

Criminality in Nabil Farouk's Novel *Al-Mughamarah*: Robert K. Merton's Anomie Study

Balkis Nur Azizah

Department of Arabic Language, STIT Sunan Giri, Trenggalek, Indonesia

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Corresponding
author:

balkisnuraziza@gmail.com

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Abstract

In various countries, crime rates experience a significant increase every year, raising concerns about a continuing moral crisis. This study aims to analyze the forms of crime depicted in Nabil Farouk's novel *Al-Mughamarah*. The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method, drawing on the novel *Al-Mughamarah* by Nabil Farouk. The study's results indicate three types of crime: innovation, retreatism, and ritualism. In the form of innovation, crime occurs in the form of bribery and disguise and in the form of retreatism, including unauthorized housebreaking, murder, attempted murder, and torture. Ritualism is limited to one form of crime: escape. Both male and female characters commit the crimes in the novel. Further research is expected to examine this novel from a different perspective, given the novel's departure from prevailing stereotypes regarding the representation of women.

Keywords: *Al-Mughamarah*, anomie, criminality, literature, Robert K. Merton

1- Introduction

The phenomenon of crime increasing every year raises concerns that nations worldwide are experiencing a continuing moral crisis (Mujiburrahman, 2018, p. 193). Crime is dominated by society, such as (Unayah & Sabarisman, 2016, p. 125) free sex, brawls, bullying, narcotics abuse, and even cases of corruption, collusion, and manipulation, which are very prevalent. The crimes that occur are the result of the massive social changes brought about by the technological revolution sweeping across various countries. Industrialization and globalization have brought both positive and negative changes across all areas of life (Syahra, 2000, p. 3).

The difference between crime and deviant behavior lies in the target of the action (Mustofa, 2021, p. 89). Crime is defined as an act that harms a victim (Fiyantika et al., 2024, p. 380), while deviant behavior is behavior that violates societal norms (Nurlaeliyah, 2018, p. 120). However, both are negative actions carried out by individuals or groups that are not in harmony with social order, so experts agree to call them deviant behavior (Mustofa, 2021, p. 7). It can be concluded that deviant behavior directly emphasizes human behavior seen from a social and cultural perspective (Ramadhan, 2021, p. 95). Merton described the occurrence of deviant behavior as a correlation between delinquent behavior and certain stages in the social structure, which give rise to, foster, and condition violations of societal norms that are normal reactions (Merton, 1996, p. 102). Why is it called normal? Merton argued that, even though social structures may oppress individuals (because not everyone has the same opportunities), most members of society still try to conform to prevailing norms and obey the rules to achieve success (Merton, 1996, p. 105).

So far, studies discussing Robert K. Merton's deviant behavior (anomie) tend to focus on three things. *First*, uncovering deviant behavior using novel objects (Jaya & Zulfadhli, 2022; Khaswara & Zulfadhli, 2019; Setyatmoko & Supriyanto, 2017). *Second*, deviant behavior is studied and scrutinized using comparative methods (Caterine & Asri, 2012). *Third*, look at deviant behavior in social life (Aini Citra et al., 2023; Anggita et al., 2021; Awaliyah et al., 2021; Jamain & Hafidzi, 2018; Musyarafah & Lukmawati, 2019; Pratama Saputra, 2022). The three existing studies tend to focus more closely on deviant behavior in social life among teenagers in several schools. Apart from that, there is still minimal research examining deviant behavior in the form of crime in a novel, based on its concepts and characteristics.

This study aims to complement the shortcomings of existing studies, which tend to place deviant behavior as actions that are not in accordance with the rules in force in an area life (Aini Citra et al., 2023; Anggita et al., 2021; Awaliyah et al., 2021; Jamain & Hafidzi, 2018; Musyarafah & Lukmawati, 2019; Pratama Saputra, 2022). Therefore, the research questions are: (a) What are the forms of crime in the novel *Al-Mughamarah* by Nabel Farouk? This article assumes that deviant behavior violates moral values. In this case, the rules have been mutually agreed upon in the social system. *Second*, that crime is part of deviant behavior that has no justification within any social system. *Third*, Robert K. Merton's anomie theory is an effective technique for exploring forms of crime in novels.

The research methodology includes the research type, data sources, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques, which will later be compiled into a report (Kristanto, 2018). This research method uses descriptive qualitative methods. The data source for this research is the novel *Al-Mughamarah* by Nabel Farouk. The data in this research consist of sentences from Nabel Farouk's *Al-Mughamarah* that depict societal criminality in this literary work. The novel *Al-Mughamarah* by Nabel Farouk has a criminal element because its narrative structure draws on the adventure-thriller genre, which relies on conflict, threats, and violations of the law as the driving force of the story.

The research technique used in this study is a literature review, namely searching for information relevant to the research in books, journals, and articles, and reading and recording data relevant to the theory. In this stage, the steps taken by the researcher are: (1) reading the novel repeatedly and in depth; (2) determining the focus of the study; (3) using relevant data recording techniques (words/sentences); (4) classifying data based on the theory used; (5) carrying out triangulation for validity (Qomar, 2024, p. 85). The stage of analyzing the data used in the research is by (1) intensive reading of the novel text; (2) identifying parts of the text that are relevant to the research focus; (3) classifying data based on Merton's anomie theory categories; (4) interpreting the meaning of the text using Merton's anomie theory; (5) formulating findings and drawing conclusions.

Data selection focused on text sections thematically relevant to the research focus: the representation of criminal behavior in the novel. Identification of criminal acts was not carried out in a general manner, but rather by examining the forms of social deviation displayed by the characters based on the typology of adaptation in Robert K. Merton's anomie theory. In this process, the researcher examined actions, motives, and narrative contexts that showed a mismatch between

cultural goals and socially institutionalized ways. Each relevant data excerpt was then classified according to the categories of anomie theory for further interpretive analysis within the novel's narrative. Using nail methods was included.

To maintain data validity, this study employed theoretical triangulation and peer discussion. Theoretical triangulation was conducted by comparing the interpretation of textual data with various relevant literature sources in criminology and literary studies. Furthermore, the researcher held discussions with the supervisor to review the identification and classification of the data. This discussion aimed to ensure that the interpretation of text excerpts and the categorization of data were carried out consistently and in accordance with the study's theoretical framework.

2. Results and Discussion

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), anomie is directionless and apathetic behaviour or a state of society characterised by a cynical (negative) view of norms, loss of legal authority, and disorganisation of relationships between people, or it can also be interpreted as a symptom of psychological imbalance that can give rise to behaviour. deviates in various manifestations (Setiawan, 2019). Meanwhile, crime harms others or oneself and is part of deviant behaviour resulting from social deviation (Mustofa, 2021, p. 65).

Al-Mughamarah is a novel that explores conflicts over power and crime. The conflict in question relates to countries fighting over a cassette containing Egypt's most advanced aircraft design, which is the only design in the world, resulting in America, Russia, the Soviet Union, and Egypt itself killing each other and spreading hate speech to get the design cassette. Meanwhile, the owners of the cassette were twins, one of whom was killed on the ship while rescuing the cassette to Turkey. There was a small war at the national border when the other twin tried to save the cassette, but in the end, an Egyptian man destroyed it to preserve peace between the countries (Faruq, 2020).

This form of research refers to the series of words, sentences, paragraphs, and meanings used in the novel *Al-Mughamarah*. To study various forms of crime in the novel, the researcher used Robert K. Merton's anomie perspective as a scalpel to analyze *Al-Mughamarah*. As the researchers illustrate in the table below:

Table 1. Forms of Criminality in the Novel *Al-Mughamarah*

Types of crime	Forms of crime
Innovation	Bribe
	Disguise
Retreatism	Breaking into the house
	Murder
	Attempted murder
	Kidnapping
	Torture
Ritualism	Escape

Table 1 shows three types of crime in Nabil Farouk's novel *Al-Mughamarah*: innovation, retreatism, and ritualism. As further explanation, it is as follows:

1.1 Innovation

Innovation is the condition of an individual or society that accepts the cultural goals of a society but does not use institutionalized methods, but instead uses incorrect methods. There are two forms of innovation in the *Al-Mughamarah* novel: bribery and disguise. First, bribery is a gift, in the form of money or goods, to a target to further the giver's interests. Bribery includes many forms, such as gifts, discounts, commissions, interest-free loans, travel tickets, lodging, tourist trips, and free medical treatment (Saputra & Mahyani, 2017, p. 82). Below is an example of this type of innovative crime in the form of a bribe in the form of more money to a taxi driver so that the driver can travel faster than the normal speed:

"I want to get to the port as quickly as possible. If the driver can take me faster, I will give him a big tip." (Faruq, 2020, p. 9)

Ashraf's bribe to the taxi driver is part of deviant behaviour that has become naturalised, especially in Indonesia. Ashraf promised more money if the taxi driver could take him to the port quickly because he remembered that the scheduled time for the ship to Turkey had already arrived. The driver took the Corniche road in Alexandria, which was the fastest route from Ashraf's initial pick-up, and eight minutes later, Ashraf arrived at the port. The driver woke Ashraf, who was fast asleep, and, as agreed at the beginning, Ashraf gave the driver more money.

According to Robert K. Merton's anomie perspective, Ashraf's statement offering an additional reward to the taxi driver to expedite the journey to the port represents a form of adaptation to innovation. Ashraf's orientation focuses on achieving a rational goal arriving at the port as quickly as possible to avoid missing the ship to Turkey. However, this goal is achieved through means that deviate from common social procedures, namely by offering financial rewards to obtain priority service. This action indicates a shift from legitimate means to a pragmatic strategy that relies on material benefits to accelerate the pursuit of personal interests. From the above phenomenon, this practice reflects the characteristics of innovation in anomie theory the acceptance of dominant cultural goals, accompanied by mechanisms that are not fully aligned with prevailing social norms.

Apart from the data above, some data explain the forms of bribery in the context of innovation crime. The form of bribery in the data below is a bribe paid by American soldiers to doctors to give Ashraf sleeping pills so that they could easily search Ashraf's cabin. The following is a detailed explanation:

"I gave him sleeping pills; you can search his cabin while he sleeps. If you disguise yourself as a janitor, I will tell the guard that there will be two janitors coming." (Faruq, 2020, p. 15)

Ashraf's trip to Turkey, which started as a holiday, turned into a disaster. During this trip, Ashraf experienced an assassination attempt by American soldiers to get the cassette that Ashraf was holding. Because of the assassination attempt, ship officers rescued Ashraf, and he received treatment from a doctor who was competent in his field. However, the doctor had collaborated with American soldiers to agree to give Ashraf sleeping pills so that they could easily search Ashraf's cabin and look for the tape in question.

From Merton's perspective on anomie, the data regarding Ashraf's administration of sleeping pills so that certain parties could disguise themselves as cleaning staff and conduct a cabin search represents a form of innovative adaptation. The actions taken demonstrate an attempt to achieve a specific goal, namely gaining cabin access and searching for the desired object through a manipulative strategy that deviates from legal procedures and institutional ethics. Instead of using official mechanisms such as authoritative inspections, the perpetrators exploited the situation by drugging the target and creating a disguised scenario so that the search activity could be carried out without arousing suspicion. The phenomenon that occurred shows that the goal was maintained. Still, the means used did not comply with prevailing social norms, thereby reflecting the characteristics of innovation in anomie theory the use of illegitimate means to realize desired interests.

Further data shows that bribery occurs in the novel *Al-Mughamarah* during Dark's conversation with his subordinates to find the best lawyer, and that Dark is ready to pay whatever it takes to bribe security and justice officials. The conversation data is as follows:

"So, Martin, do your best... send our lawyer... agree with the Turkish lawyer... the best lawyer in all of Istanbul... pay any amount, if the security and court officers are mutilated, the important thing is that you release this, Egypt will return to us as soon as possible... Understand?" (Faruq, 2020, p. 17)

Dark told Martin (his subordinate) to find the best lawyer in Istanbul, Turkey, to help Ashraf avoid a death sentence in his death trial. Ashraf is stuck in court because Nathalie lost his passport, leaving him without identification.

Dark used this opportunity to bribe the security guard and let Ashraf out, so he could be taken hostage and forced to open his mouth about the tapes he was keeping. However, Ashraf did not know that he could survive the trial due to Dark's intervention. Ashraf thought that after being free, he could return to his home country to continue his life.

Martin's order to send the best lawyers in Istanbul and to pay unlimited sums to manipulate the legal process demonstrates a pattern of innovative adaptation. The primary goal of the process was to secure the release of the detained individuals for their immediate return to Egypt, a goal deemed essential by the ordering party. However, this goal was not achieved through legitimate legal mechanisms, but rather through efforts to influence security forces and court officials with material rewards. This strategy involves using means that deviate from institutional norms to achieve the desired outcome. The above phenomenon demonstrates the characteristics of innovation in anomie theory, acceptance of the desired goal, but realised through illegitimate means that utilise financial power to intervene in the legal process.

A bribery case involves three elements the bribe giver, the bribe recipient, and the goods or value handed over; it does not rule out the possibility that a third party, acting as a broker or intermediary, is involved. In the first data, the bribe giver is Ashraf, the bribe recipient is a taxi driver, and the item handed over is money. In the second data, the bribe giver: Dark, the bribe recipient: lawyer, and the item handed over: money. Meanwhile, in the third data, the bribe-giver was an American soldier, the bribe-recipient was a doctor, and the item handed over was money.

These data demonstrate the construction of a narrative world populated by deviant practices across various social spaces. Ashraf's bribery of a taxi driver demonstrates that behavior that is normatively against the law is practiced as a pragmatic mechanism to advance personal interests. This representation suggests that the text depicts a society accustomed to compromising with formal rules. Deviance is no longer understood as an extraordinary act, but as an adaptive strategy born of specific social situations. This condition indicates that the novel not only recounts individual experiences but also depicts a shifting value system.

Ashraf's trip, initially planned as a recreational activity, then turns into a series of events that threaten his safety, emphasizing the dynamic of conflict

that continues to develop in the storyline. This change places the main character in an increasingly unstable situation, especially when he must face legal issues, loss of identity, and threats of violence from various parties. This situation demonstrates the vulnerability of individuals within a system rife with interests and power. The character no longer has full control over his fate, as every event is influenced by the decisions and actions of others with greater authority.

The series of events involving security forces, power networks, and professional figures such as doctors demonstrates that the novel's power structures operate in a complex, often opaque manner. Decisions to manipulate the law, resort to bribery, and strategize to obtain specific information demonstrate how institutions that should guarantee justice can instead function as tools of personal interests. This narrative critiques the socio-political system that allows manipulation and abuse of authority to occur without adequate controls. Individuals within it are often the most vulnerable, lacking access to the power networks that shape events.

Second, disguise can express an action, an existence, an experience, or other dynamic meaning. In the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), disguising is defined as changing one's appearance without revealing one's true form (Setiawan, 2019, p. 23). The form of disguise below is that Nathalie lied to the hotel clerk that she was Ashraf's wife so that Nathalie could enter Ashraf's hotel room, as explained below:

"I said I was your wife, so they let me in." (Faruq, 2020, p. 23)

Ashraf returned to the hotel safely after he experienced an assassination attempt carried out by the American army and its troops. During his journey, Ashraf took a taxi that dropped him at the hotel lobby. However, when Ashraf opened his room, he was surprised to see Nathalie already lying on his bed. What is even more surprising is that Nathalie was able to enter his room only because she was disguised as Ashraf's wife. Apart from that, what is even more surprising is that the level of hotel security in Istanbul is very low, even though it is very high in Egyptian hotels. They pay close attention to identity verification when checking into the hotel.

Martin's order to send the best lawyers in Istanbul and to pay unlimited sums to manipulate the legal process demonstrates a pattern of innovative adaptation. The primary goal of the process was to secure the release of the detained individuals for their immediate return to Egypt, a goal deemed essential by the ordering party. However, this goal was not achieved through legitimate legal mechanisms, but rather through efforts to influence security forces and court officials with material rewards. This strategy involves using means that deviate from institutional norms to achieve the desired outcome. The above phenomenon demonstrates the characteristics of innovation in anomie theory, acceptance of the desired goal, but realised through illegitimate means that utilise financial power to intervene in the legal process.

Innovation in the form of disguise is also found in the novel *Al-Mughamarah*, with the data below, which explains that American soldiers disguise themselves as janitors:

"You can search his cabin while he is sleeping, if you disguise yourself as a janitor, I'll tell the guard that two janitors will be coming." (Faruq, 2020, p. 27)

The American soldiers were named Dark and Philip. They had collaborated with the doctor to give Ashraf sleeping pills so they could freely search his cabin. They disguised themselves as cleaners in order to find the cassette they were looking for in Ashraf's room. However, after an hour of searching, they did not find anything in the room, but they were still convinced that Helga (the woman who owned the cassette and was killed by them) had left the cassette with Ashraf to see, from their closeness all this time. Apart from that, Ashraf's innocent face added to their belief that Ashraf was easy to deceive and work with.

Merton's Anomie concept and the plan to enter Ashraf's cabin disguised as a janitor demonstrate a deviant strategy that falls into the innovation category. The goal was to gain access to Ashraf's private space to conduct a specific search, but the execution involved identity manipulation and information manipulation with security officers. This approach involves using

methods that violate official procedures to advance desired interests, thereby constituting illegitimate means of achieving goals.

The data shows that the novel's story places the main character in a situation of uncertainty, particularly regarding identity and the security of private space. The incident in which Nathalie enters the hotel room disguised as Ashraf's wife indicates weak institutional control over individual access to rights that should be exclusive. The narrative compares security standards in Istanbul and Egypt, implicitly offering a critical assessment of security management practices across different social contexts.

The storyline depicts the involvement of various characters who employ covert strategies to pursue their own interests. The presence of American soldiers working alongside a doctor and disguised as janitors demonstrates that power is not always exercised openly. The act of administering sleeping pills to Ashraf signifies an attempt to control the individual's body and consciousness so that the information-seeking process can proceed unhindered. This situation reflects the unequal relationship between individuals and groups with greater authority and resources.

The depiction of the antagonists' assessment of Ashraf's character contains an interesting representational dimension. The perception that Ashraf is innocent and easily influenced becomes the basis for their manipulative approach. This assessment demonstrates how personal identity can be constructed and utilized as a strategic tool in power relations. The story's structure ultimately presents individuals as parties under pressure from various interests, so that the main character's experience functions not only as a personal conflict but also as a reflection of the practices of domination that operate within complex networks of power.

The findings of this research state that the forms of this type of innovation are bribery and disguise. The research findings align with Robert K. Merton's theory of deviant behavior, which holds that innovation is a cultural phenomenon accepted by society but not conducted in accordance with social and legal norms (Nurlaeliyah, 2018, p. 198). The bribes found in the novel *Al-Mughamarah* are (1) the bribe given by Ashraf to the taxi driver by promising him a lot of money if he could take Ashraf quickly to the port; (2) bribes by American soldiers to the doctor treating Ashraf to give him sleeping pills in his injections, and (3) Dark bribed a lawyer to save Ashraf. Meanwhile, the data

reveal that Nathalie disguised herself as Ashraf's wife, and the American soldiers disguised themselves as janitors. Bribery will always take the form of actions that reward others for personal gain (Febriana & Salsabila, 2020, p. 8). Meanwhile, disguising yourself always involves deceiving others by changing your name, position, or something else (Fahriza, 2021, p. 65).

This type of innovation crime, which involves bribery and disguise, is a deviant behavior that has become entrenched in society, even though it is not a criminal act that threatens a person's life; it is still detrimental and endangers others. Innovations in society are highly diverse and adapt to the culture and norms of the area. By understanding innovation and its impact, human adaptation to the environment will be better synchronized, driven by the harmony between culture and the methods used. This means that if anomie is eliminated in community life, harmony will be fostered, ultimately leading to a more peaceful, calm life.

1.2 Retreatism

Retreatism is the state of an individual or society that rejects the cultural goals of a society and has resorted to institutionalised means (Ramadhan, 2021, p. 97). There are five forms from the novel *Al-Mughamarah* by Nabil that fall under the scope of retreatism. Firstly, trespassing into another person's home or any place belonging to another person without his or her permission is an act of misconduct or social deviance (Rahayu & Hadi, 2019, p. 650). Here is an example of retreatism in the form of Helga barging into Ashraf's room:

"His eyes opened wide, and he was shocked when the Soviet woman barged into his room." (Faruq, 2020, p. 30)

Helga barged into Ashraf's cabin without permission, even though Helga was the only economy-class passenger while Ashraf was in the first-class cabin. This aroused the suspicion of the American soldiers, who were eyeing the cassette Helga held. They agreed to believe that the cassette was really Helga, leaving it to Ashraf. Their suspicions were correct: the woman broke into Ashraf's room to leave the cassette and gave it to her twin, Nathalie, in Istanbul. Ashraf accepted the cassette because he did not think its contents would harm him.

From Robert K. Merton's perspective, using the Anomie Theory framework, Helga's breaking into Ashraf's room without permission can be understood as a form of retreatism, a rejection of social norms that regulate the boundaries of ownership and the privacy of personal space. This behavior demonstrates a disregard for institutional rules that should regulate interactions between individuals in private spaces. In the context above, Helga did not follow legitimate social procedures to gain access to Ashraf's room, but instead acted directly without considering the legitimacy of the action. It can be concluded that breaking into another person's private space reflects a form of deviance that signals a release from compliance with prevailing social norms.

In addition, retreatism in the form of American soldiers breaking into Ashraf's room and searching for tapes in the room while Ashraf was eating dinner upstairs, with the following data:

"The cabin was turned upside down...

Everything was searched hard and fast..." (Faruq, 2020, p. 57)

The above footage explains that the American soldiers entered Ashraf's room to look for Helga's cassette tape that was left with Ashraf when he was having dinner on the top floor of the ship. When Ashraf entered his room, he was surprised by the mess: the cupboard, the mattress, the floor, and the entire room were a mess. Ashraf put the cassette they were looking for behind the figure on his room wall. After checking again, he found it safely stored, but because he was afraid the place was known, he moved it quickly. Ashraf regretted having received the cassette because it turned out that the cassette that Helga entrusted contained an important file that was dangerous, proving that they killed Helga. After all, she had the cassette.

The data above shows how the novel's narrative builds tension through the intersection of individual actions and broader power interests. Helga's decision to enter Ashraf's cabin and leave the cassette marks the beginning of a conflict that later becomes a serious threat to the main character. This action demonstrates how a simple object in the story can serve as a symbol of information with strategic value, prompting attention and surveillance from parties with political and military interests. The situation places Ashraf in an

inadvertent position of involvement in a web of conflict beyond his personal capacity.

The continued presence of American soldiers monitoring and attempting to obtain the tapes demonstrates the mechanisms of power at work through surveillance and intervention in private spaces. The search of Ashraf's room illustrates how the boundaries between personal space and institutional interests can easily be crossed when information is deemed strategic. In this context, a room that should be a place of protection instead becomes a site of power penetration. Narratives like the data above emphasize that individuals often lack full control over their living spaces when confronted with a greater power.

Ashraf's regret after realizing the cassette's contents reveals the tragic dimension of unintentional involvement. The protagonist is depicted as accepting the object without understanding its consequences, while others see it as something to be controlled by various means. This situation demonstrates the knowledge gap between individuals and the power structures surrounding them. The story ultimately critiques a situation in which information becomes both a source of power and a threat, easily drawing individuals around them into conflicts they never intended.

Within Robert K. Merton's Anomie Theory, the act of dismantling the entire cabin's contents into a mess demonstrates a disregard for the social norms and procedures that should govern access to a person's private space. The crude, hasty search activity indicates a lack of effort to follow legitimate inspection procedures. This condition reflects a form of retreatism, namely the tendency to move away from adherence to institutionalized rules in society, so that this action represents an attitude that is no longer bound by applicable normative standards.

Secondly, murder is considered to be an act that removes or deprives a person of life by any means he or she chooses (Wahyudi, 2021, p. 11). The following data shows the existence of retreatism in the form of murder committed by American soldiers (Dark) against Helga, a citizen of the Soviet Union:

"Not long afterward the woman died"... (Faruq, 2020, p. 54)

The woman's scream was clearly heard, and Ashraf recognised it. The beautiful voice, blue eyes, and beautiful body were still clearly recorded; it must be Helga Meno Fatsey, the Soviet woman who left the cassette for him. She died like a slaughtered sheep, her throat slit and then pushed into the sea by the American army led by Dark. In a dying position, the woman screamed and shocked all the passengers on the ship. Unfortunately, the woman could no longer be saved, and her body sank in the middle of the ocean without any of the passengers or ship officers daring to help her.

Murder is an act that takes a person's life by any means chosen by the perpetrator. Data shows that Helga's death, carried out by an American soldier named Dark, demonstrates a form of deviation that can be understood through Robert K. Merton's perspective within the framework of Anomie Theory, specifically in the category of retreatism. This incident reflects a disregard for fundamental values that protect human life and a violation of applicable legal norms. From the above phenomenon, it can be concluded that the murder of Helga demonstrates behavior that is no longer oriented towards goals or social rules institutionalized in society, thus representing a form of retreatism from the social norm system.

Other data regarding retreatism in the form of murder. The data above shows Helga is a victim of murder, and the data below shows Helga's twin (Nathalie) kills Mail by shooting it. The data and explanation are as follows:

"She moved agilely and quickly. Ashraf was shocked when Nathalie lunged at Mail bravely, jumped, and pulled the handle of the gun. Mail was slower, and he was the one killed by Nathalie's hands." (Faruq, 2020, p. 11)

A huge fight broke out between Mail, Ashraf, and Natalie in the hotel room. They were both locked in, so there was no other way to escape than jumping down or moving to the next room through the balcony. Mail swiftly loaded a bullet into his pistol and aimed it at the two of them, but who would have thought that Nathali took out a pistol too from her pocket and fired at Mail. Mail was outsmarted, and she was the one killed at the hands of Nathalie. The stench in Ashraf's room made them both flee over the balcony

and into his side room to avoid the pursuit of Dark, who did not accept his men dying at the hands of Nathalie.

The next form of murder is found in the excerpt from the novel *Al-Mughamarah*, which explains that Nathalie kills for the second time. The person she kills is Dark, who is an American soldier and Helga's killer. The following explanation:

“With the speed of a professional, Dark took the gun and aimed it at Natalie, but Natalie already had her own gun in her hand, raised it faster, and fired a shot that knocked Dark's gun away at just the right moment, causing the American to step back and then scream.” (Faruq, 2020, p. 89)

The data above explains how Nathalie took revenge for Dark's murder of her twin sister Helga. The murder committed by Nathalie to Dark is almost the same as when she shot Mail, the only difference is that Nathalie shot a bullet into Dark's ear and then pushed him the same as when she killed Helga on the ship. Nathalie avenged the death of her twin sister very cruelly, even though she was a woman but she was a Soviet person working in England so her ability to defend herself was very strong and trained.

The data depicts an act of armed violence that occurred when Nathalie fired at Dark's gun, knocking it out of his hand. This incident demonstrates a confrontation involving the use of firearms as a means of conflict resolution. From Robert K. Merton's Anomie Theory perspective, this act can be understood as a form of retreatism, as the perpetrator acted outside the social and legal mechanisms that should govern conflict resolution. The use of armed violence signifies a disregard for norms prohibiting actions that endanger the safety of others. Thus, this incident represents behaviour that deviates from society's institutionalised social rules.

These three data show that violence is used as a crucial element in building conflict and developing the plot. Helga's tragic death is the starting point for the narrative's emerging tension. In literary criticism, this event can be understood as a narrative strategy that emphasizes the power relationship between those in authority and those in a subordinate position. The soldiers led

by Dark demonstrate an imbalance of power, while Helga's death serves as an emotional trigger that drives other characters to take further action. It can be concluded that the violence in this scene serves not only as a dramatic element but also as a driving force in the story's development.

Furthermore, the conflict among Mail, Ashraf, and Nathalie in the hotel room underscores the story's growing intensity. This scene demonstrates how the limited space situation can be used to create stronger narrative tension. In the context of literary criticism, the use of weapons, combat, and the characters' quick decisions demonstrate the psychological dynamics that arise in desperate situations. The characters are not only trying to defend themselves but must also face uncertainty and threats from other characters. Therefore, this incident strengthens the characters' portrayals and shows how personal conflicts develop into more complex ones.

Nathalie's act of revenge against Dark shows a change in the position of female characters in the story. If previously Helga was depicted as a victim of violence, then through Nathalie, the narrative presents a woman who can take action to avenge the injustice she experienced. From a modern literary-critical perspective, this representation shows that female characters are not always passive but can also act as subjects with the ability, courage, and strategy to confront conflict. However, the series of events also shows that the violence in the story builds steadily, as Nathalie's act of revenge is a direct response to the violence her brother endured. In general, the data shows that conflict, violence, and revenge are the main elements shaping the plot and character development in the story.

Third, attempted murder is an act that has been intended from the beginning to take the life of another person, but the target still survives, or in other words, does not die (Mawaddah, 2019, p. 218). Attempted murder includes all acts that lead to murder (Khisni & Ulinuha, 2016, p. 218) so attempted homicide means an attempt to achieve a goal that is ultimately not or has not been achieved (Musriza & Iqbal, 2020, p. 48). The following are data that show the occurrence of attempted murder in the novel *Al-Mughamarah*:

"Ashraf's body fell from the ship, and he screamed in panic, but then he drowned in the cold seawater." (Faruq, 2020, p. 19)

The snippet of data above tells about the attempted murder committed by American soldiers against Asyraf as a passenger on a ship heading to Turkey. The assassination attempt was due to the American army's suspicion of him keeping Helga's tapes. The cassette is sought after by many countries because it contains the world's most advanced aircraft design, which no country has yet achieved. If the design successfully launches the aircraft, the country will become economically developed and stable. American soldiers pushed Ashraf into the sea, and he drowned, but the ship's staff quickly rescued him and gave him intensive care so that he recovered.

The data depicts the attempted murder experienced by Ashraf when his body fell from a boat and drowned in the sea. This incident demonstrates an act of violence that has the potential to take someone's life. From Robert K. Merton's perspective, using the Anomie Theory framework, this act can be understood as a form of retreatism, because the perpetrator committed extreme violence that ignored legal norms and social values that protect human life. This behaviour reflects a release from compliance with institutionalised rules, thus indicating a withdrawal from the system of social norms.

The next data that shows an attempted murder is a sentence snippet explaining that an American soldier strangled Nathalie in Ashraf's hotel room, the following explanation:

"Natalie is suffocating...

And suffocated...

Without mercy" (Faruq, 2020, p. 3)

Nathalie fought fiercely; as a woman, she was not the least bit afraid of the American intermediaries who were chasing her, even though they were arguably much more numerous than she was alone. Martin (one of the middlemen) focused on killing Nathalie. They were all annoyed with the ingenuity and behaviour carried out by Nathalie, as well as they were also embarrassed because they lost against one woman, only to find that Mail was killed at the hands of Nathalie. With a well-thought-out concept, Martin gagged

Nathalie, and then he strangled her mercilessly. Nathalie was unconscious and helpless. However, Ashraf came and helped Nathalie so that Nathalie could survive her death.

The data depicts a violent act of strangulation that caused Nathalie to experience shortness of breath and nearly lose her life. This act demonstrates an attempted murder carried out without considering the victim's safety. From Robert K. Merton's perspective, using the Anomie Theory framework, this behaviour can be understood as a form of retreatism because life-threatening acts of violence clearly contradict legal norms and social values that protect human life. Thus, this incident represents behaviour that deviates from the institutionalised social rules of society.

Other data regarding retreatism in the form of Nathalie's attempted murder of Philip by using a small needle from her ring contains the following description:

"But Nathalie pressed a delicate button on her ring, and a poisoned needle emerged from her lobe, which she then plunged into Phili's neck." (Faruq, 2020, p. 45)

Nathalie, a British soldier, wears a ring containing a small, poisonous needle to keep her life safe. Not only she, but all British soldiers also have this object. Because of the urgent and impossible situation, Nathalie used the ring and took out the needle to stab Philip in the neck. Philip went limp, and soon he closed his eyes, but Philip only lost control and was not dead. Nathalie, who had seen Philip, was still alive and not in accordance with her plan, so she immediately left him because she was afraid Philip would take revenge and kill her.

The data depicts Nathalie's violent actions, using a poisoned needle hidden in a ring to attack Phili. The use of a poisoned instrument to injure, or even potentially kill, someone demonstrates a violation of legal norms and moral values within society. From Merton's perspective, this anomie can be understood as a form of retreatism, reflecting a disregard for social rules that protect individual safety. Therefore, the use of violence through poison

represents behaviour that deviates from adherence to institutionalised social norms within society.

The next data shows the attempted murder committed by Nikolai (Nathalie's lover) by shooting Nathalie, and it was an order from his country. As the data below explains the attempted murder form of retreatism:

"Then he put the gun to her head, and said goodbye:

-Goodbye, Natalie." (Faruq, 2020, p. 92)

The data above shows that Nathalie was surprised by the arrival of her lover, Nikolai, from England. Nathalie was very happy because, while she was struggling to live and survive in England, she was able to bring tapes and submit to the country. However, Nikolai came not as a boyfriend but as an enemy who would kill Nathalie, and it was an order from England. They were afraid that Nathalie would betray, seeing that she was a Soviet citizen who only worked in England, so she could easily get the tapes and hand them over to her own country rather than the country she worked for. Nikolai shot at Nathalie, but the bullet went off due to Nathalie's agility in avoiding him. Because Nathalie was upset by the betrayal committed by the country and her boyfriend, at that moment, Nathalie shot Nikolai. She died on the spot, as explained in the previous data.

The data shows an attempted murder when someone pointed a firearm at Nathalie's head while saying goodbye. This action represents a direct threat to the victim's life and demonstrates the use of extreme violence in dealing with conflict. From Merton's perspective, this behaviour can be understood as a form of retreatism, because actions that have the potential to take someone's life demonstrate a disregard for legal norms and social values that protect human life. Thus, this incident reflects behaviour that deviates from society's institutionalised social rules.

The data above shows that the conflict in the narrative is built through a power struggle between nations, represented by the struggle for strategic information in the form of advanced aircraft designs. This information is positioned as a political object that determines a nation's technological

dominance and economic stability. The resulting situation places the characters in a state of suspicion and threat. The attempted assassination of Asyraf demonstrates how individuals can become victims of larger political interests. The narrative depicts a harsh power dynamic in which individual safety is no longer the primary consideration when confronting the state's interests.

The representation of conflict is also reinforced through various violent scenes involving Nathalie. This character is depicted as capable of surviving and fighting back in extremely dangerous situations. Her presence challenges traditional stereotypes that often position women as passive participants in action or crime narratives. Nathalie, on the other hand, appears as an active, strategic subject, capable of facing opponents who are numerically and physically superior. This depiction depicts a strong female character with agency in the face of political pressure and physical threats.

Another prominent dimension is loyalty and betrayal in international politics. Nathalie's character finds herself in a complex position because her nationality differs from that of the country where she works. This situation creates distrust from her employer and makes her a target for elimination. Personal relationships that should be emotional, such as her relationship with Nikolai, become entangled in conflicts driven by state interests. The narrative shows how political identity and power interests can damage personal relationships and place individuals in extreme moral dilemmas. This situation demonstrates how political power in the story operates through mechanisms of suspicion, surveillance, and the elimination of those deemed potentially threatening to its stability.

Fourth, kidnapping is an act that has been considered a form of injustice, deprivation of the right to freedom or independence of one's life (Nathania et al., 2017, p. 201). Below is an example of the kidnapping form of retreatism, which explains that Ashraf was kidnapped and kept in a car by American soldiers:

"... The back door opened as soon as they arrived, and the American pushed her into the car." (Faruq, 2020, p. 41)

The data above tells how Ashraf was kidnapped, then he was kept in a car guarded by two American soldiers on his left and right, both of whom carried a loaded gun, and if Ashraf turned his head slightly, then Dark (the chairman) ordered to shoot him. During his captivity, Ashraf was interrogated by them, and he had put the tape that Helga had left for him. Ashraf was scared, and finally he opened his mouth and told the truth: he had handed over the cassette to Nathalie since they met at the hotel.

The data demonstrates an act of coercion when an American soldier pushed a woman into a car through the back door. This incident reflects the act of kidnapping or the forcible deprivation of a person's liberty without the victim's consent. From Merton's anomie perspective, this act can be understood as a form of retreatism, as the perpetrator disregarded legal norms and social rules that protect individual freedom and security. Thus, this act of coercion demonstrates behaviour that deviates from adherence to institutionalised social mechanisms.

The footage depicts the unequal power relations between military personnel and civilians through armed detention and intimidation. The situation where Ashraf is placed in a car escorted by two soldiers ready to shoot demonstrates a mechanism of control established through the threat of violence. The restricted body position and tight surveillance demonstrate how power operates directly on the subject's body, leaving Ashraf's freedom of movement uncontrolled.

The interrogation conducted by American soldiers regarding the tapes demonstrates a strategy of domination through psychological pressure. Ashraf was in a state of intense fear because the threat of weapons created the ever-present possibility of death. This pressure prompted a defensive response, including a confession about the tapes' location. Ashraf's confession did not arise from free will but rather from a power structure that subordinates civilians.

The representation of violence in this scene also reveals the construction of a security discourse often used to legitimize repressive actions. American soldiers are depicted as having full authority to detain, interrogate, and threaten lives without due process. This narrative demonstrates how strategic interests related to the cassettes are used to justify actions that exceed human boundaries. Thus, the text presents an implicit critique of the use of military

power that invokes the logic of security to intimidate individuals lacking bargaining power.

Fifth, torture is an act committed intentionally, which inflicts pain, either physical or mental suffering (Fitriyadi & Latukau, 2020, p. 101; Patra, 2018, p. 567). Torture includes all forms of violence such as murder, theft, prostitution, persecution, robbery, and other forms of criminal behaviour (Suma et al., 2021, p. 300; Tompodung et al., 2021, p. 66). The following is an example of the form of torture inflicted by Mail on Ashraf:

“Before Ashraf could step back, Mail pushed him and twisted his arm behind his back, quickly and hard.” (Faruq, 2020, p. 19)

The data above explains the torture that Mail inflicted on Ashraf. He, who wanted to leave the hotel where he was resting, was intercepted by Mail in front of the lobby, who had taken a shortcut to reach Ashraf, who was about to check out. Mail was carrying a gun, and she twisted Ashraf's hand backwards with so much force that when Ashraf had no strength left, Mail fired the bullet. However, the bullet flew into the hotel room window while Ashraf was dodging the bullet's direction.

The data above shows an act of physical violence when Mail pushed Ashraf and twisted his arm violently, restricting the victim's movement. This behaviour constitutes an act of aggression that endangers the individual's safety. This action can be understood as a form of retreatism, as the use of physical violence reflects a disregard for legal norms and social rules that govern interactions between individuals. Thus, this action demonstrates behaviour that deviates from society's institutionalised norms.

In addition, some data describe the form of persecution in the crime of retreatism. The form of torture in the data below is the abuse committed by Nathalie to the American soldier by hitting him with a telephone receiver and kicking him. The following is the detailed explanation:

“Natalie glared at us, searching for something, then grabbed the phone with all her might, swung it backwards, and smashed it into the head of the person standing behind her.”
(Faruq, 2020, p. 38)

Nathalie’s torture of the American soldiers was no joke; even though she was a woman, she was trained as a soldier while in England, so her agility and ingenuity were extraordinary. Nathalie and Mail had a big fight, and, very upset, Nathalie hit Mail on the head with a telephone receiver. Not only that, but Nathalie also kicked Mail hard. Nathalie was good at fighting, whereas her twin, Helga, was very quiet and shy. After that, Nathalie also hit Mail’s nose very hard so that she could escape.

The data described depicts an act of physical violence when Nathalie grabs a telephone receiver and violently strikes the head of an American soldier standing behind her. This behaviour demonstrates a form of abuse that poses a threat to the safety of others through the use of surrounding objects as a means of attack. The action can be understood as a form of retreatism, as the use of violence directly reflects a disregard for legal norms and social rules that govern behaviour between individuals. Thus, this abuse demonstrates behaviour that deviates from society's institutionalised norms.

The first data represents the practice of violence as an instrument of domination legitimized through the power relationship between perpetrator and victim. Mail’s actions in intercepting Ashraf, twisting his arm behind his back, and firing a gun demonstrate the use of physical force as a control mechanism aimed at psychologically and physically immobilizing the subject. This scene shows how the threat of weapons and physical pressure creates an intimidating situation, leaving Ashraf vulnerable. This narrative structure shows that violence is not merely an act, but a strategy of power to subdue individuals deemed to possess important information. The tension that arises through Ashraf’s efforts to avoid being shot demonstrates resistance, even though his position remains subordinate due to the superiority of Mail’s means of violence.

The second data set presents a different configuration of violence, demonstrating the transformation of the female subject’s position within the conflict space. Nathalie is depicted as possessing combat skills acquired through military training, enabling her to counter Mail with a series of physical

actions, such as hitting him on the head with a telephone receiver, kicking him, and punching him in the nose, creating an escape opportunity. This representation emphasizes the reversal of gender stereotypes that typically position women as passive participants in situations of aggression. Nathalie is portrayed as an active agent who defends herself and challenges masculine dominance through physical prowess and tactical ingenuity. This narrative demonstrates that female strength is not built solely on emotional character, but on competence and courage in facing threats head-on.

The findings of this study state that the forms of retreatism are trespassing, murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, and torture. The research findings are in line with Robert K. Merton's theory of deviant behaviour, which states that retreatism focuses on a state of society that rejects a culture but uses institutionalised means within it (Merton, 1968, p. 45, 1996; Widodo, 2020).

The five forms found by researchers in the novel *Al-Mughamarah* are forms of criminality that in the country of Indonesia are rampant, especially because of economic factors, fellow human beings cruelly commit criminal acts to get what they want without thinking long about the criminal law they will undergo (Itang, 2013; Kosmaryati et al., 2019; Putra et al., 2021). Broadly speaking, retreatism has a significant impact on victims and perpetrators, given the criminality it causes under Islamic law and the laws in force in Indonesia (Adam, 2021; Aseri, 2018; Hasaziduhu, 2019). Retreatism, which consists of breaking into a house without permission, murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, and torture, has a close concept with the criminality written in the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP).

1.3 Ritualism

In this case a society rejects cultural goals but uses institutionalised methods and maintains traditional values (Merton, 1938, 1968, 1996; Zulkhairi et al., 2019). The following data shows ritualism in the form of escape:

“His eyes fell on Ashraf's bag lying on the bed, and the clothes placed next to it, which indicated that Ashraf was packing his suitcase to leave soon.” (Faruq, 2020, p. 76)

The data above shows that Ashraf manipulated the hotel staff to help them escape. Running away is not a good cultural practice; it is considered taboo and impolite because it violates existing social norms. However, escaping is a way that has been allowed in society. Ashraf, who wanted to escape from the hotel, had to lie to the hotel staff even though Ashraf was one of the people who had caused a riot in the place. However, the hotel staff were unaware and showed indifference because the hotel's security system was also very weak.

The data above shows that Ashraf was preparing his belongings to leave immediately, as indicated by the bag and clothes arranged on the bed. This action illustrates an attempt to distance himself from the situation without pursuing a broader goal. This behaviour can be understood as a form of ritualism, namely, a condition in which an individual is no longer oriented towards achieving cultural goals, yet still acts within the boundaries of what is considered normal in everyday life. Thus, Ashraf's decision to leave can be understood as a form of self-adjustment, maintaining conventional behaviour even though the larger goal is no longer being pursued.

The data represents the manipulative actions the character Ashraf takes towards the hotel staff to evade surveillance. The practice of manipulation through lies reveals the power relations the character uses to control the social situation around him. From a literary-critical perspective, these actions reveal a character who acts opportunistically to achieve personal goals, thereby making morality relative and contingent on the conditions the character faces. The narrative shows that manipulative actions stem from structural gaps in the hotel's security system, creating opportunities for the character to commit deviant acts undetected.

The depiction of this event demonstrates how social norms can be negotiated in a crisis. Ashraf exploits the hotel staff's ignorance to create a false sense of legitimacy for his actions. This phenomenon demonstrates that a social system lacking strong oversight can give rise to rational or deviant practices by individuals. Through this narrative, the text critiques the weaknesses of oversight institutions while illustrating how individuals can manipulate social structures to protect their own safety.

The findings of this study state that the form of ritualism is escape. The research findings are in line with Merton's theory, which states that ritualism is a form of adaptation of deviant behaviour that is culturally rejected but

normally accepted (Merton, 1996). Ritualism in *Al-Mughamarah* novel is a form of escape that Ashraf engages in by manipulating the hotel clerk. Running away will always take the form of behaviour that shifts responsibility and avoids problems, whether big or small.

3. Conclusion

Al-Mughamarah is a novel that explores conflicts over power and crime. There are three types of criminality, namely innovation, retreatism, and ritualism. In the innovation form of criminality that occurs in the form of bribery and disguise, in the retreatism form, there are five forms of criminality, which include breaking into a house without permission, murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, and torture. In contrast, in the type of criminality ritualism, only one form is found, namely running away. Overall, the theory of deviant behaviour can be studied not only through criminality but also through any behaviour that violates social or cultural norms. Deviant behaviour varies across regions and countries due to different social and cultural norms. However, in Indonesia in particular, deviant behaviour is less of a concern as long as it is not harmful. In Indonesia, criminality that disturbs or threatens others is still covered by laws that are not yet strong (still weak).

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الجريمة في رواية نبيل فاروق المغامرة: دراسة في الانحراف اللامعياري لروبرت ك. ميرتون

بليقيس نور عزيزة

قسم اللغة العربية، STIT سونان جبيري، ترينجالك، إندونيسيا

المستخلص

تشهد معدلات الجريمة في العديد من البلدان ارتفاعاً ملحوظاً سنوياً، مما يثير المخاوف من استمرار الأزمة الأخلاقية. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل أشكال الجريمة الواردة في رواية "المغمرة" للكاتب نبيل فاروق، استعمل الباحث المنهج الوصفي النوعي، معتمداً على الرواية نفسها بوصفها مصدراً للبيانات، وتشير نتائج الدراسة إلى وجود ثلاثة أنواع من الجرائم، هي: الارتجال، والإفصاح عن الذات، والطقوسية. ففي الارتجال، تتخذ الجريمة أشكالاً كالرشوة والتنكر، بينما يشمل الإفصاح عن الذات السطو غير المصرح به، والقتل، والشروع في القتل، والتعذيب، أما في الطقوسية، فقد اقتصرت الجريمة على نوع واحد هو الهروب، وتدور أحداث الجرائم في الرواية بين شخصيات من الذكور والإناث، ومن المتوقع أن تتناول دراسات لاحقة هذه الرواية من منظور مختلف، نظراً لاختلاف تمثيل المرأة فيها عن الصورة النمطية السائدة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المغامرة، الفوضى، الإجرام، الأدب، روبرت ك. ميرتون