

# Representation of Nationalism Values in the Kadet 1947 Film (Semiotic Analysis of the Kadet 1947 Film)

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## ABSTRACT

### Keywords

Semiotics  
Nationalism  
Kadet 1947  
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Film is a medium of communication as well as a medium for spreading messages, including messages of nationalism. The way to convey the message also varies, whether in the form of audio such as conversations or in the form of visuals such as sign. Nationalism is an idea formed to create freedom, lasting peace, and social justice in a country. In this research, the writer wants to examine the values of nationalism contained in the film Kadet 1947. The method used is descriptive qualitative with the aim of identifying, understanding, explaining and describing what happened. The purpose of this study is to find out the values of nationalism contained in the film of Kadet 1947. The results of the study show that in the Kadet 1947 film there are values of nationalism in accordance with the Budiawan concept of nationalism, namely the values of Patriotism, Willing to Sacrifice, Service to the Country, Sense of Owning, Pride on Country and Unity.

## 1. Introduction

Film is a collection of sign that create different meanings and make it easier for the audience to read what the film is about. Therefore, the role of the director must form the narrative framework of the film he makes, making it easier for the audience to understand the meaning contained in the film. If you pay close attention, some of the information displayed in the film has verbal to nonverbal information, which is then combined into meaningful sign. The messages in the film are diverse, ranging from messages of love, friendship, mystery and the message of nationalism is no exception as in films with a background of war or struggle. Kadet 1947 is a 2021 Indonesian biographical war drama directed and written by Rahabi Mandela and Aldo Swastia. This film was inspired by the events of July 29, 1947, when cadets (future air force pilots) carried out the Indonesian Air Force's first air attack mission at the Dutch Defense Headquarters in Semarang, Salatiga and Ambarawa. The embodiment of the values of nationalism contained in the film can be seen clearly in several still images in the film.

There are several previous studies that discuss nationalism using different objects. The films used to explain nationalism are the films Sultan Agung, Soekarno, Hos Tjokroaminoto, Kartini and the film Di Balik 98. However, there are differences between the films that will be examined and films that have been previously studied. The difference is in the focus of discussion and focus of observation, while the difference from the side of the film is the difference in the masses that are used as the background of the story so that it has an impact on behavior, sign, and also the social conditions of the film itself. Previous research also tends to miss the sides or values of nationalism such as the value of patriotism, pride in the country and others in accordance with the values of nationalism prioritized by Budiawan (2017). Whereas in this study, researchers tried to use an understanding of the values of nationalism according to Budiawan and discussed using Roland Barthes' theory, for the approach method, in this study the authors used a qualitative descriptive method.

So that later, in this study, sign of nationalism can be found that convey the message of nationalist values in the *Kadet 1947* film which is based on the concepts or values of nationalism from Budiawan, these results are of course the results of data processing using Roland Barthes' theory, and also with descriptive qualitative understanding.

## 2. Method

In this study, researchers will use a research approach based on Sugiyono's qualitative approach (2005: 3), namely using a qualitative descriptive method that aims to identify, understand, explain, and describe what happens when the research subject becomes the research subject, to find all problems. In this study, the phenomenon proposed is nationalism. Nationalism in the film *Kadet 1947* occurred during the Dutch invasion of Indonesia from 1946 to 1949. This study aims to describe the semiotics of nationalism in the film *Kadet 1947*.

To get objective results, data and data sources are needed. The source of the data is the research subject, from whom, what and where the information about the focus of the research was obtained, namely from whom the data was obtained (Moleong, 2002: 112). The main data of this research is the appearance of the observed films. Secondary data that researchers use as additional data comes from e-books, journals, correspondence books, and internet sources.

Data collection techniques include documentation consisting of the film "*Kadet 1947*" and library research. All data collection must also be carried out carefully to obtain valid data and in accordance with the research. The complete data obtained will then be analyzed using the relevant theory, Roland Barthes' semiotics.

## 3. Result and Discussion

Based on the semiotic analysis conducted by the researcher, sign and/or messages that represent the value of nationalism are founded in this film. According to Budiawan, nationalism must be in harmony with the spirit of nationalism, especially towards patriotism and upholding the noble values of Indonesia. In his view, nationalism is a shared responsibility, equality, awareness, the will to live together, placing unity, the unity of interests and the security of the nation and state is placed above individual and collective interests.

Several scenes in this film also feature dialogues about sign of struggle and patriotism and nationalism. Apart from that, in this film you can find not only sign that generally represent nationalism, such as army uniforms, state flags and doctrines, but also songs such as the song *Bagimu Negeri* and familiar figures in Indonesia such as President Soekarno and General Soedirman. This proves that this film does not necessarily only display the sign used, but also incorporates other elements.

In the 1947 film *Kadet*, which has a background in the war between Indonesia and the Netherlands, it uses the meaning of nationalism based on Indonesian nationalism. Indonesian nationalism was conveyed by President Soekarno in his speech on the birth of Pancasila which also discussed the values of nationalism. In addition, the results of the study show that in the film *Kadet 1947* there are values of nationalism in accordance with the concept of Budiawan nationalism, namely the values of Patriotism, Willingness to Sacrifice, Devotion to the State, Sense of Ownership, Pride in the Country and Unity.

**Table 1.** Elements of Patriotism Values - Scene 0:44:23

| Sr. Denotation  | SD Denotation  |
|---|--|
| The enthusiasm to defend the country is shown in Har's dialogue with his colleagues, which contains "Don't raise your hands."                                   | Har's unyielding expression to his comrades in a siege that was received by the cadet group.   |
| Sr Connotation  | SD Connotation   |
| Har stood to block his comrades from the shots directed by the Dutch with courage and passion. His face depicts his strength to continue to defend the country. | Har asked his colleagues not to give up in the Dutch siege. According to him, dying was better than surrendering or disclosing state secrets to the Netherlands. |

The sign in this scene is that nothing can stop a soldier's struggle for independence, not even death threats. The denotation is never given up and the connotation is that it is better to die than surrender. Meanwhile, the myth is that whatever conditions a soldier faces, he will fight earnestly for the common good. Therefore, patriotism is a nationalism about the concept of soldier's identity and loyalty to the country (Merry, 2018).

**Table 2.** Elements of the Value of Willing to Sacrifice - Scene 0:39:19

| <b>Sr. Denotation</b>  | <b>SD Denotation</b>  |
|--|---|
| Mul sacrificed for the sake of guarding the aircraft warehouse belonging to the Republic of Indonesia Air Force even though he had to be injured and lost his comrades after the Dutch dropped a bomb right on the cadets' headquarters. | Sacrifice of the cadets to death at the Indonesian Air Force headquarters.  |
| <b>Sr Connotation</b>  | <b>SD Connotation</b>   |
| Pictures of Mul being carried by his colleagues after being hit by an explosion and debris from the building trying to get the plane out of the way so it wouldn't be hit by a bomb.   | Mul and his friends had to make sacrifices to save the Air Force's aircraft. The denotation is willing to sacrifice, while the connotation is that a soldier must be willing to sacrifice to save state assets. The myth is that a soldier must be willing to sacrifice even to the point of dying to maintain the sovereignty or dignity of the country. A soldier or society is willing to do anything to uphold the value of national pride. Sacrifice is something that is considered noble during war on the basis of nationalism as a more belief system. |

**Table 3.** Elements of Service to the State - Scene 0:46:19

| <b>Sr. Denotation</b>  | <b>SD Denotation</b>  |
|--|---|
| Scene Cadet members receiving directions from General Soedirman when meeting with a group of Army soldiers in the middle of a forest. General Soedirman advised the soldiers to stay together in achieving independence. | Soldiers look enthusiastic to continue fighting.  |
| <b>Sr Connotation</b>  | <b>SD Connotation</b>   |
| The members looked very compact even though the weapons used were far behind compared to the Dutch troops, some of their clothes also looked shabby and the equipment used was only sober.                               | The soldiers remained enthusiastic and always had the courage to fight against the Dutch in order to win the nation's independence, this was based on the history of the same suffering between members and the community. (Anggraeni Kusumawardani, 2015). The denotation is that even though they seem to have less weaponry, they remain loyal to fight for the country. Furthermore, for the connotation, namely war equipment whose quality is far from the Netherlands. While the myth is that, even though their conditions are very minimal, they remain loyal to defending the sovereignty of the state by continuing to fight to protect the land and water of the Republic of Indonesia. |

**Table 4.** Elements of a Sense of Belonging - Scene 0:49:45

| <b>Sr. Denotation</b>  | <b>SD Denotation</b>  |
|--|---|
| The Asih dialogue when helping people who were rescued by the Army group shows an expression of a sense of belonging to the community. | Asih gave questions to the refugees.  |
| <b>Sr Connotation</b>  | <b>SD Connotation</b>   |
| Caring for one another was a sense of belonging between the people and the warriors who lived at that time.                            | In this scene, it can be seen that the Army troops depict an attitude of mutual love for fellow human beings, especially for their countrymen, where they comb the villages to ensure that the people are safe and healthy both physically and spiritually. |

The sign of the scene in this film is the existence of affection and togetherness, a form of a sense of belonging to one another.  
The denotation is a sense of belonging, while the connotation is a sense of belonging to the people of a nation.  
Furthermore, the myth in this scene is the existence of attachment and a unified mix of emotions which is manifested from the existence of the same destiny and the same historical values.(Merry, 2018).

**Table 5.** Elements of National Pride - Scene 1:43:17

| <b>Sr. Denotation</b>   | <b>SD Denotation</b>   |
|---|--|
| President Soekarno heard the news of the success of the Air Force troops in destroying the Dutch headquarters and asked General Soedirman to inform all troops of this success. | President Soekarno's pride in soldiers.  |
| <b>Sr Connotation</b>   | <b>SD Connotation</b>  |
| Proud of the cadet's struggle to win independence.  | The representation in the scene above is the sense of pride and struggle felt by President Soekarno when he heard the news that the Air Force troops were able to carry out the strategy given by Marshal Adisutjipto to tear down the Dutch headquarters. The denotation of this scene is the President's pride in his soldiers who have served the country, while the myth is that fighting for the country is a sense of pride. The myth is that if you serve the country, it will create a sense of pride for someone. |

**Table 6.** Elements of Unity and Oneness - Scene 0:51:23

| <b>Sr. Denotation</b>   | <b>SD Denotation</b>  |
|---|---|
| The Cadets sing along as the recovered plane's engine is successfully used. | The pride of the cadets for successfully using the engine from the wreckage.  |
| <b>Sr Connotation</b>   | <b>SD Connotation</b>   |
| Proud of the team's hard work.  | The representation in the scene above is the unity and integrity of the Cadet members in carrying out their actions for the country. The denotation of this scene is the unity between the cadets who are so close. The myth is that success must be celebrated together. |

Based on the semiotic analysis conducted by the researcher, sign and/or messages that represent the value of nationalism are found in this film. According to Budiawan, nationalism must be in harmony with the spirit of nationalism, especially towards patriotism and upholding the noble values of Indonesia.

In addition to audio, there are sign found in the Kadet 1947 film. If previously in previous research found nationalist values from the sayings of "merdeka" in the film Kadet, only one word was found, the rest were just dialogues that connoted around struggle and self-sacrifice.

There is an element of patriotism in figure 1 or scene 0:44:23, before Har is finally rescued by General Soedirman who at the time is on patrol, he expresses his enthusiasm and dare to die to his comrades. Har is serious about fighting for independence for the sake of a decent life in the future, namely a humane life, and to make the Indonesian people independent. From Har's attitude, there is an image of patriotism for the common interest, especially for the future of the country, even though death is a threat. When referring to the notion of patriotism according to Suprpto, patriotism is the spirit to love the motherland and is willing to sacrifice anything for the prosperity and glory of the homeland (Suprpto, 2007).

In addition, in the scene of figure 2 0:39:19 there is an element of the value of willing to sacrifice which is shown when the cadets want to save the wreckage of a plane that crashed in the middle of a forest where one of the soldiers was shot. His willingness to fight for the country to the point of having

to give himself up to be injured and make great sacrifices for the country, the soldiers in this scene no longer think about their safety. This scene depicts a very high sense of self-sacrifice. The attitude of self-sacrifice is an attitude that reflects sadness and sincerity in giving something that is owned for others, even though it will cause suffering for oneself. In a simpler sense, self-sacrifice is an attitude and behavior whose actions are carried out sincerely and prioritize the interests of others over one's own interests.

As for scene 3 0:46:19, the members look very compact even though the weapons used are far behind compared to the Dutch troops, some of their clothes also look worn out and the equipment used is only sober, this shows an attitude of service to the state. According to WJS. Poerwodarminto, dedication is about service. Service is surrender to "something" that is considered more, often done in good faith, even as a sacrifice. Sacrifice is a gift that expresses devotion, which can be material, emotional, physical and spiritual.

Regarding the sense of belonging, Hagborg (in Zhao, 2012) equates a sense of belonging with having attachment, identification, and a sense of belonging. Ownership is defined as an individual's emotional attachment to a certain object, this is in the scene in picture 4 0:49:45. In this scene, it can be seen that the TNI AD troops depict an attitude of mutual love for fellow human beings, especially towards each other, where they comb villages to ensure that their people are safe and healthy physically and spiritually.

Furthermore, to convey a message of pride in the country, it is shown in scene figure 5 1:43:17 where there is a scene where President Soekarno and General Soedirman are being shot, receiving news from a resident of the success of the Air Force in carrying out its mission. This scene conveys the message that President Soekarno is proud of the success of the soldiers fighting for the country. Because, another meaning of love for the motherland is a synonym for the word love, as expressed by Ismawati and Suryanto (2015), patriotism is manifested in a sense of love for the motherland and love for the motherland. Efforts to defend the country from colonial attacks, in this case colonialism is not only physical colonization but also a form of ideological colonialism. Love for the motherland has a heroic value, namely being willing to sacrifice wholeheartedly for the nation and state. Therefore, love for the motherland is a feeling of pride, belonging, respect, respect, and loyalty to the country one lives in, which is reflected in the behavior of defending the motherland, defending the motherland, and being willing to sacrifice for the motherland. the interests of the nation and state. Love the customs or culture of the country, protect them, protect nature and the environment.

Meanwhile, to illustrate the existence of unity and oneness, this is shown in scene figure 6 0:51:23. The representation in the scene above is the unity and integrity of the Cadet members in carrying out their actions for the country. According to Darmadi (2017), unity means complete unity in all aspects of life, be it ideological, political, social, cultural, as well as defense and security which is embodied in one container (Indonesia).

Nationalism is love for the country that is pledged in the heart and spoken orally and actualized in daily actions wherever they are (Merry, 2018). There are various values of nationalism in this film. Previously, research conducted by Abidin (Abidin, 2017) found representations of the values and meanings of nationalism in scenes through denotative and connotative meanings. Such as Wahyu Iskandar's research (Wahyu, 2014) which found patriotic symbols, willingness to sacrifice, dedication and a sense of belonging in the film Habibi and Ainun. So that in this study it was found that there were denotative, connotative meanings and there were also signs of patriotism, willingness to sacrifice, dedication and a sense of belonging.

#### 4. Conclusion

The value of nationalism in the 1947 film Kadet analyzed by Roland Barthes's semiotics is seen from the values of patriotism, willingness to sacrifice, dedication, sense of belonging and loyalty to the country, and unity and oneness. The film, which has a background in the war between the Indonesian army and the Dutch army, is also in accordance with the values of nationalism. Based on the results of the research on the Kadet 1947 film, it can be concluded that in this film there are many representations of a soldier or a member of a country having a nationalist value towards the country which is observed from the Kadet 1947 film which depicts a sense of nationalism, then in the film it emphasizes Indonesian nationalism, supported by taking pictures that show more Indonesian identity.

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