Programs for children
The neglected world

RIRIS K. TOHA-SARUMPAET

ABSTRACT

What do children watch on Indonesian television? This article tries to answer this question in the conviction that TV shows made for children require an understanding of their needs in order to grow, motorically, cognitively, psychologically, socially, and culturally. From my own fieldwork and research done on the data provided by my informants, I found that on television during the time slot set for children there are shows that are not intended for children to watch. I also found that children enjoy two favourite television shows in Indonesia the most, which are not programs designated for children. The conclusion is that Indonesian television pays little attention to children’s needs, and children are neglected.

KEYWORDS
Children television shows, Indonesian television, Opera van Java, Islam KTP.

INTRODUCTION

In the present era of mass communication, the media has a crucial role in the life of children: apart from providing entertainment, it also directly affects their cognitive and psychological development. We need to accept that children are a specific group of people with special needs. When talking

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1 This article is based on the research “Study of Children’s Stories”, which I conducted with my students in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Indonesia. The first part was delivered at the National Seminar “Children Shows” organized by the Department of Literature and PPKB of the Faculty of Humanities, Depok, 11 May 2010. The second part was delivered at a seminar of the same name, also in Depok on 28 April 2011. I would like to express my gratitude to Ratna Djumala and all the other participants of the course on the Study of Children’s Literature 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 who, with delight and much furor and emotion, tried to critically read/watch, discuss, and gather the materials needed for this article.

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