

MORAL VALUES FOUND IN *EDUCATED* BY TARA WESTOVER VIEWED FROM INDONESIA CHARACTER BASED EDUCATION

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Abstract

Recently, the lack of moral problems occurs in every single way of life. Drug abuse, violence, bullying, pornography and prostitution are the general examples of moral degradation issues. Therefore, education called as the factors that humans really need to prevent ourselves from harmless or negative influence. This study conducted to find types moral values found in "Educated" a novel by Tara Westover and the implementation of moral values in character based education by using the theory of Universal Moral Values by Kinnier et. al and Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre states that there are 18 National Character and Cultural Education Values that standardize the values of Indonesia's Education. The primary data is taken from "Educated" novel in the form of narrations and the secondary data is from previous studies in the form statements, ideas or background setting which comes from analysis and the findings. This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative method, it focuses on describing and interpreting the moral values in descriptive. The result of this study showed that there 13 moral values found in the novel and these finding can be implemented in the character based education in Indonesia.

Keywords : Moral Values, Tara Westover, "Educated", Character

INTRODUCTION

Today, education can determine one's dignity and worth in a global society. Education also formed one's intelligence and perspective on the world, meanwhile, it also considered as an opening the way for a better life. However, information can not be processed into knowledge without education. These days, education can be about non formal subject, it is considered as human longevity lessons which nailed with personal humanity. According to Kamarudin in Trisnian (2016), education in a general level is a very important foundation for preparing the next generation who will become the future leader of a nation, because it is considered important to form, develop and maintain one's education moral values or character for the purposes of a better life in today's society.

Recently, the lack of moral problems occurs in our society, especially the younger generation. And to reduce this phenomenon, moral value education are urgently needed. Moreover in Indonesia, the developing country that believes a valuable person comes from a perfect combination of intelligence and good character or personality. The importance of educational character must be introduced from the early stages of life. In this case, the function of educators is highly demanded as stated by Kamarudin (2012:6) that it is important for educational institutions to not only prepare the academic competency of the students, but also the character development.

The writer also applies literary instruments in her research, because literary works is also known for its influence and is related to the human daily life. In a general, it becomes media that contains many human elements such as feelings, enthusiasm, trust and conviction. Literary works also provided completely in the form of novels, short stories, poetry, drama scripts or essays that can studied, discussed or analyzed by formal or non- formal students, then evaluated by the teacher and provide some advice or correct literature theory (Trisnian.2016). Goodman (2001:5) says that literature includes written forms that deliberately and creatively experiment with language to show image and ideas that engage the reader's imagination. This means that literary works allows the reader to creatively interpret and describe freely what is on the writer's mind as contained in a literary work.

Meanwhile, literature also brings enormous benefits to the student's achievement in learning ultimate skills such as speaking, listening, writing and reading, which are part of the language element. Moreover, it will teach student about the diversity of a culture, improve student's vocabulary, understand and tolerate the differences, also open one's perspective about life. Besides, by using literature in a classroom also can stimulate student's perspectives towards certain issues, enrich student's awareness, enrich student's cultural senses and stimulate student's emotional management. Therefore, literature has known for its universality, beautify the words, freedom and social touch, then, stimulating student's abilities and senses about the world.

Nowadays, novel has become the most favorable literary of society, and are even used for formal education by teachers to teach the material in class. However, a novel is one of the literary work that portray the truth of human's life, it capture human's life with all of their complexity and phenomenon in a perfect angle from the story, messages or values in the novel. Several studies on moral value analysis have been conducted. As the writer reviewed in Sari (2018) she tried to find out the moral values in a literary work that can be used for material in teaching character education which involves in the curriculum. While moral values found in the novel were about responsibility, caring for other people, work hard, appreciate the achievement of other people,

curiosity, like to read, and a caring environment. The moral education of the novel implies that one can take moral values of the novel as education and experience for guidance in life. Then, a similar research was conducted by Mahendra et al, (2020), it was about to find out moral values in a novel as one of literary work and categorized those values based on Universal Moral Value theory by Kinnier et al. Besides, the moral values found in the novel were commitment, self respect, respect and caring for others and caring for other living things and environment. And these values could be implemented to build Indonesia's students character. Besides, the previous studies choose the object of the research from various themes, backgrounds, or settings. They prefer to use existing, classic, or legendary literature to be analyzed, which is remains "*old school*" and out of date compared with today's dynamic and modern society. It could affect the results of the findings. However, all of the previous researchers mentioned previously thought that they were supportive of this research and actually contribute to this research both from the subject matter and the theory contained it. The first, second and third researchers got so many points on the subject matter that boldly raised the details of moral values provided in the novel and short stories as part of literary work. They analyze the essence and details part of each character from the literary work, and present it as a communicative output that can be understood by general readers. Meanwhile, the fourth and fifth researchers also contributed and inspired from the theoretical perspective. They use the same theory in analyzing the moral values of character in a simple but detailed one, so that, this research can adopt the way they explores the theory and match them in this research.

Hence, to address this gap, the writer used *Educated* a novel by Tara Westover as an object of this research. It was a memoir (autobiography) modern novel which told about variations of moral values in each character based on writer's personal experience. The novel has been translated into 45 languages and known as "*2018th Best Seller and Inspiring*" novel by New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Boston Globe Bestseller. Besides, the story should be authentic and original. Moreover, because of its latest, there were not many people who took research or analyze this novel yet, especially about the values details.

There are two research problems in the current study. (1) What are moral values are depicted in Tara Westover's *Educated* novel?, (2) What moral values in Tara Westover's *Educated* novel can be implemented in Indonesia Character based education? With objectives (1) To analyze kinds of moral values depicted in *Educated* novel by Tara Westover, (2) To analyze what are moral values found in *Educated* novel by Tara Westover can be

implemented in Indonesia Character based education. Theoretically, this research provides analyses and information of moral values based on "Educated" novel. In addition, this study provide knowledge of Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre (*Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Pusat Kurikulum*) quoted by Mustofa (2014) which states about 18 National Character and Cultural Education Values that standardize the values of Indonesia's Education, and its implication towards character based education in Indonesia. Besides, it expected to inspire the next researcher who have interest in conducting the same research, on the other hand, it aims to motivate students to love reading, investigating and analyzing through literature as a media, and functioning teacher as a counselor, advisor and evaluator to build student's positive character and good personality, as the next generation of a nation.

By analyzing moral values in the novel by Tara Westover, this research is expected to provide both theoretical and practical meanings in the values of live, especially moral values. The Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System in section 3 states that national education has a function to build national stability. Besides, it can formed national character and civilize the community as the national dignity in the context of nation's intellectual life. Meanwhile, National Education aims to develop and spur the potential side of students to become qualified, good, noble, intellectual, creative, healthy, independent and professional individual as well as good citizens. The study also strengthens the theory related to the national character which is written contained in education based on the character based of Indonesian nation.

In addition, the writers use theory of Universal Moral Values by Kinnier et. al (2000) in analyzing the moral values in the novel. Kinnier et. al believes that the future survival of humanity may depend on the acceptance of a global ethic, and without it the power people might be indoctrinate and dominate the weaker one. Kinnier et al also did research on Universal Moral Values based on several major religious text and literary text in moral and philosophies. There are four major Universal Moral Values: (1) Commitment to something greater than oneself To recognize the existence of and be committed to a supreme being, higher principle, transcendent purpose or meaning to one's existence, to seek the truth and to seek Justice. (2) Self respect but with humility, self discipline, and acceptance of personal responsibility. Respect and care for oneself, to not exalt oneself or overindulge - to show humility and avoid gluttony, greed, or other forms of selfishness or self centeredness, to act in accordance with one's conscience and to accept responsibility for one's behavior and respect and caring for others. (3) Recognize the connectedness between all people, to serve humankind and to be helpful to individuals, to be caring, respectful, compassionate, tolerant and

forgiving of others, to not hurt others (ex do not murder, abuse, steal from, cheat or lie to others) and (4) Caring for other living things and the environment. This theory can assist the researcher in categorizing the moral values contained in the text (novel) as clearly as possible. Theory of Novel from Lukacs also adds into this research to analyze the findings in novel and portray them clearly.

METHOD

A descriptive research design was used in this study. Descriptive research is used as a precursor to quantitative research designs as it provides the general overview giving some valuable pointers as to what variables are worth testing qualitatively. Meanwhile, the purpose of this study is to analyze and gain awareness about moral values which can affect the character building of national education. The researcher used to collect the data by reading the whole novel thoroughly, then analyze the moral values provided per chapter, then categorize them into several classifications of moral values, match them into character based of national education. Such study of moral values, character building or analysis and the novel titled *Educated* by Tara Westover itself. The researcher, hence, spent a great deal on his time reading, understanding, and comprehending the novel within related theories and concepts before collecting and analyzing the data.

Meanwhile, in data collection, the writer uses document or artifact analysis because this study analyzes written materials. In addition, the writer observed the data by reading intensively and thoroughly each chapter in the novel titled *Educated* to achieve a deep understanding of moral values and analyzing character in it. After identified moral values in the novel, the writer collected and categorized data related to the theory used. The writer then considered moral values which presented or portrayed in the novel that are in accordance with character development. Meanwhile, the writer in this study used content analysis because the data to be analyzed was in the form of documents. This method is used to reveal or capture the moral values that can be used as guidelines for building good character expressed in the novel. The first step of data analysis was the writer to reads and reread the novel in order to recognize them. First, the researcher found types of moral values that frequently appeared in a novel, *Educated*. What type of moral values in the novel and their relation with the moral values? Second, the researcher found kinds of moral values that could be implemented in Indonesia Character based education. It is used several steps to provide answered to the research problems. The first step was reading the novel in detail. It is used in depth observation to find the data related to moral values. It may be a word, phrase, sentences, paragraph or the whole chapter.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data of this study was taken from "Educated" novel, in the form of statements, dialogues or background setting. Meanwhile, the moral values occurred in the novel are classified based on Universal Moral Values theory by Kinnier et. al and Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre statement about National Character and Cultural Education Values that standardize the values of Indonesia's Education.

1. Commitment to Something Greater than Oneself

Religious as one of the act and attitude connected with religion one's mind, utterances and action must be connected with his/her Relief, Believe and Religion. Then, we can see the Religious side that performed by Westover family in these statement:

God's wrath had laid waste to cities, it had flooded the whole earth. I felt weak, then wholly powerless. I remembered that my life was not mine. I could be taken out of my body at any moment, dragged heavenward to reckon with a furious Father.(P. 172, Ch. 15)

"Those herbs won't do a damned thing," Dad said. "Herbals operate by faith. You can't put your trust in a doctor, then ask the Lord to heal you." (P.123,Ch 10)

One of statement that related with Religious character as a part of moral values explained about human's spiritual nature that the fear feeling of God's wrath and punishment. Because, human were commanded to keep obedient toward God's revelation, so when a person dare to break the rules, we called them as the sin. Meanwhile, the other dialogue said that human are not supposed to totally rely towards another human being. Because, human territory are limited, while God's limitless. So, in God we trust.

These two statement above points about religious character that include in moral values. The description above is in line with the supporting theory by Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre (2009: 9- 10), which identifies moral values into 18 character building that based on religion, Pancasila, culture and purpose of national education. It is clearly proofed that religion marked as the foundation of human's existence. on the other hand, based on Kinnier et al (2000) have argued that the future survival of humanity may depend on the acceptance of a global ethic, without it may cause those in power may simply indoctrinate the other party which has the weaker position.

Meanwhile, Kinnier et al did research focusing on Universal Moral Values, the theory is obtained from the conclusion of the major religious texts and literary texts. It clearly stated that religious character also play such an important rule for education world. People who weakened in religious side

might be easily influenced by the negative things. As the opposite, someone who religiously stable, can not easily affected by negativity.

2. Self respect but with humility, self discipline, and acceptance of personal responsibility

Discipline as the act that shows controlled of ordered behaviour aimed at producing obedience to rules

"Yelling is rude," Shawn said, again speaking to the kitchen.

"You'll stay down until you apologize." I said I was sorry for yelling at him.

(Ch 22 p. 237)

The dialogue above points about discipline as character that include in 18 types of moral values. The description above is in line with the supporting theory by Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre (2009: 9- 10),. Therefore, in line with the Center of Curriculum and References, one of the goals of character of education in Indonesia is to develop student's potentials with enable them to posses good attitudes, including discipline in every activities. Eliminate, reduce or reminding the harsh and rough habit of ours also represent of discipline. Discipline can be divided into self discipline and social discipline. Self discipline used to build our consistency and commitment towards our selves. While, social discipline is a form where we practice our commitment towards environment and communities. According to Kaur (2015) the actions which contained with morality are related to social situation where people should use their skills of reasoning, problem solving, and self control to adapt with phenomenon happened in society. Kinnier (2005) also stated that one of major Universal Moral Values theory is self respect but with humility, self discipline, and acceptance of personal and responsibility. Meanwhile, discipline can be categorized as self control towards phenomenon that occur in our surrounding.

Hard Working, The act that shows the real/ best effort use of extra energy and struggle in overcoming obstacle in order to finish the duty

Dad always worked from sunup until sundown in the weeks before the first snow, trying to stockpile enough money from hauling scrap and building barns to outlast the winter, when jobs were scarce. Even if his mother ran off with his youngest child, he wouldn't be able to stop working, not until the forklift was encased in ice.(P.17, Ch 1)

He figured that to keep the lights on, the house warm, he needed to work at breakneck speed. I never saw Dad carry anything to a sorting bin; he just chucked it, with all the strength he had, from wherever he was standing. (P.77, Ch 6)

The data above show us about Hard work character. It captured Father as the head Westover family who deserve applause and respect because of his hard work. He dedicate his life for the family, for the wealthy of of Westover family. In line with the Center of Curriculum and References, one of the goals of character of education in Indonesia is to develop student's potentials with enable them to posses good attitudes, including discipline in every activities. Hard work also includes as good attitudes that must be formed for every personal habit. Hard work is not a talent, but it kind of habit, so every person can develop and maintain it. According to Kaur (2015) the actions which contained with morality are related to social situation where people should use their skills of reasoning, problem solving, and self control to adapt with phenomenon happened in society. Hard work includes in the term of problem solving, because trouble and problem can be solved by doing passionate hard work. When we get stuck because of difficulties, the first solution that should people do is work the things out. The description above also match with the supporting theory by Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre (2009: 9- 10), which identifies moral values into 18 character building that based on hard working character , Pancasila, culture and purpose of national education.

Creative is an act of think and do something logically to produce the newest result/ way from something that been owned

IN MARCH, THERE WAS ANOTHER exam in Western Civ. This time I made flash cards. I spent hours memorizing odd spellings, many of them French (France, I now understood, was a part of Europe). (Ch18p.209)

The description above also match with the supporting theory by Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre (2009: 9- 10), which identifies moral values into 18 character building that based on creativity, Pancasila, culture and purpose of national education. According to Kaur (2015) the actions which contained with morality are related to social situation where people should use their skills of reasoning, problem solving, and self control to adapt with phenomenon happened in society. Tara Westover solved her problems in memorizing language by creating simply instrument for learning, she made a flashcards. In line with Kaur (2015) that morality action are used to solved the problem in society. Recently, people are tend to be more creative in adjusting them self with technology and simplicity. As the next generation, we

should maintain and develop our creativity through the facilities that provided in our surrounding.

Independent as the act or attitude that do not depend on something or someone easily in conducting and finishing duties.

MY BANK ACCOUNT DECREASED steadily. I had been worried that I might not pass my classes, but a month into the semester, after I'd paid tuition and rent and bought food and books, I began to think that even if I did pass I wouldn't be coming back to school for one obvious reason: I couldn't afford it. I looked up the requirements for a scholarship online. A full-tuition waiver would require a near-perfect GPA. (Ch 18 p. 204)

The description above also match with the supporting theory by Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre (2009: 9- 10), which identifies moral values into 18 character building that based on independent character, Pancasila, culture and purpose of national education. Independent means do not depend on something or someone easily, this character generate people to solved the situation by their own instinct and skill. Being too much dependent will make us dull and lazy, because people will always ready to help us. But, when the time become difficult we will get stuck. In line with the Center of Curriculum and References stated that one of goals of character of education in Indonesia is to develop citizens potentials that promote self esteem, strong nationalism and humanity

According to Kaur (2015) the actions which contained with morality are related to social situation where people should use their skills of reasoning, problem solving, and self control to adapt with phenomenon happened in society. Tara Westover solved her financial problem with take a double job, she always full of spirit that and trust that she can solved the situation by her self.

3. Respect and caring for others

Tolerant classified as the action of respecting any varieties in the form of physical appearances, behavior, culture, religion and tribes.

I'd always known that my father believed in a different God. As a child, I'd been aware that although my family attended the same church as everyone in our town, our religion was not the same. (Ch17p. 201)

I certainly didn't sound like them, and not just because they were British. Their speech had a lilting cadence that made me think of singing more than speaking. To my ears they sounded refined, educated; I had a tendency to mumble, and when nervous, to stutter. (Ch 30p.316)

Tolerant considered as one of character of moral values from another 18 characters, that stated by Research and Development Agency for the

Curriculum Centre (2009: 9- 10). As social creature, human can not be separated with the environment and communities. we will meet other people with their variety of visual appearance and character. We have our different ideology, religion, character, personal and social background. However, the things that we have to maintain is the foundation of tolerance when it comes to term togetherness. Tolerance also followed by differences, varieties and diversity words, it shows that we were not alone, we have to respect and valued others, We can not judge and valued people only from his appearance, dialect or language. Based on the Center of Curriculum and References, stated that the goals of character of education in Indonesia is to develop student's potentials with enable them to posses good attitudes and also to develop citizens potentials that promote self esteem, strong nationalism and humanity. Kinnier et. Al (2000) in his universal moral values theories said that people must respect and caring for others, such as to be caring, respectful, compassionate, tolerant and forgiving of others and to not hurt others (ex do not murder, abuse, steal from, cheat or lie to others), Kinnier also clearly state about tolerant in relation with others. And Kaur (2015) adds that the actions which contained with morality are related to social situation where people should use their skills of reasoning, problem solving, and self control to adapt with phenomenon happened in society, and being tolerant are the reflection of self control.

CONCLUSION

Based on analysis of Universal Moral Values theory and Research and Development Agency for the Curriculum Centre statement about National Character and Cultural Education Values that standardize the values of Indonesia's Education in classifying moral values contained in "Educated" novel by Tara Westover, revealing that most of the part and chapter of the novel provides the major categories of moral values, there is (1) Commitment to something greater than oneself, (2) Self respect but with humility, self discipline, and acceptance of personal responsibility, (3) Respect and caring for others, meanwhile moral values in (4) Caring for other living things and the environment. Are still not found in the novel. Although there is no moral values about caring for other living things and the environment found in the novel, it does not meant that this literary works do not completely support and provide the positive vibes of moral values, but rather, this is auto biography style novel, which is written based on true stories and experiences of Tara Westover as the main character of the story. This novel shows about the characters whose fully belief in something greater, maintain their value to be responsible with their actions and to be caring and empathy towards each other.

Meanwhile, using morals as an individual is the basic foundation and principal thing in life that can affect our future and the value of our own self. In sum, from the results of the analysis of this research, the writer suggest the the

reader to use and apply moral values for daily life, and used the findings in the research to motivate and inspire one another to be a better person. Then, it supposed to be considered that educators also being a role model for the students. First, we must pay attention to our value, character and attitudes, then build and remake student's character based on religious, moral and intellectual values. The successful educators can create qualified, noble and intellect generation that will actively to take a part as a world citizen.

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