

CULTURE, LITERATURE, AND RELIGIOUS RADICALISM IN INDONESIAN SOCIAL MEDIA FROM ACADEMIC WRITING'S POINT OF VIEW

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Abstrac : Art and cultural activities and the attempt to prevent religious radicalism constitute two entities which are considered to have a close relationship. Nowadays, the attempt to prevent religious extremity is crucial to hold, especially in Indonesia. This research aims at interpreting the thesis of texts or essays found in social media online by using the keywords of religion, culture, literature, radicalism, and extremity. Data is collected by finding and collecting essays found in social media dated from 2017 to 2020 by using such keywords. The research is categorized descriptive-qualitative research. In analyzing the data, the theory of developing a thesis proposed by Rodburg and the tutors of the Writing Center at Harvard University is used. There were ten essays found which consisted of 214 to 1088 words. The research findings showed that 60% of the theses found in the ten essays constituted of fact, and 40% of them constituted of opinion. Thus, the thesis of these essays cannot be considered representative thesis because the effective one should constitute argument rather than fact or opinion. The finding also showed that all thesis stated clearly that the relationship between literature or cultural activities and religion was positive. It means that literature or cultural activities is capable of preventing people from religious radicalism or extremity.

Keywords: social media, literature, culture, thesis, religion, radicalism, extremity

Abstract: Aktivitas seni dan budaya serta upaya pencegahan radikalisme agama merupakan dua entitas yang dianggap memiliki hubungan erat. Upaya pencegahan ekstremitas agama saat ini sangat penting dilakukan, khususnya di Indonesia. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menginterpretasikan tesis dari teks atau esai yang ditemukan di media sosial online dengan menggunakan kata kunci agama, budaya, sastra, radikalisme, dan ekstremitas. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan mencari dan mengumpulkan tulisan-tulisan yang ditemukan di media sosial tertanggal 2017 hingga 2020 dengan menggunakan kata kunci tersebut. Penelitian ini termasuk penelitian deskriptif-kualitatif. Dalam menganalisis data, digunakan teori pengembangan tesis yang diajukan oleh Rodburg dan para tutor dari Pusat Penulisan di Universitas Harvard. Ada sepuluh esai yang ditemukan yang terdiri dari 214 hingga 1088 kata. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa 60% dari tesis yang ditemukan dalam sepuluh esai merupakan fakta, dan 40% di antaranya merupakan opini. Dengan demikian, tesis dari esai-esai ini tidak dapat dianggap sebagai tesis yang representatif karena yang efektif harus merupakan argumen daripada fakta atau opini. Temuan ini juga menunjukkan bahwa semua tesis menyatakan dengan jelas bahwa hubungan antara sastra atau kegiatan budaya dan agama adalah positif. Artinya, kegiatan sastra atau budaya mampu menghindarkan masyarakat dari radikalisme atau ekstremitas agama.

Kata kunci: media sosial, sastra, budaya, tesis, agama, radikalisme, ekstremitas

INTRODUCTION

In this globalization era in which almost all information is digitalized we are capable of accessing information quite easily. The internet with its facilities offered enables us to

know state of the art the relationship between religion and culture. Religion, threatened by its extremity and radicalism, and culture, including the works of literature, have to oppose, both factually and conceptually, each other quite frequently. An example of which we are able to easily recall is the case of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*. He was sentenced to death in absentia by Ayatollah Khomeini, the religious leader in Iran then. Such a Rushdie's novel is supposed to blaspheme Prophet Muhammad [1]. In Indonesia, there is a case of Ki Panji Kusmin's *Langit Makin Mendung* which is supposed to despise the Islamic teaching [2]. Such a case caused HB Jassin, the magazine editor, was imprisoned.

Considering such cases, we are likely to question the relationship between culture, in this case the works of literature, and religion, in this case extremity or radicalism, in Indonesia in this digital era. This question can be answered by collecting the data from the texts or essays found on the social media online. In so doing, the key words of culture, literature, religion, radicalism, and extremity can be used. To analyze the data collected, the academic writing proposed by Rodburg and the tutors at Harvard University is employed. According to World University Ranking 2020-21, Harvard University is the best university in the world [3].

In analyzing essays, the existence of thesis must be prioritized, especially in the academic writing's point of view. Actually, thesis is the most important part in the essay. Based on its thesis, we, the readers can comprehend the content or core of the whole essay in advance.

In discussing essay, we can say that all non-fictional writings which consist of some paragraphs can be included as essay. In this case, Kane states that essays can be about almost anything ... it would be a mistake to define it precisely. Here essay really will simply mean a short prose piece [4]. As a consequence, it is not a must for all essays found in this research to label themselves as essay.

METHOD

This research will not hypothesize the finding or the answer of the research question. This research belongs to descriptive-qualitative research. According to Hodder in Stake qualitative researchers use all kinds of data: numerical measurements, photographs, indirect observation, texting, for example; whatever clarifies the picture of what is going on. They review documents and gather artifacts [5].

The problems which will be answered are whether or not the thesis of the ten essays analyzed in accordance with the rule of academic writing provided by the Writing Center at Harvard University and whether or not these theses support the realization of harmonious relationship between culture (especially works of literature) and religion (especially matters related to religious tolerance). Data will be obtained from the ten essays. Stake states that observing Many qualitative researchers prefer observation data—information that can be seen directly by the researcher or heard or felt—to other kinds [5].

These essays are taken from various social media with the keywords of culture, religion, literature, radicalism, and extremity. In analyzing the essays, the rule provided by the Writing Center at Harvard University [6] is employed.

To obtain the essays, search machine provided by Google is used. By typing or entering the keywords of culture, religion, literature, radicalism, and extremity, many essays emerge. The researcher selects these essays by mainly considering their connectedness with the keywords. After selecting, there are ten essays which are considered have close relationship with the keywords of culture, religion, literature, radicalism, and extremity.

These ten essays chosen were published during the year of 2017 to 2020. Their length is between 214 to 1088 words. The rule of which the essays are analyzed is modified in order that it is capable of facilitating the researcher optimally.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

In doing research, there must be three entities, namely question or problem, data, and analysis or interpretation. According to Mack et al scientific research consists of an investigation that: seeks answers to a question, systematically uses a predefined set of procedures to answer the question, collects evidence, produces findings that were not determined in advance, produces findings that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study. Furthermore, she says that qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors, and social contexts of particular populations [7].

Data taken from the ten essays is put in the table in accordance with the date they were published. In so doing, the title, author, website, date, and number of words are provided in order that the readers are able to grasp the problem investigated.

Table 1: The Essays from which the Data Collected

No.	Title	Date	Words
01	Sastrawan: Karya Sastra dapat Menangkal Paham Radikal	<i>March 10, 2017</i>	214

	By: Yudha Manggala P. Putra		
https://republika.co.id/berita/nasional/daerah/17/03/10/omk5kh284-sastrawan-karya-sastra-dapat-menangkal-paham-radikal			
02	Sastra tangkal radikalisme dan terorisme By: <i>Redaksi</i>	<i>April 12, 2017</i>	270
https://www.ajnn.net/news/sastra-tangkal-radikalisme-dan-terorisme/index.html			
03	Kekuatan Sastra Bisa Cegah Paham Radikal dan Terorisme By: <i>Eka Yonavilbia</i>	<i>May 5, 2017</i>	402
https://www.riau.go.id/home/content/2017/05/05/6585-kekuatan-sastra-bisa-cegah-paham-radikal-dan			
04	Karya Sastra, Propaganda Anti Radikalisme dan Terorisme By: <i>Kominfo News</i>	<i>May 12, 2017</i>	297
https://bengkuluprov.go.id/karya-sastra-propaganda-anti-radikalisme-dan-terorisme/			
05	Gerakan Seniman Masuk Sekolah untuk kurangi ekstremitas By: <i>Ayu Prawitasari</i>	<i>July 25, 2017</i>	234
https://www.solopos.com/gerakan-seniman-masuk-sekolah-untuk-kurangi-ekstremitas-836549			
06	Membangun Generasi Melek Sastra By: <i>Hamidulloh Ibda</i>	<u>April 16, 2018</u>	943
https://mediaindonesia.com/opini/155334/membangun-generasi-melek-sastra			
07	Teladan Moralitas Sosial dan Kepemimpinan By: <i>Yunus Supanto</i>	<i>November 21, 2018</i>	1088
https://www.harianbhirawa.co.id/teladan-moralitas-sosial-dan-kepemimpinan/			
08	Ilmuwan dan Agamawan Harus Jadi Pencerah By: <i>Fuji Eka Permana & Agung Sasongko</i>	<i>June 23, 2019</i>	375
https://republika.co.id/berita/ptjpci313/ilmuwan-dan-agamawan-harus-jadi-pencerah			
09	Menangkal Radikalisme Lewat Kesenian By: <i>Astri Yuanasari & Friska Kalia</i>	<i>December 11, 2019</i>	637
https://kbr.id/berita/12-2019/menangkal_radikalisme_lewat_kesenian/101625.html			
10	Melawan Ekstremitas: Jangan Jadi Setan yang Membisu	<i>November 15, 2020</i>	798

By:		
<i>Esthi Maharani</i>		
https://www.republika.co.id/berita/qjtm69318/melawan-ekstremitas-jangan-jadi-setan-yang-membisu		

Before examining the essays, caveat from the Writing Center at Harvard University is comprehended first. The comprehension of caveat is done by examining one by one the ten caveats.

Table 2: Caveats for Writing Effective Thesis

No.	Caveats of the Writing Center at Harvard University	check	
		y	n
01	An effective thesis cannot be answered with a simple "yes" or "no."		
02	A thesis is not a topic; nor is it a fact; nor is it an opinion.		
03	It should tell what you plan to argue, and it should "telegraph" how you plan to argue—that is, what particular support for your claim is going where in your essay.		
04	Every argument has a counterargument. If yours doesn't, then it's not an argument—it may be a fact, or an opinion, but it is not an argument.		
05	A good, standard place for your thesis statement is at the end of an introductory paragraph, especially in shorter (5-15 page) essays.		
06	A thesis is never a question.		
07	A thesis is never a list.		
08	A thesis should never be vague, combative or confrontational.		
09	An effective thesis has a definable, arguable claim.		
10	A thesis should be as clear and specific as possible.		

The caveat examination is needed in order that the research facilitates the readers to know well the process of conducting this research before knowing the findings, especially the relationship between culture (including the works of literature) and religion (including matters dealing with radicalism and extremity).

Academic writing can also be called paper or essay. Moreover, essay can represent various kinds of text. It means that text whose paragraph is more than one and conveys one single idea can be called essay. However, essay usually has a certain characteristic, namely consisting of introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.

Essays in social media which convey idea related to culture, religion, literature, radicalism, and extremity can be found easily by using the Google search machine. By entering or typing these keywords, the researcher found several essays, selected them, and chose ten essays as the data.

Thesis and the importance of thesis are often discussed in the textbooks of academic writing. The term of thesis is sometimes used differently, likewise in other disciplines. It means that the experts of academic writing sometimes have different term for thesis. Besides, in defining what thesis is, the experts of academic writing define it somewhat differently. According to Whitaker the thesis statement is the most important sentence in your paper. Furthermore, she says that the thesis statement is not a fact nor a question, but your view of the topic and what you want to say about it [8].

In this research, the researcher takes the definition from the Writing Center at Harvard University. The reason why he uses such a definition is that first Harvard University is one of the ten best universities in the world. Secondly, the rule or guidance of writing thesis from such a university is easily accessed.

The Writing Center at Harvard University provides us not only with the caveat but also with its examples. These examples enable the researcher to analyze the essays more easily. The examples of thesis, both less acceptable thesis and more acceptable one, are as follows.

Table 3: The Examples of Caveats

No.	Examples	Thesis		Reason
		pos	neg	
01	Reasons for the fall of communism		V	topic
02	Communism collapsed in Eastern Europe		V	fact
03	The fall of communism is the best thing that ever happened in Europe		V	opinion
04	Michael Dukakis lost the 1988 presidential election because he failed to campaign vigorously after the Democratic National Convention.		V	counter-argument
05	While Dukakis' "soft-on-crime" image hurt his chances in the 1988 election, his failure to campaign vigorously after the Democratic National Convention bore a greater responsibility for his defeat.	V		counter-argument
06	For political, economic, social and cultural reasons, communism collapsed in Eastern Europe		V	tension
07	Communism collapsed in Eastern Europe because		V	ineffective

	communism is evil.			
08	While cultural forces contributed to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, the disintegration of economies played the key role in driving its decline	V		effective
09	Communism collapsed due to societal discontent.		V	general
10	Communism collapsed in Eastern Europe because of the ruling elite's inability to address the economic concerns of the people	V		powerful

The caveat and its examples above are used to analyze essays written in Indonesian, so the more acceptable theses are translated into Indonesian.

Table 4: The Application of Caveats for Indonesian

Original Text	Literal translation	Free Translation
While Dukakis' "soft-on-crime" image hurt his chances in the 1988 election, his failure to campaign vigorously after the Democratic National Convention bore a greater responsibility for his defeat.	Sementara kesan "lemah menghadapi kejahatan" yang melekat pada Dukakis mengganjal kesempatannya pada pemilu tahun 1988, kegagalannya berkampanye dengan segenap kemampuannya setelah Konvensi Nasional Demokratis lebih banyak bertanggungjawab atas kekalahannya.	Bukan hanya kesan "lemah menghadapi kejahatan" yang melekat pada Dukakis mengganjal kesempatannya pada pemilu tahun 1988, tetapi lebih karena kegagalannya berkampanye dengan segenap kemampuannya setelah Konvensi Nasional Demokratis lebih banyak bertanggungjawab atas kekalahannya.
While cultural forces contributed to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, the disintegration of economies played the key role in driving its decline.	Sementara kekuatan budaya berkontribusi pada tumbangnya komunisme di Eropa Timur, keruntuhan ekonomi memainkan peranan kunci pada penyebab kejatuhannya.	Bukan hanya kekuatan budaya berkontribusi pada tumbangnya komunisme di Eropa Timur, tetapi lebih karena keruntuhan ekonomi memainkan peranan kunci pada penyebab kejatuhannya.
Communism collapsed in Eastern Europe because of the ruling elite's inability to address the economic concerns of the people.	Komunisme tumbang di Eropa Timur disebabkan oleh ketidakmampuan elit penguasa untuk berurusan dengan keprihatinan ekonomi rakyat.	Komunisme tumbang di Eropa Timur karena ketidakmampuan elit penguasa untuk berurusan dengan keprihatinan ekonomi rakyat.

The word of *karena* (meaning 'because') is intentionally written in order that it can clarify the problem, namely in the examples the word *because* is not always stated explicitly.

After examining the ten essays, the researcher found that the thesis of the ten essays is not always found in the last sentence of the first paragraph. Instead, it can be found in the first and second paragraphs, and it cannot always be found in the last sentence.

After reading comprehensively, by emphasizing on the first paragraph, the researcher shows the thesis found on the following table.

Table 5: The Theses of the Ten Essays Found

No.	Judul	Penulis	Thesis
01	Sastrawan: Karya Sastra Dapat Menangkal Paham Radikal	Yudha Manggala P. Putra	Sastrawan Joko Pinurbo menilai <u>karya sastra</u> dapat dijadikan sebagai alat penangkal bagi seseorang, agar mereka terhindar dari paham radikal dan aksi terorisme
02	Sastra tangkal radikalisme dan terorisme	Redaksi	Puisi memberi penghargaan kepada manusia, menyerukan kepada perdamaian

			dan memberi kebebasan yang luas dalam keberagaman.
03	Kekuatan Sastra Bisa Cegah Paham Radikal dan Terorisme	Eka Yonavilbia	Oleh sebab itu, sastra sudah lebih dulu menjadi propaganda anti radikalisme dan terorisme
04	Karya Sastra, Propaganda Anti Radikalisme dan Terorisme	I. KOMINFO NEWS	Keindahan sastra juga bisa memberikan pengaruh positif, sebagai jalan damai mencegah paham radikal yang menjadi sumber terorisme
05	Gerakan Seniman Masuk Sekolah untuk kurangi ekstremitas	Ayu Prawitasari	Memasuki tahun ketiga, gerakan ini diselenggarakan untuk memperkuat pendidikan karakter di sekolah
06	Membangun Generasi Melek Sastra	Hamidulloh Ibda	Jangankan melek sastra dan berbudaya, generasi muda yang berkata-kata halus saja mulai langka.
07	Teladan Moralitas Sosial dan Kepemimpinan	Yunus Supanto	Keagungan akhlaq (moral) Kanjeng Nabi SAW dikisahkan dalam biografi oleh ahli dari berbagai bangsa, Arab hingga Eropa, yang muslim maupun non-muslim.
08	Ilmuwan dan Agamawan Harus Jadi Pencerah	Fuji Eka Permana & Agung Sasangko	Seperti ilmuwan dan agamawan Muslim terdahulu yang karyanya memberikan kontribusi besar terhadap kemanusiaan.
09	Menangkal Radikalisme Lewat Kesenian	Astri Yuanasari & Friska Kalia	Kata Doddie, gerakan ini menggambarkan bagaimana seharusnya para pendakwah dan aktivis toleransi menyampaikan pesan damai di tengah-tengah masyarakat.
10	Melawan Ekstremitas: Jangan Jadi Setan yang Membisu	Esthi Maharani	Salah satunya Imam besar yang juga ulama paling senior di Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, yang meminta agar setiap orang berhenti menggambarkan terorisme sebagai Islam.

In order to clarify the problem, the relationship between culture (more specifically literature) and religion (more specifically morality) can be described as follows.

Table 6: The Tendency of Main Idea to the Relationship

No	Thesis	Relationship	
		pos	neg
01	Sastrawan Joko Pinurbo menilai karya sastra dapat dijadikan sebagai alat penangkal bagi seseorang, agar mereka terhindar dari paham radikal dan aksi terorisme	√	
02	Puisi memberi penghargaan kepada manusia, menyerukan kepada perdamaian dan memberi kebebasan yang luas dalam keberagaman.	√	
03	Oleh sebab itu, sastra sudah lebih dulu menjadi propaganda anti radikalisme dan terorisme	√	
04	Keindahan sastra juga bisa memberikan pengaruh positif, sebagai jalan damai mencegah paham radikal yang menjadi sumber terorisme	√	
05	Memasuki tahun ketiga, gerakan ini diselenggarakan untuk memperkuat pendidikan karakter di sekolah	√	
06	Jangankan melek sastra dan berbudaya, generasi muda yang berkata-kata halus saja mulai langka.	√	
07	Keagungan akhlaq (moral) Kanjeng Nabi SAW dikisahkan dalam biografi oleh ahli dari berbagai bangsa, Arab hingga Eropa, yang muslim maupun non-muslim.	√	

08	Seperti <u>ilmuwan</u> dan agamawan Muslim terdahulu yang karyanya memberikan kontribusi besar terhadap kemanusiaan.	V	
09	Kata Doddie, gerakan ini menggambarkan bagaimana seharusnya para pendakwah dan aktivis toleransi menyampaikan pesan damai di tengah-tengah masyarakat.	V	
10	Salah satunya Imam besar yang juga ulama paling senior di Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, yang meminta agar setiap orang berhenti menggambarkan terorisme sebagai Islam.	V	

As a way to clarify the difference of thesis, namely whether or not the thesis is fact, opinion, or argument, the following table describes such difference.

Table 7: Further Analysis of Fact, Opinion, and Argument

No	Thesis	Fact/Opinion	Argument
01	Sastrawan Joko Pinurbo menilai <u>karya sastra</u> dapat dijadikan sebagai alat penangkal bagi seseorang, agar mereka terhindar dari paham radikal dan aksi terorisme	Fact	Karya sastra, menurut Joko Pinurbo, dapat dijadikan sebagai alat penangkal bagi seseorang, karena karya sastra dapat menghindarkan seseorang dari paham radikal dan aksi terorisme.
02	Puisi memberi penghargaan kepada manusia, menyerukan kepada perdamaian dan memberi kebebasan yang luas dalam keberagaman.	Fact	Puisi memberi penghargaan kepada manusia, karena karya sastra itu menyerukan kepada perdamaian dan memberi kebebasan yang luas dalam keberagaman.
03	Oleh sebab itu, sastra sudah lebih dulu menjadi propaganda anti radikalisme dan terorisme	Opinion	Sudah sejak lama sastra dijadikan propaganda anti radikalisme dan terorisme karena sastra mampu mencegah radikalisme dan terorisme.
04	Keindahan sastra juga bisa memberikan pengaruh positif, sebagai jalan damai mencegah paham radikal yang menjadi sumber terorisme	fact	Sastra bisa memberikan pengaruh positif dan bisa menjadi jalan damai untuk mencegah paham radikal yang menjadi sumber terorisme karena keindahannya.
05	Memasuki tahun ketiga, gerakan ini diselenggarakan untuk memperkuat pendidikan karakter di sekolah	opinion	Gerakan seniman masuk sekolah, yang sudah memasuki tahun ketiga, diselenggarakan karena dapat memperkuat pendidikan karakter bagi anak didik di sekolah.
06	Jangankan melek sastra dan berbudaya, generasi muda yang berkata-kata halus saja mulai langka.	opinion	Memiliki generasi muda yang melek sastra dan berbudaya menjadi tujuan kita bersama, karena generasi muda yang mau dan mampu berkata-kata halus mulai langka.
07	Keagungan akhlaq (moral) Kanjeng Nabi SAW dikisahkan dalam biografi oleh ahli dari berbagai bangsa, Arab hingga Eropa, yang muslim maupun non-muslim.	opinion	Keagungan akhlaq atau moral Nabi sudah banyak diketahui karena telah dikisahkan oleh ahli dari berbagai bangsa, Arab hingga Eropa, yang muslim maupun non-muslim.
08	Seperti <u>ilmuwan</u> dan agamawan Muslim terdahulu yang karyanya memberikan kontribusi besar terhadap kemanusiaan.	Fact	<u>Ilmuwan</u> dan agamawan yang karyanya merendahkan kemanusiaan menjadi keprihatinan kita bersama, karena ilmuwan dan agamawan Muslim terdahulu karyanya memberikan kontribusi besar terhadap kemanusiaan,
09	Kata Doddie, gerakan ini menggambarkan bagaimana seharusnya para pendakwah dan aktivis toleransi menyampaikan pesan damai di tengah-tengah masyarakat.	fact	Gerakan dalam tarian Ronggeng Bugis dapat menginspirasi para pendakwah karena gerakan tarian itu menggambarkan bagaimana seharusnya para pendakwah dan aktivis toleransi menyampaikan pesan damai di tengah-tengah masyarakat.
10	Salah satunya Imam besar yang juga ulama paling senior di Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, yang meminta agar setiap orang berhenti menggambarkan terorisme sebagai Islam.	fact	Para imam besar dan ulama meminta agar setiap orang berhenti menggambarkan terorisme sebagai Islam karena penggambaran itu salah dan harus dihentikan.

As described above, it is quite clear that these theses constitute 60% of fact and 40% of opinion. Beside examining thesis, the researcher by all means examined the content of essays comprehensively to check the suitability of essay with its thesis.

The substantial findings which are found by analyzing the ten essays using academic writing's point of view is that not all essays provide the readers with the appropriate thesis. It is, in spite of being considered the most important part of an essay, written incompletely. As a consequence, the readers are not encouraged or motivated to know the whole content of essay comprehensively. The other substantial finding is the relationship between culture (more specifically literature) and religion (more specifically extremity). The relationship between culture and religion of the ten essays is positively described. It means that radicalism and extremity can be eliminated, or at least can be reduced, if culture and religion can walk together hand in hand.

CONCLUSION

The relationship between religion and culture is frequently not very harmonious. In such a relationship, the duty of religion is possibly to straightened culture which tends to deviate from the norm of religion. On the other hand, the activists of cultural organizations worry the extinction of local wisdoms. These wisdoms are likely to be changed by wisdoms from foreign countries. The social matters which are very potential to be human catastrophe must be anticipated by using the latest information technology in the form of social media.

In this digital technology era, the relationship between religion and culture has been able to be accessed more easily recently by using social media. Nowadays, the information related to radicalism and terrorism can be easily found in social media. By using the Google search machine and typing the keywords of religion, culture, literature, radicalism, and extremity, the researcher found ten essays which are closely related to the keywords. These essays, which were published during the year of 2017 to 2020, were analyzed by using the academic writing proposed by the Writing Center at Harvard University.

By analyzing the ten essays, the researcher found that these essays actually have thesis. However, these theses are not written by using academic writing's consideration. In fact, these theses are written implicitly rather than explicitly. The other finding is that the theses are not argument but either fact or opinion. As a consequence, these theses are not good ones according to the academic writing's point of view.

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