

Portrait of Environmental Conditions in Urban and Rural Areas in Abdur Arsyad's Stand-up Comedy

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Abstract—Stand-up comedy is more than just entertainment as performing jokes but as a media to express belief, experiences, and thoughts. The performer of stand-up comedy is called a comic. One of the best comics in Indonesia is Abdur Arsyad who came from rural areas and moved to urban for study. He often delivered environmental issues in his performances. This study aims to find out the environmental issues delivered by Arsyad in his stand-up comedy, and specifically to describe the portrait of environmental conditions in urban and rural areas as experienced by him. By purposive sampling technique in collecting the data in the form of excerpts of transcription collected from 14 performances, the data obtained then analyzed using content analysis approach. The results show that environmental issues delivered by Arsyad is the different environmental condition in urban and rural areas, while the differences are divided into three points; 1) natural environment; rural areas is better than urban, 2) social environment; people in rural areas are left behind in the field of technology, 3) state of infrastructure; rural areas is lack of supporting facility.

Keywords— *environmental conditions, natural environment, rural areas, stand-up comedy, urban*

I. INTRODUCTION

Stand-up comedy is a very simple performance art in term of production. It is compared with other comedy performances which almost always supported by many kinds of sparsely used properties, costumes, settings supporting the theme of the show [1]. A stand-up comedian is commonly called a comic. As a comic, he is strived for making audiences laugh as often as possible over the performance using his words, no partner to have back and forth jokes. So, verbal competence and other aspects of speech is very important element in this art.

People commonly express their beliefs through media. Here, stand-up comedy potentially becomes a media to express self's belief, experiences, and values through the actions and words [2]. Related to what delivered to audiences, stand-up comedy activity determines how comics will construct and present their jokes containing self's

belief, experience, and value, then the audiences will interpret. The product of the activity is the content of utterances [3].

Stand-up comedy is closely related to both language and culture. The first is that language expresses cultural reality, and the second is language embodies cultural reality [4]. A man can be articulator for certain culture because he articulates element of the culture through language. The elements can addresses to experiences whether those derive from social, political, educational and cultural experiences. So, the language becomes the vehicle to express [5] and [6]. Stand-up comedy is more than just a joke but expressing the truth.

One of the best comics in Indonesia is Abdur Arsyad. He was a runner-up of stand-up comedy contest named SUCI season 4 who comes from a small village namely Lamakera of Larantuka region in the East Nusa Tenggara who was studying in a university in Malang and staying in Jakarta during the contest [7]. By the fact that he moved from NTT known as the east or rural areas to Malang known as the west or urban, he must gain experiences in living in two different environments which were expressed in his stand-up comedy. This division is based on the geographical condition as "the East and the West are located in different geographical locations [8].

A study had been done concerning stand-up comedy [9]. The researcher compared two cross-culture comics, between American and Japan by analyzing the discourse of their live stand-up comedy performances. He stated in his study that there is different pervasive pattern of the two comics in their performance, and he suggested for further study to contribute to study culture in close relation to language. While in Indonesia, there was a study dealing with culture and language which the data collected from SUCI 3 show [10]. In the study, the researcher focused on analyzing ethnic stereotype expressed in stand-up comedy which represented by three ethnicities in Indonesia; Bataknese, Maduranese, and East Indonesian. She stated in the result of her study that ethnic background of the comics influences their jokes.

By the consideration that stand-up comedy is close to culture and society disclosure, this study was conducted with the objective to find out the portrait of environmental condition around the society in two different places as rural areas and urban experienced by a comic which was expressed in stand-up comedy performed by Arsyad.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study was employed by qualitative method which consists of three steps namely collecting, analyzing, presenting and interpreting the data. The data were collected from videos of Indonesian Stand-Up Comedy season 4 (SUCI 4) performances at Kompas TV downloaded from Youtube.com, and then transcribed and loosely translated. It took purposive sampling technique in determining the sample which purposively determined the performance of one comic named Abdur Arsyad who originally came from NTT but was studying in Malang. He experienced living in both rural areas and in urban. The data was in the form of excerpts of transcription collected from 14 performances i.e. show 1 to show 14, so there are 14 transcriptions as the data being analyzed by content analysis approach.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Abdur Arsyad’s Stand-up Comedy

Comics in stand-up comedy come from many different places, even different countries. In Indonesia for instance, stand-up comedy lovers are increased over the times because people love laughing. Everybody is permitted to perform on its stage. The comics come from many places in Indonesia. So, it can be imagined the comedy will present various kinds of expressions. [11] In her study said “the condition of Indonesia as an archipelagic country with various ethnic groups which has the diversity of thinking, art, religion, science, languages and traditions of local cultures with unique and different characteristics.” So, it will be very interesting and meaningful to analyze stand-up comedy from the social aspects expressed by the comics because culture is different in their way on self-expression, each individual from different cultures must view and practice self-expression differently as well.

Indonesian comic, Arsyad had performed in stand-up comedy contest named SUCI held by Kompas TV for season 4. He performed from the audition step to the final which was around 17 performances and ended with runner-up position. As person who came from the east, he spoke not only in the east accent but also identically told about his experiences while living in his village (Lamakera, Larantuka NTT) and living in urban (Malang for study and Jakarta for the contest) [7]. His experience became the power and interest of his performance on the stage. By smart ability in producing utterances, he expressed his experiences which two different environments he was in. The first is an environmental condition of rural areas and the second is an environmental condition of urban. The rural areas is portrayed from his experiences in living in his village, while urban is portrayed from his experience in staying in the urban, Malang and Jakarta.

B. Portrait of Environmental Condition in Urban and Rural Areas

Environment is a term derives from French “Environia” which means surrounding. It refers to both non-living (physical) and living environment [12]. Environment is the source or center of total condition of living things. In other words, environment includes water, organism, air, solar energy which can be categorized as natural environment. While, the environment is also defined as anything surround which influences the condition of life [13]. In fact, human life is influenced by the condition of their social life such as the way they live in society. Beside that the condition of infrastructure also influences the condition of human life.

Arsyad in his stand-up comedy showed the environmental issues which tendency of comparing the environmental condition between urban and rural areas. He portrayed the condition by comparing three major points (table 1).

TABLE I. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN ARSYAD’S STAND-UP COMEDY

Environmental Condition	Performances	Objects	
		Urban	Rural Areas
Natural Environment	Show 1	Pollution Flood	- Volcanic eruption
	Show 3	Fertile	Arid
	Show 9	Small fish	Large fish
	Show 10	Little fish	Many fish
	Show 13 Show 14	Dirty beach	Clean beach
Social Environment	Show 6	-	Illiterate
	Show 4 Show 7	Technological advanced	Technological backward
	Show 13	Fashionabel	Countrified
State of Instructure	Show 4	Modern public facilities Online System	Old facilities Manual system
	Show 5 Show 9	Lots of entertainment and many facilities	Lack of entertainment and electricity
	Show 7	Strong signal	Low signal
	Show 10	Many factories with huge machine Traffic lights Many smooth and fast transportation	No factory and only diesel machine No traffic lights Wooden boat takes long transportation

Source: [14]

Table 1 shows the different condition between environment in two different places, urban and rural areas. In the first point, Arsyad compared the condition of natural environment between the west which he meant Java Island and the east which he meant his village in Nusa Tenggara Timur. Both places represent the contrary condition of urban and rural areas. In the second point, he compared the condition of social environment which shows the condition of the people in urban and rural areas. And the third point, he compared the states of infrastructure between urban and rural areas.

- Natural Environment

Natural environment portrayed in Arsyad's stand-up comedy clearly shows differences between environmental condition between urban and rural areas. The first condition is dealing with pollution. The pollution in urban was described more than other objects. One of the examples of pollution is the condition of the sea water.

Ancol beach as the object talked by Arsyad is much different to the beach in his homeland, Lamakera NTT. The seawater in Ancol is dark and dirty while the sea water in Larantuka is clean and clear. In addition the quality of sea water that becomes the object of comparison, the quantity of the fish also becomes the different measurement. Arsyad stated that fish in his homeland are overflow and big size which are contrast with the fish in Jakarta. Ancol beach is one of representations of polluted natural environment in urban. Urban has high potential with pollution [15]. It is in contrary with natural environment in rural areas.

Other environmental conditions mentioned by Arsyad is about the quality of land between urban and rural areas. He mentioned that in Java the land is fertile while his village land is arid. At this point, Arsyad shows the advantages and disadvantages of urban and rural areas in which one is better in one point but worse in another.

The third environmental condition described is about the disaster. Arsyad mentioned flood as regular disaster for people in Jakarta and he mentioned volcanic eruption as a disaster ever happened once in his village. At this point, he shows the potential disaster happened in both urban and rural areas but in different type and causing factor. Flood is probably caused by human error, while the volcanic eruption is probably happened by natural condition.

- Social Environment

Social environment portrayed by Arsyad in his stand-up comedy shows the different lifestyle between people in urban and those in rural areas. The differences influence the development of human resources. People in rural areas are still left behind in field of technology and fashion, even most of them are illiterate. It is different with the people in urban who are up-to-date with technology and other development such as fashion, and education. The different environmental condition produces the different result [16].

- State of Infrastructure

Condition of infrastructure in Arsyad's stand-up comedy was more discussed than two other points. The differences mentioned in comparison of some facilities such as lift, factory, machine, online system, transportation and electricity. The infrastructure in rural areas is still way too far from that in urban. He also stated that in the lack of facility most of the government system are still the same in execution such as online system which is very complicated for

the people in rural areas because the lack of supporting infrastructure [17].

At the point of state of infrastructure, the disadvantages are all shown in rural areas which are left behind from the development of technology.

The three points of environmental condition portrayed by Arsyad in his stand-up comedy show that there are significant differences between the condition in urban and in rural areas. But basically they are related one another as a cause-effect relationship. The natural environment influences and the state of infrastructure influence the social environment.

IV. CONCLUSION

Stand-up comedy is more than just entertainment as performing jokes but as a media to express belief, experiences, and thoughts. By his experiences in living in two different places, Arsyad shows the portrait of different environmental conditions which are divided into three points, they are natural environment, social environment, and state of infrastructures. The natural environment in urban and in rural areas is different. Urban shows weakness in the environmental condition which has potential to be polluted, while rural areas are still pure and clear because far from pollution threat. In this point, rural areas show better condition than urban, but for social environment and state of infrastructure, rural areas is left behind from those in urban. The condition of social environment is influenced by the infrastructures because to develop, people need supporting facilities. Arsyad as a person from rural areas delivered the environmental issues in his stand-up comedy shows the thoughts and the problems he wanted to share.

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