



Pseudo-Reality from the Context of Reader-Author Relationship Through Wattpad Comments Section: A Simulation Theory from Jean Baudrillard

(Realitas Semu dalam Konteks Kedekatan Pembaca dan Pengarang pada Kolom Komentar Wattpad: Teori Simulasi Jean Baudrillard)

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Abstract: The development and issues within the Wattpad platform require research on the pseudo-reality in virtual communication between its readers and author. The pseudo-reality can help determine the communication type in the comments section: positive or negative. Therefore, this research can determine to what extent readers can accept the pseudo-reality that might occur during the interaction between them and the author. This research describes the pseudo-reality in the communication between the readers and author on the Wattpad platform by using the descriptive qualitative method based on a theory by Jean Baudrillard. The data source is the communication record between readers and author in BYBcool's comments section of cyber fiction entitled *Lost World*, *Zystrome: The Exordium Outsider*, *El Libro*, dan *Outsider* by Rania Thahirah. Data collection is in the form of chat records between readers and authors that contain pseudo-reality. The steps taken in data collection include data selection, reading the data collection, documenting data collection, designing the research instrument, inserting data into the data capture table, and coding it. The data analysis step in this research comprises describing and interpreting data inductively, simultaneous data collection, and analyzing data using a particular content analysis technique before finally drawing a conclusion. The research result revealed the existence of pseudo-reality in the Wattpad comment section. The author's responses were a manipulation attempt to create a good image, show concern over the readers and broad insight and incredible ideas, and get plenty of fans. Simultaneously, the author created pseudo-reality by choosing neutral words to avoid potential conflicts, responding to readers' comments accordingly, and using appropriate emoticons and emojis with the most suitable expression. Good communication is essential for authors to build a close relationship with their readers.

Keywords communication, readers, author, pseudo-reality, wattpad

Abstrak: Perkembangan dan persoalan di seputar platform sastra siber memerlukan penelitian terkait realitas semu dalam komunikasi virtual antara pembaca dan pengarang dalam platform wattpad. Hal ini dikarenakan realitas semu dapat membantu menjelaskan apakah komunikasi di kolom komentar cenderung positif atau negatif. Penelitian ini dapat menyelidiki sejauh mana pembaca menerima realitas semu yang mungkin dibuat oleh pengarang dalam interaksi mereka. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mendeskripsikan realitas semu dalam komunikasi antara pengarang dan pembaca dalam platform wattpad. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Teori yang digunakan adalah teori Jean Baudrillard. Sumber data berupa percakapan antara pembaca dan pengarang pada kolom komentar wattpad dalam akun BYBcool pada karya fiksi siber yang berjudul *Lost World* karya Rania Thahirah. Data berupa percakapan antara pembaca dan pengarang dalam akun BYBcool pada karya fiksi siber yang berjudul *Lost World* karya Rania Thahirah. Langkah dalam pengumpulan data adalah memilih sumber data, menentukan teknik dokumentasi dalam pengumpulan data, merancang instrumen penelitian, serta memasukkan data ke dalam tabel penjaring data dan melakukan pengkodean data. Langkah analisis data berupa analisis dalam bentuk induktif, menganalisis disertai dengan pengumpulan data secara simultan, menganalisis sambil kembali ke tahapan pengumpulan data, menganalisis data dengan membacanya berulang kali, proses eklektik, dan mendeskripsikan, menginterpretasikan data, dan menarik kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan adanya realitas semu dalam kolom komentar wattpad. Komentar yang

disampaikan oleh pengarang merupakan respon terhadap karya sastra, sementara komentar yang disampaikan pengarang merupakan tanggapan atas respon pembaca yang kadang menggunakan emotikon, tanda baca, dan pilihan kata yang dinilai sesuai konteks dan menunjukkan adanya realitas semu. Pengarang menanggapi komentar pembaca dengan gaya yang santai, menciptakan suasana yang dekat dengan pembaca, dan menghadirkan cerita yang seolah nyata dengan cara mengaitkannya dengan kehidupan. Komunikasi yang baik perlu diciptakan oleh pengarang agar lebih dekat dengan pembaca.

Kata Kunci	komunikasi, pembaca, pengarang, realitas semu, watsapp
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INTRODUCTION

Cyberfiction uses technology and the Internet to produce, distribute, and consume. This type of fiction has proven the advancement of technology where the Internet and high-technology computation are significant for humans (Murtiningsih, 2021). The Internet has changed how authors and readers access information; it provides a global platform for authors to publish their works easily, enables direct interaction between authors and readers through comments sections, feedback, and discussion forums, and inspires authors to produce new works. Additionally, the Internet also allows collaboration among authors despite geographical situations. Further, the advanced computational program develops digital literature, such as interactive stories and generative literature, combining literature texts with visual, audio, and video multimedia elements. Technology advancement also inspires cyberfiction to present technology-related ideas, such as virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and cyborgs, showing the vague boundary between physical and digital worlds (Elstermann, 2023). Cyberfiction is available in various forms: novels, short stories, and comics.

Internet and technology advance rapidly, and so does the cyber fiction genre. Nevertheless, this advancement creates issues, including the vague boundary between facts and fiction (Gretter et al., 2017), particularly in dialogs between authors and readers of cyber fiction. In the digital world, authors and readers can easily hide their identities using fake names or other advanced disguising techniques, which makes it difficult to differentiate between the original and fake authors. Authors in cyber fiction can create images online and post fake photos to show dream life or create a different persona than their original identity. Most cyber fiction presents a combination of real and virtual lives. Readers can relate the stories to real life and discuss them with the author. Thus, the story becomes more real and as if it occurs in real life. This situation can create confusion between what is real and what is not, resulting from online interaction. Thus, the easy access to information and massive hoaxes on the Internet make it difficult to differentiate between the real and fake (Gunawan & Barito, 2021; Muwaffaq & Piantari, 2022). Communication between readers and authors in the comments section of several cyberfiction platforms often needs help to differentiate whether it is real. Sometimes, the interaction attempts to relate the story with some real-life experiences.

Another issue adding to this challenge is the Internet's effect on the traditional publication industry. Independent publishers that now have been in trend cause readers difficulty in finding qualified cyberfiction products as there are many underqualified products (Pramatanti, 2019). A qualified cyberfiction must have deep content, firm intention, and clear objectives that might contain critics on the effect of technology and the internet on society and culture. Additionally, a qualified cyberfiction often describes innovation and creativity in determining topics and writing style and forms. Its author must master good writing skills, have authentic ideas, and be bold in presenting them. The author also must be able to use and combine interactive elements wisely, such as visual or audio, and to build good interaction with the readers.

Another issue related to cyberfiction is the content's lack of accountability due to the anonymity the Internet provides to all users (Cover, 2023). This situation may lead to the spread of misinformation and harmful ideas. Lastly, the development of technology and the Internet can cause the homogeneity of cyberfiction products (Ibrahim & Akhmad, 2014). Besides contributing to the development of cyberfiction, the advancement of the Internet and technology also results in several challenges for authors, publishers, and readers.

One of the challenges that include authors, publishers, and readers is the change in consumer behavior that affects the publishing industry, as currently, the product only sometimes comes in the form of printed work, and bookstores are no longer the main distribution chain. With the ease of self-publishing and the emergence of online publishers, there is a considerable gap for unqualified products on the market. The Internet makes product distribution possible for free through digital copies. Therefore, authors and publishers must respond to this accordingly to avoid further loss. Readers can comment directly on the story, positively and negatively. In the digital era, authors and readers often share personal information online, a challenging situation for data privacy and security. The Internet is prone to the distribution of literature work plagiarism. Some people are concerned that the internet and technological advancement can also threaten literacy by reducing the reading interest in printed books. The Internet can become a reference for readers seeking recommendations for literature works.

In the online era, plenty of cyber fiction platforms have emerged, including Wattpad, which has a high rate and number of readers. Wattpad is a website and online application that provides users with the opportunity to publish their novels and read other people's work as well (Nurkhodijah et al., 2020). Wattpad first came out in 2006 and has developed into one of the most prominent online reading and writing communities in the world, with millions of users registered. Wattpad users can publish stories in various genres and read feedback from readers in the comments section. This platform also allows its users, readers, and authors to communicate through the comments and replies on the work they engage in; thus, it establishes a sense of closeness and togetherness among them (Merawati & Suwartini, 2019).

Wattpad users welcome this platform positively as, according to them, Wattpad has easy access, allows them to connect with author-reader communities, and provides them with feasibility and feedback for the works. Plenty of users have been successful with their work through Wattpad; some of them get many followers, and some others are even able to publish their work (Mawardi, 2018). One of the most successful Wattpad fictions is *KKN di Desa Penari* (an Indonesian fiction entitled Community Service at the Dancer Village), which gained extra success as a movie that drew in many viewers (Lutfi et al., 2019). Nevertheless, not all users have a positive experience using Wattpad. Some criticize the platform for being unable to control the quality of stories being published; critics of stories with lousy quality are available in the comments section (Yusanta & Wati, 2020). Therefore, as in other online platforms, Wattpad has challenges and potential issues to address (Kardiansyah, 2019).

The comments section in Wattpad functions as a medium for readers and authors to interact and share ideas, opinions, and feedback. This section is available on the bottom menu bar of each published story, allowing readers to leave comments, questions, and feedback for the author. Simultaneously, the author can respond to the comments and create a dialog with the readers. The communication can contain anything about the writing process, context suggestions for a particular story element, or feedback and criticism.

Thus, the comments section is a medium to foster involvement and interaction between readers and authors in Wattpad (Saputri, 2019). This section is significant for authors to check on feedback, build communities, and involve the readers. On the other hand, readers can use the comments section to ask questions, share opinions and ideas, and discuss the story with other readers. Nevertheless, the comments section also contains some opposing sides. Therefore, the platform needs to establish a set of community rules to ensure that all interactions in the comments section are productive, based on the prevailing norms, and respectful.

The issue within the comments section in Wattpad is the need for more qualified communication. Readers can persuade the authors to view and develop their works. Nevertheless, readers frequently ask about or discuss unnecessary issues. The comments section open to the public is also prone to bullying, verbal abuse, or pseudo-reality that the author intentionally builds. The comments section often becomes the center of the fans' community to share their interest and comments. The development of Wattpad as a leading online platform for literature works also creates the challenge to contribute to growing the online literary culture, including its effect on writing trends, reading, and publication.

Previous research about comments on Wattpad focused on several interaction aspects that occurred on the platform, such as the effect of feedback over the writing process (Nurjanah, 2020; Nurhidayah & Setiawan, 2019) and how comment section fosters involvement and build community between readers and authors (Saputri, 2019). The comments section can also establish a sense of belonging and social support for authors. Several studies have investigated natural language processing and how technology analyzes comments on Wattpad (Nurhafida & Sembiring, 2022), including how it works in the production, distribution, and consumption of cyber literature (Nugraha & Suyitno, 2020). These studies aim to understand the linguistic characteristics of comment styles and develop an automatic tool to analyze and summarize the comments.

A previous study also viewed comments as social support (Apriyani, 2020); feedback in the comments section can develop writing skills (Putri, 2019), and build closeness between authors and readers (Apriyani, 2020). Another study analyzed the effect of authors' responses on the involvement and readers' satisfaction in reading their literary works (Dewi et al., 2022). In general, the previous studies found that the readers' acceptance and authors' responses in Wattpad can contribute positively to the work process and improve the involvement between authors and readers. Nevertheless, authors must manage their responses wisely and ensure they are polite and decent. Further, another study investigated the negative aspects of the comments section in Wattpad, the result of which included the emergence of cyberbullying and harassment. As with other online media, the comments section at Wattpad can produce negativity and toxicity; thus, it is significant for the platform to establish a set of tools and community guides to ensure that communication there is proper and decent (Kelley, 2021).

A further study on communication between readers and authors in the comments section is significant for several reasons. The first is the need for an in-depth understanding of pseudo-reality in the interaction between authors and readers on Wattpad using the comments section. The understanding of pseudo-reality is helpful for readers to give comments wisely and adequately. The rapid development of cyber fiction aligns with technological advancement. Readers can access any cyberfiction online. With the active involvement of readers in cyber fiction, they can increase users' experience in reading and story feasibility. Therefore, the internet has strengthened access to literature and its circulation worldwide, which is significant to pay attention to (Claesson et al., 2020). In line with that, investigating the readers' acceptance and how they understand the development of online literature is essential.

The second reason is that research on the effect of feedback during creating a work on Wattpad can improve the quality of the story and the writer's skill in writing (Cinthya & Wati, 2020). This advantage can benefit the new writers who need more experience or feedback. The third reason is that the authors' response can describe their involvement in readers' satisfaction and establish a community with the readers. This insight can increase the interaction quality between readers and authors on Wattpad and foster a more positive community on Wattpad.

Lastly, research on the negative aspects of reader-author interaction can explain about cybercrime that might occur on the platform (Saxena, 2018), ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for all users. In short, further research on readers' acceptance and author responses on Wattpad can provide valuable insight to improve the reading and writing experience for users, foster a positive community, and overcome negative behavior.

Based on the previous studies, the pseudo-reality found in the Wattpad comments section is significant enough to undergo further research. According to Baudrillard, the pseudo-reality refers to the shift to images, marks, and representation of reality (Baudrillard, 2005). Pseudo-reality is a situation where it is difficult to differentiate between a simulated reality/ representation from media, technology, or even culture (Christanti et al., 2021). In pseudo-reality, one might experience or see something that feels real, but in reality, it is only a simulation result. For example, when watching a movie, a person might draw himself in the narration or atmosphere created by the author/ creator. However, the viewer realizes that it is a mere simulation effect. Pseudo-reality is a form of simulation that replaces reality with a representation or image that represents reality. This effect results in a condition where society no longer has control or authority over reality (Holmes, 1997). Baudrillard believes that in modern life, society lives in a simulation world where symbols and images have replaced reality. Meanwhile, simulation is closely related to *simulacrum*.

Simulacrum is a representation that no longer has reference to real life. In other words, a *simulacrum* is an image or symbol that is very strong and dominant that society is difficult to realize; it is a mere representation of a real thing. Baudrillard proposes that society often lives in a world of *simulacrum*, such as celebrity images, brands, or popular symbols, which become more important than the reality they represent. *Simulacrum* makes it challenging to differentiate between the natural world and its representation.

A simultaneous simulation can result in hyperreality, a stage where simulation and *simulacrum* become more robust than reality. People start to consider images and symbols more accurate than the physical realistic. For example, one can build a self-image on social media, where it does not always represent reality, and other people might view that as a reality.

According to Baudrillard, pseudo-reality results in complex moral and ethical issues, as people no longer can differentiate between reality and fiction, truth and lies, real life and virtual (Perry, 2012). Therefore, Baudrillard proposed the significance of reflection and criticism in understanding the pseudo-reality so that society is free from the trap of a false world and loses its genuine connection with real life (Baudrillard, 2008).

In the Wattpad comments section, pseudo-reality problems can occur if there is too strong an attachment between readers and the stories or fictional characters they read; therefore, it is difficult to differentiate between reality and imagination. Additionally, cyber novels allow readers to interact with characters or stories, for example, through online comments or discussion forums. The reader's emotional engagement can be more robust because the reader feels more connected to the character or story. Additionally, there is the potential to introduce visual elements that can help readers imagine the characters and story worlds in cyber fiction, which makes the characters look natural and strengthens the feeling of pseudo-reality.

Readers can feel a strong involvement in the fictional world presented in the story, and it is difficult to detach when they have finished reading. Moreover, when readers engage in conversations with authors in Wattpad comments, the pseudo-reality can become stronger because they interact with the person who created the fictional world. Therefore, readers need to understand the boundaries between reality and pseudo-reality (Ritzer, 2010; Kushendrawati, 2011), and be open to the virtual or fictional world presented in technology or media. As technology users, people must remain aware that technology is only a tool (Baudrillard, 2018).

Another potential problem is when readers perceive characters or situations in the story as actual reality and project their feelings and actions onto the fictional world. This situation can result in exaggerated or unhealthy reactions to the story or characters, and it can be challenging to differentiate between the feelings produced by the story and the feelings that occur in real life. Therefore, it is essential for readers to remain aware of the boundaries between reality and fiction and to treat the world of fiction as an experience separate from real life. Apart from that, readers must also understand that the author only creates a fictional world as entertainment or creative reflection and not as an actual reality. Authors must also understand that pseudo-reality can influence the way readers view the world of fiction, and authors must also be responsible for creating a fictional world

that is healthy and does not harm readers. Authors must understand the boundaries between reality and fiction and treat interactions with readers as an opportunity to communicate and learn from each other.

Based on the description above, this research aims to describe the pseudo-reality in communication between authors and readers on the Wattpad platform. Research on pseudo-reality in communication between authors and readers on the Wattpad platform is fundamental because it can provide a better understanding of how pseudo-reality influences communication and interactions between authors and readers on the platform. In addition, research on pseudo-reality can also provide insight into how the Wattpad platform can influence readers' perceptions of the world of fiction and how readers and authors interact with each other on the platform. This situation helps in the development of the Wattpad platform and provides a better view of how technology and media can influence the way society views the world.

Based on this research's objective, the final goal is to produce a complete description of how the pseudo-reality is constructed in the Wattpad comments section. This objective follows [Vána's \(2020\)](#) statement, which criticizes the primary approach in contemporary literary sociology, which views literary works as black boxes and focuses mainly on social interactions and institutional contexts. There is a need to develop a more comprehensive sociological approach to literature to view and analyze not only literary works but also relate them to the social context of readers and authors comprehensively ([Koolen et al., 2020](#)).

METHOD

This research is qualitative research that focuses on pseudo-reality in communication between readers and authors in the Wattpad comments section. Qualitative research is used to build meaning about a phenomenon. In this case, the phenomenon of pseudo-reality in virtual communication on the Wattpad platform. This research is based on the simulation theory proposed by Jean Baudrillard.

The data source used in this research is the comments section on the Wattpad platform. The research focuses on readers' and authors' comments to comment and respond to the literary works produced by cyber fiction authors. The researcher limited the research sources to the comments section of the BYBcool account in his work *Lost World*, *Zystrome: The Exordium Outsider*, *El Libro*, and *Oursider* by Rania Thahirah or with the account name BYBcool. The limitation is that in the comments section of these three works, there is communication between readers and authors, which contains pseudo-reality as a form of virtual cultural development. The pseudo-reality contained in the comments section appears in the discussions of stories that seem real, trivial things that readers ask the author, allegations of the existence of a pseudo-reality that the author deliberately built to build the author's image and get lots of readers, as well as the Wattpad platform which causes online literary culture issues, including its influence on writing, reading and publication trends.

The data in this research is in the form of sentences in conversations that show pseudo-reality, especially in readers' and authors' comments on the BYBcool account. The data collected by researchers must meet several criteria, including the comments selected from the comments section of stories whose authors use different identities outside their fictional world. Authors use different language and writing styles when communicating with readers in conversation columns. This style can create the feeling that the author speaks as themselves, not as a character in the story. In the comments section, the author can provide additional explanation, insight, or context about the story, characters, or plot. This action can help readers understand the story better and provide additional guidance that may be absent in the main narrative. The writer or reader should include the character's dialogue in the conversation column. In this way, they feel as if the characters in the fiction are real. This feeling creates a pseudo-reality between the reader and the character. Readers provide feedback, comments, or questions to the author about the stories they read. The pseudo-reality indicators in the comments section create a profound interaction between the author and the reader, where the reader feels more involved in the story and more connected to the author and characters.

The data collection steps taken were: 1) choose the Wattpad platform because this platform is one of the largest cyber fiction platforms with various story genres; 2) reading the data source carefully; 3) Researchers used documentation techniques in collecting data to see the pseudo-reality constructed by the author in the comment's section; 4) researchers designed research instruments in indicator tables and data capture tables to make it easier for researchers to collect, document, and group data; 5) researchers coded the data so that the data can be arranged systematically.

The following are the steps in analyzing and interpreting qualitative data carried out by researchers: 1) describing and interpreting research data; 2) directing the analysis in an inductive form and organizing the data according to the theory used and the formulation of the problem raised; 3) analyzing the data and continuing to collect data simultaneously; 4) after data collection was completed, the next stage was data analysis, with possibility to return to data collection stage for perfecting the result; 5) Analyzing the data by reading it repeatedly to develop understanding; 6) For document analysis, the researcher used the content analysis techniques; 7) drawing conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Wattpad is a cyber application that contains works of fiction. Using Wattpad, one can write prose fiction, edit it repeatedly, publish it, and distribute it. Readers can also access Wattpad freely because various facility features are provided that make it easy for readers to immediately read works they like or mark them to read at a later date. The Wattpad application also provides a comments section for readers and authors to chat, review works, and even discuss matters discussed in literary works. To find out what the Wattpad application is and how to use it, here is an explanation of how to access Wattpad. Wattpad is accessible on two devices, namely a device and a laptop. On mobile devices, users can access Wattpad by downloading it first via Google Play for Android and Apple Store for iOS. Meanwhile, for laptops, users can access Wattpad via the website www.wattpad.com.

Communicating with fellow Wattpad users is very easy to do. It is easy because there are several ways to communicate among readers and authors. The methods in question include sending private messages, distributing announcements, or replying to each other's comments. Readers can share their opinions about certain parts of the story. These opinions can be in the form of criticism or solutions that one wants to provide to the author through the comments section. This feature can indirectly connect with other authors and readers. Unlike announcements, comments have no limit per day. Unfortunately, each comment has a maximum of only 2000 characters. Both readers and authors can delete comments that have been given. Moreover, if an author does not want to see comments that readers leave for him, the author can also delete the comments he receives.

Pseudo-Reality in Foreign Terms Usages

As mentioned previously, on Wattpad, communication between authors and readers can be done freely. This condition means the closeness between the author and the reader has no boundaries. When a reader wants to respond to the author's work, he can upload his comments in the comments section provided by Wattpad. As in the following data, a reader asks about the naming of the characters given by the author as in the quotation in the following fiction.

"As my name suggests, Rebel, which means rebel, I am very, very rebellious. I like breaking the rules at my school. I am rebellious, and I love it" (Lost World Part 1 – Introduce, Rania Thahirah)

The name Rebel, which may feel foreign to the ears of the Indonesian people, is being questioned by readers. Readers are curious because there is one English word that is considered unique if used as someone's name, namely "Rebel." One of the comments eventually progressed to a conversation between the author and the reader, as in the data below.

- (1) Liizaa0076 : Rebel how should we pronounce that "Rebel/ribe/ribil"?
BYBcool : Like normal pronunciation. Rebel

A reader asked the author how to pronounce "Rebel" correctly. The author also answered that the pronunciation is, as usual, Rebel. Referring to the etymology, the correct pronunciation of Rebel

is Rêbêl= Rê (using open e taling in Javanese) and bêl (using e pepet in Javanese). In English, Rebel means Rebel. Therefore, correct and clear pronunciation is essential; otherwise, it can create misunderstandings. Even though reading a story aloud does not always occur, readers still recite it by heart.

Using English in the character's name can create a pseudo-reality. Pseudo-reality appears in the reader's false understanding if the reader does not have adequate understanding and knowledge. In cyberfiction, authors may include phrases or expressions in a foreign language to provide additional nuance or meaning. In the context of the data above, the author may intend to associate the character's name with his character as rebellious or stubborn. Regarding the impact of using foreign names or terms in cyberfiction, if readers do not understand the language, they may rely on context or their interpretation. This issue shows the importance of context and proper understanding in using foreign languages in literature, especially in the digital world where various readers can easily access texts with diverse language backgrounds.

However, authors can also give foreign names to characters to give an incredible impression because some Indonesian people like foreign terms or names (Arsanti & Setiana, 2020). The dialogue between the author and the reader regarding foreign names in the data above is a simulation. The simulation is characterized by using foreign names, which can create an excellent, modern, and contemporary impression. The questions the reader asks show that the reader needs help understanding how to read the name. This situation means the reader may need more knowledge of a foreign language.

Meanwhile, the author responded with the word "normal". The word "ordinary" refers to what has existed before or can also refer to the English dictionary as in the author's description of the character Rebel, which means Rebel. The author's response is a simulation to create the impression that the author is friendly, answering or responding to every question the reader has, or the author wants to create the impression that the author has more knowledge of a foreign language, or it could also be that the author is trying to build the image that he considers the reader's knowledge to be the same as his own.

Combining languages, between foreign languages and Indonesian is often encountered in everyday life. This language combination frequently happens in Wattpad fiction works. Several articles state that the younger generation likes to mix languages, both when writing and speaking (Aulia et al., 2019). Recently, there has been a hotly discussed issue, namely the mixed-up phenomenon of "South Jakarta children's languages." This phenomenon highlights the habit of young people who easily switch languages at one time. As in the quote above, in one paragraph, the author uses two languages, namely Indonesian and English. In choosing the actor's name, the author also used a foreign language. This name selection is also the highlight of (Walsh & Antoniak, 2021). In his article, it was stated that the responses submitted by readers highlighted the dull character of the story and identified the writing styles that often stand out, such as conversational language and slang. For this reason, computational methods and internet data are needed so that literary critics can capture various reader responses and criticize the impact of algorithmic culture on literary history.

Using two languages at once in writing fictional prose is carried out with specific objectives, including presenting cultural diversity. Sometimes, the author can use two languages at once to represent cultural diversity in the story. This language combination especially happens in stories with multicultural backgrounds or where the characters in the story have different cultural backgrounds (Sholehudin et al., 2020). By using two languages at once, the author can describe the language and cultural differences that exist between the characters. Apart from that, the use of two languages at the same time aims to increase the authenticity of the story. Sometimes, the author can use two languages simultaneously to show the story's authenticity (Putra et al., 2021). For example, suppose the story is set in a country where two official languages are spoken. In that case, the author can use both languages to increase the authenticity of the setting and characters in the story.

The author's use of two languages in prose fiction can help create a pseudo-reality in literary works. When an author uses a different or foreign language in his work, he can enrich the reading

experience by creating different nuances and connotations in the story. In this case, the author gives the impression that the story occurs in a different world or an unusual environment. This impression creates a pseudo-reality in literary works because it takes readers into an experience different from what they usually experience. Pseudo-reality is a concept that refers to world experiences that often appear to be imitations or imitations of actual reality. In literature, pseudo-reality can be achieved through irony, satire, and extravagant depictions (Ryan, 1999).

Using two languages can also show the complexity of reality in the story. The language characters use in a story can reveal much about their background, social, cultural, or worldview. A foreign or unusual language can be symbolic of a character's identity or the experiences they have had. This language combination can help create a reading experience that feels more hyperrealistic because it presents many complex layers of reality.

Pseudo-Reality in Cultural Difference

In the fiction *Zystrome: The Exordium* by BYBCool, vocabulary with double meanings was found, and readers commented on that. This situation can be seen in the data below.

"NAAAAH, that sounds bad. Shh, shh, shh." Java immediately interrupted, wagging his index finger, disapproving.

"Shut up!" Borneo shouted in what I assumed was their native language.

(*Zystrome: The Exordium* part 13 – Side Throne)

Borneo and Java are characters in the novel *Zystrome: The Exordium*. It is said that the two of them were young American-Indonesian twins. His father is of Sundanese and Javanese descent, while his mother is of Caucasian descent. Because of this, it is not surprising that Borneo and Java often say Indonesian words. Because the novel *Zystrome: The Exordium* is set in the United States when Borneo and Java speak Indonesian, it will be considered a foreign language by the other characters. *Bacot*, according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), is included in the rough variety, which means big mouth. Various articles state that backbiting is slang which has two meanings. The first meaning, *bacot*, is an abbreviation from the Javanese language, namely many *cocot*, which means many mouths.

Meanwhile, the second meaning, "*Bacot*," is an abbreviation from English, namely Bad Attitude Control of Tongue, which means controlling the lousy attitude of the tongue. In everyday life, Indonesian people often use the word *bacot* as an insult. Regardless of the meaning of backlash intended by the author, the author should not use words that lead to negative judgments. Wattpad readers have very diverse backgrounds, so some readers also suggest that Wattpad authors pay more attention to the quality of their writing, such as grammar and correct use of vocabulary (Tamrin & Basri, 2020).

- (2) KamalaAnanta : As if they understand Indonesia wkwk
BYBcool : 🤔🤔🤔

A reader with the account KamalaAnanta said that Borneo and Java only understand *bacot* as a curse in Indonesian. At the end of the sentence, the reader was amused by both of them and added the word *wkwk* (pronounced *weka-weka*). This word is unique and is often used as a symbol of laughter online for Indonesian netizens. The response given by Kamala Ananta was fascinating because she said that the word *bacot* is a typical Indonesian curse. For liberal critics, this response is certainly highly valued because liberal critics trust readers' ethical judgment (Ågerup, 2019).

Each country has a different online laughing symbol. For example, Thailand uses 55555 (the number 5 in Thai is pronounced *ha*) as a symbol for online laughter (Nisphi & Armanto, 2021). In Indonesia itself, not only *hahaha*, netizens also use *hahaha*, *hehehe*, and *xixixi*, as symbols for online laughter (Arsanti & Setiana, 2020). The author responded to the readers by using emoji 🤔 (laughing crookedly). This emoji has the official name Rolling on the Floor Laughing (ROFL), or if translated into Indonesian, it means laughing until you roll over. This emoji has a round yellow

shape accompanied by a broad smile, X-shaped eyes, and splashes of tears, and its position is tilted to the right as if it is about to fall to the floor because it is laughing so hard. ROFL emoji symbolizes uncontrollable laughter due to ridiculous actions.

In Jean Baudrillard's theory, pseudo-reality is formed through representations or simulations created by the media and the industrial world (Baudrillard, 1993). In this case, the use of online laughing symbols such as "wkwk" and the ROFL emoji in online conversations can be considered an example of pseudo-reality. These online laughing symbols and emojis are used to express emotions and feelings in online conversations but do not actually accurately reflect reality. Laughing out loud or even falling to the floor because laughing too hard may not always happen in real life. The use of online laughing symbols and emojis actually creates a pseudo-reality created by technology and popular culture.

The pseudo-reality that appears in the dialogue between the author and the reader above has an impact on the potential for the formation of simulacra in understanding. Simulacra may occur when someone misunderstands or misunderstands the meaning or use of the words "bacot" or "wkwk." This misunderstanding might happen considering the diversity of Wattpad readers, starting from the diversity of ages, educational backgrounds, families, and so on. This misunderstanding is an example of how pseudo-reality can affect understanding and communication in the digital world, especially when talking about words or symbols that have special meanings in certain online cultures.

In addition, the differences in online laughing symbols used by people from different countries can also be considered an example of pseudo-reality. The online laughing symbol used by people from each country can reflect the culture and characteristics of that society. Thus, people from one country do not necessarily understand the emojis of people from other countries. This finding is in accordance with the results of research conducted by Freedman (2019), which showed that if emojis still need to be known and used in the global world, it is unreadable. Emojis need to be used in conjunction with established modes of expression to avoid misunderstandings.

Currently, the use of emojis is considered more practical. Without having to use long sentences, authors can directly express their feelings and emotions just by using emojis. However, authors also need to pay attention to their use because many cases of using emojis are not appropriate to the context. Based on their function, emojis can be used to explain or support a perspective. However, emojis have the potential to be challenging due to the diverse backgrounds of users, including differences in age, gender, and culture. This finding emphasizes the importance of ensuring a shared understanding of emojis to avoid misunderstandings or miscommunication (Ghaban, 2022).

Apart from the quote above, the quote below also shows that Borneo and Java use Indonesian. In contrast to life in America, where a brother is addressed by a nickname, Java, as Borneo's little brother, still chooses to use the greeting Mas (older brother).

"Wow, heard that, Mas? They are seventeen years old and already modifying weapons. What do we do when we are seventeen?" said Java with energy full of sarcasm.

Borneo rolled his eyes, and he answered grimly. "We are the same." (Zystrome: The Exordium part 25 – Prisoners of War)

Excerpts from conversations between characters in the novel Zystrome: The Exordium give rise to readers' comments. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), mas has the meaning of a greeting for an older brother or a man who is considered older. Based on the family tree, the Javanese use of mas in Borneo is a normal thing to do. This call is because even though the two of them are the same age because they are twins, Borneo was born first.

- (3) yagirlnis : Seriously Jav? Mas?! It's funny that Java calls Borneo "Mas" 😂
BYBcool : For sure 😂

The use of *mas* that Java used to address his mischievous older brother, Borneo, has intrigued some people. A reader with an account called yagirlnis even asked the author questions. However, in the end, readers thought it was funny. At the end of the sentence, the reader adds an emoji 😂 (laughing with water droplets).

The emoji 😂 that Java added while using a greeting word *mas* to its mischievous older brother, Borneo, has intrigued some people. A reader with an account called yagirlnis even asked the author questions. However, in the end, readers thought it was funny. At the end of the sentence, the reader adds an emoji (laughing with water droplets).

The emoji (laughing with water droplets), which has the official name Face with Tears of Joy, is depicted as a round yellow shape accompanied by a broad smile, squinting eyes, and tears starting to come out. This emoji means laughing in amusement for a long time to the point of tears. This symbol is usually for expressing something funny, fun, and ridiculous.

Responding to the reader, the author answered confidently. This emoji is available at the end of the sentence; the author adds the phatic particle *dong*. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), *dong* means a word used after a word or sentence to sweeten or soften the meaning (Badan Pengembangan dan Pengembangan Bahasa, 2016). Typically, the word *dong* is used informally. One of its functions is to emphasize a sense of pride. The author is confident and proud that the use of the greeting *mas* was done deliberately. This greeting usage is a simulation created by the author to show the image of the author being close to readers, having a sense of pride in his work, which many people read, and it could also mean that the author wants to create the impression that the author is always happy to respond to readers' comments.

In the conversation between the author and readers in the Wattpad comments section, it can be seen that there is a pseudo-reality in the use of language and the emoticons used. A reader with an account called yagirlnis expressed surprise at the author's use of the word *mas* to call her mischievous sister, to which the author responded with the BYBcool account. The author's use of the word *mas* in this fiction can be considered a pseudo-reality. After all, even though it is common in Indonesia to call an older brother, the context of its use here is strange because the older brother does not look old at all, a person who is supposed to be mature or authoritative. Of course, this is also considered unreasonable because it happened in an American setting.

The author's response with the emoticon "yes, please" also shows the existence of pseudo-reality. The emoticons may be a virtual representation of actual feelings, which may not be as strong. In fact, the author may not have any particular feelings about the use of the word "mas." The use of these emoticons is because they are considered an appropriate response in the context of the conversation in the Wattpad comments section. One thing to pay attention to is the use of language and emoticons to respond to an event. Although the use of emoticons and choice of words may represent true feelings, these are only virtual representations of actual reality.

Pseudo-Reality in Knowledge Field

In the novel *Zystrome: The Exordium*, it is told that the school implemented a different educational policy since the nuclear war that occurred years before. So that students can learn essential skills in emergencies, the duration of study hours is staggered. Starting from grade 5 of elementary school to high school, students only have five hours of study a day. Meanwhile, for children aged five to nine years, they are given four hours to study. During this time, students not only learn regular academic subjects but are also taught essential survival skills for dealing with emergencies.

School is a place to gain knowledge and knowledge. At school, students are introduced to science, social sciences, and language. Apart from that, schools can also be a place to hone and master talents, even though the space provided is still relatively small when compared to institutions specializing in talent development courses. During its development, school policies continue to evolve, starting from assessment assessments to allocation of learning time.

- huplafish : I assume that math and social science will be reduced 😊😊 *party*
- BYBcool : Please not science. Especially after the nuclear war. They tend to learn more about it.
- (4) huplafish : Well... *No party then* but do you think we only need to learn about those things and none other(?)
- BYBcool : Just like what i have written here, they learn about survival skill shall there is another war, so they learn more and focus on their passion. So, I think it is quite balance.
- huplafish : Owh... I see 😬

The topic of education attracts the attention of the huplafish account. This account suspects that if meetings at school are shorter than they used to be, more subjects will be eliminated, such as Mathematics and Social Sciences. At the end of his conjecture, huplafish added an emoji 😊😊 and *party*, a word that comes from English and, when translated, means party.

Mathematics is synonymous with subjects that students dislike; the reason is that Mathematics is a complicated subject because it is always related to numbers. Meanwhile, Social Sciences (IPS) is synonymous with boring subjects because it is always related to memorization. Because of this, when huplafish suspected that Mathematics and Social Sciences would be eliminated, he put *party* he put *party* at the end of his sentence as a symbol of celebration.

Getting a response from readers, the author immediately denied it. He explained that the reader's assumptions were not accurate. Finally, the reader understands and understands the author's meaning. Not to be left behind, the reader with the huplafish account added emoji 😬. This emoji has the official name Face with Open Mouth. If translated, the meaning is an emoji with an open mouth. This emoji has round yellow visuals, wide-open eyes, and a rounded mouth. In general, the open-mouth emoji means feelings of surprise, amazement, or perhaps just understanding something.

In the conversation in the Wattpad comments section, it can be seen that there is a pseudo-reality related to the reader's views and understanding of school subjects. The use of the word party by the huplafish account shows his excitement over his suspicion that Mathematics and Social Sciences subjects are being reduced. In BYBcool's answer, it is also apparent that there is a pseudo-reality related to the understanding that students are more focused on their interests and learning to survive in a post-war situation. While this view may be accurate in fictional contexts or extreme circumstances, it does not always hold in real-life situations. In this way, the pseudo-reality in the conversation between the author and the reader in the Wattpad comments section can be seen from the reader's subjective view. This pseudo-reality shows that a person's subjective view does not always represent actual reality, and this can be influenced by certain factors such as context or personal experience.

Pseudo-reality can also be seen in the author's explanation of the balance of lessons learned by students. In this case, the author can explain the ideal conditions for students with the aim that readers agree with the author's opinion as an exciting and good idea. This similarity in opinion is indicated by the reader's response, saying: Oh... I see. However, when emoji 😬 added, this shows the reader's surprise and can also mean confusion and the reader's desire to reject the author's opinion. In this sentence, someone initially has a different or incomplete understanding of a topic or situation. However, when additional information or explanations are provided, they become shocked or shocked by what actually happened.

Before emojis and explanations are provided, there may be an initial misunderstanding or representation of the situation or topic. This misunderstanding is an early form of simulacrum, where a person has other understandings or expectations about the topic being discussed. However, when this pseudo-reality is removed, and a correct understanding is given, this simulacrum is also removed and replaced by a more accurate understanding.

Pseudo-Reality in Social Topics

Reader comments about the social system in the story are also in the Wattpad comments section. Readers who disagree with the terms used by the author can directly submit their comments in the column provided. The author immediately responded to this as a form of response.

"Even though the bullying has (almost) completely disappeared, I still have no friends. Well, I was a quiet kid and classified as a freak at my school. I am an anti-social (Part 1 – Introduce)

In fact, humans are social creatures who need the help of other people. However, sometimes some individuals prefer to do everything themselves, without the help of others. As in the data above, the character named Nilou Rebel Kozior, known as Nilou, looks comfortable being alone. Nilou even said that he was anti-social. The story quote provoked reactions from several readers.

- (5)
- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| kyukianaaa | : | Anti-social is not like that in psychology. It is more to a disorder Hehe * |
| BYBcool | : | anyway, it is just an additional info |
| Mosttinypica | : | Ohhh I see._. |
| | : | There you go |

As the information mentioned by the reader, the real anti-social, or what is currently widely referred to as an anti-social phenomenon, is not a personality type but rather a personality disorder. Several articles state that someone with a personality disorder has a greater chance of committing crimes in their environment. After receiving this information, the author replied to the comment accompanied by an emoticon (._.). Emoticons are often used when carrying out written conversations to give the impression of more expression. Currently, the forms of emoticons are increasingly diverse. Like the data above, the author embedded emoticons (._.). This emoticon means a flat face. If related to the context, the emoticons used by the author can create misunderstandings in the reader. These emoticons can also give the impression that the author does not like the information provided by the reader. The interpretations that may arise due to the choice of words and emoticons in virtual conversations are simulations in cyberspace. In the data above, the author wants to show the image that the author takes criticism from readers for granted, and embedded emoticons show this; the author could also create a simulation to show that the author accepts readers' criticism by simply reacting, "Oh, I see." This kind of simulation will be handy for authors to get an increasing number of readers, get support from readers, and can also be an effort to maintain their good name in cyberspace.

In the conversation in the Wattpad comments section, there is a pseudo-reality that can be seen from the use of words that seem relaxed and informal in conversations about psychological topics. Readers who noticed this even added the comment "just info" after explaining anti-social and psychology. However, there is no more in-depth or consistent discussion of the topic. This discussion shows that conversations in the Wattpad comments section are short, informal, and not too serious in discussing more complex topics. Even though the information presented is correct and can provide new knowledge, it is only general information and needs more detail. In other words, conversations in the Wattpad comments section are more about casual and entertaining social interactions than in-depth discussions about the topics discussed.

A variety of casual language can create a pseudo-reality by creating an impression that may not always reflect reality. For example, in casual language, someone might use slang or phrases that imply a level of familiarity with the person they are talking to, even though their relationship is not actually that close. This situation can create a pseudo-reality of a level of closeness that is not always present. The use of casual language can create simulacra in communication. Simulacra can occur when someone misinterprets phrases or words in casual language. For example, words or phrases in casual language may have a different meaning than their literal meaning, and this can be a source of confusion. Casual language can create a pseudo-reality that has an impact on the perception of a person.

Pseudo-Reality in Technology Advanced Development

Literary works were born to respond to developments over time, including responding to technological developments. The criticism and comments conveyed by the author in the Wattpad story apparently received a response from readers.

"The reason is because there are several disadvantages when patrolling with modern vehicles such as motorbikes, for example. First, it requires more costs. Second, it requires fuel. Third, sometimes the vehicle breaks down. It is different if you use a horse. The fuel? Just grass, water, and carrots. Moreover, horses can run for hours carrying a load on their bodies without feeling the least bit tired. You only need to bring a bag of medium-sized carrots for the horse's food. (Outsider by Rania Thahirah Part 1 – Introduce)

The many innovations that have emerged in the transportation sector are closely related to technological advances. Innovation is needed for practical purposes to make human activities easier. However, for some reason, not all innovations are followed. As in the quote above, with several considerations, the author prefers to avoid following innovation. Because of this, one of the readers felt interested and finally left a comment like the one below.

- (6)
- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| WhiteBlue25 | : | Oh, so technology development can be delayed due to war? I have always thought that when the number of gas stations drastically decrease it would decrease the job opportunity because the vehicle can recharge its engine by itself through the wheel rotation. 😂😂😂 |
| BYBcool | : | Actually in big cities we can use public transportation (in modern version) but some still use the ordinary means of transportation such as walk on foot or those from military would prefer horse, to keep the environment Wkwk |
| WhiteBlue25 | : | Wahahaha... that never crossed my mind. The author loves the nature. Go Thor! |

Readers with the WhiteBlue25 account provide their opinions if it turns out that the technology war has stalled because of the use of horses. War-using technology shows that existing technology is very advanced. However, due to the use of horses as transportation, even though horses are traditional transportation, the reader ends up questioning the technological advances described by the author. What is unique is that at the beginning of the opinion, the reader with the WhiteBlue25 account talks about serious things. However, at the end of the opinion, the reader includes an emoji 😂 (laughing with tears).

In contrast to emoticons, which are only lines or curves that form facial expressions, emojis have more real characters and more variations. The emoji 😂 (laughing with water droplets) depicts a feeling of relief from everything. This emoji also describes feeling nervous or confused. The use of emoji 😂 (laughing with water droplets) in the opinion given by the WhiteBlue25 account explains that the reader feels both relieved and nervous about the opinion he expresses. He was relieved for having succeeded in expressing his opinion and also nervous because he had expressed an opinion that was different from the author's. Because of this, when the author has explained, he also gives praise and encouragement to the author.

Dialogue between authors and readers in the Wattpad comments section can create closeness between authors and readers. Apart from that, the author and readers can exchange ideas related to the story presented by the author. In the case of the data above, the dialogue has a positive impact because, in the end, the reader gets an explanation of the author's mission to save the earth. This condition is a simulation that occurs in the dialogue between the reader and the author. The explanation given by the author becomes a simulation; the author gives a sign that he cares about preserving nature. Apart from that, exchanging ideas with readers can give rise to a positive assessment of the author that he has adequate insight and can build good communication with readers. This activity will certainly have a positive impact on his writing career.

However, the research results of [Beyens et al., \(2020\)](#) need to be considered. In his research, it was stated that the specific effects of social media use on each person must be considered, including prevention and intervention programs. A sample of 2,155 people that was rigorously analyzed shows that the use of social media has an impact on teenagers' attitudes. 44% of the teenage sample did not feel better or worse after passive social media use, 46% felt better after the use, and 10% felt worse after the use. For this reason, the use of social media, including the use of Wattpad, must be addressed more wisely. There needs to be assistance from adults so that interactions that occur on Wattpad can have a positive impact and reduce negative impacts.

The conversation above does not describe the reality that actually exists in the real world but rather a pseudo-reality. In the conversation above, the reader and author talk about a postwar situation where technology was faltering. However, the author needs to provide a more realistic view of how people will behave in the post-war world. The author says that people will more often use ordinary public transport or even walk, while horses will become a typical military vehicle. This fact is unrealistic as modern transportation has more incredible speed and efficiency than walking or even using horses.

Apart from that, readers and authors also do not discuss how society will deal with the energy crisis after the supply of gas stations is drastically reduced. They also do not address the social and economic implications of job losses associated with the fossil fuel industry. Instead, they talk about how people will turn to public transport and non-motorized vehicles as alternatives. Therefore, the conversation above can be categorized as hyperrealism; they talk about situations that are not very realistic and ignore the consequences that may arise from these situations. However, overall, the conversation still reflects fundamental interactions between authors and readers on the Wattpad platform, even though there are elements of pseudo-reality in it.

Pseudo-Reality in Economic Topics

In several excerpts from readers' comments, some discuss the economic lives of the characters in the novel. When discussing the economic life of the characters, readers relate it to the real world, namely, relating it to famous artists whose lives are rich. This discussion is certainly interesting because readers confuse fiction with the real world. The following is a story fragment that attracts readers' attention to comment.

Java shrugged, grimacing. "Well... we are quite... settled and stable," Harleen sneered. "That is a sentence that rich people of seven generations always say; they will not admit they are wealthy."
(Zystrome: The Exordium part 31 – Holxom)

Both of Java's parents are known as entrepreneurs. Because of this, his life is classified as upper class. However, with his wealth lying around, Java is reluctant to show it off. As Harleen said, Java does not admit that he is rich.

(7) aassasine : Don't tell me that Borneo Java are the descendant of rafi ahmadd??
BYBcool : Sist

Aassasine account suspected that Java is a descendant of Raffi Ahmad. Raffi Ahmad is known as one of the wealthiest celebrities in Indonesia because, apart from being an artist, he is also successful in business. Surrounded by luxury goods, Raffi was nicknamed the Sultan of Andara. Currently, Raffi Ahmad is widely used as a role model by young people because of his success.

In the 1990s, the upper class was filled with politicians, such as the Cendana family. Abundant wealth assets and inheritances make many people covet them. However, currently, there is a shift in the meaning of wealth among young people. Wanting to be rich does not mean that one should enter the world of politics.

At the end of his sentence, aassasine included an emoji 🤪. This emoji has the official name Astonished Face, which means shocked face. A round yellow shape with rounded eyes and a rounded

mouth raised eyebrows, and hands holding cheeks is the description of this emoji. The surprised face emoji can be used to express something related to surprise. This emoji shows that readers feel surprised because there are similarities between fictional characters and the real world. The character described by the author as rich is then compared by the reader with the artist Raffi Ahmad, who is truly rich in the real world. Reader reactions like this are a pseudo-reality, a reality that appears as a result of the author's creativity through neat storytelling with interesting word choices. The comparison between rich people in fiction and wealthy people in the real world is comparable, and both seem real. This condition is what is meant by simulacrum.

Pseudo-Reality in Religious Topics

In the story *Zystrome: The Exordium*, the discussion about religion is no less exciting and is able to draw comments from readers. This situation appears in the characters who are of Arab descent, and it is clearly stated what their religion is. Apart from that, the author's choice of words also strengthens the religious element in the story. The following is the quote.

Ah, let me tell you a little about this Middle Eastern man. He is twenty-seven years old and of American-Arab-Lebanese-Persian descent. It is not effortless, indeed. Maybe there is Iraqi blood in him too. In essence, he has Middle Eastern blood. As you know, he is the first man I know in this group. Jafar is a guy who is a bit... I do not know what the appropriate word is; maybe it is strange. He always said some Arabic words whenever he was shocked or startled. Oh no. Not just him. Khalid, Sahara--his mother--and his three sisters also did the same. (*Zystrome: The Exordium* part 5 – *The Shiraz Wanderer*).

The Novel *Zystrome*

The Exordium has characters of various ethnicities, cultures, and religions, as in Jafar Shiraz's family, who are of Arab Muslim descent. Therefore, it is not surprising that the Shiraz family often utters Arabic sentences. In the quote above, it is explained that when they feel shocked, the Shiraz family will say prayer beads. This story is what provokes readers to comment using sentences with religious nuances.

- (8) queenrexx : ASTAGFIRULLAH
BYBcool : ತಎತೆ

For Muslims, when faced with various situations, this often makes them say *istighfar* as the reader with the queenrexx account does, namely *astaghfirullah*. In fact, when you feel surprised, you should say the sentence *Subhanallah*. Because of this, the author responded by giving the emoticon ತಎತೆ. The ತಎತೆ emoticon is a Japanese emoticon written in Eastern style because its position is not italicized. This emoji has an unconvincing meaning.

Comments conveyed by the author using the ತಎತೆ emoticon can mean that the author doubts the comments of the reader who is saying *istighfar*. This situation is due to the incorrect pronunciation of *istighfar*. The second possibility is that the author doubts that what the reader conveys is true because the author does not know the reader's background. Whatever is conveyed by authors and readers in the Wattpad comments section is only a comment in cyberspace whose truth cannot be tested. Doubts that arise due to differences in perception are what is called pseudo-reality. This condition means that whatever expression is conveyed on social media is not necessarily the actual reality. Expressions conveyed on social media are images that are deliberately constructed in order to maintain good social relations with others, especially between readers and authors. This image is what is called simulacra in virtual communication.

Discussions about religious elements on social media can cause misunderstandings if each social media user does not act maturely and wisely. Religious symbols often need to be used more. In the case of the conversation above, the reader commented using inappropriate speech. If other readers

or authors respond with comments containing strong criticism, the result will undoubtedly be disputed on social media. For this reason, in this case, the author only conveys disbelieving emoticons, which are more acceptable to readers.

The forgiveness spoken by the reader may only be an ordinary response because the reader has no interest in creating a positive image in cyberspace. Usually, a positive image will be created by people who want to get awards, recognition, or followers in cyberspace, so they will create such simulations, including by using confident choices of words, photos, or videos. This situation is what the author did in the data above. The author wants to create the image that the author really cares about the reader, so he reacts with disbelief to what the reader says. The author wants to convey that religious terms or expressions should be said in the right place and appropriate situations so that undesirable cases, such as cyberhate, do not occur.

In various studies on social media, it was found that there were several cases of cyber hate, namely the use of social networks as an online tool to convey racist, discriminatory, negationist, and violent statements. Such online communications devalue individuals and groups, focusing on their innate characteristics, such as race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, language, and religion. Communities targeted by cyber hate are vulnerable groups who already experience structural inequality and discrimination. Cyberhate exacerbates and compounds their social exclusion and vulnerability (Higgins, 2023). This cyberhate case can be avoided with internet literacy education by providing sufficient insight to social media users so they can be more intelligent, wiser, and more polite in using social media.

Pseudo-Reality in Art Topics

In a novel entitled *El Libro* by BYBcool, it is told that Ezra is a 15-year-old orphan who is known as a rude teenage boy. However, Ezra actually likes animated cartoons that are full of peace compared to action films. He said that one of his favorite characters is Elmo. Elmo is one of the characters on the show *Sesame Street*. This event is an educational event originating from the United States, with the main target being children. This condition is very contrary to Ezra's character.

- (9) winwindepok : Never mind, Ezra is just an ordinary human; after all, who can resist Elmo's cuteness?
BYBcool : That makes me laugh.

In the conversation above, it can be seen that there is a pseudo-reality in Ezra's character, who likes animated cartoons, which is in contrast to the rough character he has. Readers in the comments also responded with humor and considered that Ezra's love for Elmo was normal and acceptable. This situation shows that in a virtual world like Wattpad, readers can have more intimate and personal responses and interactions with the author and characters in the story, which may be difficult to happen in real life. The joking response conveyed by the reader and the author's response is also a pseudo-reality, which shows that the reader is trying to appreciate the character of a character who seems to have two personalities. At the same time, the author also responds by joking with various purposes. The author wants to build closeness with the reader; maybe the author wants to respond to this casually, or maybe there is another reason. This situation is called pseudo-reality, which ultimately has the potential to give rise to simulacra. This condition is based on the awareness of readers and authors to interact as they would socialize in the real world; even interaction in the virtual world is considered better because it can bring distance and time closer together.

Watching a show is always related to taste. Elmo is indeed a character intended for children, more specifically toddlers. However, that does not mean adults or teenagers should not watch it. As said by a reader with an account called winwindepok, he said that if Ezra were an ordinary human being, it would be natural to like Elmo. Moreover, Elmo is a cute and funny character. Based on the results of a survey conducted by Pucci (2022), today's teenagers and adults need cartoons more than ever. Apart from being attractive, cartoons or animation can also be used as media that can have a

positive influence on almost all ages because of the attractive visualization and easy-to-understand stories (Glorioso et al., 2022).

Pseudo-Reality in Readers Support for Authors

Meanwhile, experiences can also be conveyed in Wattpad platform conversations. In conversations on the Wattpad platform, readers and authors can provide support to each other and share stories and experiences. This activity is also visible in the following data.

- ChrizAnakotta : Keep doing the best, stay at home, and fight the Covid-19. God blesses us 😊MC
- (10) BYBcool : Indeed yes, stay healthy ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨
- ChrizAnakotta : I'm waiting for your next works
- BYBcool : Aye aye!!

Even though Wattpad is an online writing platform, its users can connect and support each other in living their own lives. Praying and encouraging each other is a simple thing that has a significant impact. It is true that we do not know each other's faces, cannot see their body postures, cannot hear their accents, but from this little attention, the author and reader are able to create an "as if" close relationship. This situation is what is called pseudo-reality in the Wattpad comments section.

This situation also proves that the wider community can reach the presence of Wattpad as a cyber literature platform, and this is a positive thing that needs to be developed further so that Wattpad or other cyber platforms can become quality cyber literature platforms (Yulhasni & Suprayetno, 2018). Readers do not feel disturbed by the pseudo-reality contained in the Wattpad platform.

The presence of Wattpad contributes to the emergence of a global reading culture among young readers. The findings of Pianzola et al., (2020) reveal that there are patterns of reading engagement, aesthetic value, and social interaction on Wattpad. Readers who read works on Wattpad can develop skills that help them better appreciate and interpret other works. The large number of Wattpad viewers could trigger the emergence of a global reading culture, the influence of genre on reader behavior, and the potential educational benefits gained from engagement with diverse forms of literature.

- fyth23 : I feel bored, been lying down on bed almost a month, just getting more fat
- (11) BYBcool : Let's be productive 🔥 🔥
- fyth23 : I am. Since I am very productive, I have gained 2 ons already.

Each article must have its target audience. Children's books are aimed at children, books that discuss the Islamic world are aimed at Muslims, etc. When the target is met, sometimes the author will get a bonus in the form of loyal readers, such as readers with an account called -svnflxwxr. He was a loyal reader from BYBcool when he was still in school until he finished school. Even though Wattpad is a virtual world, readers can follow the life stories of their favorite authors through social media outside of Wattpad. Sometimes, fans really idolize an author, so they think what is conveyed in the Wattpad comments section is a representation of the author's personality. The communication that is built between the author and the reader makes the reader feel closer and get to know the author better, especially as the use of supportive emoticons can also be considered to strengthen the relationship. Emoticons and emojis, whether used in dialogue between authors and readers or in fictional prose published on Wattpad, can have a reality-like effect. This condition aligns with a statement by (Gibbons et al., 2019), that the strategy of using modernization products can have the effect of blurring the boundaries between fiction and reality in such a way as to create a sense of reality. However, the communication that is established between the author and the reader needs to be avoided by the reader and needs to be interpreted as pseudo-communication because it occurs in cyberspace. This

type of communication alert is in accordance with the research results of Ningtyas (2018) that although technology makes it easier for readers and authors to communicate with each other, it is essential to create a better, more positive, and sustainable life or communication in cyberspace.

CONCLUSION

Wattpad is a cyber fiction platform that everyone can access by registering on the platform, both as readers and writers. As a product of modernization, the Wattpad platform is equipped with a comments section that can be used by authors and readers to communicate, whether by greeting each other, discussing, giving input, discussing the stories presented, or simply discussing trivial matters accompanied by jokes. In the Wattpad comments section, there is a pseudo-reality related to various topics of discussion including the use of foreign terms, cultural social differences, technological developments, economics, religion, art, and pseudo-reality in readers' support for the author.

The pseudo-reality that appears in the Wattpad comments section is a reality that is not visible due to manipulation carried out by the author. In this case, the author creates his image through the choice of words, emoticons, and emojis in responding to readers' comments. The author also carries out the pseudo-reality by replying to readers' comments using the best possible sentences and expressions; the comments conveyed by the author are neutral and do not cause conflict; the author's comments contain information that the reader needs and comments that contain meaning emphasize the author's sense of pride in the work that has been created. Apart from that, pseudo-reality also appears when the reader does not understand the elements of the story presented by the author; the reader compares fictional characters with characters in the real world, and the reader feels very close to the author because the author always pays attention to his comments, they can strengthen each other, and the reader can give the author's enthusiasm for his work. Meanwhile, hyperreality as a simulation product created by the author appears when the author explains how to handle technological problems while still paying attention to the preservation of the earth. The pseudo-reality built by the author in the Wattpad comments section aims to get closer to readers, get lots of fans, and build a positive image of the author.

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