

## CHARACTER AND MORAL VALUE IN “MIRACLE WORKER” BY WILLIAM

Dian Hermayani <sup>1</sup>,

Supeno <sup>2</sup>,

Universitas Indraprasta PGRI

e-mail: [dianhermayani@gmail.com](mailto:dianhermayani@gmail.com) <sup>1</sup>

e-mail: [supeno@unindra.ac.id](mailto:supeno@unindra.ac.id) <sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** *This research aims to analyze the characters and moral values contained in the film "Miracle Worker" by William Gibson. Based on the theories of character and moral values collected, four main points are analyzed, they are: 1) How is the character appear in "Miracle Worker" by William Gibson based on the theory put forward by Russel How is moral values that appear in "Miracle Worker" by William Gibson based on the theory put forward by Milhorn. 3) There are 3 kinds of characters that appear in the characters in "Miracle Worker" by William Gibson based on Russel's theory, those are the Protagonist, the protagonist played by Kate Keller, Annie Sullivan, Captain Arthur Keller, Mr Anagnos, and Viney, the Foil, played by Hellen Keller, James Keller, and Aunt Ev, 4) There are six types of moral values that appear in "Miracle Worker" by William Gibson based on Milhorn's theory, they are: belief, fairness, kind- hearted honesty, responsibility, and tolerance, belief is the most dominant moral values of all moral values that arise*

**Keywords:** *character, moral, value, moral value, film.*

### Introduction

Literature is a written message that contains experience, idea or opinion of the author. One of the forms of literary works is a film. A film is the medium of a message that want to be presented for the moviegoers. The writer chooses this movie to be investigated; this movie was made based on the true story, made to give motivation for people, and serves as another hope for every teacher and learners that there are things, we believed to be impossible, but became possible because we exerted sufficient perseverance into it. The problem in this research need to be formulated as follows; 1) How is character in “Miracle Worker “by William Gibson? 2) How is moral value in “Miracle Worker “by William Gibson?, 3)What kinds of character that emerge in “Miracle Worker “by William Gibson?, 4) What kinds of moral value that emerge in “Miracle Worker “by William Gibson?

Based on the background above, the purpose of the research analyses character and moral values in film “ *Miracle Worker*” by William Gibson. Characters are the heart and soul of the story, the most important elements in literature. They are central of importance for the film experience. Characters are not only persons, but also the elements of nature such as of wind, waves, grasses, and even animals. The story will exist only because these things will be treated as if they were human rather than as what we know. In fiction a character maybe defined as verbal representation of human being. Though action, speech, description, and commentary, author portray character that are worth caring about, rooting for, and even loving, although there are also characters you may laugh at, dislike, or even hate. The character found in the film miracle worker is focused on how the main character tries to be truly shown and conveyed through the film in accordance with the contents of the film and associated with other elements of the film such as setting, plot, theme, and so forth.

Moral which in Latin means habit and tradition is a teaching, doctrine, or idea about good or bad, right or wrong, correct or incorrect held by an individual or a group of people in the form of a way custom

or view of life or religion. Moral it has some consequences within. It becomes a guidance that will influence and guide people to live their lives much better. While moral that the writer wants to state in this case is moral that has something to do with the film. In other words, the writer definitely wants to depict and reveal the entire moral forms exist in the film *Miracle Worker* by William Gibson. The writer wants to analyze how moral in this movie is.

Value is something that interacts for us, something that we look for, something that pleases, something that loved, and in short value is something that has good connotation. The value can be agreements, guidance and prohibitions, propriety, and disobedience, which provide guidance and direction and lead to happiness, satisfaction, and peace in human life. While the value that the writer wants to state in this case is the value that exists or is contained in the film *Miracle Worker* by William Gibson. Those values are the values that the film wants to convey to the audience, such as justice, honesty, and beneficence responsibility, so in the end, hopefully the audience can understand and practice these values in society where they live their everyday life.

Moral values are as normative standard to measure behavior. Moral values can also be associated with religious or other social values. Normally, moral values bind and rule every individual who lives in a social group. While the moral value which is particularly interpreted and get relation to the film *Miracle Worker* by William Gibson is the moral value which the films convey and delivers. The writer wants to analyze moral values of never stop working, look beyond what one can see, then the writer hopefully can understand and apply them in her daily life so do the other who read his thesis. A film or motion picture includes photographs, diagrams, or pictures in a series which projected in a screen. All elements or aspects are combined in a film to build a story created within different social, historical, and cultural context.

The goal of the writer choosing this film is because the film is very good film to watch. It tells the audiences. It is showed briefly that blind deaf people can be better if there is someone who guide them well. Here, Helen is guided by her beloved teacher, Miss. Sullivan. Helen could not eat by using a spoon, sit down in a seat but step by step she is able to be a sweet girl and know how to have a good attitude. From the third dialogue, we can get moral value from a teacher, Miss. Sullivan. Because of her responsibility to her student, consequently Helen is able to have a good attitude although she is blind and deaf. When a blind deaf girl can arrange all things properly, it means that the girl is clever and has a high motivation to learn about everything. Helen is not only a genius girl, but she is also motivated to memorize what her teacher has taught to her. As the result, motivation becomes moral value that we can reach from this movie. Values and morals can not only guide but inspire and motivate you, giving you energy for living and for doing something meaningful.

There are also the differences expressions and meaning found in *The Miracle Worker* when four audiences watched the film. Firstly, the second audience tells that in the film, Step by step Helen becomes a calm girl and she always comes to Miss. Sullivan to ask the language of everything she touches. The meaning of the expression is life is a struggle. We are able to master everything if we want to learn. Besides, our environment also influences us in learning a language and the meaning. It is difficult for blind deaf people to master a language if they are not serious to learn a language. Responsibility from a teacher also helps them to learn and understand language. Consequently, they will be able to be better in learning and understanding language.

### **1. Kinds of character in “Miracle Worker” by William Gibson**

The researcher analyzes kinds of character in “*Miracle Worker*” by William Gibson use by Russel, stated that there are three types of characters. They are: (1) Protagonist (hero) is the central figure with whom usually sympathize or identify. (2) Antagonist (villain). It is the figure who opposes the protagonist and creates the conflict, (3) Foil character. It is the figure whose personality traits are the opposite of the main characters. This is a supporting character and usually made to shine the protagonist.

### **2. Kinds of Moral Value in “Miracle Worker” by William Gibson**

The researcher analyzes kinds of moral value using Milhorn’s theory. According to Milhorn, there are six moral values, they are: (1) tolerance is willingness to accept behavior and beliefs which are different from one and other, although you might not agree with or approve of them. (2) Fairness is defined as the quality of treating people equally or in a way that is right or reasonable. (3) Belief is a state or habit on mind in which trust, confidence, reliance, is place in some person or thing. Belief is something believed, statement or body of statement held by the advocates of any class of views; conviction of the truth of some

statement or the reality of some being or phenomenon, especially when based on an examination of the ground for accepting it as true or real. (4) Kind-hearted is the equivalent of what has been offered or received. Kind is applying more often to the disposition to sympathy and helpfulness. (5) Honesty is estimable character; fairness and straight forwardness of conduct or adherence to be fact. (6) Responsibility, being responsible is to have control and authority over something or someone and the duty of taking care of it or them.

## Method

The approach used by the writer in conducting this research is qualitative research. In conducting this research the writer uses the content analysis method. While in this research, the method used is content analysis method since its goal is to obtain data about Character and Moral Value in “Miracle Worker.” The aim of this research is to discover information derived from the data as much as possible. After the data collected, they must be interpreted to achieve the aim which has been set.

## Results and Discussion

There are 18 dialogues that can be found from the film which shows protagonist character.

### 1. Foil

There are 15 dialogues that can be found from the film which shows foil character. The researcher can present the percentage of character in the table and diagram below:

**Table 1.** The Percentage of Character

No	Kinds of Character	Times of Show Up	Percentage
1	Protagonist	18	54.54 %
2	Foil	15	45.46 %
3	Antagonist	0	0 %
		33	

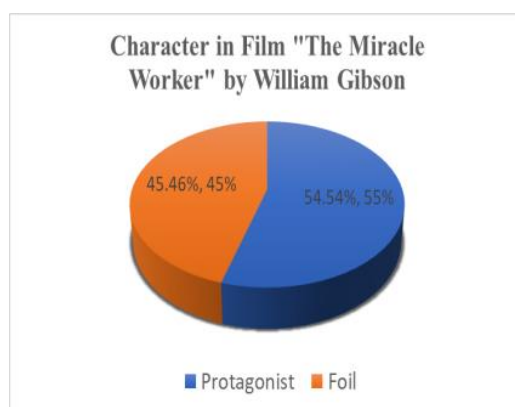


Figure 1. Character

There are seven kinds of moral value that found in film “The Miracle Worker” by William Gibson. They are: (1) Belief, (2) Fairness, (3) Kind-hearted, (4) Honesty, (5) Responsibility, (6) Tolerance

**Table 2.** The Percentage of Moral Value

No	Kinds of Moral Value	Appearances (times)	Percentage
1	Belief	11	28.20 %
2	Responsibility	10	25.64 %
3	Kinder-hearted	6	15.38 %
4	Fairness	5	12.82 %
5	Honesty	4	10.26 %
6	Tolerance	3	7.69 %
		39	

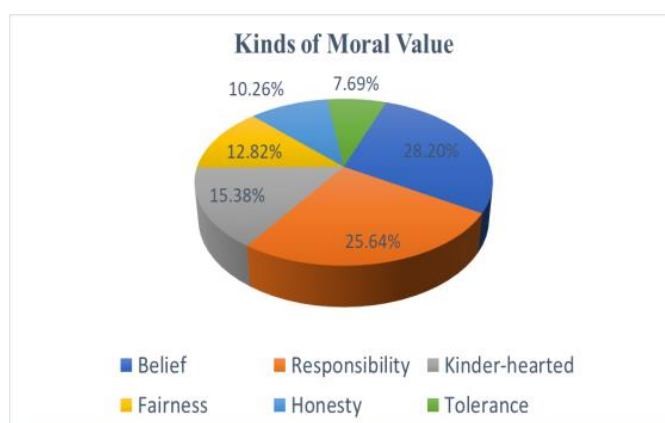


Figure 2. Diagram Analysis of Moral Value

### ***Data Interpretation***

After analyzing the data found in film “Miracle Worker”, the writer can draw conclusion that the character which emerge in film “Miracle Worker”, Protagonist character is 54.54 %, the Foil is 45.46 %, and the Antagonist is 0 %. Based the dialogues in the film *Miracle Worker* by William Gibson has been analyzed, the researcher can conclude that there are only two types of characters that appear in the film, they are the Protagonist and the foil character only. The protagonist character shows 54.54% because indeed in this film is dominated by all good characters, all the characters in this film do good and sacrifice for the healing of Helen. All members of the Keller Family along with Helen's private teacher, Annie Sullivan, expect significant healing for Helen who is deaf-blind, and not even all household assistants in the Keller family have committed crimes against Helen despite repeatedly being rude.

Whereas Foil has a 45.46% percentage, the role of foil is dominated by Helen and James Keller. Helen's bad attitude is just that, a spoiled attitude that she shows to everyone about being bored and resentful because she cannot see and speak, she often attracts the attention of others by slamming and breaking things around her. Helen's bad attitude is merely an act of drawing the attention of others to her, but this attitude is not a crime or a criminal she deliberately wanted to do. While the foil character is also widely exhibited by James Keller or Helen's stepbrother, James Keller is often cynical about his parents who try to forgive all of Helen's mistakes, this makes him feel jealous of Helen. James does not show the attitude of the antagonist; he just wanted his parents to be fair to him. At the end of the story, Helen and James show good attitude, therefore researchers does not place their position in the character antagonist.

For the Antagonist character is 0%, there is no antagonist role in this film. This film is a family film for how to deal with and find solutions from children who are deaf blind who behave badly, but there are no roles that try to harm the role of the protagonist itself.

After analyzing the data found in " *Miracle Worker*" by William Gibson, the writer can draw a conclusion that moral values that emerge in "The *Miracle Worker*" by William Gibson are: Belief is 28.20%, Responsibility is 25.64%, Kinder-hearted is 15.38%, Fairness is 12.82%, Honesty is 10.26% and Tolerance is only 7.69%. Belief shows the highest percentage of 28.20% because indeed in this film Kate

Keller (Helen's mother) and Annie Sullivan show a high sense of confidence in healing Helen without putting her into a mental hospital. Although Arthur Keller repeatedly shows his apathy, Kate Keller and Annie Sullivan maintained their belief in her recovery.

Responsibility occupies the second largest percentage after Belief, which is 25.64%, this moral value is largely taken from Annie Sullivan's attitude towards the new work she received. This is very appropriate because Annie Sullivan shows a very extraordinary sense of responsibility in handling Helen, even though the task is not an easy task and what she does does not always have the support of Arthur Keller (Helen's father). But she remained consistent to complete her task.

For the third position occupied by Kinder-hearted which is 15.38%, this figure is obtained from the figure of Kate Keller. Kate Keller or Helen's mother is a very kind woman, she treats everyone very well. Kate is also a figure of a mother who is very patient and kind, despite so many shortcomings owned by Helen. But she is still a good mother to her children who suffer from blindness and deafness.

The fourth position, Fairness is a type of moral value that scores 12.82%. This number is obtained from several dialogues conducted by Maria and James. Maria sometimes gets unfair treatment in handling Helen and James is always the one who defends her from his father who often corners Annie in handling Helen. Fairness is also taught by Annie Sullivan to James because James often complained of Arthur's treatment of him.

The fifth position in the acquisition of honesty is 10.26%, this figure is obtained from a conversation conducted by Kate Keller about Annie Sullivan's identity. Although she is a little afraid to face her husband to tell her true identity, Annie is not a professional teacher from Perkin School, but she is just the best student who sent by Dr. Chisolm in handling Helen. Kate Keller remains honest in this matter and removes her fear of her husband. While the smallest percentage of all moral values that emerge is tolerance, which is only 7.60%. This figure is only obtained from a few quotations of dialogue from Kate who repeatedly forgive the mistakes of Helen, and Aunt Ev. who tolerated Helen's mischief?

## **Conclusions**

After all the dialogues have been analyzed, the researcher finds that there are several figures in the film that should be analyzed deeply. They are Helen Keller, Captain Arthur Keller, Kate Keller, Annie Sullivan, James Keller, Aunt Ev Anagnos, and Dr Chisolm. They show multiple of character by their role in the film. Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan are the main characters of the film while the other characters are the supporting characters who take part to raise the story of the film.

The researcher analyzes kinds of character in "Miracle Worker" by William Gibson use by Russel's theory. Russel (2009:1) stated that there are three types of characters. They are : (1) Protagonist (hero). It is the central figure with whom usually sympathize or identify. (2) Antagonist (villain). It is the figure who opposes the protagonist and creates the conflict, (3) Foil character. It is the figure whose personality traits are the opposite of the main characters. This is a supporting character and usually made to shine the protagonist. Captain Arthur Keller, Kate Keller, Annie Sullivan, Mr. Anagnos, and Viney show protagonist character, Hellen Keller, James Keller, Aunt Ev show foil character.

After all the dialogues has been analyzed, the researcher finds some messages that are moral value from the dialogues that has been spoken in the film, respect is dominantly of the moral value that most often emerge. Each moral value has emerged in some dialogues, but the researcher finds and analyzes them only based on Milhorn's theory, they are belief, fairness, kind- hearted honesty, responsibility, and tolerance.

The researcher analyzes kinds of moral value by Milhorn's theory. According to Milhorn (2005:23-25) there are seven kinds of moral value. They are : (1) tolerance is willingness to accept behavior and beliefs which are different from one and other, although you might not agree with or approve of them. (2) Fairness is defined as the quality of treating people equally or in a way that is right or reasonable. (3) Belief is a state or habit on mind in which trust, confidence, reliance, is place in some person or thing. Belief is something believed, statement or body of statement held by the advocates of any class of views; conviction of the truth of some statement or the reality of some being or phenomenon, especially when based on an examination of the ground for accepting it as true or real. (4) Kind-hearted is the equivalent of what has been offered or received. (5) Honesty is estimable character; fairness and straight forwardness of conduct or adherence to be fact. (6) Responsibility, being responsible is to have control and authority over something or someone and the duty of taking care of it or them.

## References

- Bertens, K. (2011). *Etika*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama
- Belington, R. (2003). *Living Philosophy: An Introduction to Moral Thought (3<sup>rd</sup>)*. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group
- Klarer, M. (2004). *An Introduction to Literary Studies*. London: Routledge
- Volger, C. (2007). *The Writer's Journey*. Los Angeles: Michael Wiese Production.
- Milhorn, J. (2005). *Moral Values*. San Marcos: Texas State University
- Robert, A. (2004). *Moral Value and Human Diversity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Russel, M.S. (2009). *Character*. New York: Sophia Omni