

**THE GAIT OF THE FORUM LINGKAR PENYA (FLP) IN REALIZING READING  
AND WRITING LITERACY IN THE SOUTH SUMATRA REGION**

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**ABSTRACT**

*In the South Sumatra region, one of the organizations whose members are active in writing is Forum Lingkar Pena (FLP). It is interesting to research so that the work carried out by FLP can be an example for other literacy groups. The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative method using a field research approach. Techniques of collecting data use observation instruments, interview and documentary. The results of this study indicate that in realizing literacy in literacy, FLP holds coaching classes specifically carried out by regions as well as by branches with various creative ideas. This routine activity presents competent writers through seminars, trainings and webinars. The use of print and electronic media to monitor members' works is also carried out. The factors that support the success of realizing literacy in literacy are because there are members who already have literacy skills before becoming members and there are also members who really make literacy a part of their life. Meanwhile, the inhibiting factors are the difficulty in coordinating with the board and members if the contact number is lost and the lack of priority for members to write.*

**Keywords:** *Gait, FLP, Literacy*

**ABSTRAK**

Di wilayah Sumatera Selatan, salah satu organisasi yang para anggotanya aktif menulis adalah Forum Lingkar Pena (FLP). Ini menarik diteliti agar kiprah yang dilakukan FLP dapat menjadi contoh bagi kelompok literasi lainnya. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif yang bersifat deskriptif dengan menggunakan pendekatan field research. Teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan instrumen observasi, wawancara dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam mewujudkan literasi baca tulis, FLP mengadakan kelas pembinaan yang khusus dilakukan oleh wilayah juga oleh cabang dengan berbagai ide kreatif. Kegiatan rutin itu menghadirkan penulis-penulis yang berkompeten baik melalui seminar, pelatihan, maupun webinar. Pemanfaatan media cetak dan elektronik untuk pemantauan karya anggota juga dilakukan. Faktor yang menjadi pendukung keberhasilan mewujudkan literasi baca tulis karena ada anggota yang sudah memiliki kemampuan berliterasi sebelum menjadi anggota dan ada juga anggota yang benar-benar menjadikan literasi sebagai bagian dari hidupnya. Sedangkan faktor penghambat yaitu sulitnya melakukan koordinasi dengan pengurus dan anggota jika nomor kontakannya hilang serta kurangnya skala prioritas anggota untuk menulis.

**Kata Kunci:** Kiprah, FLP, Literasi

**INTRODUCTION**

In the era of globalization which is increasingly advancing and developing rapidly, we are required to be able to choose and choose what to read and role models. As a nation that lives during a cultural boom, it is proper to be able to contribute to life. One of them is by providing good teaching/examples, this can be done through writing, which is an alternative method of struggling to face the challenges of the times. Writing is one way to convey ideas or positive messages to readers. Writing will be valuable if it provides something useful for the reader. As Horace (the great Greek poet) said that the purpose of the poet's work is to entertain and benefit (*dulce et utile*). Readers who manage to find these messages will get enlightened,

maybe even make it change for the better. Talking about the issue of writing, Nadeak (2010) said that everyone who wants to become a writer must prepare himself. The easiest way is to make daily notes. Daily notes do not always contain everyday experiences. But also in the form of notes that are very valuable thoughts, both from daily conversations and from reading material (p. 96). This is where the role of FLP is in fostering writers so that they can consistently continue to write. Apart from guiding the world of writing, FLP also publishes the works of the authors in printed books as well as markets them to the general public. This is in line with the opinion of Atmosuwito (2010) that sometimes writers have limitations in terms of cost so that their writings are rarely published (p. 12). The publication of the author's work will help them to benefit both in terms of material and non-material. Ratna (2007) says that literary works are not limited to artists and researchers, nor are they a privilege of the literary community, but rather for society as a whole (p. 372). The Lingkar Pena Forum hereinafter referred to as FLP, is a writing forum as well as a forum capable of producing young writers who want to develop their interests and talents through writing. If you enjoy the works of FLP members, it is full of good values. This is very good for improving the morale of the younger generation because the literary works produced contain elements of da'wah. Kasman (2004) states that da'wah writing is a process of covering, processing, disseminating various events with Islamic values by adhering to journalistic rules and norms sourced from the Qur'an and Sunnah (p. 110).

On the FLP official website (<https://flp.or.id/profile/>) it is stated that FLP's vision is to provide enlightenment through writing. Meanwhile, FLP's missions are: (1) to improve the quality and productivity of members' work as a meaningful contribution to society; (2) build a network of writers who produce quality and intellectual works; (3) improve the reading and writing culture among the people, and (4) fight for a better life for writers.

From the vision and mission, it can be concluded that FLP has an important role because it is part of Indonesian human education in the field of literacy. Seeing how noble the vision and mission are, researchers are interested in knowing how FLP's progress, especially in the South Sumatra region, is realizing literacy that is full of current dynamics. This is important because FLP members, especially in the South Sumatra region, are writing organizations that are productive in their work in the literary world. Research related to FLP was written in a thesis entitled Fiksimorphosis Forum Lingkar Pena (Flp): From Ideology to Industry, by Azwar at the Master's Program in Communication Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Indonesia in 2012. The findings in the field show that that FLP's fictional industry

has changed its orientation from ideology to industry. However, this is seen by FLP as a victory for them in the struggle against the industry such as resistance to fiction themes, resistance to distribution patterns, and resistance to the exclusivity of works of fiction. But what happened was that FLP had been commodified, standardized, and massified for the benefit of the industry. This is a form of industry domination over writers. In addition, there is also a thesis published in 2014 with the title *Da'wah Strategy of the Lingkar Pena Forum (FLP) Semarang Branch in Developing Islamic Journalism in Semarang City*, which was researched by Ahmad Afandi, at the Department of Islamic Communication and Broadcasting (KPI), Faculty of Da'wah and Communication, Walisongo State Islamic Institute, Semarang. The results of this study are first, the da'wah strategies applied by the Lingkar Pena Forum (FLP) Semarang Branch are: (a). Journalism training strategy, this strategy is included in the ta'lim strategy. The ta'lim strategy is to provide education about understanding the ins and outs of journalism and Islam. (b). Cooperation strategy with publishers, this strategy is included in network theory, network theory is a social structure created through communication between many individuals and groups, in the form of collaborating with publishers, this strategy serves as a bridge or liaison for FLP Semarang Branch's work so that it can be enjoyed by publishers. public. Second, (a). the inhibiting factors are communication, coordination is still not optimal, managerial is still weak, and human resources are not as expected. (b). the supporting factors are having figures who are experts in the field of journalism and are well known, the organization is structured, has partners who are already in alliance with. When viewed from the two studies previously mentioned, the first research focuses on the work of FLP which morphoses from ideology to industry. While the second research focuses on the da'wah strategy carried out by FLP in developing Islamic journalism in the city of Semarang. Still the same as the object being studied, which is both researching FLP but different from the focus of the research, the research that the author does focus on the work carried out by FLP to realize literacy in South Sumatra with all its dynamics, both in terms of supporters and in terms of obstacles. This research is important to do because, in the course of FLP's work in realizing literacy, there are hindering and supporting factors, it is worth knowing how FLP's tips respond to it. Matters related to these problems will be disclosed in this study. in addition to the dynamics of different members, both in terms of gender, social status, education, age, nature, and behavior as well as in the current pandemic situation (covid 2019).

## **METHOD**

This study intends to describe the role of FLP in realizing literacy in the South Sumatra region. Therefore, this type of research uses qualitative type research. Qualitative research is a research approach that reveals certain social situations by properly describing reality, formed by words based on relevant data collection and analysis techniques obtained from natural situations. While the research method used is a descriptive method according to Natsir (2003), namely the activities carried out to describe the conditions seen in the field as they are, the data regarding the things studied are then analyzed. This descriptive study aims to make systematic, factual, and accurate descriptions, descriptions, paintings, and descriptions of the facts, characteristics, and relationships between the phenomena being investigated (p. 54). Based on the orientation of the problem and the source of the data to be studied, this study uses a field research approach (field in nature).

In qualitative research, the researcher acts as the primary instrument, where the researcher determines the focus of the research, selects informants, collects data, analyzes the data, and draws conclusions on the data findings. To support the role of researchers as primary instruments, secondary instruments are needed, including instruments of observation, interviews, and documentation. While the data analysis technique used is descriptive narrative. This technique according to Sugiono (2010) is applied in three ways, namely reducing data, presenting data, and drawing conclusions (p. 338).

The data sources of this research are divided into two sources. The first data source is primary data sourced from field research. The second data is a secondary data source that comes from the results of a literature review.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Results**

The Lingkar Pena Forum (FLP) was inaugurated on February 22, 1997, in Jakarta, initiated by Helvy Tiana Rossa, Asma Nadia, and Muthmainnah. Then the branches so quickly spread in almost every province in Indonesia. This is because the first general chairman of the central FLP, Helvy Tiana Rossa is also a leader in an Islamic fiction magazine, namely Annida Magazine, an Islamic fiction magazine with a circulation of about one hundred thousand copies per month. FLP members because they created a special rubric containing FLP info and became

a means of recruiting new members. The magazine became a means of recruiting new members and the emergence of the work of new FLP members. The majority of FLP members are students and students. FLP members have the same intention, which is to share light for readers and consider writing activities as part of worship. FLP has collected many awards, including the prestigious Adikarya Ikapi award, the Khatulistiwa Award, until being selected as a participant in the Anugerah MASTERA (Southeast Asian Literature Council) program and becoming an administrator in the International Literary League. As for the level of membership, it is divided into 3 stages, namely the level of young, intermediate, and reliable members. The FLP Work Program (<https://flp.or.id/PROGRAM-KERJA/>) is divided into two, namely external and internal. In the external field, namely (1) actively contributing to the world of Indonesian literacy with quality, enlightening, and Islamic values that are rahmatan lil 'alamin and expanding the influence of FLP's work in the international sphere; (2) fight for FLP's works to become references and mainstream of the world of literacy in Indonesia; (3) actively involved in the development of interest in reading and writing Indonesian society; and (4) expanding networks and synergizing with various organizations and agencies that share the same vision and mission with FLP, both at home and abroad, private and government. Meanwhile, in the internal field, it aims to (1) form a cadre system that produces writers who have qualified writing, organizational, and Islamic skills; (2) achieving organizational financial independence; and (3) the establishment of modern, efficient, and transparent organizational governance. To achieve this goal, the 2013-2017 FLP Central Executive Board created 10 Excellent Programs, namely CAHAYA PELITA BERSAMA. This program will become the framework for the 2013-2017 FLP Central Executive Board which will reach out to regions, branches, and branches, both in Indonesia and abroad. The program activities are: (1) the lighthouse; (2) change agents; (3) 100 books per year; (4) writing pen hut, (5) Literacy portal; (6) FLP Literacy journal; (7) transliteration of FLP works; (8) Barakah business; (9) Organizational solidity; and (10) Islam Rahmatan Lil 'alamin. On November 22, 2000, FLP South Sumatra also stood up to enliven the world of literature but with Islamic characteristics. Committed to building cadres continuously and sustainably, Expanding the network to the outside, and strengthening stability from within are continuously carried out towards maintaining that commitment. FLP members interact and build relationships with fellow cadres from every corner of the archipelago and all levels, explore authorship and Islamic insights independently, to gradually hone organizational skills until they are intact and qualified. These gains are then managed properly within the organization. Branches in South Sumatra enable

centralized communication to the Regional FLP. The most active is on the online path. WhatsApp groups were also structured: Regional Managers, Branch Managers, Branch Chairs plus Regional Managers, Regional Supervisory Boards, Regional Managers with the Trustees Board, Branch Members, Branch Members with NRA, even Large Families Who Have Been with the South Sumatra FLP, all each has its group. With such a complete group building, all-important organizational information can be derived in an orderly and comprehensive manner. Logo usage information, for example, FLP Sumsel can continue to move consistently sourced from the monthly fee for each member. Which serves as a marker and binder. A sign that the member is still willing to be active in FLP. Even the small fee is a bond between the person concerned and the FLP. Members feel there is a right to own and the board must provide good coaching management. FLP Sumsel has run several coaching programs according to the stages that have been passed by its members. There is a coaching program for branch members who already have an NRA, which is managed by branch administrators. There is also a coaching program for active members throughout South Sumatra who have participated in the inauguration activities (Writing Camp). This coaching program is called the Sumsel Writing Group (GSM). The management of this coaching group is held by the Regional Work Division and the Board of Trustees. Although it is free for mentors and participants, this group has very strict rules. Very intensive coaching is carried out through monthly materials, quizzes, discussions, review of works, and writing assignments twice per month. If a participant neglects his duties twice and his silence rate in the group reaches 75%, then he will be immediately removed from the group and can only rejoin one month later after fulfilling various conditions and obligations. The coaches who become mentors at GSM are those who have been tested in the field of writing. For participants, by joining GSM, apart from gaining a lot of insight, they are also finally able to produce a variety of writings according to the task of depositing which is very varied in the group. Inevitably, GSM is proof of the commitment of the cadre organization and concrete evidence of the work of its members. Until now (2021) FLP members who are active and have membership cards are recorded as 215 members. To be registered as an official member who has a Membership Identity Card (KTA FLP) or has been inaugurated as a member of the South Sumatra FLP, prospective members must follow several requirements, including participating in several activities and producing some of their works. If you are already registered as an official member, you can join the What Sapp group and be active in the branch where you are sheltered and active in the coaching group. In addition, these



members are further divided into three levels, namely Muda, Intermediate, and Andal. The following are the criteria for the three levels.

1. Young, namely those who have the desire and perseverance to write, have an Islamic personality and understand the FLP organization.

Output: FLP cadres who can write fiction or non-fiction works that have never been published in the mass media.

1. Intermediate, namely those who have produced works in local or national mass media, and/or have won a writing competition level
2. regional and national, eager to preach through writing and
3. ready to be involved in the management of FLP.
4. Output: FLP cadres who produce quality works, actively write in various mass media, their works are recorded, and can become trainers for young groups

2. Andal, namely those who are active in writing in various media, have recorded their works, have won national level writing competitions, and/or become academics in the field of literature or journalism and regularly produce da'wah works and are ready to become FLP ambassadors.

Output: FLP cadres who are recognized for their capacity and credibility at the regional/national level, able to become good critics, become trainers for all levels of membership.

Currently there are 6 branches that exist under FLP South Sumatra, namely FLP Palembang Branch, FLP Ogan Ilir Branch, FLP Ogan Komering Ulu Branch, FLP Prabumulih Branch, FLP Lahat Branch, and FLP Lubuklinggau Branch. In addition, there are 2 FLP branches that still exist, namely FLP UIN (Palembang) and FLP Mansadel (Lubuk Linggau). If you want to see the development of FLP, you can go online, namely on Instagram with the name @flapsumsel, on Facebook with the name FLP South Sumatra Region, or the <https://flp.or.id/profile/> page. In addition, if you want to correspond, you can email [FlpSumsel45@gmail.com](mailto:FlpSumsel45@gmail.com).

## **Discussion**

Even though during the 2019 covid pandemic, South Sumatra FLP still exists to hold meetings with members, especially through online media, these activities are in the form of National Gathering (28 November 2020), SEO Article Writing Training for Websites (8 November 2020), KAIBAR (Together Islamic Studies) with FLP Sesumsel (September 20,

2020), the Writing Material discusses is a place to learn and practice writing both literary and non-literary works. This monthly routine event is carried out both online and face-to-face which is held at the branch by implementing a health program.

Literature Review activities are also routinely carried out, this activity discusses the literary works of writers, both in the form of poetry, short stories, and novels. This activity varies, taking into account the situation and conditions, sometimes in WA, Instagram, or Zoom groups, in this online class participants are advised to donate sincerely which will be distributed to help victims of COVID-19. In addition to these activities, there are also literacy discussions through Instagram by inviting writers from outside the region. At a certain time also held a National Seminar through zoom on literary works by cooperating with certain competent organizations. Aid-raising activity due to the pandemic with the title FLP Cares for the Ummah was held by collecting funds from both members themselves and funds from the general public, both for humanity and disaster care. Due to the ongoing pandemic, FLP held literary competitions which were sent via e-mail and distributed through social networks.

The work carried out by the South Sumatra FLP to realize literacy is full of planning, experience, and high dedication from the managers. All of this will not be realized if it is not followed by the enthusiasm of the members of the South Sumatra FLP. The results of this study indicate that in realizing reading and writing literacy, FLP Sumsel holds coaching classes that are specifically carried out by the region as well as by their respective branches and branches with various creative ideas. These routine activities are designed in such a way with a planned schedule as effective and efficient as possible, for example by presenting competent writers either through seminars, training, or webinars. The utilization of print media and online media as a form of literacy and monitoring of members' work is also carried out. All forms of coaching carried out at FLP Sumsel are certainly full of dynamics, both from members, administrators, situations, and conditions experienced to carry out these activities. In carrying out its work in literacy, South Sumatra FLP also experienced several obstacles and struggles to make it happen.

Factors that support the success of realizing reading and writing literacy, for example, are because there are members who already have literacy skills before becoming a member of the South Sumatra FLP since before becoming a member he has won a writing competition. In addition, some members make literacy a part of their lives, for example, since childhood, they like to write diaries, whatever they experience, they will write in their diary so that when they



are fostered to write, their ability to write becomes more focused. Meanwhile, the inhibiting factor is the difficulty of coordinating between administrators and members or fellow members and even fellow administrators if the contact number is lost. It could also be because there is no signal in certain areas so that they cannot receive messages or send messages. Even though at this time the easiest means of connecting is a gadget, but if the number changes or the device is lost, even in an area far from the communication network, the opportunity for this easiest communication will also be lost. In addition, some factors are caused by busyness or certain urgent interests and the lack of a member's priority scale for writing, so the opportunity to write will be missed.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the description that has been presented, it can be concluded that:

1. The South Sumatra FLP's work is very appropriate to promote literacy by always holding activities both through social media and face-to-face activities.
2. It is necessary to pay more attention to the welfare of the management. This can be done by getting income by involving the general public through creative ideas that attract interest so that people are interested in participating even though they have to pay.
3. Regarding the obstacles that sometimes arise, both from members and the management themselves, it is better for the FLP management to anticipate them by looking at the situation and conditions that are by the circumstances.

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