

= Student Hidjo =

Student Hidjo (Perfected spelling Student Hijo , both meaning Student Green) is a 1918 novel by Marco Kartodikromo . Originally published as a serial in Sinar Hindia , it was republished in book form in 1919 by Masman & Stroink .

Written while Kartodikromo was in prison , Student Hidjo tells the story of Hidjo , a Javanese student sent to the Netherlands to study but eventually falls for a Dutchwoman . An intersecting plotline , which unfolds parallel to the main story , follows Dutch administrator Willem Walter in his romantic life . Written in Malay , the novel was one of several by Javanese authors which helped popularise the word " saya " as a first @-@ person personal pronoun .

Described by Kartodikromo as an extended simile , Student Hidjo has been noted as depicting a new Indonesian youth culture which has adopted Western cultural and lingual facets . Traditional Javanese and Dutch cultural values are contrasted ; from this contrast , Kartodikromo advocates a view that the two are incompatible . This includes love , which is described in the novel as something only those with a Dutch education would attempt to find ; the traditional view being that marriage is to be used for social mobility .

= = Background = =

Student Hidjo was written by Marco Kartodikromo , a journalist from Blora who began his career in Bandung and was strongly opposed to the policies of the Dutch East Indies government . For several years he worked as an editor at the Surakarta @-@ based newspaper Doenia Bergerak ; the city later served as the novel 's setting . He spent five months in the Netherlands , from late 1916 to early 1917 ; upon his return , he was arrested by the Dutch governmental authorities for " sowing hatred " and sentenced to a year in prison in Weltevreden , Batavia (now Sawah Besar , Jakarta) . It was while in prison that Kartodikromo wrote Student Hidjo .

In the early 20th century , the introduction of Western technology and culture was leading to the fragmentation of the traditional Javanese lifestyle . Meanwhile , the Dutch Ethical Policy , which guaranteed certain rights and freedoms ? such as the right to education and some press freedoms ? was leading to social unrest . The tighter controls put on the press after 1906 led to Student Hidjo being published with the text " not to be quoted " (" tak boleh dikoetip ") on the cover .

= = Plot = =

Hidjo is a young man from Surakarta , Central Java , who is engaged to Biroe , in accordance with his father 's wishes . His father , a merchant named Raden Potronojo , orders Hidjo to go to the Netherlands and attend university ; this is hoped to give the family greater status , as generally only priyayi (noble) families send their children abroad for schooling . Meanwhile , Dutch administrator Willem Walter , who views the Javanese positively , is engaged to a Dutch woman named Jet Roos ; Roos is pregnant with his child .

In the Netherlands , Hidjo stays with a local family and enjoys the beauty of the Netherlands . The family 's daughter , Betje , finds him intriguing because of his ethnicity . Although Hidjo initially receives her coldly , the two later become romantically and sexually involved . In Surakarta , Walter becomes attracted to Biroe and breaks off his engagement with Roos , who in turn aborts their child . This , and Biroe 's rejection , leads him to return to the Netherlands , where he and Hidjo meet .

Hidjo , who has become increasingly distracted from his studies by his relationship with Betje , is recalled to the Indies by his family . He ends his relationship with the Dutchwoman , paying her his savings to make amends for doing so . When Hidjo returns to Surakarta , he marries Woengoe ? who originates from a higher @-@ class family than Biroe . Two years later , Hidjo has become district attorney of Djarak . Meanwhile , Walter has married Betje and returned to Surakarta to become assistant resident . Biroe marries Woengoe 's brother Wardojo , who has become regent of the area . Roos marries the area 's administrator , Boeren .

= = Style = =

Student Hidjo was written in Malay . When the novel was written , and indeed for numerous years afterwards , the Dutch colonial government was attempting to standardise Malay ; the standardised form has been described by Hendrik Maier , a lecturer at Leiden University , as stilted . However , Kartodikromo did not attempt to follow these standards . According to Meier , unlike writers who used standardised Malay such as Armijn Pane and Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah in a " sad " manner , the language in Student Hidjo showed only " the enjoyment , the excitement , the thrill " of the writer , who " bubbled with anger " .

Tsuyoshi Kato , a Japanese scholar of Indonesian literature , notes that Kartodikromo , like other Javanese authors , preferred to use the term " saya " when writing in the first @-@ person , as opposed to Minangkabau writers who preferred " hamba " . He writes that " saya " was preferred over a Javanese word due to first person pronouns having highly different levels of politeness in that language . He writes that through works such as Student Hidjo and Rasa Merdeka (A Sense of Freedom ; 1924 ; by Soemantri) , Javanese writers popularised the term ; he describes " saya " as more active than " hamba " but more " contemplative and self @-@ reflective " than the Javanese ngoko (crude) pronoun " aku " .

= = Themes = =

Maier writes that the names of the main characters imply Student Hidjo should be read allegorically , with the names Hidjo (green) , Woengoe (violet) , and Biroe (blue) showing an interconnection between the characters . Kartodikromo described it as an extended simile .

The novel depicts a younger generation of Indonesians (kaoem moeda) as being " those who understand Dutch " . Maier writes that this understanding is not limited to the language used , but also actions ; this includes holding hands in public and drinking lemonade , activities which traditional Indonesian society does not involve . Student Hidjo also contrasts Dutch and Javanese peoples . Maier finds that , through its alternating events , the novel shows that the Dutch and Javanese are incompatible ; Maeir sums it up as " Javanese do not feel at ease in Holland , [and] Dutch do not feel at ease in Java . " According to Maier , the novel views the gap between the two cultures as " unbridgeable " .

Maier writes that the novel includes themes of love , with Hidjo 's love for Woengoe , Betje , and Biroe paralleling that of Walter 's love for Roos , Woengoe , and Betje . He also notes that there is a theme of social mobility , where Hidjo 's relationships with noble women are fostered by his merchant father to grant the family a greater social position ; bride prices also feature prominently , showing that one can become a noble through marriage if one has enough money . He notes that , towards the end of the novel , love is described as something only those with a Dutch education would attempt to find , as the social @-@ financial meaning of marriage remains predominant among the traditional Javanese . The characters , despite not all marrying for love , are happy with their eventual partners and have a comfortable life .

= = Release and reception = =

Student Hidjo was first published in 1918 as a serial in the Semarang @-@ based daily Sinar Hindia , which Kartodikromo edited . The story was then collected in a book format and published by Masman & Stroink , a Semarang @-@ based company , in 1919 . When it was published , politically themed works were limited to smaller publishers . Works published by Balai Pustaka , the state @-@ owned publisher of the Dutch East Indies , tended to be apolitical .

Kato writes that the novel is " unremarkable in terms of radical activism " , but unrivaled in its imagination when compared to Sitti Nurbaya (1922 ; Marah Rusli) , Salah Asuhan (Wrong Upbringing ; 1927 ; Abdoel Moeis) , and Rasa Merdeka .