

## IDEAL MARRIAGE IN HANUM SALSABILA RAIS AND RANGGA ALMAHENDRA'S NOVEL *I AM SARAHZA*

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### Abstract

This study constituted an analysis of an ideal marriage in the novel published in 2018. The significant components of the marriage relationship found in the novel that could be categorized into an ideal marriage were the topics to discuss. One of the significant theories of an ideal marriage used in this study was A Triangular of Love that appears in three significant components: intimacy, passion and commitment that reflected the subjective experience. Intimacy could be considered the warm component because it encompassed the feeling of comfort and tenderness in a relationship. Then, passion consisted of motivational and was considered the hot component, in that it usually included the most intense feeling. Finally, commitment involved deliberate choice to love someone and to maintain that love. It was considered the cold component (Sternberg: 1986). The research was conducted by descriptive qualitative method. The research results showed that the three points of an ideal marriage in the novel, i.e. intimacy, passion, and commitment were clearly reflected by the major characters in the novel.

**Keywords:** ideal marriage, intimacy, passion, commitment.

### 1. Introduction

A novel, *I am Sarahza*, written by Hanum Salsabila Rais and Rangga Almahendra (2018), is a novel which describes an ideal marriage having two characters, Hanum and Rangga, by the long experience. They support each other in every condition of their marriage relationship to get a child, Sarahza. The long waiting for eleven years they pass through the patience and praying to God, even they convince themselves that they shall always expect to have a baby.

Marriage is not easy because there are two different persons inside of it and becomes an entity (Anindjojati: 2012). That, a couple has to be able to adapt to the new circumstance so that the marriage can go well because there are many things which are able to foment the rift in a marriage, such as economic case, jealousy, inharmonic, miscommunication, and dissatisfaction in marriage (Amato and Booth: 1997). In fact, to create an ideal marriage has not to do the difficult things. The long term marriage is identified with some characteristics of the healthy relationship to the couple, there are respect and treasured, belief and loyalty, good sexual relation, good spiritual, and flexible (Kaslow and Robinson: 1996). Those are supported by the experts (Stinnett and Defrain: 1985) state that the strong family has a spirit

to advance welfare and happiness, to show the honor each other, to have ability in communication to waste time together and to have good spiritual.

People do not realize that marriage is the first step to build love. Marriage is a proof to take the strengths and the weakness of a couple, not to debate about the limitation but how both of the couple creates love with fulfill the weakness of the couple. It does not appear in itself but it needs struggle and dedication.

In line with those experts above, Gottman (1998) states that a successful marriage shall give happiness to marriage couple since the spouse is going to use positive ways to overcome any conflicts and problems. Furthermore, the successful marriage has characteristics which have tied relation with love to be an indicator to have happiness in marriage (Sari: 2010), satisfaction in marriage (Cahyowinarti: 2010), and suitable in marriage (Anjani and Suryanto: 2006).

## **2. Literature Review**

Human beings will not be able to develop well without a process which is called marriage which will create a good family and become a good society (Purwarno and Suhendi: 2018). Marriage is the union of a man and a woman who make a permanent and exclusive commitment to each other of the type that is naturally (inherently) fulfilled by bearing and readily children together (Girgis and George: 2008). The statement is also supported by Pardi et.al (2019) that describe marriage as a union between two individuals, a man and a woman, each of whom, consciously, has a sincere will to form a unit of union termed the marriage institution. Marriage is usually regulated by laws, rules, customs, beliefs, and attitudes. The main legal function of marriage is to ensure the right of the partners with respect to each other and to ensure the right and define the relationship of children within a community. The statement is also supported by Ahmad Meraj's (2018) opinion which states that marriage in Islam is the union of a man and a woman. Marriage is religious duty, a moral safeguard and a social commitment. A husband and a wife are supposed to live in peace, procreate, and nurture children who will continue the human race and development of the society. Marriage historically functions primarily as an economic and political unit used to create kinship bonds, control inheritance, and labor.

Meanwhile, an ideal is a model of something perfect or without equal. It describes that exists only as an idea. An ideal marriage is achieved with both the partners being focused on each other more than anything or anyone else. Furthermore, Sternberg, a famous American psychology wrote a Triangular Theory of Love (1986), also emphasizes that an ideal marriage holds the love that can be understood in terms of three components that gather can be viewed as forming the vertices of a triangle. These three components are intimacy, passion, and commitment. Each component manifests a different aspect of love. Those components of love are clearly portrait in Hanum and Rangga's love in their novel.

Intimacy refers to feelings of closeness and connectedness in loving relationships. It thus includes those feelings that give rise, essentially, to the experience of warmth in loving relationship. Then Sternberg adduces that an ideal marriage also needs passion that refers to the derive that led to romance, physical attraction, sexual consummation, and related phenomenon in loving relationship. Passion is also regarded as an extreme interest in or wish for doing something. More than that, a marriage needs commitment to maintain that love in which commitment is known as decision because this element refers to the decision to adore and to stick together forever. Commitment also indicates to the feeling to sustain a relationship in a marriage even though it has to face many barriers, so that it creates the

fluctuation in the relationship of marriage (Sternberg: 1986). Commitment can be viewed as intending to continue in a relationship. It is a construct at the core of understanding human relationship maintenance (Agnew: 2009).

### **3. Research Method**

The method used is descriptive method. Creswell (2010) argues that research using a descriptive method means that data are broken down in the form of words or images, not in the form of numbers. Data are generally in the form of recordings, photographs, documents, memoranda, or other official records. In qualitative research reporting with careful verbal language is important because all interpretations and conclusions are taken verbally. This method is used to analyze an ideal marriage in the novel *I am Sarahza*.

The Sources of data for this research are taken from the novel. The data are the texts of the quote associated with an ideal marriage in the novel. Then, the instrument in this study is the researcher himself assisted by books and other respective references. There are several stages for data collection techniques used in this study: reading stage, that is to read carefully the text with elements related to an ideal marriage in the novel and books related to the discussions of the study; data marking stage related to an ideal marriage and recording and classifying the data found in the novel.

### **4. Discussion**

The analysis focused on the data available in the novel *I am Sarahza*. The data taken from the novel are mostly about an ideal marriage discussed in the research; intimacy, passion, and commitment. Those are analyzed with reference to the triangular theory of love.

#### **4.1 Intimacy**

Sternberg (1988) states intimacy refers to the emotion combined with the belief both of the couples. The elements of intimacy are the communication intensively, the avidity to make the spouse be happy, and the understanding and the supporting to the condition of the couple. In the novel, intimacy is shown in Rangga and Hanum's deeds and expressions during they struggle to have a child in their marriage for eleven years. Both Rangga and Hanum always show communication intensively about their willingness to have a child. It is shown in their conversation at a restaurant to celebrate their second anniversary.

Rangga conveys information about a healthy article to his wife, Hanum, states that a couple of husband and wife who has married more than a year and has lived in together and has met each other every day, unfortunately, has not a child yet must go to the doctor to check their healthy condition because he is afraid if they include in that category (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:53-54). Rangga hopes what he conveyed will get good respond from his wife. Yet, in fact, Hanum also tries to convey her idea. Hanum thought that his husband's willingness to have a baby has been talked about million times, countless. Then, they are from the couple of parents could have many children. Her parents have five children and her parents in law have three children, so that her husband should not have been worry about their condition. Moreover, Hanum will try to get her program to have a baby next year if they were failed in manual (Hanum and Rangga: 2018: 54).

Furthermore, Rangga adds his opinion that he has a fear if they will not have a chance to get a baby. It seen in his word that he is afraid if they have not a chance to get the program such as his wife says before because he does not know if he will tell a good news or a bad one about his departure to Vienna University to get his doctoral scholarship of Economic and

Business this last year. He also asks his wife to go with him to Vienna (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:58). In this case, Rangga hopes if he will have much time to stay with his wife together.

Finally, Hanum do his husband hope to have been in Vienna. Yet, during in Vienna, Hanum feels emptiness in her life. She thinks that all of her wishes suddenly stuck. Yet, her thinking, then, change by seeing her husband happy smile when she opens the door of their apartment after he goes back from his college (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:67). Hanum tries to make her husband be happy although she must bury her dreaming in depth by getting new wish that is to have a baby.

Meanwhile, Hanum and Rangga's wish to have a child never happened because every month in the certain date for three years Hanum has menstruation. That becomes a spooky month for her since she needs more braveness to say if she has menstruation to her husband. Yet, her husband always be smile and gives a new spirit to convince her to keep happy. It is seen in Rangga's quotation says that everything will be better, honey. We are going to try again (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:69).

Rangga tries to understand his wife's condition. He asks his wife to get insemination program in their marriage in the third year. That is the first insemination program which is done by them. However, it gets failure and make them be sad, especially Hanum. Seeing his wife was in deep sadness, Rangga tries to understand and support his wife's condition by giving spirit motivation that is seen in his quotation that, although, his news is a bad one today, but he wants his wife believe in God if He is writing a beautiful planning for their life. He also asks his wife to be patience to have a beautiful letter from God since he only hopes to keep with his wife and never be separated (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:78). Rangga's statement makes Hanum feels a new spirit to face every their insemination and test – tube baby program which they have passed for eleven years.

#### **4.2 Passion**

Passion, in the novel, does not only refer to the sexual need but more than that. It is an emotion to be acted upon. It can push the main characters, Hanum and Rangga, through difficult times because they do not care to what it takes to become better. It also expresses the sacrifice of them. It is seen in the denial of Hanum to her failure of the insemination program in the fifth year in her marriage that has taken for three times. It is seen from her statement that she feels confused for her serious totally fail. She asks to herself if she has lost her dreams, ideas, hopes that have been knitted. It is impossible too difficult to have a baby, so all of her effort and his husband's money drift without a trace that no one can be memorized. If she does not resign from her job former, it will be better. (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:104-105)

Hanum's denial shows that both of them have been already immolate many things. She decides to follow her husband to Vienna by leaving her good carrier. Even, her husband has spent much money to put into her insemination and test-tube baby program. Nevertheless, those become a booster for their marriage.

#### **4.3 Commitment**

Hanum has decided to receive Rangga to be his husband. It becomes her first commitment in life. She realizes that Rangga is a present from God for her patience which she has been bored to face her life in the dentist faculty which she never really want to it to be her future. She hopes if she can finish her education soon and gets her dream to be a reporter in a certain television channel. (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:46-47).

Hanum and Rangga decide to follow an insemination program for the first time in the fourth year in their marriage. Yet, the program is fail. Rangga feels so sad, but he tries to be strong in front of his wife because he thinks if he has asked his wife to leave her beloved job in Jakarta. He does not want to give bad impression to his wife about Wina. Therefore, he commits to have much Euro to get the next insemination program by getting many teaching assignments from his lecturer because he has known if the program is like a gambling which he and his wife must try many times to reach their willingness to have a baby. (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:79).

Rangga invites his wife to follow the insemination program until three times and fail. Finally, they back to Jogjakarta because Rangga gets a job as a lecturer in Gajah Mada University. Rangga tells his wife to expand her ability in writing. Hanum receives his suggestion. She, finally, starts to write and forgets her failure to have a baby. Fortunately, she gets successful to publish her first book.

Yet, in the seventh year of the marriage, Hanum's parents ask her to follow the test-tube baby program. Unfortunately, Hanum still gets bad information about it. She is so sad and angry; even she deports her husband to leave her alone. Rangga sees his wife in agonizing to receive the divine providence but he never does it. In fact, he never let his wife be alone in many situations how blue sadness whacks them during in Austria. (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:161)

In the ninth year in the marriage, Hanum asks Rangga why he can keep stronger and loyal go her, while she ever knows that there are many couples who have no children in their marriage will get divorce. Finally, Rangga convinces his wife that the power of men is not decided by having many women, but when he decides to be loyal to a certain woman. He also never thinks to leave his wife but he always keeps love her forever until die. Rangga utters that his parents always say to have the most expensive thing to be given to a woman. That is a loyalty. Patience and perseverance are a treasure to be proud of him. Both of them are the branch of the loyalty. Moreover, Rangga always asks God to make the faithful to be his true friend until he dies. (Hanum and Rangga: 2018:211-212)

## **5. Conclusions**

After an Ideal Marriage in the novel, *I am Sarahza*, is analyzed, some conclusions can be drawn as follows:

1. An ideal marriage is outward of three components that consist of intimacy, passion, and commitment.
2. Intimacy in the novel describes a result of a bond that is formed through knowledge and experience of the main characters that includes physical, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual to struggle their willingness to have a baby in the marriage relationship.
3. The main characters, Hanum and Rangga, show their passion for getting a baby by doing some insemination and test – tube baby program, even though they must spend much money and get many failures to get their willingness. More than that, Hanum must leave her dreams, ideas, hopes and carrier to stay with his husband in Vienna.
4. The fact of being willing to give time and energy to the spouse in the marriage relationship is seen through Rangga's attitude and thinking to never leave her wife in every condition. He always gives her wife good spirit and motivation to face her fail insemination and test – tube baby program for several times. Even, he never wants to change her wife's position to another woman.

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