

# KEN DEDES' INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITY AS A JAVANESE WOMAN OF THE XIII CENTURY IN THE NOVEL STORY DEDES BY AMELIA YUNUS

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## ABSTRACT

Ken Dedes is not just a myth in the stories of the archipelago, even Southeast Asia. Her story only appears in the book of Pararaton, but Dedes is claimed to be an influential female figure who gave birth to the ruling dynasty in Java. In modern life, Dedes is re-presented in Indonesian novels with various interpretations of her figure. Her existence is believed to represent strong women in Southeast Asia in the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. This study uses a descriptive-qualitative research design with the aim of describing the intersectional identity of Ken Dedes in the novel *Tutur Dedes: Doa & Kutukan* by Amalia Yunus (2022). Data in the form of story facts include story series, characters, settings, themes, and other literary means from data sources that contain information related to the research problem. The data were obtained using reading and note-taking techniques. Furthermore, it was analyzed qualitatively using Kimberle Crenshaw's intersectionality perspective. The results show that Ken Dedes' intersectional identity is not singular. The figure of Dedes is built by a number of intersecting identities. These multiple identities form her whole self as a strong, influential, and legendary woman. The identities found include a number of aspects, namely (1) education that constructs the identity of education, (2) biological physique that shows the identity of beauty and magical sexuality, (3) high social status/class that makes Dedes honorable and has access to knowledge, (4) religion and beliefs that construct personal integrity, (5) gender that constructs the role of mother, and (6) political position that constructs influence and network power. Each category of aspects mutually shapes, strengthens, and naturalizes Dedes' identity and selfhood as a thirteenth-century educated woman who has a strong influence and is able to overcome the oppressions she experiences. Literature processes historical reality with a new understanding to build awareness that one's identity is not singular.

Kata Kunci: *Ken Dedes, intersectional identity, gender, Crenshaw*