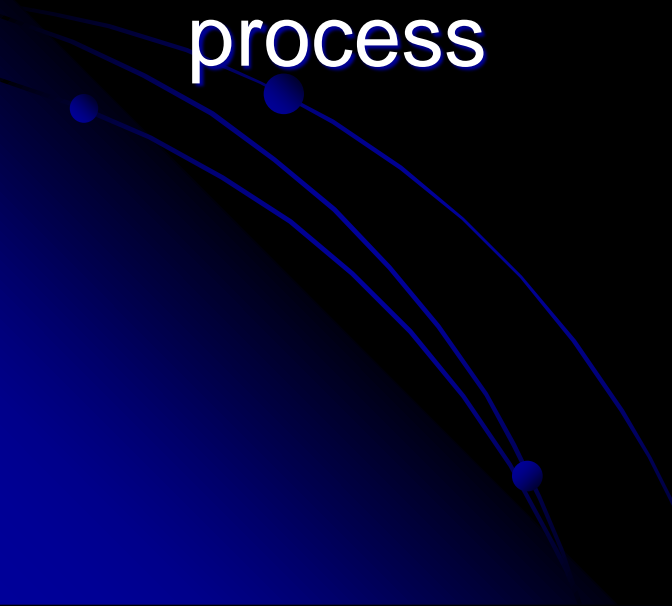# Multiculturalism or *Multilated*-culturalism?

A reading
on
Contemporary Indonesian Film ,
Cin(T)a 2009
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contextualization

- "Unity *in* Diversity" vs. "Unity *or* Diversity"

- *Cin(T)a* as an *artifact* set in this dialectical process

Cin(T)a, as cinematic recording

- Metz's : *film as signifying system:*
1. filmic fact (a love strory)
2. cinematic fact (sensitive issues)

- *A love story but sensitive issues:*
   "*Dear God.*
   This is Cina.
   This is Annisa.
   You love Cina and Annisa.
   But since they call you with different name (Allah, YHV, El, God, Tuhan),
   they can not love each other.
   God is a director."

Competing narratives, Indonesian face of heterogeneity

Cinematic fact: claiming *T*ruth.

- Banning (LSF).
- Limited access & screening
- Risking of hidden issues
- Misinterpreting religious doctrines
- Religions bring faith rather than peace
- Finding God with movie

Then, *Cin(T)a* transgresses the boundaries

- Cina's & Annisa"s mini love story vs. God's grand love story
- the tabboo vs. the tolerable (in Indonesian pluralism)

Open-ended*ness,* a discursive strategy

Its Filmic fact disrupt dominant discourse

(no meta discourse to encompass all possible explanation)

- Occasions *slippage, heterogeneity, truth-power relationship.*

- *strengthens* the presence open dialogues on deity and ethnicity, unexplored issues of Indonesian pluralism taboos

- So that, *the gap (OPEN-ENDED-NESS)* open up through which change can take place. The gap, that is, permit point of resistance which enable new articulations, which in turn, begin to work on and to alter the dominant discourse

Multiculturalism or multilated-culturalism?

- Based on Parekh's insights:

  Cin(T)a as an artifact of Indonesian multiculturality:

  - cultural embedded-ness,
  - inescapability and desirability of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue,
  - the internal plurality of each culture.

- The further analysis to reflect is focused into two levels:
  - the filmic fact: *the choice of open-endedness = cuturally-embeddednes*
  - and the cinematic fact: *audience's responses into pros = desirability of cultural diversity* and *cons = inescapability.*

(Not) concluding remark

- Multilatedculturalism or multiculturalism ?

- "Are we going *to homogenize* our diverse differences, let the differences scattered all over our islands under one dominant culture (*multilatedculturalism*) ?"

- "or *accept heterogeneities* as a sources of great creative opportunities to embody our great political and philosophical thesis diversities in unity (*multiculturalism*), not diversities or unity?"

- One of benchmarks to check is how we response to a non-mainsteam artifact such as *Cin(T)a*. "The test of time eventually will tell this."