APPENDICES

i. Author’s Biography and works

Ahmad Fuadi (born in Bayur, West Sumatra, December 30, 1972) is a novelist & social entrepreneur from Indonesia. His debut novel “Negeri 5 Menara” (The Land of 5 Towers) brake the publisher’s sales record (Gramedia Pustaka Utama) for the last 37 years. “Negeri 5 Menara” is the first part of the “Negeri 5 Menara” trilogy, followed by "Ranah 3 Warna" (“The Earth of 3 Colors”), and "Rantau 1 Muara". “Negeri 5 Menara” is brought into wide-screen version and listed as one of the most watched Indonesian movie in the year of 2012. He’s also well known for his extraordinary achievement in achieving 9 overseas scholarships. One of Fuadi’s life-changing experience is his experience during his study in Pondok Modern Gontor, where he is introduced to a powerful mantra “Man Jadda Wajada” (He who gives his all will surely succeed) in his first day. He then went to Padjajaran University, majoring International Relations. During his last semester in Padjajaran University, he got a scholarship from the National University of Singapore and spent a semester there. Upon graduating with a degree in International Relations from Padjajaran University, he became a journalist for Tempo magazine. His first class in journalism is done in reporting assignments under the guidance of senior Tempo journalists. In 1999, he received a Fulbright scholarship to take his master’s degree at the School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University, USA. Venturing to Washington, D.C. together with Yayi, his wife—a Tempo journalist—is a childhood dream come true. While studying, they are also Tempo correspondents and reporters for Voice of America (VOA). They reported on historical news, such as the 9-11 tragedy, straight from the Pentagon, White House, and Capitol Hill. In 2004, another world window opened when he received the Chevening Award scholarship to study documentary films at Royal Holloway, University of London. As a scholarship hunter, Fuadi is always enthusiastic to continue his education and find more scholarships. He has had opportunities to live and study in Canada, Singapore, USA, and the UK. With his wife Danya “Yayi” Dewanti, Fuadi founded Komunitas Menara, a volunteer-based social organization which aims to provide free schools, libraries, clinics and soup kitchens for the less
fortunate. Up until now, Komunitas Menara has already built 5 free pre-schools throughout Indonesia. His works are the novel “Negeri 5 Menara 2009)”, “Ranah 3 Warna (2011)”, and “Rantau 1 Muara (2013)”.

ii. Summary of the Novel

Negeri 5 Menara is a novel by Ahmad Fuadi which is published by Gramedia in 2009. This novel tells about the life of six students from 6 different areas studying in Pondok Madani (PM) Ponorogo in East Java are away from home and managed to realize their dreams. They are Alif Fikri From West Sumatera, Raja Lubis from Medan, Said Jufri from Surabaya, Dulmajid from Sumenep, Atang from Bandung, Baso Salahuddin from Gowa. They get closer and closer after having many experiences together in Pondok Madani such as getting punishment together because of being late gathering in the mosque on the first day in Pondok Madani, learning together about speech, English, and many other lessons, etc. These six students are called “Sahibul Menara” or “Tower Owners” because of their habit of relaxing under the tower near the mosque. In that place, they determined their dreams to continue their studies abroad after graduating from Pondok Madani. They keep their spirit, teamwork and persistence for four years in the boarding school. Because of the spirit of phrase "Man Jadda Wajada" which motivate them achieve the dreams and Pondok Madani which encourage them to achieve their dreams by using certain the management of keeping tight discipline, giving punishments and rewards for all activities doing by students, finally they can achieved their dreams.