kontribusi masyarakat kepada negara atau komunitas dalam *The Giver*. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah laptop, *The Giver* oleh Lois Lowry, dan peralatan tulis untuk membantu peneliti mengumpulkan data. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa masyarakat yang tinggal di dalam Komunitas Kesamaan dan Kesetaraan memenuhi syarat Functionalism untuk berkontribusi demi ke-stabil-an komunitas yang mereka tinggali.

**Kata Kunci:** Functionalism, stabilitas, komunitas, kontribusi, masyarakat, *The Giver*.

### Abstract

Functionalism is a social concept which is used to depict the relation between the stability of a country or community with the citizen's contribution who lived inside it. Emile Durkheim, as the concept developer, through Pierce in Wolff's *Emile Durkheim et al., Essays on Sociology and Philosophy* (1964), stated that the stability of a country or community affected by the citizens contribution in performing their duties. The analysis used library study method and descriptive qualitative method. The data collection was done by collecting and analyze the data which depicts the citizen's contribution toward the country or the community in *The Giver*. The instrument that the researcher used for the research is a laptop, Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, and stationary to help the researcher collecting the data. The finding shows that the citizen who lived in the Community of Similarity and Equality fulfill the Funtionalism's requirements to contribute for the community's stability which they lived in.

**Keywords:** Functionalism, stability, communtiy, contribution, citizen, *The Giver*.

### INTRODUCTION

Functionalism is one of the major sociological theory. Developed by Emile Durkheim, this theory framing each part of the society contributes to the stability of the society. When one part of the society didn't work or dysfunctional, it will affects the other parts and will create problems. This also include the citizen's contribution to keep the society they lived in stable.

In the 1940s and 1950s, Functionalism achieved its popularity among American sociologist. Robert K. Merton, is one of the American Sociologist. He divide the human functions into two, which is Manifest Functions and Latent Functions. Manifest functions is when someone acts the intentional acts and framing their acts by their intention. The example is when someone going to the hospital to see the doctor when they sick. They going to the hospital is intentional acts, since they was sick, and

would like to cure it by seeing the doctor, to be examined and taken care of the symptom. While in the other side, Latent functions is when someone acts the unintentional, framing their acts by their will. Just like when someone help the others in needs, directly, without the intention of getting something as a payback.

This journal focused on the acts of the citizen which depicts their contribution towards the society the lived in. The subject of this analysis is citizen of the Community os Similarity and Equality in *The Giver*. The purpose of the study is to find the aspects that keep the stability of the Community of Similarity and Equality in *The Giver*.

Theories used in this article is Functionalism from *Emile Durkheim et al., Essays on Sociology and Philosophy* by Kurt H. Wolff (1964) and Human Functions in *Social Theory and Social Structure* by Robert K. Merton (1967). In Functionalism theory, Durkheim also suggested two social consensus, which Functionalist believed to be held together for a society to stay stable. It was Mechanical Solidarity and Organic Solidarity. Mechanical Solidarity is a form of Social Consensus where people in a society have and maintain similar values and beliefs, also engage in similar types of work. While Organic Solidarity is a form of Social Consensus where people in a society are interdependant, have varying values and beliefs, and also engage in varying types of work. The society and its people have to agree on which social consensus will be used so that they can work together to achieve the best for their society.

Later hopefully this article can be proof that the citizen's contribution is heavily affecting the stability of the society they lived in. And also can be help for those who have similar theme, topic or subject of the studies.

## METHOD

This article use library study method and descriptive qualitative method. The data source was taken from Lois Lowry's *The Giver*. The data of this research was the Functionalism depicted by the Citizen of Community of Similarity and Equality in *The Giver*. In this article, the instrument used by researcher, beside a laptop, Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, and stationery were needed to do this research The data analysis technique was done in three steps; 1.Finding the Data; 2.Relating to the Theories; 3.Conclusion.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Functionalism in Lois Lowry's *The Giver*

*The Giver*, tells about a boy named Jonas who will turn into 12. The place where Jonas live is Community of Similarity and Equality, a perfect, well-ordered place to live in. Led by the Chief Elder and its Committee, The Community of Similarity and Equality's order were preserved.

Each citizen inside the Community of Similarity and Equality have different works and duty, also regulations and instructions regarding their works, which have their own function for their Society.

#### 1. The Aspects of Functionalism :

He listened politely, though not very attentively, while his father took his turn, describing a feeling of worry that he'd had that day at work: a concern about one of the newchildren who was not doing well. Jonas father's tittle was Nurturer. He and the other Nurturers were responsible for all the physical and emotional needs of every newchild during its earliest life. It was very important job, Jonas knew, but it was not one that interested him much. (p.7)

The event above tells how Jonas's Father, who work as a Nurturer, feels about a certain newchildren who was not doing well. As the data tells above, Nurturers are responsible for all the physical and emotional needs of every newchild duirng its earliest life. Father's opinion shows his dedication as a Nurturers, which is the other words, Jonas's Father is one of the citizen in the Community of Similarity and Equality who contribute to the Society he lived in; an aspects of Functionalism.

Another event which depicts the aspects of Functionalism that lies inside the Community of Similarity :

Next, Mother, who held a prominent position at the Department of Justice, talked about her feelings. Today a repeat offender had been brought before her, someone who had broken the rules

before. Someone who she hoped had been adequately and fairly punished, and who had been restored to his place: to his job, his home, his family unit. To see him brought before her a second time caused her overwhelming feelings of frustration and anger. And even guilt, that she hadn't made a difference in his life. (pp.8-9)

The passage above indirectly shows how dedicated and responsible Jonas's Mother towards her duty. She feels frustrated, angry, even guilt since the one that had been punished and hoped to be a good citizen, repeating his mistakes. As someone who works in Department of Justice, it troubles her as she have to discipline the same person to be a good citizen for their society and community. Her acts on the passage above tells that she is one of the good and responsible citizen who contribute to the community.

## 2. Manifest Function :

On those days, worried and disappointed, Jonas would walk alone beside the river. The paths were empty of people except for the few Delivery Crews and Landscape Workers here and there. Small children were all at the Childcare Center after school, and the older ones busy with volunteer hours of training. (p.106)

The data above depicts the how the situation around the street beside the river. It also shows the activity citizens of Community of Similarity and Equality, in this term is the Delivery Crews and Landscape Workers. The Delivery Crews and Landscape Workers, diligently carry out their duties. This passage also tells what are the Small children and the older ones do, and where they are. According to Merton (1967), this passage which contain the activity of the citizen can be related to the Manifest Functions; do the intentional and obvious, since it was their duty to do so.

Another passage which depicts the Manifest Function :

The other new Twelves clustered nearby, placing their folders

carefully into the carrying containers on the backs of the bikes. In each dwelling tonight they would be studying the instructions for the beginning of their training. Each night for years the children had memorized the required lessons for school, often yawning with boredom. Tonight they would all begin eagerly to memorize the rules for their adult Assignments. (pp.65-66)

The passage above depicts the reaction of the new twelves, after they received their new task along with the instructions and regulations related to their new task. They would all begin eagerly to memorize and understand the new instructions and regulations for their Adult Assignments. This passage also depict the same activity when they have their new instructions and regulations on the previous years. Related to the Merton's theory, this event can be categorized as Manifest Functions of the Citizen.

## 3. Latent Functions :

The man looked at him thoughtfully, silently. It was a look that combined interest, curiosity, concern, and perhaps a little sympathy as well. (p.75)

This event occurs when Jonas meet The Giver for the first time. According to the event above, The Giver looked at Jonas, thoughtfully and silently. His looks is that contain of interest, curiosity, concern and probably a sympathy. The Giver point out his opinion and feelings towards Jonas as he meet him personally for the first time. It is not his duty or work to shows his feelings, but he can not help to take interest which makes him shows his feelings towards Jonas. Here, his act can be reflected as Latent Functions, since it was unintentional act that triggers him to shows his feelings about Jonas.

In summary, the citizen of the Community of Similarity and Equality are all obedient and responsible for the duty given for them. They also act to their utmost in carrying out their duties.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, the citizen of the Community of Similarity and Equality are all obedient, responsible and law-abiding citizen. They have been trained to obey and pay attention to the rules, law and order applied in the Community of Similarity and Equality since the earliest age of their life. Thus, this has led them to be a good, responsible and law-abiding citizen inside the Community of Similarity and Equality.

Merton's Human Functions also helps figuring out, which Human Functions that the Citizen of Community of Similarity and Equality mostly used of their time. The Major functions which has been applied by the Citizen was Manifest functions, which they do the intentional which is obvious for them, instead of Latent functions which generated by the will and unintentional. In the other words, this empowered the data that the citizen of Community of Similarity and Equality are all bound by the rules, laws and order as they have been trained since their earliest age, which makes them to be more focus on what should they do.

This way, they have the citizen who can always contribute to the society, as the aspects of Functionalism, for the sake of its stability.

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