



## SOCIAL CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SHORT STORY DINDING TIME BY DANARTO USING THE MIMETIC APPROACH AS AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING MATERIAL FOR STUDENTS IN PHASE F

### ANALISIS KRITIK SOSIAL PADA CERPEN DINDING WAKTU KARYA DANARTO MENGGUNAKAN PENDEKATAN MIMETIK SEBAGAI ALTERNATIF BAHAN AJAR PESERTA DIDIK FASE F

**Risna Dara<sup>1</sup>, Titin Nurhayatin<sup>2</sup>, Rani Siti Fitriani<sup>3</sup>,**

<sup>1</sup>English Education Study Program, Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Pasundan University,

Email: [risnadr3@gmail.com](mailto:risnadr3@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Pasundan University, Email: [titin\\_nurhayatin@unpas.ac.id](mailto:titin_nurhayatin@unpas.ac.id)

<sup>3</sup> Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Pasundan University, Email: [dranisitifitriani20@unpas.ac.id](mailto:dranisitifitriani20@unpas.ac.id)

\*email Koresponden: [risnadr3@gmail.com](mailto:risnadr3@gmail.com)

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#### Abstract

This research aims to analyze the social criticism conveyed through the short story Wall of Time by Danarto, with a focus on issues of poverty, crime, family disorganization, problems of the younger generation, war, violations of norms, population problems, and environmental problems. This short story describes the social tensions and pressures of individual life amidst deep social problems. Through symbols of time and various allusions, this short story highlights social inequality, the impact of war, and increasingly severe environmental exploitation. This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach with literary mimetic theory, to reveal how Danarto conveys social criticism in a subtle but sharp manner through characters trapped in difficult situations. The research results show that this short story invites readers to be more critical of existing social and cultural conditions, as well as providing reflections on the impact of social problems on human life. It is hoped that this research can contribute to the understanding of Indonesian literature and provide an appreciation for literary works that raise social issues.

**Keyword:** Social Criticism, Short Story, Descriptive Qualitative, Mimetical Approach.

#### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kritik sosial yang disampaikan melalui cerpen *Dinding Waktu* karya Danarto, dengan fokus pada isu-isu kemiskinan, kejahatan, disorganisasi



keluarga, masalah generasi muda, peperangan, pelanggaran norma-norma, masalah kependudukan, dan masalah lingkungan hidup. Cerpen ini menggambarkan ketegangan sosial dan tekanan kehidupan individu di tengah masalah-masalah sosial yang mendalam. Melalui simbol waktu dan berbagai sindiran, cerpen ini menyoroti ketidaksetaraan sosial, dampak peperangan, serta eksploitasi lingkungan yang semakin parah. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif dengan teori mimetik sastra, untuk mengungkap bagaimana Danarto menyampaikan kritik sosial secara halus namun tajam melalui karakter-karakter yang terperangkap dalam situasi sulit. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa cerpen ini mengajak pembaca untuk lebih kritis terhadap kondisi sosial dan budaya yang ada, serta memberikan refleksi mengenai dampak masalah sosial terhadap kehidupan manusia. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi dalam pemahaman sastra Indonesia dan memperkaya apresiasi terhadap karya-karya sastra yang mengangkat isu-isu sosial.

**Kata Kunci:** kritik sosial, cerpen, deskriptif kualitatif, pendekatan mimetik.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a work that departs from the author's imagination or delusion, so it has an imaginative nature (Wellek & Warren, 1993: 20). Basically, literary works reflect life as a result of the author's creative process, which is a response to various social phenomena that exist around him. The author's role is vital in the creation of literary works, as they often reflect the author's life experiences in the context of society, focusing on issues of social and cultural life. Therefore, various perceptions captured by the author's senses-whether in the form of sight, hearing, feeling, smell, or touch-that leave a deep impression, can become material for literary works.

Short stories, for example, raise many themes of social problems that occur in society, so that they can provide useful meanings of life for readers. In short stories, there are two main elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements include theme, plot, characters and characterizations, setting, and point of view, while extrinsic elements include social values, politics, author biography, and so on. Literature is always closely related to the social system of life, because it is always enjoyed by society. Authors, as part of society, are directly involved in social events, which in turn affect literary works. This is in accordance with Wellek and Warren's view conveyed by Saraswati (2003:67), that authors, as members of society, are involved in social problems and influence literary works. Literary works can also function as social criticism of discrepancies in the existing social system.

Social criticism in literary works is a form of communication that aims to control the course of the social system in society (Oksinata, 2010). This criticism can be in the form of satire or criticism of social inequality that occurs, such as poverty, crime, war, family disorganization, norm violations, youth problems, and other issues related to community life (Kurniawan, 2011; Laili & Qur'ani, 2022; Soekanto, 2014). Social criticism often arises as a response to people's dissatisfaction with existing conditions, which are considered not in line with their expectations.

The literary work to be discussed in this study is Danarto's short story "Dinding Waktu", which was completed on December 16, 1989 and published on January 21, 1990 in Kompas. It was also published in the anthology Gergasi in 1993. Danarto, who was born on June 27, 1940, is known as a short story writer with an innovative and experimental writing style. His works feature elements of poetry, music and painting, and contain pathetic moral content. In



addition to social criticism, Danarto's short stories also deal with moral, social, political, cultural, romantic, and religious themes.

The main problem to be analyzed in this study is how social criticism in Danarto's short stories is conveyed through satire, condemnation, and responses, especially those related to poverty, crime, family disorganization, youth problems, war, violation of norms, population problems, and environmental problems (Soekanto, 2010: 265). This research aims to contribute to the understanding of short story literature, increase appreciation of literary works in society, and build a critical attitude among readers towards existing social issues.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

The choice of method in a research is a crucial step that affects the success of the research. The use of appropriate methods is very important so that research can be carried out correctly and effectively. In this study, researchers used various methods that support each other with the aim of making the data obtained more objective. Therefore, this section will discuss research methods that include: (1) type of research, (2) data sources, (3) research instruments, (4) data collection methods and techniques, (5) data analysis methods, and (6) methods of presenting data analysis results. The type of research conducted to analyze Danarto's short story *Wall of Time* falls into the category of qualitative descriptive research, which is very suitable for analyzing literary works with literary mimetic theory. The data sources used include primary data sources taken from the short story *Wall of Time* published in *Kompas* on January 21, 1990 and secondary data sources in the form of books, papers, and articles from internet sites relevant to the object of research. This research instrument prioritizes affective aspects, considering that the object being analyzed is a literary work. The researcher acts as the main instrument that analyzes literary works in depth. The data collection method used is the literature method with the steps of recording the parts of the short story that represent social criticism and classifying the form of conveying social criticism. Data collection techniques use data cards that facilitate systematic data collection and analysis. The data analysis method used is the descriptive analytic method, which involves first describing the facts, then continuing with analysis and providing adequate understanding. Finally, the method of presenting the results of data analysis uses an informal method, where the results of the study are presented in the form of words or sentences to explain the form and delivery of social criticism in the short story *Wall of Time* with a mimetic approach.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research discusses social criticism and the form of delivery of social criticism in Danarto's short story *Dinding Waktu*, the following are the results of the research and discussion:

Aspects Of Social Criticism	Paragraph/Sentence
Proverty	"Jutaan mayat tentara bertumpuk makin mempertinggi dataran pertempuran. Onggokan rongsokan mesin-mesin perang telah menjadi gunung." (Paragraf 2)
Crime	"Betapa eloknya kekejaman, betapa nikmatnya keporakporandaan." (Paragraf 4)
Family disorganization	"Saya seorang ibu dari tujuh puluh anak. Laki-laki lima puluh dan perempuan dua puluh. Semuanya sudah musnah dalam peperangan seribu tahun ini." (Paragraf 10)
Problems of the younger generation	"Yang laki-laki gugur satu per satu sebagai



	pejuang. Yang perempuan gugur sebagai perawat, satu per satu di garis paling depan." (Paragraf 10)
War	"Dalam peperangan yang sudah berlangsung selama seribu tahun itulah saya menjumpai seonggok batu besar di tengah-tengah medan pertempuran." (Paragraf 1)
Violation of norms	"Kami menjagoi diri kami sendiri. Siapa di antara kami dalam waktu yang ditentukan menurut perjanjian, yang selamat keluar dari medan perang, inilah yang menggaet hadiah berupa uang, perusahaan, manusia, binatang, atau apa saja yang diperjudikan." (Paragraf 3)
Family problems	"Sebagai penonton, kami punya tradisi yang unik. Kami tidak menjagoi salah satu atau salah dua angkatan perang sejumlah bala tentara perang, memang berlaga bersamaan kami menjagoi diri kami sendiri. Siapa di antara kami dalam waktu yang ditentukan menurut perjanjian, yang selamat keluar dari medan perang, inilah yang menggaet hadiah berupa uang, perusahaan, manusia, binatang, atau apa saja yang diperjudikan. Peserta penonton ini terdiri dari berbagai lapisan sosial. Kebanyakan para jutawan. Di antaranya para pedagang, pengusaha, konglomerat, para pangeran, raja, bahkan ada juga ratu. Jika sepi perang, kami penonton, menyelenggarakannya, mengongkosinya, dan mengakhirinya. Tragedi dan kebahagiaan cumalah bikin-bikinan belaka."
Environmental problems	"Jutaan mayat tentara bertumpuk makin mempertinggi dataran pertempuran. Onggokan rongsokan mesin-mesin perang telah menjadi gunung. Lembah dan danau dibentuk oleh ledakan-ledakan bom. Dan bukit-bukit patung berbagai bentuk diciptakan oleh pesawat-pesawat yang menghunjam bumi, ratusan ribu jumlahnya." (Paragraf 2)

Table 1. Analysis Result.

### Poverty

Poverty is a condition where a person, family, or community cannot fulfill their needs reasonably. Poverty is usually described as a lack of income to fulfill the basic needs of life. The most basic needs include food, clothing, and shelter. The problem of poverty is closely related to the problem of crime. It is not uncommon for a crime to occur because of the economic factors of the perpetrator. For example, theft or robbery is usually motivated by poverty. Someone is desperate to steal or rob because they cannot fulfill their needs through good means (Abdulsyani, 2012: 190).



*“Jutaan mayat tentara bertumpuk makin mempertinggi dataran pertempuran. Onggokan rongsokan mesin-mesin perang telah menjadi gunung.”*

The sentence above describes a battlefield that is destroyed and full of wreckage of war machines, showing the damage to infrastructure and the economy that can cause poverty.

### Crime

Crime or criminality grows because of various social inequalities, namely the existence of societal symptoms, such as economic crises, unfulfilled desires, mental pressures, grudges, and so on. In another broader sense, crime arises because of the dynamic and rapid changes in society and culture. Crime is not only caused by social disorganization and anomie, but also caused by the relationship between variations in mental ugliness (crime) and variations in social organization (Abdulsyani, 2012: 189). Criminal acts usually occur in societies that are classified as changing, especially urban societies that experience more pressure (Abdulsyani, 2012: 189). Criminal acts can not only grow from within the human being itself, but also because of pressures that come from outside, such as the influence of work associations, associations in certain community environments, all of which have elements of criminal acts. If the comparison of crime increases, it is not impossible that it will cause unrest in the midst of society, both the people directly affected by the crime, and the people who are in the surrounding environment.

*“Betapa eloknya kekejaman, betapa nikmatnya keporakporandaan.”*

The sentence above contains a sharp criticism of how crime and violence, especially war, are treated as entertainment by some people and how atrocities are often seen as “beautiful” or even fun. Here are some points of criticism of crime and criminals that can be taken from this sentence:

1. **Normalization of Violence and Crime:** The author describes how war, which should be a great tragedy, has become a spectacle enjoyed by a fanatical audience. In this context, atrocities in war are no longer seen as destructive crimes, but as “beautiful” and “enjoyable” entertainment. This illustrates how society can get used to violence, even making it an enjoyable event, which of course is a form of normalization of criminality.
2. **The Role of the Audience in Appreciating Crime:** The audience in this context not only witnesses the war, but also participates in how the war is viewed as entertainment, by admiring and enjoying the brutality. The author even describes himself as a fanatical spectator who has watched wars for centuries, which shows the depth of involvement and indifference to the social and human impact of such evil. It is a critique of those who only observe without feeling the real suffering.
3. **Loss of Empathy for the Victims:** In this narrative, although the war caused great destruction, such as explosions and battles that killed many people, the author describes the reactions of the spectators and journalists who did not show empathy for the victims. Instead, they were “flabbergasted” watching the war as a marvelous entertainment. This shows how many people can lose their sense of empathy and sensitivity to the suffering of others, viewing evil as interesting or exciting.
4. **War as Business or Commodity:** This paragraph also shows that there are people, such as conglomerates and journalists, who are involved in wars not only as witnesses, but also as those who use the events to their advantage-both in terms of material things (such as money or social status) and in terms of disseminating information or favorable news





coverage. This highlights how war and violence can be turned into profitable commodities, even at the cost of lives and destruction.

5. **The Abuse of Humanity:** The descriptions of “beautiful” and “delicious” atrocities and the excitement felt by spectators of war strongly condemn how society often undermines the value of life and human rights. Wars that cause death and destruction should be viewed with horror and rejection, but here they are viewed as exciting and enjoyable. This is a harsh critique of a society caught up in the consumption of dehumanizing entertainment.

Overall, the critique of criminality and crime in this paragraph points to how war and violence can be treated as entertainment or profitable objects of consumption, without considering the social and moral damage they cause. This paragraph illustrates how a society trapped in a cruel system of civilization can lose its sense of humanity and empathy, so that crime and violence are seen as normal, even fun.

### Family Disorganization

Family disorganization is the breakup of the family as a unit because its members fail to fulfill their obligations in accordance with their social roles. Family disorganization includes, (1) Incomplete family units due to relationships outside of marriage, (2) Family disorganization due to relationships outside of marriage, (3) There is a deficiency in the family, namely in terms of communication with its members, (4) family crisis, because one who acts as head of the family, beyond his own ability to leave the house, perhaps because of death, punishment, and war, (5) Family crisis, caused by internal factors, such as disruption of the mental balance of one family member / stress (Soekanto, 2010: 324).

*"Saya seorang ibu dari tujuh puluh anak. Laki-laki lima puluh dan perempuan dua puluh. Semuanya sudah musnah dalam peperangan seribu tahun ini."*

The sentence above contains aspects of family disorganization, explaining the confession of the mother who lost all her children, showing the destruction of the family structure due to war.

### The Problem of the Young Generation

*"Yang laki-laki gugur satu per satu sebagai pejuang. Yang perempuan gugur sebagai perawat, satu per satu di garis paling depan."*

The sentence above shows that the younger generation are victims of conflicts that they did not create that the younger generation are victims of conflicts that they did not create.

### Warfare

In Danarto's short story Wall of Time, warfare is a central theme. One proof of the sentence fragments included in the social criticism aspect of warfare is as follows.

*"Dalam peperangan yang sudah berlangsung selama seribu tahun itulah saya menjumpai seongkok batu besar di tengah-tengah medan pertempuran."*

Here are some things that the author will explain about the social criticism aspects of war in this short story.



1. **War as Entertainment:** The author highlights how the war that has been going on for a thousand years is seen by the audience as an entertainment, or “the most amazing spectacle in the long history of the spectacle of war.” This audience, including conglomerates and journalists, seem to enjoy the atrocities and destruction that occur during warfare. This criticizes how war is often enjoyed or viewed as mere entertainment, without taking into account the suffering experienced by those directly involved in the conflict. There is a kind of “normalization of violence,” where war is seen as something interesting or exciting, rather than a human tragedy to be avoided.
2. **Fanatical Spectators who Ignore the Suffering:** The author describes himself as a “fanatical spectator of war,” who for centuries has enjoyed the spectacle without empathy for the suffering it causes. There is an emphasis on the absence of morality or humanity of the war spectator, who is more interested in the atrocities and destruction than in the social and humanitarian impact of warfare. It is a critique of society's indifference to violence and war that can ruin lives.
3. **Loss of Meaning in War:** One of the main criticisms in this paragraph is how war has lost its true meaning as a life-threatening conflict. Instead of being viewed as something sad or tragic, warfare is turned into an exciting spectacle. The author describes how explosions, bullets, and atrocities on the battlefield are viewed with a sense of “pleasure” and “beauty,” a very misleading view of the reality of violence. In this context, war is no longer about self-defense or fighting for a cause, but only about the personal satisfaction that comes from destruction and chaos.
4. **The Media's Role in Promoting Violence:** The journalists in this story are portrayed as part of the audience “taking cover behind a rock” and trying to keep their cameras out of the mud. The media, which is supposed to report the truth and facts, has instead become part of a system that presents war as a spectacle, rather than to provide insight into the reality of the suffering that takes place on the battlefield. It criticizes how the media sometimes treats violence and war as commercially viable fodder, without highlighting the humanitarian impact that should be the main focus.
5. **Legitimized Cruelty:** The phrase “how beautiful is cruelty, how delicious is destruction” describes how cruelty and destruction on the battlefield are regarded as beautiful or exciting. This is a critique of the view that violence in war is normal or even satisfying, as if the destruction and death that occurs has no significant moral consequences. It also reflects how in some contexts, especially in media and entertainment, warfare is portrayed in a romanticized or dramatic way, which can mislead the public's view of the realities of war.

Overall, the critique of warfare in this paragraph highlights how war has turned into a spectacle that distorts its meaning, from a devastating tragedy to an entertainment that is seen as beautiful and fun. The author invites readers to question society's attitudes towards violence and warfare, as well as the role of the media in influencing the way we see and understand conflict.

### Violation of Norms

In Danarto's short story *Wall of Time*, the violation of norms that can be seen is how war can be used as a means of entertainment. Here is the evidence of the sentence fragment.



*"Kami menjagoi diri kami sendiri. Siapa di antara kami dalam waktu yang ditentukan menurut perjanjian, yang selamat keluar dari medan perang, inilah yang menggaet hadiah berupa uang, perusahaan, manusia, binatang, atau apa saja yang diperjudikan."*

The sentence above shows how war is used as a spectacle and entertainment that reflects a violation of humanitarian norms.

### Population Problems

Indeed, population problems are an important source of social problems to be addressed immediately. Population growth that is not effectively controlled can become an obstacle in the implementation of development (Abdulsyani, 2012: 190). The population problems in question are as follows.

*"Sebagai penonton, kami punya tradisi yang unik. Kami tidak menjagoi salah satu atau salah dua angkatan perang sejumlah bala tentara perang, memang berlaga bersamaan kami menjagoi diri kami sendiri. Siapa di antara kami dalam waktu yang ditentukan menurut perjanjian, yang selamat keluar dari medan perang, inilah yang menggaet hadiah berupa uang, perusahaan, manusia, binatang, atau apa saja yang diperju-dikan. Peserta penonton ini terdiri dari berbagai lapisan sosial. Kebanyakan para jutawan. Di antaranya para pedagang, pengusaha, konglomerat, para pangeran, raja, bahkan ada juga ratu. Jika sepi perang, kami penonton, menyelenggarakan, mengongkosnya, dan mengakhirinya. Tragedi dan kebahagiaan cumalah bikin-bikinan belaka".*

The paragraph above describes a situation that evokes social criticism related to the way conflict and power are viewed. If viewed from the perspective of population criticism, there are several things that can be highlighted:

1. **Social Inequality:** This paragraph indicates that there is a big difference between social classes. The audience involved in the "war" are rich and powerful people, such as millionaires, merchants, businessmen, conglomerates, and aristocrats. This shows the stark disparity between the elite and the common people, which can lead to social inequality and injustice.
2. **Utilization of Conflict for Personal Gain:** It is emphasized that war is not for a noble cause, but only as a game to seek rewards. This can be seen as a critique of a system that treats human lives like stakes in a game, where wealth and status are the main goals, not the common good.
3. **Elite Dominance in Social Decisions:** The rich and powerful spectators, who organize, finance and end the war, reflect the elite's dominance in determining the direction of social life. They have complete control, which makes them not only able to organize the "war" but also able to ignore its social impact on the less fortunate.

Overall, the critique of the occupation in this paragraph could point to the inequality in the distribution of power, the disregard for human values, and the potential social damage resulting from the role of elites in organizing conflict for personal gain.

### Environmental Issues

The environment includes things that are caused by the interaction between living organisms and the environment. Living organisms consist of humans, animals, and plants that





individually or collectively affect and are affected by the environment. Humans are the most



dominant element in the environment. Humans have the ability to increase quantitatively and thanks to their minds, humans are also able to improve themselves qualitatively. Since humans are the dominant factor, the target is also on the mutual influence between humans and the environment in its various aspects (ecosystem). Then, the mutual influence can cause problems, be it social environmental problems, biological environment, or physical environment (Abdulsyani, 2012: 194).

*“Jutaan mayat tentara bertumpuk makin mempertinggi dataran pertempuran. Onggokan rongsokan mesin-mesin perang telah menjadi gunung. Lembah dan danau dibentuk oleh ledakan-ledakan bom. Dan bukit-bukit patung berbagai bentuk diciptakan oleh pesawat-pesawat yang menghunjam bumi, ratusan ribu jumlahnya.*

Paragraph above describes the destruction of the environment caused by war in a very strong and visual way. Very powerful and visual. Some criticisms of the environment that can be identified are as follows:

1. **Damage Nature and Artificial Landscape Formation:** Descriptions of “valleys and lakes shaped by bomb explosions” and “sculptural hills of various shapes created by airplanes plunging into the earth” show how warfare drastically changes the physical condition of nature. Bomb blasts and airplane strikes create distorted and unnatural landscapes—illustrating how warfare drastically changes the physical condition of nature. natural—illustrating how warfare not only destroys human life, but also destroys the natural forms that are supposed to be habitats and resources for other living beings.
2. **Pollution and Environmental Pollution:** “Millions of corpses of soldiers piled up on the plains of battlefield” illustrates how battles leave a mark that contaminate the soil, water, and air. The presence of scattered corpses creates threat to the environment, as it not only pollutes the soil and air, but can also cause health problems and the spread of disease. Pollution This kind of pollution is one of the often-forgotten adverse effects of war.
3. **Accumulation of War Machine Scrap:** “The piles of war machines have become mountains” illustrates another impact of warfare on the environment: the accumulation of massive amounts of war industry waste. Destroyed war machines become piles of scrap, creating piles of debris that burden nature and pollute the ecosystem. The scrap takes a very long time to decompose and can damage the soil, air, and life around it.
4. **Destruction of Habitat and Natural Balance:** In this image, nature is not only destroyed by explosions and violence, but also by the changes that occur in its physical form. Valleys, lakes, hills, and mountains—all formed by violence and bombings, not by natural processes. This shows that war disrupts the ecological balance by creating unnatural geological changes, which ultimately eliminate the natural habitats of flora and fauna.
5. **Long-Term Impact on the Environment:** War leaves a trail that is not only physically destructive at the time, but its effects are long-lasting. The massive destruction of ecosystems—land, water, and air—takes a very long time to recover, if at all. The regeneration process of nature is greatly hampered by the traces of this violence.

Overall, the environmental critique in this paragraph reflects the incredible destruction that war has wrought on nature. Rather than preserving and conserving ecosystems, war destroys everything around it, leaving behind debris and permanent changes to the landscape that should support life.



#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study focuses on the analysis of social criticism in the short story *Dinding Waktu* by Danarto, which conveys various social issues through satire, criticism, and responses to problems in society. This short story uses the concept of time as a symbol to describe the social tension faced by individuals in a society full of problems, poverty, crime, family disorganization, problems of the younger generation, war, violations of norms, population problems, and environmental problems.

The results of the analysis show that Danarto has succeeded in conveying deep social criticism through characters who are trapped in stressful life situations, such as poverty, crime, the destruction of families due to war, and environmental damage. The following are the main points of the short story:

1. **Poverty and Crime:** Poverty forces many people to commit crimes in order to survive. In this short story, crime arises because of social injustice and economic inequality.
2. **Family Destruction:** War causes many families to be destroyed because of the loss of family members who are victims of war. This illustrates how war damages family relationships and causes emotional suffering.
3. **Young Generation and War:** Many young generations are victims of war, which they did not create. They are caught up in violence that is triggered by larger political and social problems.
4. **War as Entertainment:** In this short story, war is depicted as entertainment for the rich and powerful who do not care about the suffering of ordinary people. They instead see war as a way to gain profit.
5. **Environmental Destruction:** War also damages the environment, polluting nature, and destroying ecosystems. This is part of a critique of how war not only damages humans, but also the nature around them.

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with the mimetic theory of literature, which allows researchers to interpret more deeply the meaning contained in the short story and broaden the understanding of social criticism conveyed by Danarto. Therefore, this study not only contributes to understanding Indonesian literature, especially the short story *Dinding Waktu*, but also invites readers to be more critical of social problems in society.

Overall, this literary work acts as a profound social critique of the social and cultural conditions that occur in society, and provides a reflection on the impact of these social problems on individual lives.

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