

## **THE CHARACTER AND MORAL VALUES IN THE MOVIE ‘WONDER’ BY STEPHEN CHBOSKY**

Nanik Ristiah Sari Halim <sup>1</sup>,  
Oom Rohmah Syamsudin <sup>2</sup>,

*English Education Program Universitas Indraprasta PGRI*

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

e-mail: [orsyamsudin@gmail.com](mailto:orsyamsudin@gmail.com) <sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** This research aims to analyze the characters and moral values in the “Wonder” movie by Stephen Chbosky. The method used in this research is descriptive-qualitative which aims to describe the character and moral values in the Wonder” movie. Data obtained, analyzed, and explained based on dialogue data contained in the movie protagonist, antagonist, secondary, extras, round dan flat, and based on moral values: commitment to something greater than oneself, self-respect but with humility, self-discipline, and acceptance of personal responsibility, respect and caring for others, caring for other living things an environment. This shows the moral Value that dominates and wants to be conveyed is the Value of caring for others.

**Keywords:** moral values, character analysis, movie analysis

### **Introduction**

Movie is one of the most popular messages conveying media. The message conveyed by the writer can be easily understood because it is conveyed through scenes and dialogues. Besides, that movie has an entertaining nature so that people can watch it in great demand. Everyone has a different goal when watching a movie—some as entertainment, stress relievers, and some for added knowledge. The theme of the movie can also be one of the factors someone likes a movie. Some people like the theme of horror, comedy, or romance—some like science, education, or family. At present, the development of movie technology has been very advance. The cinema is very easy to find, and the price is more affordable. Like the movie that the writer will discuss, here is a family movie with an educational element. At first glance, this movie looks normal, just like other family movies. This movie tells of a happy small family with a handsome and beautiful married couple: an established husband and intelligent wife.

Nevertheless, there is something unique in this family that looks perfect. The family has a child who was born imperfect or disabled. Maybe if we pay attention around us, there also some who experience the same thing. Many things to be conveyed by the author of the family. In this movie, we can see how to educate parents their children or how juvenile delinquency or children’s delinquency, such as bullying, often occurs in the school environment or outside of school. Many children do not understand self-control when finding different things or difficult to accept differences. Parents and teachers need to work together to understand children who are often abusive that what is done is wrong.

Regardless of what type of movie is being watched, the most important thing is someone who watches the movie then takes good lessons from the movie they have watched. Because every movie that has circulated has gone through a legal process or has received a permit, one of which is from the movie censorship board, which means that it has met the criteria according to the community’s norms. The movie that circulated is a movie that can be learned in it. Following its function, the movie is a messenger to the audience. The message to be conveyed can be implied through the scenes or dialogue of the players. Some viewers sometimes do not realize that the movie they watch contains a message; some think of watching it as mere entertainment. That is why the public must be wise in choosing spectacle for themselves. Watching can be a hobby for some people. This makes the movie business did not stop issuing new movies. The increasingly sophisticated technological development also increasing support the creativity of a movie. The

---

author makes it easier to apply what they want to convey to the audience. If seen today, the dominance of movies that demand the world is still held by the western nations. The technology they use in moviemaking is very sophisticated and supported by people who are competent in it. For example, United States, Britain, Germany, and other western countries have many movies that are already very well known worldwide.

Moreover, in Asia that have begun to be glimpsed by the world, such as Japan, China, and South Korea. Each country has different characteristics in the movie. For example, China and Japan always include their country's culture in every movie they produce. Moreover, it has been proven that many people are interested and enjoy Chinese or Japanese movies that are loaded with culture.

The audience likes unique movies. The more unique a movie, the more curious and want to watch it to the end. After watching until it ends, the audience expected some things that could be used as lessons. A smart viewer is a viewer who filters what he or she watches. Viewers who only watch movies that are full of meaning get not only the entertainment of a show but also new knowledge. That is why the movie is considered a vehicle or tool used as a message source. From the reception of messages through the movie, the audience can get the effect of changes in many ways, for example, changes in behavior, habits, or preferences.

The movie's presentation is accompanied by a set of life that is almost the same as society's daily living conditions. Sometimes the audience easily believes the situation depicted in a movie scene, although sometimes it is not logical or hard to believe happened in the real world. It is the same as the movie that the writer will discuss, a simple story but full of meaning. It says simply because it tells a small family in general that we usually see in everyday life. Nevertheless, it is unique because this highly matched husband and wife have a special child. Their child was born in a disability condition and had a different appearance from his age. This is the problem in this movie, as in a society where there are still many who cannot accept differences. There are still many of us who only hang out or make friends with certain people. This could be because the person feels himself is not the same as ordinary people in general. It needs support from people around and the environment that can make someone who is not normal.

This movie discusses how we need empathy for others without seeing the differences. The movie conveys messages through humorous dialogue that contains advice so that it impresses not to patronize. Moral messages in a movie are usually found in family-themed movies. Family stories are always interesting to watch because viewers like watching their own lives while watching family movies. The author uses this phenomenon to convey a good message to the audience through a family-themed movie that all ages can watch. By watching family-themed movies full of moral messages in them, parents can get knowledge, including knowing how to take good care of children, find a way out when facing family problems, and other knowledge related to parenting. A movie can liken what if we are in the movie's position in the movie whether we will be like the characters in the story. What if something like a movie happens to us. The more complicated the problems in a story usually attract the interest of the audience. The audience likes to see complex problems because it makes the audience more curious about solving problems, so the contents of a movie story must not trap the audience because it is made for entertaining. Not a few viewers are sometimes very easy to believe the story he watched as if what happened in the movie is the same as in the real world. So being a spectator is thoughtful.

In the 'Wonder' movie, the audience does not need to think hard. The story is light with an easy-to-understand dialogue that anyone who watches will quickly capture the story's message. All ages can watch the movie of 'Wonder' because the story is very closely related to our daily lives and prioritizes a child. Children can learn from this movie not to discriminate between other people in choosing friends. Children can also learn that harassment is not a good thing to do to anyone, anywhere.

Moreover, parents can learn how to solve problems in the household, especially in educating children. The movie of 'Wonder' also shows how a child is not only influenced by his family. The teacher also has an essential role in supervising children's development in school. The teacher has a role other than a teacher who provides knowledge to students at school must also be a guardian for their students. In the school environment, there are still students who will continue to do things that violate school rules and cause harm to other students who have a negative impact, such as bullying or violence against students who are considered weak. The point is that a child who is expected to grow and develop properly needs support and affection from the family and the school. Need good communication between family and the school if the things happen that are considered unsuitable for children to look for causes and solutions to problems, whether from families that impact school life or problems from schools that impact family life.

The movie of 'Wonder' was from a novel by R.J.Palacio. Although the delivery of messages through novels and movies is different, the authors of 'Wonder' feel pretty satisfied with delivering messages to this movie's audience. It is even reported that a mother who watched the movie and experienced the same things as the movie felt grateful for the wonderful movie and hoped that people would be more concerned about those who lacked. Delivering messages through novels and movies is very different indeed. The novel can write everything down in detail, and the reader imagines what he is reading. Simultaneously, the movie conveys messages through scenes and dialogue of players in the movie with limited time. However, people can choose according to their needs, whether they choose to read or watch because everyone is different regarding reading or watching. There is a need as there is also a living style. Besides, the message reception of each individual must be different. Some easily understand a story by reading a novel, and some easily grasp the meaning of a story by watching a movie. However, each story of a movie has its charm because everyone's tastes and perspectives are different.

Therefore once again, we as an audience must be clever in choosing a good spectacle. At least we have to be wise in choosing the spectacle for ourselves or our family. We must think not to waste time with useless things. Every movie has a message or life lesson that we can filter to take the good things. A movie is a communication medium to convey a good message if the audience can use their minds to digest the things they watch. Whatever type of movie we watch, if we wisely respond, then we will benefit from increased knowledge from what we watch. Just take good things from the movie to apply to our lives in the real world and not ever copy the stupid things that could be in a movie because the movie's bad things are just acting. Stories that are made with everything that has been arranged by the creator of the story so that what happens is not all can be equated with real life. Based on the background above, the writer wants to research the title: "The Character and Moral Value in "Wonder" Movie by Stephen Chbosky."

## **Method**

The research is to find the character and moral value analysis of the movie "Wonder" by Stephen Chbosky. Since the self is part of literary work, the most suitable research used in inquiring and describing finding the character and moral Value is qualitative research. The approach used by the writer in conducting this research is qualitative research. Creswell (2012:626) stated, "Qualitative research is an inquiry approach useful for exploring and understanding a central phenomenon. To learn about this phenomenon, the inquirer asks participants broad, general questions, collects the detailed views of participants in the form of words or images, and analyzes the information for description and themes. The researcher interprets the meaning of the information from this data, drawing on personal reflections and past research. The final structure of the final report is flexible, and it displays the researcher's biases and thoughts."

Based on the statement above, it can be seen that qualitative research is research that is done based on the phenomenon chosen by the researcher, being researched, and is described in the form of words or figures if necessary. It does not describe the numerical analysis from the researcher's interpretation and personal reflections. The description is flexible, and it displays the researcher's biases and thoughts. This research emphasizes finding the title through the film's character and moral value analysis, "Wonder." This movie tells about support and love from family and the environment for people who have physical deficiencies. The purpose of qualitative research is to understand and explain participant meaning. More specifically, qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore social or human problems. In conducting this research, the writer uses the content analysis method. While in this research, the method used is the content analysis method since its goal is to obtain data about Character and Moral Value in "Wonder."

Content analysis is research in which focuses on analyzing the content of the document or textual data. As Krippendorff (2004:30) said, content analysis is a research technique replicable and valid interferences from texts for other meaningful matter) to the context of their use. It means that content analysis is a technique of the research that the other researcher can reuse. The valid interferences are taken from the text (or other written documents that are important) and used appropriately. This research aims to discover information derived from the data as much as possible. After the data are collected, they must be interpreted to achieve the aim which has been set.

For the conclusion, it can be concluded that the research that the writer conducts is descriptive qualitative research. The writer also used library research to complete the research.

## Result and Discussions

According to Stelle (2003:40), there are six kinds of character in a story: (1) Protagonist, particularly vital for the main character of the story, (2) Antagonist, a person who poses a formidable obstacle to the protagonist's desire, (3) Secondary character, are the supporting character, (4) Extras are the character who populate the fictional world but do not have a significant impact on the story, (5) Round character, is capable of surprising a viewer in a convincing way, (6) Flat character, are those who are characterized only by their role on a little action. Based on those six kinds of character sections, the researcher constructed the analysis as follows: Kinner (2009:9) stated some fundamental moral values. They are:

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. It means that we have to recognize the connectedness among all people and serve humankind and help individuals.
4. Caring for other living things and the environment.

Based on those four kinds of moral Value, the researcher constructed the analysis card as follows:

### *Techniques of Data Collection*

Before the writer describes the data, some steps must be done and met with collecting the data. In the case of data collection procedures, Creswell (2007:213) stated that there some steps of collecting data, as follows:

1. The researcher chooses the film as the object of the research. The researcher chooses "Wonder" by Stephen Chbosky, and it is the movie that will be analyzed as the object of the research.
2. Purposively, the researcher finds the movie, some books, and websites that give information for variables used in the research.
3. Finding books and information about the character and moral Value.
4. Purposively, the researcher decides the kinds of discourse that are needed during the research. The researcher finds some discourses that correlate with the movie from the internet and DVD. Those are August Pullman's information, the recording of the movie's making process, and some information about the movie's history.
5. The researcher decides data resources.

The data resources that will be used in the research are the dialogues that emerge in the movie.

## Findings and Discussion

"Wonder" is a kind of movie taken by Stephen Chbosky and is rich in the moral messages that we can apply in real life and this movie gives us a lot of moral values such as struggle, culture, patience, social differences, loving, and also the strong of love from family. After watching "Wonder" movie intensively and focusing on the dialogue, in this part of the section, the writer would like to present the description and analysis of the data according to the movie's character and moral Value convey. The writer can use forty-two dialogues to find out elements of character that the movie "Wonder" by Stephen Chbosky brings. Each of the dialogues is divided into six different elements of character. Based on the movie's result, the protagonist's character has the highest percentage, 35%, because the protagonist is a character that is generally owned by the main character in the movie. This movie's protagonist is the main center of attention that conveys important messages about the author's content or intent. The second highest is the secondary character with the second-highest percentage value of 24%, which has a significant role and influences the main character. The second character is the closest character to the leading player and has an interaction that significantly influences the story. In almost every secondary scene, characters are always involved so that the intensity of the secondary characters' presence and influence becomes influential. The same percentage, 12 %, has quite a significant meaning in the movie for rounds and extras. Mr. Tushman, as a Round character, has a strong enough influence on the main character that is August, and his family. With the authority that Mr. Tushman had, he made August able to adapt and survive in the school environment.

That is why the Round character can be said to have a significant influence on the story. Next extras character. Like the Round character, extras character also has considerable influence.

The difference here is that the extra character, Miranda completes the story, making the story lively. Miranda is not only close to Via but also all families Via. That is why the extras character gets a high percentage. Then the flat character has 10%. It slightly above the antagonist. This movie's flat character has a role that is not too meaningful but as a small part that is enough to complete the story because it still has a love affair with the main cast. Existence as a flat character always there to entertain Via grief always makes Justin's role quite entertaining. Sympathetic Via makes the audience want to get the happiness that is rarely found in her family. The antagonist has the lowest percentage, 7 %. This is because the antagonist character is displayed not too often. This family genre movie also features many school children, so that the role of the antagonist is raised a little as a small example of the problems that often exist in schools. If there are too many antagonist characters, it is feared that it will lead to negative perceptions on the audience that is still a child. The movie "Wonder" that has something to do with the character is Stelle's theory about kinds of character.

### ***Moral Value in the movie "Wonder" by Stephen Chbosky***

Based on the moral values that exist in the movie, The first highest percentage of all the other moral values, respect and caring for others, is 35 %, because the movie tells much about respecting and caring for others. In this movie, the author wants to invite the audience to respect and pay attention to those around us who need attention, starting from the family's most miniature environment. Suppose there is in our family who have problems. In that case, we as the closest person must be sensitive and help overcome our family members because family affection can be the greatest strength for our troubled relatives or family members. Do not let it because we are not paying attention to our family so that there is someone in our family who has a problem we do not know. It can cause us to regret if one-day things happen that are not desirable. Self-respect and humility, self-discipline, and acceptance of personal responsibility are 32%, almost close to the first position. The movie teaches a lot about how a person must respect themselves and care for those around them. August, who has a disorder, makes us have to be grateful for what God has given us. A healthy and perfect body is something we sometimes forget to be thankful for. Likewise, when we have deficiencies, we should not be discouraged or ashamed because life must be faced if we want to survive. We should not pay too much attention to people who can only insult others because everyone will be held accountable for their actions. Commitment to something greater than oneself is 27%; the percentage is relatively high because many advised that it is essential to commit to good things in the movie about family. Much dialogue shows how the audience is advised to have an exemplary commitment in life because being committed will make us quality in life. Caring for other living things and the environment is the lowest percentage is 5 %; it shows the Pullman family dog does not have a role but shows the Pullman family who loves animals like their own family. Pullman's family's affection for their pet dog was seen when their dog was sick.

### **Conclusions**

There are six kinds of characters in the movie "Wonder" by Stephen Chbosky. They are protagonist character, antagonist character, a secondary character, extras character, round character, and flat character. The protagonist is the most dominant character in the movie with a percentage of 36 %, and a secondary character is 24 %, an extra character is 12%, the round character is 12 %, a flat character is 10 %, and the antagonist is 7 %—moral Value in "Wonder" by Stephen Chbosky. The protagonist's character shows the highest rate of 36 %. Even though the protagonist and antagonist are hostile to each other, no use of weapons or objects is painful for a fight because it is still a genre of children. The protagonist shown in the story is verbal bullying conducted by young school children to their schoolmates.

There are seven moral values in the movie "Wonder" by Stephen Chbosky, they are respectful and caring for others is 35 %, Self-respect, but with humility, self-discipline and acceptance of personal responsibility is 32 %, Commitment to something greater than oneself 27 % and Caring for the other living things and environment is 15 %. Respect and caring for others show the highest percentage of all moral values that arise in the movie because, in the beginning, Von Trapp's children could not respect others, so

many times, Maria taught them how to respect others. Thus, the percentage of respect appears the highest number compared to the percentage of other moral values.

After watching the movie “Wonder” students are expected to apply the moral values implicit in this movie in their daily lives. They are also expected to be more respectful of others. “Wonder” gives a clear message to the audience because it raises various moral values that the teachers can teach in schools to their students. Moral Values that appear in this film include (1) Commitment to something greater than oneself, (2) Self-respect but with humility, self-discipline, and acceptance of personal responsibility (3) Respect and Caring Other and (4) Caring for the other living things and environment. Teachers are expected to be a model for all students on how moral values are applied in their daily lives.

## References

- Abrams, M. H. (1999). *A Glossary of Literary*. Boston: Thomas Learning.
- Ary, D. e. (2010). *Introduction to Research in Education ( Eight Edition)*. California: Wadsworth.
- Beaver, F. E. (2006). *Dictionary of Films Terms: The Aesthetic Companion to Film Art*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing Inc.
- Bogdan, R. C. (2007). *Qualitative Research for Education. An Introduction to Theories and Methods*. Boston: Person Education.
- Bordwell, D. T. (2017). *Film Art: An Introduction*. New York: Mc Graw-Hill Education.
- Carter, D. (2006). *Literary Theory*. London: Pocket Essential.
- Colmam, A. M. (2009). *A Dictionary of Psychology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Creswell, J. W. (2013). *A Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions*. London: Sage Publication.
- Dong Gu, M. (2006). *Chinese Theories of Fiction a Non-Western Narrative*. New York City: New York University Press.
- George. (2014). Youth and Moral Value in Changing Society. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 40-44.
- Homby, A. S. (2003). *Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hancock, B. (2007). *An Introduction of Qualitative Research*. Birmingham: Birmingham University Press.
- Junior, G. A. (2013). Religion and Morality in Ghana. *A Reflection Global Journal of Arts and Social Science*, 162-170.
- Kiesling, S. F. (2005). Homosocial Desire in Men’s Talk: Balancing and Recreating Cultural Discourses of Masculinity. *Language in Society*, 695-726.
- Kinnier, R. t. (2019, November Friday). *A short List of Moral Value*. Retrieved from Wiley Online Library: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/j.2161-007X.2000.tb00178.x>
- Miles, M. B. (2001). *Qualitative Data Analysis*. London: Sage Publication.
- Patton, M. Q. (2002). *Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods (third edition)*. London: Sage Publication.
- Patton, M. Q. (2012). *A Guide to Using Qualitative Research Methodology*. London: Sage Publication.
- Richard, G. (2010). *Mastering English Literature*. Leicester: Red Globe Press.