INTISARI
Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa dan mendiskripsikan kontribusi Belanda terhadap awal pembangunan Amerika. Penelitian ini juga diharapkan untuk mengungkap pengalaman hidup Amerika.


Kata Kunci: Belanda, New Netherlands dan Awal Pembangunan Amerika

INTRODUCTION
People may be familiar with the basic outline of the British coloniza-
tion of America, and even know some information on the Spanish and
French settlements, but they may be less familiar with the History of an-
other settler, namely the Dutch. The Dutch was the one of the various

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who came to America. The Dutch came from the country named Nederland. Nederland is bigger than Belgium but nine times as small as Germany. The name “Nederland” refers to the low position of the country; even lying below the level of the sea (nederlow). (Yayasan Pendidikan de Bektadayaan Indonesia Belanda)

It is amazing that a small country like Nederland has the power to colonize. The Dutch occupied North America only for just half a century. Despite their short reign, they actually, took a significant role in the New World. Their entrepreneurs established New Netherlands, a series of trading posts, towns, and forts along the Hudson River that still exist today.

Actually, the Dutch’s main interests to come to America was profitable trade. They were not originally too interested in colonizing. Because of their short reign and their main interest, there were no literature, which described and portrayed their presence then. There were writings, which however, described about the Dutch after the colonization era. One of the writers who wrote was Washington Irving. He was the son of Scottish immigrants but he quite willingly wrote about the Dutch Spiller described as “the first Americans to be exploited for their distinctive traits” (Spiller: 101) Irving wrote of them in his famous writings The Sketch Book and A History of New York (1809).

A History of New York, which was Irving’s first major work and which was an immediate and continuing success through several dozen editions in his lifetime, “is definitely not history but gentle satire”. It purports to be a history of the three governors (there were actually seven of them) during the brief fifty-year Dutch reign over New York in the early 1600s; Walter van Twiller (Walter the Doubter), William Kieft (William the Testy), and Peter Stuyvesant (Peter the Headstrong). Though Irving did considerable research about the Dutch period, there was little factual information about these men, and “the figures in his work are almost totally his own fabrications” (Gilmore 666).

The fictitious character in Irving’s A History of New York are the representation of the real characters in New York. Twiller, for instance, depicts Marinus Willet, mayor of New York in 1607, and Kieft was widely assumed to be a caricature of Thomas Jefferson. The book is a tale of declension in which America, symbolized by the fictional New Amsterdam, begins as ‘a second Eden’ and then succumbs to the forces of democracy and materialism represented by the Yankees (Gilmore 666).

The statement above suggests that the book does have some significance in American Studies. Hence the writer’s interest in making a study
of the book, exploring further what the Dutch have contributed and what influences may be perceived on the early American development.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

This study is a library research. Data collection was carried out through the study of relevant books and criticism, related to the author and his novel, his biography, and several historical, cultural and social books in order to obtain the social-historical and social-cultural aspects of the American Experiences in the 17th century. Data analysis was done through the following steps: selection of data pertinent to the study, exploring the historical facts of the early American settlement, digging out the Dutch life and culture as Irving depicted in the novel, describing the Dutch influences on the early American development. This study was conducted in line with the concept of the American Studies perspectives which employs the interdisciplinary analysis of Tremain McDowell's past-present-future and Leo Marx's micro to macro approach as well as literary approach.

To see the cultural background, the historical and cultural approach were used. The literary approach was also utilized in line with Geertz's concept of literature being a cultural product and Abrams' concept of literature as imitating or representing the world and human life (40).

DISCUSSION

A History of New York (AHONY) consists of historical events with whimsically imagined incidents and details. In it, Irving traced the history of the world from the creation down to the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam. The mocking tone is obviously felt, particularly in the description of military action and the description of persons.

The novel is mainly dealing with the doings of the Dutch in New York, and is reasonably faithful in outline to what was actually known of the history of Dutch colonization (Abel 324). It tells about Hendrick Hudson's voyage and discoveries, the earliest Dutch settlements in New Jersey and Long Island, and finally the history of New Amsterdam under three Dutch governors until the surrender of the colony to the English.

1. The Dutch Image

The Novel is divided into seven narrative units or books. The first two books relate briefly the story of the creation of the world to the settlement of New Amsterdam; the third narrates the reign of Walter
Van Twister; the fourth that of William Kieft, the fifth, sixth, and seventh that of Peter Stuyvesant and the end of the Dutch rule in New Amsterdam. A close reading of Irving's novel demonstrates that a continued story unites each phase of the history with a distinct phase of early human development, beginning with the act of conception.

b. The Dutch Way of Life

The Netherlands is a country of scarcity, but without doubt a country of great wealth. The lack of space is one reason that the Dutch had wanted land abroad for many centuries. They had to explore the world and charter it through the seashore through the strength of its naval troop. Therefore, they concentrated all their actions on developing themselves to be seafaring people.

In the novel, Irving shows the above notion in his narration of the Dutch expansion from Europe to America through the wide sea. Their greatness in conquering the sea can be perceived in the quotation "Dutch navigators, who always took in sail at night... were sure of knowing where they were the next morning, and stood but little chance of running down a continent in the dark" (AHONY 429). Their expertise in managing the sea in turn brought success in their voyage to the new world.

The success of their voyage was supported by their discipline during the voyage. Irving shows the tiring work of sailors during the voyage and their experiences by referring to a myth of "the Flying Dutchman", the ghost at the sea, which is believed by sailors as the phantom ship of the Dutch. The myth was started in 1641 when a Dutch ship sank off the coast of the Cape of Good Hope.

Irving reveals that the Dutch had trading spirit in their blood, referring to the time when they set up the largest trading company in the world, The Dutch East Indies Company and The Dutch West Company. The latter was the company that started trade with the American Indians. Irving explains that the Dutch traded "...by benevolently giving them gin, rum and glass beads, in exchange for all the furs they brought..." (AHONY 456). It seems that the directors of the West India Company maintained colonies in the New World and concentrated instead on the fur trade with the Indians. It proved that this fur and bearkins made trade "very profitable bargains" (AHONY 457).

Undoubtedly, Irving's description above shows that the Dutch are indeed the world's leading traders and merchant mariners. Historically the Netherlands was the leading commercial power of the 17th century. However, these profit-minded traders who came to the New World and
b. The Characteristics of the Dutch

As it is related in the book, the golden age of New York was under the reign of Walter Van Twiller, the first governor of the province. From the description of Walter one can imagine he was an extraordinary fat man. His fatness was originally formed before he came to America. His built is also very closely related to his habit which is portrayed as follows: His habits were as regular as his person. He daily took his four stated meals, appropriating exactly an hour to each; he smoked and doubted eight hours, and he slept the remaining twelve of the four and twenty (AHONY 465).

In spite of his body and his habit, he is the "best" the colony ever had. Irving outlines fully the person and habits of the governor on consideration that "he was not only the first but also the best governor that ever presided over this ancient and respectable province; and so tranquil and benevolent was his reign, that there was not find throughout the whole of it a single instance of any offender being brought to punishment" (AHONY 466).

His generous mind can be seen from the way he accepted one of his people complaining about something. Though he knew that the complaint was right, he would not punish the accused. Thus the governor was described as "a very wise Dutchmen and mild-mannered, but a man slow of belief, and not easily imposed on" (AHONY 464). It is true that "he was a man, shut up within himself like an oyster, and rarely spoke except in monosyllables; so that it, was allowed, he seldom said a foolish thing" (AHONY 463).

His surname Twiller, actually, has been attributed to this state of mind he possessed. It is a corruption of the original Dutch "Twijlter", or, in plain English, "Doubter". Irving further shows that during Walter van Twiller's reign: "people had a very wise and equitable magistrate to rule over them. But its happiest effect was, that not another lawsuit took place throughout the whole of his administration" (AHONY 467).

Another remarkable thing of Walter's reign was that "the province of the New Netherlands, destitute of wealth, possessed a sweet tranquillity that wealth could never purchase" (AHONY 474). In sum, the good condition of the city during Walter's reign showed the hardworking of the government.
With Walter's death New Amsterdam enters a new era under a new governor, Willemius Kieft or "William the Testy" to be the second governor of Dutch colony.

His personality is depicted as "...a brisk, waspish, little old gentleman". The characterization of William the Testy also suggests a personality obsessed with progression. He wished himself advancement. "In his youth he had passed with great credit through a celebrated academy at Hague...he skirmished very smartly on the frontiers of several of the sciences" (AHONY 514). But his own obsession "...puzzled himself considerably with logic... he so confused his brain, with abstract speculations which he could not comprehend... that he could never think clearly on any subject however simple, through the whole course of his life afterwards... He was exceedingly fond of trying philosophical and political experiments" (AHONY 514-515).

Consequently he emancipates the government of the little province of New Nederland in difficulties. For example it can be seen when he faced a problem of the invasive presence of Yankee settlements in Connecticut which was unwelcome since his reign. It is represented in history by the growing danger of Yankee settlements in Connecticut at the beginning of William's reign, particularly the unwelcome presence of Yankee squatters on Dutch territory. Upon hearing of Yankee demands for the surrender of the Dutch fort at Hartford; William's reaction was the desire to fight the Yankees exclusively by "proclamation".

William slips over a secret deception of his governance which results on losing the loyalty of his people. His one-word motto, like Walter's rhythmic couplet before him, is the key to his incompetent statecraft as well as to the implied source of his instinctual satisfaction. This situation is used by living to ridicule William self-importance to universal knowledge and his devotion to impractical theory over commonsensical fact. Another example of his entangling the government is that when he tried to prohibit smoking in New Amsterdam. He "...compromised with the mob, in condition that they should spare his life, by immediately dispensing their tobacco pipes." (AHONY 543). William wanted to make his people happier people in creation; yet, in fact, they were very unhappy, deluded and even ruined. The people thought that it seemed that William took a satisfaction in the music of his people's groans.

The discussion above shows that even though he has broad knowledge yet he could not manage his administration well because he liked to make experiments. If he has liked to learn a little, he would have been a much greater governor.
William's reign effectively ends with the rise of the New England
confederation, although he still "kept constantly firing off his proclama-
tions and protests, like a sturdy little sea captain, firing off so many
carronades and swivels" (AHONY 556). Like Walter the Doubter, Wil-
liam seems to transmigrate rather than die, making way for a new Dutch
governor, Pieter Stuyvesant.
Obviously William The Testy's characteristic of a high moral or in-
tellectual value, obsessing himself with great progress and the like, is
similar to the description of "idealist" in Gove's, i.e a person whose con-
duct is influenced by ideals will often have conflict with practical consid-
eration (1122). Almost all Dutchmen have this characteristic: In Irving's
book this is most prominently depicted in the character of Wilhelmus
Kieft. He is an idealistic man. He was highly obsessed to defeat the Yan-
kee but unfortunately has no political ability.

Peter Stuyvesant or "Peter the Headstrong," was the third and last
Governor of the Dutch colony, the unconquerable one-legged. The most
famous feature of Peter's anatomy is his wooden leg, which he gained in
bravely fighting the battles of his country. It made him proud. He was
often heard valuing it more than all his other limbs put together (AHONY
585).

Even though he has only one leg, he conducts himself with dignity
and superiority. He is looked up with great respect. As he never gave his
reason for any thing he did, the public always gave him credit for very
thoughtful ones. He always acted as he thought. If he wanted to be right
he made up for it in perseverance—an excellent quality (AHONY 566).
His surname 'the Headstrong' actually has been attributed to his per-
sonality: "a tough, sturdy, valiant, weatherbasted, mettlesome,
leathersided, lion hearted, generous spirited, obstinate (AHONY 567).
Yet Peter seems to be a Dutch leader who has the traits of a humanist. He
recommended his people "to comport like loyal and peaceful subjects—
to go to church regularly, not opposing the poor ... to conduct them-
selves as well as they could" (AHONY 637-638).

This is in accordance with what William Flint Thrall defines the word
"Humanism" as concerning with any attitude which tends to exalt the
human element or stresses the importance of human interest, as opposed
to the supernatural; divine elements as opposed to the grosser, animal
elements" (199). Peter was a Dutch humanist who opposed dogmatic
scholasticism and taught that religion is not really a doctrine of salva-
tion. Instead, it is a spiritual belief, which is based upon the faith in hu-
man reason.
The Dutch were able to live alongside with people of different religious faiths in relative harmony (Marshall 7). They welcome numerous refugees of very different nationalities. These humanist values were deeply ingrained in Dutch thinking. The religious tolerance was remarkably described in the Dutch's characteristics as humanists when they accepted the Jewish community while at that time Jews were segregated.

Peter, as a humanist, was attentive to his people so that during his reign the public welfare was secure as long as he was in the city. As a brave Dutch, one can see the example of his bravery when he repulsed the Swedes who were invading New Netherland from New Jersey. He would have held out forever against the Yankees as well, if he had been given any support from his cowardly towns men. Unfortunately, they "would rather stay at home and eat and sleep in ignoble ease, than gain immortality and a broken head, by valiantly fighting in a ditch" (AHONY 707). From the discussion above, it can be said that the brave Peter defends his province without the support of his people "for he was determined to defend the colony himself, without the assistance of them or their adherents" (AHONY 704).

Peter maintained his government to be great in arms; he wanted his country to have a mighty army to fortify the city. He believed that "to rendez a country respected abroad, it was necessary to make it formidable at home -- and that a nation should place its reliance for peace and security, more upon its own strength, than on the justice or good will of its neighbors. He proceeded therefore, with all diligence, to put the province and metropolis in a strong posture of defense. His great and broad mind was convinced, 'that the simplest method is often the most efficient and certainly the most expeditious" (AHONY 586-590).

Peter's gubernatorial rule is marked by a steadily increasing battle against enemies from without and within; hence his brave personality is well suited to the temper of his times. He made use of a right-hand man, Antony Van Corlear, a mock-heroic picture of the same trait. He was his trumpeter and military point man, made a small part appearance during the reign of William the Testy but emerged as a character only under Peter the Headstrong. The relationship between the two was close. Antony's magical potency in playing trumpet encourages Peter Stuyvesant to defeat his Swedish counterpart, Rissingh, during their solo encounter on the field of battle. The decisive victory came about after Peter had temporarily stunned Rissingh with a blow from his wooden leg and then proceeded to attack him with another non-lethal weapon. In the last book of AHONY which told the end of Dutch sovereignty in New Amsterdam, it was also narrated that the close relationship between Pe-
ter and Van Corlear enters its terminal phase.

The description of Peter Stuyvesant above is the elaboration of the Dutch bold and humanist characteristics. Gove defines "bold" as fearless in meeting danger or difficulty; aggressively daring; not shrinking from risks. (248). Peter is the representation of Dutch bold character since he "has been immortalized as the hero" (AHONY 720) of the Knickerbocker History. He governed his province without the assistance of his subjects, while he gave great expansion for the settlement of New Amsterdam beyond the Southern tip of Manhattan. He is the representation of Dutch humanist as well.

From the previous discussion of the three Dutch governors in colonial America, one can learn that the Dutch have prominent characteristics such as being wise, idealistic, well-disciplined, brave, hardworking and humanistic. Those characteristics helped the Dutch successfully colonize the New World.

2. The Influences of the Dutch

From the novel, there is an indication of the Dutch contribution to the colonial life of America and its posterity. Their influences can be seen in some aspects such as culture, economy, religion and political style. Those aspects have colored America since the seventeenth century. Below is the description of the Dutch influence on the early American Development.

a. Cultural Influences

Irving's description of the three Dutch governors above shows the models of their reign, which certainly influence American culture. The first influence is certainly on the native American, their neighbor. In other words, the coming of the Dutch in America directly or indirectly had influenced the Indian culture. The condition of the Indians wonderfully improved. However, the negative effect did also emerge: they learned to cheat, to lie to swear, to gamble, to quarrel, to cut each other's throats, in short, to excel in all the accomplishments that had originally marked the superiority of their Christian visitors (SONY 418).

Besides those psychological influences, the coming of the Dutch also affects the American physically through their model of the building—the architecture—and the art and craft which are used in daily life. The style obviously reflects their characteristic: Idealistic and hardworking which manifest themselves in the strong structured and everlasting construction. Because of this quality, the Dutch building with its steep gable roof
can still be seen up to now.

Dutch humanistic and wise characters influenced the art. The kind of art and crafts revealed in AHONY is "... a majestic delft tea-pot, ornamented with painting of fat little Dutch shepherds and herdresses, tending pigs—with boats sailing in the air, and houses built in the clouds, and sundry other ingenious Dutch fantasies" (AHONY 480).

b. Economic Influence

Economic influences can be seen in the growth of the town of New Amsterdam as "...increased as rapidly in importance" (AHONY 455). The condition of the town amazedingly throve "with tenfold prosperity, and soon became the metropolis of numerous settlements, and an extensive territory" (AHONY 454-55). Under the Dutch sovereignty, the economic of America developed. By establishing a series of trading settlements the economy of Dutch colony grew fast.

Irving portrayed the province of the New Netherlands' economy growth as having "possessed a sweet tranquility that wealth could never purchase" (AHONY 474). Trade remained the principal activity of the Dutch colony until about 1650 when efforts were underway to expand the Hudson frontier through agricultural colonization.

c. Religious Influence

In AHONY, Irving commented the way the Dutch imparted their faith to the native American "The newcomers therefore used every method, to induce them to embrace and practice the true religion—except that of setting them the example" (AHONY 417).

For that reason, soon after the Dutch spread out in their settlements, new churches sprang up on Long Island, Staten Island, and along areas of the Hudson River Valley. Another church that was formed was the Brooklyn Reformed Dutch Church and also the Flatbush Reformed Dutch Church on Long Island. As the Dutch moved into New Jersey, the first church formed there was the Bergen Reformed Dutch Church. (now Jersey City) Churches sprang up in upper New York State, such as the Albany Reformed Dutch Church (Ristenbatt 2).

The Dutch colony was a landmark in the struggle for the freedom of religious conscience in the New World. Despite the existence of an established church in New Netherlands, during the early Dutch period the colony became a place of safety for persecuted beliefs in Europe and the other American colonies. The fundamental Dutch tolerance prevailed
over Stuyvesant’s brief religious tyranny and was largely the cause for the early establishment of a cosmopolitan atmosphere in New Amsterdam and New York. Actually, Peter Stuyvesant himself, the son of a Trisian minister, was a severe Calvinist, but he had to obey his company. The Company, in the spirit of seventeenth-century Holland, did not allow discrimination and ordered the Governor to accept the settling of Lutherans, Quakers and Jews (Welling, 7). Worth noting also is the emergence of a Dutch religious sect called the Mennonite promoting non-violence (Kesavanat Rakyat 2004)

d. Political Influence

The Dutch characters that have been discussed previously, in turn, influences the way they rule the colony. Walter Van Twiller, whose wise character is well known, never says a foolish thing and is a man of slow belief, and not easily imposed on. His wise character, thus, makes his governance stable. Water’s reign was so peaceful and kind that there was not found throughout the whole of it a single instance of any off-ender being brought to punishment.

William the Testy’s idealistic character is known as his high obsession, but actually he lacks the art of diplomacy. He is much the worst of the three Dutch governors. Unlike his predecessor, he is industrious and temperate. He possesses no talent whatever for managing men, and has the mean, cruel temper of a petty dictator. These are the evil records of the time in power of William, because “...in the trouble, the perplexities and the confusion of the times, he seems to have been totally overlooked, and to have slipped forever through the fingers of scrupulous history” (A'Hony 557). His mercantile reputation is also none of the best. However, under Kieft, the appearance of the town was much improved. William’s reign effectively ended with the rise of the New England confederation (A'Hony 556).

Peter Stuyvesant or Peter the Headstrong, who shows bold character, also influenced the political system in his reign in which he has accomplished a great expansion for the settlement of New Amsterdam beyond the southern tip of Manhattan. Peter’s gubernatorial rule is marked by a progressively increasing battle against enemies. Dutch control of the New Netherlands lasted only about 58 years, but remnants of that time remained there. Dutch settlers erected a stockade wall at what was then the northern edge of New Amsterdam, which later evolved into Wall Street (A'Hony 477)
CONCLUSION

As history has noted the Dutch is one of the European nations that colonized America. They colonized for just a half-century. Their acts and experiences are artfully revealed in Washington Irving's novel 4 History of New York. It also portrays the Dutch characters as idealistic, bold, wise, disciplined, hardworking, and humanistic whether they were sailors or traders.

From Irving's novel the writer found that during the Dutch sovereignty, New Amsterdam, the center of the Dutch colony, had undergone many developments. The prosperous New Amsterdam cannot be separated from the governance of the three Dutch governors, Walter van Twiller, William the Testy and Peter Stuyvesant. They have different ways to lead their governance, but they have each their share of developing the colony.

With their excellent characters, the Dutch has indeed contributed to the colonial life of America and its posterity. As it is revealed in Irving's novel their influence on early American life can be seen particularly in the social and economic growth of the region as well as in religious and political life. Those aspects have colored America since the seventeenth century.

Another finding which is of note here is that as a satirist, Irving is accountable in presenting a history of a place since he can blend a critical attitude with humor. His satire is expressed through the characters of the Dutch governors. Irving describes more of their uncommon habits than their skills in their administration. Apart from relating historical facts he entertains the reader. Hence his attribute as a literary artist.

Thus, it can be said that AHONY clearly presents the portrayal of Dutch settlement in America even though it is neither the reflective picture of the Dutch in New York, nor an attempt to caricature the dead past. Eventually, the whole work is devoted to portray man in general.

Tea great extent the Dutch bequeathed two monumental philosophical ideas to the enrichment of American intellectual history; they are humanism and pragmatism. Humanism is implied in the American Individualism which forms the embryo of American volunteerism, while pragmatism has its embryonic form in the word idealism that finally bears the pragmatic goal-orientedness, concordant with the other pragmatic pillars: efficiency and expedition, "terse" Irving used in relating how the town of New Amsterdam arose by the use of "mud" and came to be marvelously polished and polite to become a "battery", a tool for "consecrating" to
the delights of peace not indicating a tool devoted to the purpose of war.

The writer would think that pragmatism as one of the various Americanisms has now become a universal practice in most modern states, including Indonesia.

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