

Beyond Reality and Identity: A Critical Review of Tere Liye's Bumi

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Book Information

Bumi is a popular Indonesian fantasy novel written by Tere Liye and first published in 2014 by Gramedia Pustaka Utama. The novel is the opening series of the "Bumi" saga, which later developed into one of the most successful modern fantasy franchises in Indonesia. The story combines fantasy, adventure, science fiction, and teenage drama into an engaging narrative that appeals to young adult readers. The novel consists of approximately 440 pages and is written in simple yet imaginative language, making it accessible to both teenage and adult audiences. The main characters are Raib, Seli, and Ali, three high school students who discover extraordinary powers and become involved in adventures across parallel worlds. Raib possesses the ability to disappear, Seli can produce electricity from her hands, and Ali is portrayed as a genius with exceptional intelligence. The setting alternates between the ordinary modern world and magical realms full of advanced civilizations and mysterious creatures. Through its unique plot, the novel explores themes of friendship, identity, courage, destiny, and self-discovery. Tere Liye successfully introduces Indonesian readers to a locally written fantasy universe that can compete with international fantasy literature. The novel has received positive responses due to its strong characterization, imaginative storytelling, and emotional depth. As a result, *Bumi* has become one of the most influential contemporary Indonesian fantasy novels among young readers.

Keywords: *Adventure; Friendship; Parallel World; Identity; Moral Values*

INTRODUCTION

The novel *Bumi* by Tere Liye tells the story of three teenagers, Raib, Seli, and Ali, who have special abilities and experience adventures in a parallel world. The main ideas of the novel are courage, friendship, and cooperation in facing challenges. This paper discusses how teamwork and self-confidence help the characters solve problems. Many adventure novels focus only on action, but *Bumi* also teaches moral values for young readers. The story shows that everyone has strengths and weaknesses, and friendship makes people stronger. This discussion is important because it helps students understand positive values through literature. Reading *Bumi* feels like opening a door to a strange world that somehow still feels familiar. Tere Liye does not merely present a fantasy about parallel worlds, but a story about growing up, fear, and learning to trust oneself. This novel is relevant for teenagers and general readers because the conflicts go beyond battles and adventures; they are also about choices, responsibility, and the meaning of friendship. This review aims to explore *Bumi* as a novel that entertains while also inviting readers to reflect.

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

The story centers on a teenage girl named Raib, an ordinary high school student who secretly possesses the ability to disappear. Raib tries to hide her unusual power from others because she fears being considered different. Her life changes dramatically when mysterious events begin to occur around her. Together with her classmates, Seli and Ali, she discovers that they are connected to a larger destiny involving parallel worlds. Seli has the power to generate electricity, while Ali is a highly intelligent student with extraordinary

curiosity and problem-solving abilities. Their friendship becomes stronger as they attempt to understand the origins of their powers and the hidden truth behind their existence.

As the story develops, the three teenagers are introduced to the Clan World, a civilization far more advanced than Earth. They encounter various dangers, magical creatures, and political conflicts that threaten the stability of different clans. During their journey, they meet powerful figures who reveal secrets about Raib's family background and her important role in maintaining balance among the worlds. The novel presents numerous action scenes, including battles, escapes, and confrontations with enemies who seek power and domination. These adventures force the characters to mature emotionally and mentally as they face fear, betrayal, and uncertainty.

Toward the end of the novel, Raib, Seli, and Ali become more aware of their responsibilities and the significance of their friendship. Although they are still teenagers, they demonstrate courage and loyalty while confronting dangerous situations. The ending leaves several mysteries unresolved, encouraging readers to continue exploring the next books in the series. Overall, the novel delivers an exciting blend of fantasy adventure and emotional storytelling. Tere Liye creates a vivid fictional universe that stimulates readers' imagination while emphasizing values such as trust, teamwork, sacrifice, and perseverance.

CRITICAL EVALUATION

The main strength of *Bumi* lies in Tere Liye's ability to create characters who feel alive. Raib, Seli, and Ali are far from perfect, and that imperfection makes them relatable. The language is simple yet effective, allowing the story to flow naturally. On the other hand, the amount of information about the parallel world may feel dense for new readers. However, this also reflects the author's commitment to building a rich fictional world. *Bumi* possesses several significant strengths that contribute to its popularity and literary value. One of its greatest achievements is the imaginative world-building that successfully combines science fiction and fantasy elements within an Indonesian context. Tere Liye creates a fast-paced narrative filled with suspense, making the novel highly engaging for readers. The characterization is also effective because each protagonist has a distinct personality and role within the story.

Raib represents emotional sensitivity and courage, Seli symbolizes loyalty and strength, while Ali provides humor and intellectual brilliance. Furthermore, the language used is simple yet expressive, allowing readers from various age groups to enjoy the novel comfortably. However, the novel also contains several weaknesses. Some parts of the story develop too quickly, causing certain explanations about the parallel worlds and political systems to feel insufficiently detailed. In addition, a number of supporting characters receive limited development, reducing their emotional impact on the narrative. Despite these limitations, the novel remains highly successful in presenting meaningful themes related to friendship, identity, bravery, and personal growth. The combination of emotional depth and imaginative storytelling makes *Bumi* an important contribution to contemporary Indonesian fantasy literature.

REFLECTION & CONCLUSION

In the end, *Bumi* is more than just an entertaining novel. It reminds readers that everyone has their own role, strengths, and fears. Friendship becomes the key to facing what seems impossible. This novel is suitable for teenagers and general readers who enjoy adventure stories with deeper meaning. *Bumi* is worth reading not only for its story, but for the message it leaves behind.