



The Unforgettable Jakarta in *Imaginary City* (2017)

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Abstract

Jakarta in *Imaginary City* by Rain Chudori (2017) presents how psychogeography theory shows that environmental effects can influence people's ways of thinking, behaviour and emotions. This study aims to prove how Jakarta as a setting of imaginary city affects the emotions and behaviour of characters. Therefore, there are four key words in this novel *Dérive*, *Flâneur*, Sense of place, and Place Attachment. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative by applying the theory of Psychogeography. The use of the concept is based on the interpretation of the text and in the context of the novel. This analysis also uses many fictional elements such as plot, character, conversation and setting to reveal the meaning contained in the novel. The result of the research shows that there are three keywords that can be proven in this novel based on psychogeography theory.

Key words: psychogeography, *dérive*, *flâneur*, place attachment, and sense of place.

A. INTRODUCTION

Jakarta as the capital city of Indonesia is known to have a long history of development. From a small town at the mouth of the Ciliwung River, Jakarta has now developed into a metropolitan city inhabited by more than ten million people, which poses many problems faced by the city's urban residents. In addition, Jakarta also has historical sites that have a romantic side. This city affects emotions and life in its habitat. This is what builds an individual's attachment to the place he visits. Jakarta as the setting of the *Imaginary City* novel influences the character's emotions and behaviours. There are four keywords in this novel *Dérive*, *flâneur*, Sense of place, and Place Attachment.

Psychogeography is the term combination of psychology and geography (Coverly, 2006; Debord, 1955; Loffler, 2014). Based on the theory of New Urbanism Loffler, (2014) state that Psychogeography shows the impact and importance of urban space for individuals who initiate to experience the city. Based explanation above psychogeography describes the effect of the environment on individual is on both individual behaviours or outer action and individual inner emotions.

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According to Tijen, (1991) states literary psychogeography is the expression of this phenomena in the literature that captures the impact of a particular part of a city or landscape on the human mind (Visitors et al., 2001) or a projection of a person's inner emotions or moods onto the outer environment. Moreover, according to Coverly, (2006) states literary psychogeography, the topography of the city is refashioned by the writer's imaginative force, and the text becomes a blend of fact and fiction, a space that oscillates between the real world and the world as perceived by an individual.

Based on explanation above *Imaginary City* by Rain Chudori perfectly manifests itself in topographical references to the real-world referent city, references that tell the reader where the character is physically situated with the city.

The novel revolves around two main characters: an unnamed character (she and he). In general, this novel tells about revisiting the places which had visited with all their memories in Jakarta at night and her desire to make him, as her lover, even though she had rejected him, she still fought for her love for him. This novel consists of several sub-chapters. In each sub-chapter, characters visit places they deem important for the development of behaviours, emotions towards the environment and unforgettable places.

This research focuses on the most memorable of Jakarta's in *Imaginary City* (2017) by Rain Chudori. This study will show readers how Jakarta provides memorable memories for its characters so they keep coming back to those places however traumatizing those places are for them. They attach to those places.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is written with a qualitative method. Qualitative method is a system subjective approach used to describe life experiences. According Creswell, (2018) qualitative research means exploring and understanding the meaning individual or group ascribe to a social human problem. The data that will be used for this research are taken from the novel *Imaginary City* (2017) by Rain Chudori by using quotation by looking at the speak, narrator, setting, character and plot. The data will be analysed using psychogeography theory approach.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In novel *Imaginary city* by Rain Chudori (2017) the researcher will prove how that place affects humans: their way of thinking, behaviour and emotions, as told by the theory of psychogeography.

Place Attachment

According Hashem, (2013)) state place attachment describes how emotional attachment relationships develop between places and individuals. Based on explanation above, place attachment is how the place has an impact on individual emotional and individual behaviours in the environment or setting. In this case, the place plays an important role in the individual's emotions towards the place visited. Thus, individuals feel the place is meaningful so that it affects behaviours. It can be seen from the quote below:

In the quote below the character she has memories with her father at the museum they are visiting.

“she looked toward the museum a tall and gleaming ivory monument, which has existed for centuries. She felt that as the museum still existed, there would still be hope for the city. It was the most indestructible place she had ever seen.” (p.36)

there are also other data showing the same thing

“..... it makes me sad because this building has lived for so long. It should not die like this”

“it will never die. It will always live on; in whatever condition it may be. It is still alive. She said. He smiles and looks at the museum. For years, he had forgotten if its existence, of its arresting grandeur, of its longevity.” (p.37)

From the quote above, it can be revealed that this place means something to her, she remembered her father. Her father was one of the curators when she was a child. She wished that he would love her as much as he loved the objects inside. According to Hashem et al., (2013) state place attachment happens when a person spends a lot of time there, feels strong there, and has a strong root in that place, which is the harmony and connection between people and places. In another hand, the museum is a valuable place for historical events so that it is used as a historical site. Therefore, many people should visit it so they know how history happened and what is left of that history. but now many people are ignorant of the history that exists, which results in the impression of not caring about historical sites. in fact, every historical site cannot be removed just like that. historical sites become the hallmark of a history and it will remain or live for all time. National museum offers one the much – needed quiet time under the company of historic objects from primitive to colonial era.

This quotation explains the character she and he have the similarities emotional experience with some places.

“Isn’t it strange? How we were experiencing the same emotions, fear, sorrow, confusion, at the exact same time? How, even if we had never met, somewhere beneath us, we shared the same history?”

She looked at the dark house in front of them, and turned to him. Even when the faint sound of the world has returned, the city has stayed the same. They merely found different methods of brutality, found new forms of death.

“I’m thankful for this house”

“what do you mean?”

“it nurtured you. It protected you. It delivered you.” (p.53)

It can be revealed that they coincidentally have similarities in emotional experiences. the places they have visited have their own emotional side to them and more precisely they have the same memories: fear, sadness, confusion and painful memories. On the other hand, she feels grateful that he was able to go through all those experiences and she is also grateful that even though the place where he lives holds bad memories but that place also takes care and raises, he to make him a good version now. This explanation based on Hashem, (2013) state place attachment is the result of an individual's relationship with a social and physical place in the form of meaning, behavioural, emotional, and cognitive interactions.

This quotation explains the character she tries to rewrite the story from the place she visited in her book because the place attached to her.

“when I first read your piece, I wondered if this place was real,” he said. “And then I began to notice all of the elephant parks scattered all over the city, and I've always wondered which is yours.”

“This place is real,” she said. “And this one, this one is mine.”

“So, everything you wrote was real too?”

“Everything I write is real,” she said. “Maybe it didn't happen here, in the material world, but it exists somewhere else, in the immaterial parts of life.” (p.70)

From the quote it can be revealed this is one way she expresses herself. Every story she writes will all relate to the places she has visited with her loved ones and also with the man she loves. She felt when She rewrote her story, she felt attached to the place. According to Hashem, (2013) state the places we visit, as well as our favourite adventures and destinations, are part of our experience and may become symbols of that experience. Thus, she felt her soul left behind and attached to that place.

This quotation below explains she started to open herself up by showing him frequently visited places

“They only had a few hours of sleep, and they were still strangers, in most respects. There was no manual for this sort of thing, the awkward fumble of almost lovers the morning after. She felt as if the sun might be laughing at them. So, she brought him to her secret place, a widely known secret, for she frequented this cafe everyday and was always seen sitting by the window corner.” (p.81)

From the quote above it can be revealed that she always came to the cafe and always sat in the same place every day. According to Hashem et al., (2013) state

place attachments are activities and interaction between human-place and human-human interactions. She was always confused between wanting to tell others about the place, how strange it was, about how it offered a moment of beauty in the chaos of the city, and keeping it to herself. Apparently, she had decided to take the plunge—and invited him here, into her routine, to her secret place. Everything feels beautifully ordinary, and that's the reason why it offers an intimacy that doesn't exist anywhere else in the city.

This quotation below explains *place is a moment, untouched by time, unknown to pain*.

"Because they want this place to be like love-at-first sight. You could leave the place, you could go away for a long time, but when you return, it will be exactly as you remember it. This place is a moment, untouched by time, unknown to pain."

"A moment?"

"Yes, a moment. You know when you're experiencing a moment, and it feels endless, and it is endless because it will exist within you forever?" (p.88)

It can be revealed that no matter how far and how long you go, this place will always be waiting for the arrival of those who have visited it and without realizing it, perhaps, soul mates are not people but places. as if every individual has an attachment to a place that he considers very important and meaningful. According to Hashem, (2013) state long-term residency or time factor strengthen place connection. Additionally, place is a timeless and irreplaceable moment. even if we go back to that place but every moment that has ever existed can't be repeated because the emotions will be different.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, everyone has the impression of attachment to a different place that influences people's behaviours and actions. In this novel, these two characters have an attachment to the same place with different levels of attachment. When the place is very valuable and has a very meaningful place value, the person then the place is home. Therefore, when people have confirmed that the place is their home, the individual's attachment to the place is very valuable.

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