


The Politics of Language Suppression in the Novel Cadl: A Novel Without the Letter E by Triskaidekaman (A Sociological Study of Literature)

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the phenomenon of language silencing in the novel "CADL: Sebuah Novel Tanpa Huruf E" by Henny Triskaidekaman. The novel tells the story of a fictional country called Wiranacita, led by the dictator Zaliman Yang Mulia, who makes a policy of banning the use of the letter "E". The research was conducted with a descriptive qualitative method using a literary sociology approach to analyze parts of the novel such as narration, dialogue, and description. This approach considers three important aspects: the author's background, the content of the literary work, and its impact on readers. The results showed that the banning of the letter "E" in this novel illustrates how the authorities can use language as a tool of control that causes social injustice and restricts access to information. The letter "E" is used as a symbol of denied freedom, while the main character named Lamin is portrayed as a figure who dares to fight against the oppressive system. The novel is a critique of an authoritarian government that restricts basic human rights, especially freedom of speech and expression. This research helps us to understand how literary works can be a medium to criticize social and political conditions, as well as provide an overview of the relationship between power, resistance, and freedom of expression in an authoritarian government system.

Keyword:

language silencing, sociology of literature, authoritarianism, freedom of expression

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INTRODUCTION

The human desire to express oneself is natural and a logical consequence of the basic nature of humans as social beings or zoon politicon. As beings who live in interaction with others, humans use various forms of personal expression as the main way to establish communication and understand one another ([Kharisma, 2022: 230](#)). In this case, freedom of expression is an inherent right of every individual. This right has been affirmed and given a clear legal basis through the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia ([Rahmanto, 2016: 16](#)). One manifestation of this recognition is reflected in Article 28F (the result of the second amendment in August 2000), which states:

"Every person has the right to communicate and obtain information to develop themselves and their social environment, and has the right to seek, obtain, possess, store, process, and convey information using all available channels."

In addition, the right to freedom of expression is also affirmed in Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights (Constitutional Court, 2023). Article 14 paragraph (2) states that:

"Everyone has the right to seek, obtain, possess, store, process, and convey information using all available means."

Not only at the national level, recognition of freedom of expression is also regulated in international agreements. One example is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, specifically in Article 19 paragraph (2), which states:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of expression; this right includes freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of any kind, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice."

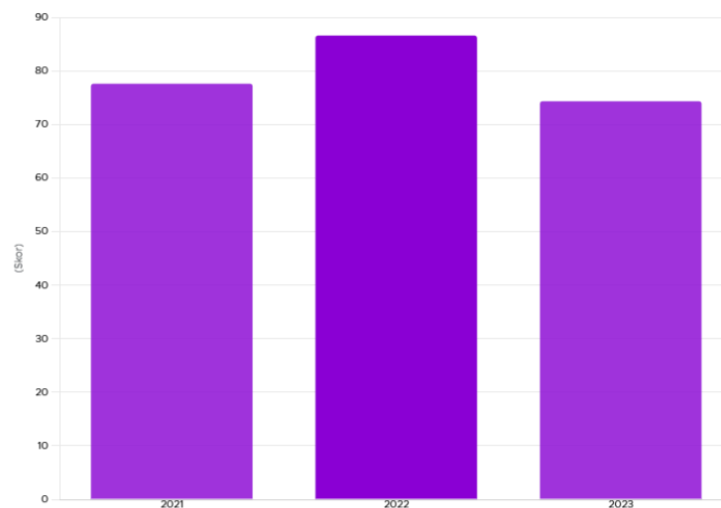
Freedom of expression plays an important role in sustaining democracy. In fact, long before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was ratified, the UN General Assembly at its first session in 1946 through Resolution No. 59 (I) had already stated that the right to obtain information is a fundamental human right ([Sudibya, 2021](#)). This right is considered the foundation for other freedoms declared by the UN as something "sacred" ([Radhifan, 2024](#)). Freedom of expression is one of the main requirements for a healthy democratic system, enabling citizens to actively participate in public decision-making. Without access to information and the ability to voice opinions, the public will not be able to exercise their voting rights effectively or contribute to public policy-making ([Nasution, 2020: 2](#)).

The reform era that began in 1998 brought major changes to the political and democratic order in Indonesia. This reform gave rise to a huge wave of democratic discourse and movements that spread widely throughout all levels of society. One of the main principles underlying the democratic political system is the belief that government power comes from the will of the people. At the beginning of the 21st century, the concept of democracy spread to various countries, along with other global issues such as the environment, gender equality, human rights, and social justice in a broad perspective. This phenomenon places the people

in a very important position in the decision-making process, although its implementation differs in each country. Almost no country is willing to label its system of government as authoritarian ([Melina, 2018: 190](#)).

However, the statement [by](#) does not fully correspond with reality. Even in the reform era, restrictions on freedom of expression continue to occur through new means, such as the implementation of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (UU ITE). Data released by [Amnesty.id](#) in 2021 shows that during 2020 there were many cases in which many people from various professions, such as academics, journalists, or activists, experienced silencing, criminalization, or intimidation when voicing their aspirations and opinions (even when this was done peacefully). The report recorded the highest number in the last six years, namely 119 cases of violations of freedom of expression involving the ITE Law during 2020. This situation shows that civil liberties in Indonesia have declined, especially in 2023 compared to previous years. Civil liberties are one of the benchmarks in the Democracy Index created by *the Economist Intelligence Unit* (EIU), which includes elements such as freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the media.

Graph 1. Indonesia's Freedom of Expression Index



Source: Goodstats.id (2024)

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) compiles a democracy index that emphasizes civil liberties, covering various important elements such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press. On a scale of 1 to 10, civil liberties in Indonesia scored 5.59 ([Amnesty.id, 2021](#)).

Before the reform era, known as the New Order era (1966–1998) under President Soeharto, Indonesia's political landscape was dominated by an authoritarian system. In this situation, the tug-of-war between the government and the people tended to always be won by the government ([Kusmarwanti, 2015](#)). This resulted in restrictions on the freedom of public institutions, including the mass media, to voice the interests of the people. The media no

longer had the space to freely voice public aspirations, as they were required to comply with strict regulations imposed by the government. Any violation of the hegemonic rules set by the government can result in the loss of the individual rights of those involved. The government, through various institutions under its control, attempts to systematically eliminate the existence of freedom of expression. This study focuses on analyzing these themes ([Siswanto, 2017: 58](#)).

The current state of freedom of expression in Indonesia is depicted in a novel by Triskaidekaman entitled *CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E*. According to information from Goodreads.com, a book cataloging platform, this novel has a reader rating of 3.82, which is considered good.

This novel tells the story of a manuscript and book that are banned from circulation in a fictional country called Wiranacita, which is led by a dictator named Zaliman. The book and manuscript trigger the regime's cruelty towards its people, where many become victims of the ruler's repressive policies. The people's lives deteriorate further when certain letters are destroyed by the dictator, His Majesty Zaliman. This ban leads to restrictions on speech, the sorting of books, and the replacement of dictionaries. Behind these strict rules lie dark secrets and a deliberately hidden past.

From a literary perspective, the novel *CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E* has a close relationship with the theory of literary sociology ([Saddhono, 2017: 18](#)). This novel represents how the politics of language suppression can affect various aspects of social life under authoritarian leadership. Through his work, the author provides an imaginative picture of a life full of limitations in expressing opinions in the midst of a repressive regime. Using a sociological approach to literature, the purpose of this study is to examine how the novel reflects social reality ([Sudiana, 2020](#)).

Basically, literary sociology is a type of research that focuses on the relationship between literary works and the social reality described by the author ([Lestari, 2021](#)). This approach is relevant to this study because there is a connection between the perspective of the author of *CADL* and his view of social conditions. This literary work depicts complex social life with deep meaning, as discussed by Dina Husnul Maria et al. in a journal entitled "*Analysis of the Personality Aspects of the Main Characters in Triskaidekaman's Novel CADL (A Literary Psychology Review)*" published in 2022.

This novel also explores how the politics of language suppression is applied by those in power. In the discussion chapter, the author will explain in detail how the power or morality of a leader is able to control the use of language. The politics of language suppression, as intended, refers to systematic efforts by certain rulers or institutions to prohibit the use of certain words, terms, or criticism in order to maintain the stability of the government or power. The aim is to protect the power system from potential disturbances so that it can continue to exist.

Based on this background, this study will raise the theme "*The Politics of Language Suppression in the Novel CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E by Triskaidekaman*". This study aims to explore in depth how the politics of language suppression is depicted in the novel and how

it reflects social reality in the real world.

METHOD RESEARCH

This study uses qualitative methods as the main approach, which focuses on natural phenomena and is conducted in a field environment ([Sugiyono, 2017](#)). Qualitative descriptive methods are applied to analyze social events, based on postpositivism philosophy ([Abdussamad, 2021](#)); ([Wijaya & Helaluddin, 2019](#)). Researchers play a central role as the main instrument, focusing on the meaning and value of the research object. This research aims to explore the views and experiences of subjects through observation of their daily lives.

A sociological approach to literature was also applied to analyze the novel "CADL: Sebuah Novel Tanpa Huruf E" (CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E) by Triskaidekaman, published in 2020. Data was obtained from dialogues, monologues, and narratives in the novel, with the researcher as the main tool in the observation. Meanwhile, the data collection technique was carried out textually, starting with a careful reading of the novel, followed by the selection of purposive data relevant to the research focus. Secondary data from previous studies was also used to enrich the analysis.

Data analysis included reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing. Data reduction was carried out by selecting relevant quotations, compiling summaries, and converting the data into narratives ([Saleh, 2017](#)). Data presentation was carried out in the form of narrative text explaining the analysis results, while drawing conclusions provided a new picture of the research object. Thus, this study aims to understand the politics of language silencing in the novel in depth.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Literary sociology is an approach that views literary works not only as aesthetic products, but also as reflections and representations of social reality. In this view, literary works are understood as the result of complex interactions between the author, society, and the cultural and political context in which the work was created and received. Literary works are considered to reflect the values, norms, and social conflicts that exist in society, making them a kind of "mirror" that captures the dynamics of human life ([Mulyono, 2019](#)); ([Rahmawati, 2022](#)); ([Saddhono, 2019](#)). For example, many social realism novels depict class struggles or economic inequality, showing how literary works record the conditions of society during a particular period ([Artika, 2022: 39](#)).

In addition, literary sociology also highlights the reciprocal relationship between authors, works, and society. Authors, as part of society, are influenced by their social environment and life experiences, which are then reflected in their works. Conversely, literary works can influence the way society understands various issues, both through sharp social criticism and through the formation of collective opinions and awareness. Thus, literature has great potential to function as a tool for social criticism. In various works, literature is often used to highlight injustice, explore the realities of everyday life, and raise readers' awareness of issues that are often hidden ([Teeuw, 2017](#)), such as poverty, discrimination, or power conflicts. Literary sociology also emphasizes the role of literary works as catalysts for social

change. Through the depiction of issues relevant to the conditions of society, literature is able to influence its readers emotionally and intellectually. This often encourages individuals or groups to take action against injustice or seek solutions to the social problems they face. For example, many literary works have contributed to the struggle for independence or the defense of human rights by voicing the aspirations of the people through powerful and meaningful language.

The sociological approach to literature is also multidisciplinary, involving understanding from various fields such as sociology, history, politics, culture, and anthropology. This allows for a more in-depth analysis of how a literary work is born from a particular social context, as well as how it is received and responded to by society. Thus, literary sociology teaches that literary works not only have aesthetic value, but also significant social value. This approach encourages readers to understand literature as an integral part of the dynamics of society, which not only reflects reality but also has the potential to change it. ([Artika, 2022: 40](#)).

In the study of literary sociology, there are three main dimensions that are usually applied, namely the sociology of the author, the sociology of literary works, and the sociology of the reader ([Sujarwa, 2019](#)). These three aspects complement each other in helping to understand the social values in literary works and their impact on readers ([Nuraini, 2019](#)). First, author sociology examines the social background, ideology, experiences, and views of the author as reflected in their work. Authors are seen as individuals who are influenced by certain socio-political situations, and these views can be seen in their work. In the context of Henny Triskaidekaman's novel *CADL*, this approach attempts to examine the sociology of literary works by focusing on the analysis of the text itself, including the themes, symbolism, characterization, and conflicts reflected in the story. This aims to reveal the social messages and criticism that the author wants to convey, both explicitly and implicitly. Furthermore, the sociological aspect of the reader highlights how literary works influence readers and how readers, through their own interpretations, give further meaning to these works.

The novel *CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E* by Triskaidekaman is a rich example of literature to be analyzed through a sociological approach. This novel is unique in its deliberate use of altered language—prohibiting the use of the letter "E"—as a form of linguistic experimentation that is rich in meaning. The removal of the letter "E" in the novel is not only a linguistic feature, but also a powerful metaphor for silencing and controlling freedom of speech. The characters in the story, such as Lamin and Bagus, struggle in the context of an authoritarian government that restricts their basic rights, including the right to express themselves freely. Through these characters, the novel invites readers to understand the impact of oppression on individual and collective identities in society.

In analyzing Triskaidekaman's novel "CADL: Sebuah Novel Tanpa Huruf E" (*CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E*), a sociological approach to literature provides deep insight into how this work reflects the socio-political conditions in Wiranacita and the relationship between the author, the text, and the reader. Through this approach, we can understand how Henny Triskaidekaman's background influences the themes and ideas that emerge in the

novel. As an author, her experiences, political views, and the social conditions around her can influence her work. Triskaidekaman may have been inspired by the socio-political conditions in Indonesia or global phenomena related to freedom of expression and oppression. In this context, "CADL" is not only a unique literary experiment, but also an ideological reflection of the author's views on freedom and power.

Through the sociology of literary works, the author examines themes raised in the novel, such as language suppression and social control. The use of symbolism, such as the prohibition of the letter "E," serves as a profound metaphor to show how the elimination of language can limit basic human rights. Here, the author utilizes linguistic prohibition as a means to criticize authority and highlight the human struggle to maintain freedom under repressive power. The analysis of social conflict in the story also shows how the main characters, such as Lamin, fight against oppression, and how this conflict reflects social tensions in real life.

A reader-sociological approach will explore how CADL influences readers' views on issues such as freedom of expression, human rights, and political oppression. This novel can raise collective awareness about the importance of language and expression as part of human identity. Through readers interpreting and reviving the meaning in the story, "CADL" can trigger deeper reflection on individual rights, the potential for resistance, and the need for freedom of expression in modern society. In addition, readers from different backgrounds may respond to this novel in different ways, depending on their respective experiences and perceptions, which further enriches the social meaning of this work.

Looking at this novel from the perspective of literary sociology, the social dimension in "CADL" uses symbolism and narrative structure to explore the politics of language suppression as a critique of repressive power. This approach shows how the character Zalim, a dictator, uses his power to establish irrevocable rules, one of which begins with restricting communication among the people. Here, we can see how the community's creative output is restricted, how no one is allowed to overthrow the leader, and how the letter "E" is removed, which is a powerful symbol of authoritarian control and serves as a metaphor for the restriction of freedom of expression. Behind the ban on the use of the letter "E" lies a dark secret and a story from the past that has been covered up by the government. By restricting language, Zaliman seeks to erase traces of history that could incite the people to fight against oppression.

In the context of literary sociology, this symbolism reflects a social reality that highlights how language can be used as a tool to control, restrict, and regulate society. Specifically, Zaliman also hunts for manuscripts written by a figure named Bagus, which contain criticism of his rule. This ban is a tool to eliminate all forms of writing that are considered a threat to his power. The symbolism of the letter "E" also illustrates how political authorities suppress individual creativity and intellectual freedom. Every change in language imposed by the government reflects an effort to reduce cultural identity and public communication, causing citizens to become disconnected from the richness of language and ideas that support critical thinking.

This literature uses a narrative flow constructed without the letter "E" as a reflection of how the structure of society under an authoritarian regime becomes limited and monotonous, revealing the great risks to creativity and individual freedom in a strictly controlled environment. For example, in a quote from the novel "CADL" on page 147, which reads, "I'll get straight to the point. We already know what His Majesty wants. The people are forbidden to use That Letter, both verbally and in writing," it is apparent that the ban on the use of the letter "E" is not limited to written media, but also to verbal communication. To enforce this rule, the government even uses "Spy and Personal Affairs Units to eavesdrop on the speech of every citizen," a measure that demonstrates total surveillance of the people's lives. Through this surveillance, the state seeks to ensure that control over language is effective, so that ideas of resistance or criticism of the authorities can be completely silenced before they develop.

In addition, the government's decision to withdraw all "books already on the market" and "ask publishers to reprint them" confirms how literary works and other forms of communication containing the letter "E" must be changed or destroyed to comply with state policy. This action demonstrates the broader impact of language suppression on the literacy and culture of society. Books, magazines, and even advertisements must be rewritten, indicating that all aspects of information and culture are being reorganized by the government to comply with authoritarian standards.

The silencing of language through the removal of the letter "E" shows how the fictional government in Wiranacita seeks to erase essential elements of communication in order to create fear and obedience. Authoritarian powers often manipulate language as a means of shaping perceptions and controlling the population without open resistance. In this novel, Triskaidekaman creates a unique linguistic form but also represents social control that suppresses freedom of speech and critical thinking. In a sociological context, language is the foundation of social communication and social structure itself. When language is restricted, the social structure that depends on communication is also disrupted. Hindered communication creates gaps in social relationships and makes individuals feel isolated or even marginalized in their own communities. This can lead to a decline in social cohesion, as people can no longer interact freely and openly.

The silencing of language also has an impact on the collective identity of a society. Language is not only a tool for communication, but also an important element in the formation of cultural and national identity. In the novel "CADL," the removal of the letter "E" can be seen as a systematic attempt to change or erase existing cultural identities. By changing the language used by the people, the government in the story essentially changes the way people view themselves and the world around them. Collective identity is formed through shared cultural practices, including the use of language. When the commonly used language is changed or restricted, the cultural identity associated with that language is also threatened. This can result in the loss of cultural heritage and values that have been passed down from generation to generation. In this context, the politics of language suppression becomes a tool to impose a new identity that is in line with the ideology of those in power, while the old identity, which may be more pluralistic or critical of power, is suppressed or eliminated.

Public discourse is one of the key elements of democratic life. When language is restricted, the quality of public discourse tends to decline because people lose the freedom to express their views openly. In the novel "CADL," people are faced with a situation where they can no longer speak or write freely. This causes public discourse to become shallow, limited only to topics that are considered safe by the government. The decline in the quality of public discourse leads to intellectual stagnation and a lack of criticism of government policies. When there is no open discussion, the public becomes more vulnerable to propaganda and information control. This creates an environment in which alternative ideas and critical thinking are difficult to develop. In addition, people who are not accustomed to free and open discussion tend to become passive and accept the status quo, making it easier for the government to maintain its power without meaningful resistance.

One of the most striking effects of language suppression politics is increased fear among the public. In the novel "CADL," people live in fear of violating absurd linguistic laws, which can result in severe punishment. This fear is not only related to physical punishment, but also to the inability to express oneself freely. When individuals no longer feel safe to speak or write, fear becomes an effective tool of control. This fear leads to repression not only in physical actions but also in thoughts and feelings. Societies living under the pressure of fear tend to become more obedient and reluctant to challenge authority. This is one way in which authoritarian regimes maintain their control, by creating a culture of fear that permeates every aspect of society. Over time, this fear can become internalized, where individuals begin to monitor themselves and others, ensuring that they do not violate the boundaries set by the government.

Within the narrative structure, the use of words without the letter "E" forces readers to notice that communication in the novel is limited and highly regulated. The novel indirectly reveals how restrictions on freedom of thought and speech can change the identity of individuals and society, because language is an important part of human identity and expression. In literary sociology, this act is considered a reflection of how language and social symbols can be controlled by power. This narrative limitation illustrates that restrictions on language are actually a much deeper form of oppression. Language is the primary tool for individuals to express their identity, feelings, and thoughts, so when language is controlled by power, personal and social life is also stifled.

Factors Causing the Politics of Language Suppression in the Novel CADL

The politics of language silencing depicted in the novel *CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E* did not happen by chance. Instead, this policy was the result of a carefully designed strategy by the authoritarian regime under the rule of His Majesty Zaliman. The ban on the letter "E" was not merely a linguistic policy, but an act aimed at total control of society and suppression of all forms of freedom of expression. In the novel, this policy is used as a tool to maintain the stability of power by eliminating the community's ability to express criticism, engage in dialogue, or even share ideas that could jeopardize the regime's legitimacy.

The ban on the letter "E" has a broad impact on the daily lives of the people of Wiranacita, both practically and symbolically. Practically, this policy forces people to change various aspects of their lives, from changing street names and books to song lyrics to comply with the new rules. However, the greater impact lies in the loss of the ability of individuals and groups to voice their dissatisfaction with the government. Language, which should be the primary medium for communication and expression, is transformed into a rigid and repressive tool of control. The Zaliman government understands that language has the power to drive social and political change, so by banning the letter "E," they effectively extinguish the potential for rebellion or ideological resistance.

Furthermore, this policy also illustrates the government's fear of freedom of speech, which is considered a direct threat to political stability. In the novel, the removal of the letter "E" is a measure to limit ideas that could challenge the regime's official narrative. The government deliberately bans works of art, literature, and other forms of expression that have the potential to inspire rebellion or raise collective awareness among the people. For example, a scene in the novel shows how books called "Crooked Books" are destroyed en masse, while "Straight Books" that conform to the government's ideology are preserved. This demonstrates the regime's efforts to erase traces of history and create a single version of the truth that supports the continuity of their power.

This policy of silencing language is also reinforced by strict surveillance and a repressive system that creates an atmosphere of fear in society. The government uses tools such as language police and spies to ensure that no individual violates the rules. In the novel, the character Lamin is depicted as facing the threat of forced disappearance for trying to resist this policy. The wiretapping of communications and the threat of severe punishment described in the story reflect how the Zaliman regime creates conditions in which people live in constant fear. This not only destroys social solidarity, but also divides society and makes it easier to control.

This policy is also designed to create homogeneity in society. By removing the letter "E," the regime enforces total conformity that eliminates individual identity and creativity. Scenes in the novel show how society is forced to adjust to the new rules without question, ultimately creating a passive society that does not dare to challenge authority. This enforced conformity not only erases diversity, but also creates a society that submits to the will of the government without questioning their policies.

Thus, the politics of language suppression depicted in the novel *CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E* is a complex illustration of authoritarianism's strategy of using language as a tool of control. This ban is not merely a technical measure, but part of a systematic effort to eliminate individual freedom, create conformity, and maintain the regime's power. Through its powerful narrative, this novel offers a sharp critique of authoritarianism and reminds readers of the importance of protecting freedom of expression as a fundamental element of humanity. Analysis of the novel's narrative reveals a number of key factors underlying this policy, namely:

- a. Efforts to Maintain the Power of His Majesty Zaliman's Government

This is illustrated through the implementation of the ban on the letter "E" by His Majesty Zaliman as a strategic step to ensure the stability of power. By limiting freedom of speech, the rulers create conditions in which the people have no means to voice criticism or organize resistance. This ban not only suppresses individuals who want to express themselves, but also dampens the collective potential of the people to fight against a repressive system. In the novel, the removal of the letter "E" is a symbol of the rulers' efforts to create total control over the way society thinks and communicates, so that the political stability of the regime is maintained.

b. Fear of Ideological Resistance Through Language

Language is a medium of resistance. As such, the power of language allows for the emergence of new ideas that can inspire resistance against authoritarian regimes. In this novel, the ban on the use of the letter "E" is designed to prevent the spread of ideas that could challenge the legitimacy of the government. One scene depicts how the Zaliman regime bans works of art and literature that contain elements of criticism of power, as they are considered a threat to political stability. The government seeks to prevent these ideas from developing into an ideological resistance movement that could shake the foundations of their power.

c. Erasing Historical Traces of Policy

In the novel *CADL*, we see how efforts to silence language are also used as a way to erase historical traces that could inspire resistance. The Zaliman government deliberately destroyed manuscripts, books, and works of art that were considered dangerous because they contained criticism of the government or preserved collective memories that contradicted the regime's official narrative. In a particular scene, the character Lamin discovers how books that are "straight" – in line with the government's ideology – are preserved, while "crooked" books are destroyed. This eradication reflects how those in power attempt to control the collective memory of society in order to create a single version of the truth that supports the regime's survival.

d. The Creation of Collective Conformity

The ban on the letter "E" in the novel also aims to create homogeneity in society. By removing an important element of communication, the regime forces society to follow the rules without question. This is seen in scenes where characters must change advertisements, song lyrics, and even street names to comply with the new rules. This policy is designed to eliminate individual identity and form a society that is completely obedient to the authorities. This enforced conformity not only eliminates diversity, but also creates a society that is passive and afraid to voice s.

e. Systematic Surveillance and Repression

The Zaliman government utilizes repressive tools, such as spies, language police, and surveillance technology, to ensure that there are no violations of this policy. Scenes in the novel depict how the wiretapping of communications and surveillance of the public create a climate of fear that paralyzes critical thinking. At one point, Lamin faces the risk of forced disappearance if he is caught violating language rules. This

surveillance not only destroys social solidarity, but also fragments society and makes it easier to control.

f. The Destruction of Creativity and Freedom of Thought

One of the major impacts of this policy is the loss of creativity and freedom of thought. In the novel, the ban on the letter "E" limits art, literature, and other forms of expression. Many artists, such as Lamin, have to use pseudonyms or hide their work to avoid punishment. The government deliberately eliminates space for creativity because it is aware that art and literature have the power to raise awareness and mobilize society. By destroying freedom of thought, the government creates a society that is confined within the limits set by the rulers.

Considering the above factors, it is clear that the politics of language suppression in this novel reflects the dynamics of authoritarian power that seeks to suppress individual and collective freedom. Through a complex narrative, Triskaidekaman illustrates how language can be used as a tool to control society and create a stable but repressive regime. This novel is not only a critique of authoritarianism, but also a reminder of the importance of protecting freedom of expression as a fundamental element of humanity.

Reader Sociology: The Influence of Literary Works on Readers' Social Perceptions and Awareness

In the study of literary sociology, the interaction between readers and the messages contained in literary works, such as Triskaidekaman's novel *CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E*, has a significant impact on the formation of readers' ideology and social awareness. The readers referred to in this context are the general public, not limited to experts or literary critics, but including all individuals involved in the reading process. The message of silencing that emerges in this novel not only functions as a narrative technique but also as a reflection of broader social and political conditions.

When readers encounter elements of silencing in the novel, they are challenged to understand what happens when freedom of speech and expression are suppressed. This situation invites deep reflection on the ideology underlying social arrangements that limit individuals' rights to self-expression. Readers engaged in the novel's narrative can feel the emotional and intellectual impact of linguistic silencing. The characters' inability to use the letter "E" creates difficulties in communication, which in turn hints at how repressive political systems can eliminate individual freedom.

In the process of understanding the characters' struggles, readers not only witness but also feel the consequences of this suppression. Feelings of loss, frustration, and even anger towards this situation can trigger readers to question the ideologies they adhere to. Thus, readers are not only consumers of text, but also active participants in reflecting on and challenging existing power structures ([Maria, et al., 2022:23](#)).

Through this interaction, readers can develop a critical understanding of social and political issues related to language suppression. This work can trigger readers to realize that language is a tool that has great power, both for building identity and for organizing resistance

against oppression. When readers realize that language can be used as a weapon in political struggles, they may begin to adopt a more critical perspective on their own social and political environment. This can lead to a change in their perspective, where they see language not only as a means of communication, but also as an arena for ideological battles that determine ([Artika, 2022: 38](#)).

The experience of reading this novel enables readers to internalize values and attitudes that encourage them to resist silencing, both in personal and social contexts. Readers may feel inspired to fight against injustice, both in broader contexts such as freedom of expression and in everyday life where they witness silencing around them. Thus, *CADL* functions not only as a work of literature, but also as a space for reflection that allows readers to explore, understand, and critique the ideologies that operate in society. This interaction creates an awareness of the importance of maintaining freedom of expression, making readers more prepared to engage in broader social and political discourse.

In analyzing the novel *CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E*, it is important to understand the factors that led to the emergence of the politics of language silencing as depicted in the story. Language suppression, in the context of this novel, did not just appear out of nowhere; there is a series of factors underlying this policy, all of which are closely related to the dynamics of power, ideology, and social conditions prevailing in the fictional society created by the author.

One of the main factors that led to the emergence of language suppression politics in this novel is ideological manipulation. Ideological manipulation refers to systematic efforts by the government to control the way people think, speak, and act through propaganda and engineered policies. In the context of the novel, the government uses ideology as a tool to legitimize their actions and shape public perception in a way that supports their own interests. By discussing this ideological manipulation in detail, we can understand how extreme policies such as the removal of the letter "E" can be accepted and even supported by the society in the novel.

Ideology in a political context refers to a set of ideas, beliefs, and values used to guide the social and political behavior of a society. Ideology functions as a roadmap that determines what is considered right or wrong, good or bad, in a community ([Artika, 2022: 88](#)). In authoritarian systems such as the one described in "*CADL*," ideology is often constructed and disseminated by those in power as a way to justify their power and control the population.

One of the most effective ways to manipulate ideology is by controlling language. Language is not only a tool for communication, but also a medium through which ideology is disseminated and maintained. By controlling language, the government can manipulate the way people think and interact with the world around them. In "*CADL*," the removal of the letter "E" is an extreme example of how language can be used as a tool for ideological manipulation.

The dialogue in this novel, such as the statement "If you can manipulate people, we can become politicians, Gandhi," illustrates the consensus that exists between the government and society. This statement shows how the government tries to influence the way people think

in order to accept the ideology they offer. This reflects the traditional mindset of society, which believes that the only good job is to be a government official. The government's efforts to establish this hegemony show how civil society can accept the offer without further questioning.

This ideological manipulation is also supported by systematic propaganda. The government uses propaganda through the media, education, and speeches to construct a single narrative that eliminates alternative views. This includes the use of symbols, myths, and stories to evoke emotions such as patriotism and fear. In "CADL," propaganda instills in the public's mind that the letter "E" is a threat that must be eliminated for the sake of national stability.

The creation of a "common enemy," such as the letter "E," becomes a tool to rally public support, divert attention from internal problems, and legitimize repressive actions. By creating fear of a common threat, the government can control a society that is increasingly submissive and even supportive of their harsh policies. This shows how ideological manipulation through the creation of common enemies and propaganda can strengthen authoritarian control. Note the chart below:

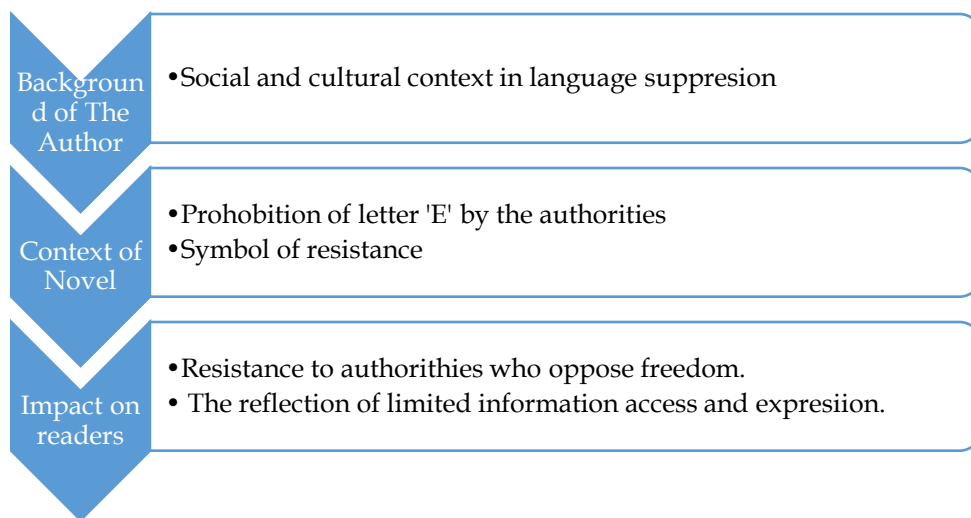


Chart 1. Results and Discussion of Language Suppression Politics in
Cadl: A Novel Without the Letter E by Triskaidekaman

The theme of language suppression in this novel invites readers to reflect on the impact of repressive policies and how they can erode individual rights, especially in the context of freedom of expression. Through characters trapped in difficult situations and oppressed by authority, readers can feel the injustice experienced by the characters. When readers see how language suppression leads to the loss of identity and communication, they are encouraged to evaluate their attitudes and views on freedom of expression in everyday life ([Wiratraman & Prakasa, 2024: 156](#)).

This novel invites readers to reflect on how language suppression can change their

perspectives on various issues, from identity to freedom of expression. When readers witness the struggles of characters fighting against oppression, they are faced with the choice of identifying with the conditions described or being moved to overcome challenges in the real world. In this case, literary sociology serves as a bridge between fictional experiences and social reality, encouraging readers to consider how language suppression is not only an individual problem, but also a collective phenomenon that needs to be addressed with critical awareness ([Artika, 2022: 39](#)).

Through this interaction, readers can develop a critical understanding of social and political issues related to the silencing of language. This work can trigger readers to realize that language is a tool that has great power, both for building identity and for organizing resistance against oppression. When readers realize that language can be used as a weapon in political struggles, they may begin to adopt a more critical perspective on their own social and political environment. This can lead to a change in their perspective, where they see language not only as a means of communication, but also as a decisive ideological battleground.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that Triskaidekaman's novel *CADL: A Novel Without the Letter E* effectively depicts the politics of language suppression in the context of authoritarianism. Through the removal of the letter "E" by the dictator Zaliman in the fictional country of Wiranacita, this novel shows how language is used as a tool of control to limit freedom of expression and erase the collective identity of a society. This repressive policy reflects the government's efforts to maintain power by controlling public communication, creating homogeneity, and preventing resistance. This novel not only functions as a work of fiction, but also as a profound social critique of the reality of authoritarianism. The symbolism and narrative structure used, such as book banning and communication restrictions, become metaphors for the regime's repressive actions. Through the struggles of its characters, this novel emphasizes the importance of courage and creativity in fighting restrictions on freedom.

The factors that led to the politics of language suppression, such as the government's desire to maintain stability and erase historical traces, show how serious the threat to individual and collective freedom is. This novel invites readers to reflect on the importance of protecting freedom of speech as a fundamental human right, as well as the role of literature in voicing social criticism.

Overall, *CADL* serves as a warning against the dangers of authoritarianism and the negative impact of language suppression policies. This work emphasizes that freedom of expression is a vital element in maintaining democracy and humanity. This research encourages readers to be more sensitive to issues of freedom of expression and to support literary works that dare to criticize those in power. For further research on , it is recommended that an interdisciplinary approach be used to broaden understanding of the political phenomenon of language suppression in a global context.

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