

THE PORTRAYAL OF CHARACTERS AND EDUCATIONAL VALUES IN "THE LAND OF FIVE TOWERS"

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Abstract: The objective of the research is to know: 1) The characters in the novel "The Land of Five Towers" 2) The educational value in the novel "The Land of Five Towers." The data is the novel "The Land of Five Towers" by Ahmad Fuadi. This research is qualitative. The writer analyzes the characters by using Nurgiyantoro's categories of characterization. There are six main characters, and they have about 19 personalities. The dominant is religious as all the characters have this personality. The direct method characterization is about 44%, while the indirect method is about 56%. 2) Besides, the educational value is analyzed by Tirtarahardja and Sulo's definitions of values. The dominant one is a moral value: about 80% and religious value is about 20%. In moral value, the dominant is sincerity (31%), and the dominant one in religious value is faithful to God (40%). The novel has a more powerful portrayal of the character and educational value. Hopefully, by analyzing those, the readers will apply the positive lesson they get from the novel in their life.

Keywords: character education; educational value; novel analysis

Introduction

Literature is a way of communication which is very important in our social life. It is expressed in particular ways. Hidayat (as cited in Permana, 2012, p. 1) states that the readers are enthusiastic about reading it. Besides getting information, they can also get reading to get the information or reading on purpose. It fulfills the aims of reading literature since the purpose of reading literature is to entertain the readers. Moreover, many people are interested in reading literature since it is entertaining and gives many lessons.

Literary works could be in the form of fiction and non-fiction. Fiction relates to the imagination; the story is unreal. In comparison, non-fiction is usually based on actual events or experiences. However, most literary works that interest more people are fiction ones, such as short stories, poems, dramas, and novels. The novel is one of the most popular references for people to enjoy literary work. Permana (2012, p. 7) states that the novel is larger than the other prose form; the novel is longer to cover a more extended period, including many characters or events. The novel has a long story, chapter to chapter, to entertain the reader, and they will come into the world of imagination created by the author.

Moreover, by reading from page to page, the reader will feel the real emotion (laugh, cry, get angry) even it is only fiction. It also helps the readers to understand their world, neighbors, and themselves. Moreover, a novel is a medium that is not only entertaining but also educating. The story in the novel is usually based on the writer's imagination. Life in a story is a life experienced by the writer's beliefs, educational background, and environment. From the story in the novel, the readers will get many lessons and inspiration. From the novel's inspiration, the readers are expected to behave positively, just as the story or character shown in the novel.

On the other hand, the novel has a fascinating variety of elements, such as greater characters, greater complication of plot (or plots), plenty of development of setting, and more sustained exploration of character and motives than shorter, more concentrated modes. Those elements are called an intrinsic element. Among all intrinsic elements in the novel, the character is one of the main intrinsic elements. In a

literary term, the character is known as figures own by persons who are formed through their long story in the novel. The character is the formation or the forging of the environment and the people - people around the neighborhood (Nurgiyantoro, 2014, p. 163). The character itself is a person's self-portrait. Everyone has a character, and it can describe the real person, whether he is a good or bad person.

Characters have an essential role in the novel since characters will give life value in the novel. Value could be the importance or usefulness of something that we get from the novel. It could be a good or exciting quality that something has because it is surprising, different new. It also could be our ideas about what is right and wrong or what is essential in life. In Indonesia, lots of literary works focus on specific value portrayal in their story. One of most values portrayed in the novel is education. Lots of authors write the story which emphasizes the educational value in their story. Through educational value, the novel can educate the readers about anything.

There has been relevant research that discussed character education. The research is conducted by Darmawan (2016), whose method for analyzing the data is from Josephson Institute stated the six characters, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The result of this research is that *MP* can fulfill its role in developing students' characters. The similarities between Darmawan's research and this research are the method and the data source. The method used is the same, using the qualitative analysis method. The data source of both studies is the same, the novel entitled "The Land of Five Towers" (Fuadi, 2012)." The differences between Darmawan's research and this research are the variables, the purpose, and the method for analyzing the data. The variables are different; in Darmawan's research, there are only two variables, such as the model of character education and the novel "The Land of Five Towers." While in this research, there are three variables to be analyzed: the character, the educational value, and the novel "The Land of Five Towers." Therefore, this research aims to analyze the character and educational value in the novel "The Land of Five Towers." While the purpose of Darmawan's research is to analyze the model of character education only in the novel "The Land of Five Towers." The method for analyzing data is also different. Darmawan's research used Josephson Institute (2012), who stated the six characters, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, to analyze the character education in the novel. In comparison, this research focuses on analyzing the moral and religious value since the novel writes a lot about it.

Method

In this research, the writer uses descriptive research with the qualitative method in conducting the research. Descriptive research is also called non-experiment research because it does not need to control and manipulate the research variable. To get the qualitative data, the method of this research is content analysis. Creswell (2009, p. 18) states that content analysis belongs to the qualitative approach is one in which the researcher often makes a conclusion based primarily on constructive viewpoint. Content analysis has the purpose of getting the data accurately and know more about the literary work content. The research uses this method because it is more appropriate for analyzing character and educational values in the novel 'The Land of Five Towers' (Fuadi, 2012). This research reveals the phenomena, ideas, and belief of the character and educational value consisted in the novel through content analysis.

In analyzing the data, the writer presents the data in words or sentences forms using all data collected. Here, the writer explains some steps in applying data analysis as follows. The steps taken are: (1) Choosing the novel "The Land of Five Towers" as the research object. (2) Reading the entire novel, from page to page (3) Selecting content analysis method and decide the instrument for analyzing characters (Nurgiyantoro, 2014) and Tirtarahardja and Sulo's theory (2005:21-23) for analyzing the educational value.

Nurgiyantoro (2014, p. 24) mentions direct or explicit characterization and indirect or implicit characterization. Direct characterization refers to a monologue of the author about the character through actual words and typical adjectives. It is also shown through the action, speech, and thought of the characters. However, indirect characterization is the implicit description. It shows the character's identity, such as action, speech, external appearance, and environment. On the other hand, the second theory comes from Tirtarahardja and Sulo (2005:21-23) that there are two types of educational value, such as moral and religious value (4) Finding out the data which support the research (5) Finding and analyzing the structure of a character by identifying the character, characterization through the direct or indirect method, the

characters' personalities, and the relationships between the characters (6) Finding and analyzing educational values such as moral value and religious value (7) Concluding.

Results and Discussion

The main character in "The Land of Five Towers" by Ahmad Fuadi is Alif, a journalist in the United States of America (USA) who has memory about his study in *Madani Pesantren (MP)* several years before. Moreover, this novel also presents five sub-main characters besides Alif. They are Said, Raja, Atang, Dulmajid, and Baso as Alif's best friends in *MP*. They are known as the 'Fellowship of the *Manara*' because they always gather below the *Manara* after studying. Since the novel's focus is about their struggle in *MP*; therefore only six characters are analyzed in this research, such as Alif, Said, Raja, Atang, Dulmajid, and Baso. The dominant personality is religious, as almost all the characters have this personality. The direct method characterization is about 44%, while the indirect method is about 56% for the whole character. Here are the details:

1) Alif

As the main character, Alif is described as a person who is just like an average teenager. He has good personalities, but sometimes he immaturely comes out like an average teenager. Alif's characterizations are described mostly by direct method since this novel uses a first-person point of view. Therefore, Alif's characterization method is 100% indirect. He shows some personalities, as follows:

- a) Religious
- b) Obedient
- c) High-spirited
- d) Persistence
- e) Loyal
- f) Fair
- g) Jealous

2) Said

As one of Ali's best friends, Said is an essential character since Alif adores him as his big brother. Said's characterizations are usually described by indirect method (62%) and direct method (38%). Only one direct method is found to describe this character. Said has personalities as follows:

- a) Optimistic
- b) Responsible
- c) Active
- d) Persistent
- e) Religious

3) Raja

Raja Lubis is also a character in the novel 'The Land of Five Towers.' Raja's characterizations are described using the direct method (14%) and indirect method (86%). Mostly is from Alif's indirect thought about him. The details about his personalities are as follows:

- a) Confident
- b) Diligent
- c) Smart
- d) High-spirited

4) Atang

Atang is also one of Ali's best friends who comes from Bandung. Atang's characterizations are 100% described indirectly by Alif's thoughts and description. Here are his personalities:

- a) High-spirited
- b) Responsible
- c) Creative
- d) Obedient
- e) Persistent
- f) Religious

5) Dulmajid



Dulmajid, who comes from Madura, is also one of the members of the fellowship of the *Manara*. Dulmajid's characterizations are described through the direct method (27%) and indirect method (73%). He has personalities as follows:

- a) Independent
 - b) Diligent
 - c) Innocent
 - d) Honest
 - e) Faithful
 - f) Serious
 - g) Persistent
 - h) Religious
- 6) Baso

Baso is one of the essential characters in this novel, as the main character often writes about him. His characterizations are described directly (10%) and indirectly (90%). Here are his personalities:

- a) Smart
- b) Diligent
- c) Loyal
- d) High-spirited
- e) Religious

According to the writer's analysis based on Tirtarahardja and Sulo (2005:21-23), it can be concluded that there are two central educational values in this novel, such as moral values and religious values. Moral value has at least 15 forms, while the religious value is about four forms. The details are described in the table below:

Table1. Educational Values Analysis

Values	Description	Summary	Percentage (%)
Moral Values	Honesty	1	3
	Fair	2	5
	Discipline	1	3
	Advice	1	3
	Love for Children	1	3
	Love for Parents	2	5
	Responsibility	1	3
	Diligent	2	5
	Respect to Others	1	3
	Persistence	1	3
	Love for Nation	3	8
	Commitment	1	3
	Sincerity	5	14
	Sympathy	1	3
	Sharing	2	5
Friendship	1	3	
Religious Values	Faith to God	4	11
	Faith to Prophet	2	5
	Faith to Al-Quran and Hadits	2	5
	Faith to Hereafter	2	5

Discussion

Characters



In this novel, the characters are described both directly and indirectly. The characters have positive personalities. At least there are 19 personalities that the characters show in this novel. Here are the details:

Table 2. Character's analysis

No.	Name of Characters	Religious	Obedient	High spirited	Loyal	Jealous	Optimistic	responsible	Active	Confident	Diligent	Creative	Independent	Innocent	Faithful	Serious	Smart	Honest	Fair	Persistent
1	Alif	√	√	√	√	√													√	√
2	Said	√					√	√	√											√
3	Raja			√						√	√						√			
4	Atang	√	√	√				√				√								√
5	Dulmajid	√									√		√	√	√	√		√		√
6	Baso	√		√	√						√						√			
	Sum	5	2	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4
	Percentage (%)	14	6	10	6	3	3	6	3	3	8	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	3	10

So, there are about 19 personalities in the novel. Almost all personalities above are positive. As the reader, we should get a lesson from the characters' positive personalities. We can take it as a motivation to make our dream come true for the jealous personality, as Alif did when he was jealous of Randai. In conclusion, "The Land of Five Towers" describes the characters in positive ways, which can motivate them to have the same spirit to succeed as the character's portrayal in the novel.

According to the result, this research finds educational value in forms of moral value and religious value. The number of moral values in this novel is a lot; at least there are about 15 types of moral values. They are honesty, fairness, discipline, advice, love for children, love for parents, responsibility, diligence, respect for others, persistence, love for the nation, commitment, sincerity, sympathy, sharing, and friendship. Sincerity is the most frequent moral value in the novel since all characters in this novel are described as sincere people. In MP, *Ustadz* and *Kiai* are sincere in teaching the students. They even do not get the salary. Besides, the students are also sincere to study hard in MP due to their willingness to be good students and children for their parents. The head of the dorm is also described as sincerely doing their job.

Besides, sympathy (page 341), sharing (pp. 254-256), and friendship (209) are also described well in this novel. Sympathy is described by other characters when they listened to Baso's story. Here, they felt sympathy for Baso as Baso no longer had parents and would go out earlier from MP. Sharing is an MP culture. Whenever a student has some food, he has to share it with other friends.

Moreover, friendship is shown in the whole pages of this novel. The friendship of the six characters is undoubtedly got more assertive along the time they spent together. From 15 types of moral values, the readers can get more lessons through this. Moral value is essential since it is about how we behave to ourselves and other people. People see our characters from the morals we do; therefore, this novel's moral value is instrumental since we will apply that in our life.

On the other hand, religious value is described into four types: faith to God, faith to Prophet, faith to Al-Quran and *Hadits*, and faith to the hereafter. Religious value is essential since this novel has an Islamic school named *Madani Pesantren* (MP). In MP, students are taught more about religion. Therefore there are many religious values in this novel. There are at least ten lines that describe religious values. Faith to God is described in four lines, while faith to Prophet, Al-Quran, and *Hadits*, and hereafter are described in two lines for each. From the religious value, we can see that all characters in this novel have deep faith in God (Allah) as they always mention His name in every condition, whether in trouble or happiness. It is mentioned that Alif begged Allah for the success of examination (page 185-187), and he also remembered Him when Allah finally answered their prayers years after (page 382). While about faith to Prophet, the characters learned about their Prophet both from home and school (page 128-129).



Moreover, faith in Al-Quran and *Hadits* is described by Kiai Rais, who gave the students advice from Al-Quran (page 148), while Baso describes *Hadits* about salvation to parents (page 340). Faith to the hereafter is well described from Kiai Rais's advice and Baso's willingness (page 178 and 340). From the religious values, the readers can learn that religious values are needed to guide life, now or later in the hereafter.

According to the result and discussion above, it is clear that the research focuses on finding the characters and educational value of the novel.

Conclusions

This research has three conclusions, such as character, educational value, and lesson from it. There are six characters in this novel that are analyzed by Nurgiyantoro's theory. The dominant method of characterization is the indirect method (56%) compared to a direct method (44%). Alif's personalities are religious, obedient, high-spirited, persistent, loyal, and fair. On the other hand, the five other characters are described mostly in indirect method and direct method. Said is optimistic, responsible, active, persistent, and religious. Raja is confident, diligent, smart, and high-spirited. On the other hand, Atang is high-spirited, responsible, creative, obedient, persistent, and religious. Dulmajid has positive personalities, such as independent, diligent, innocent, honest, faithful, severe, persistent, and religious. Finally, Baso, as the 'Manara Six,' has personalities such as smart, diligent, loyal, high-spirited, and religious.

Meanwhile, there are two main types of educational value in this novel from educational value, such as moral value and religious value. There are about 16 moral values or 80% described in this novel, such as honesty, fairness, discipline, advice, love for children, love for parents, responsibility, diligence, respect to others, persistence, love for the nation, commitment, sincerity, sympathy, sharing, and friendship. On the other hand, the religious value in this novel is about 20%. They are faithful to God, faith to Prophet, faith to Al-Quran and *Hadits*, and faith to the hereafter. Last but not least, there are some lessons that we can get after reading "The Land of Five Towers" by Ahmad Fuadi. First, all the characters in this novel have positive personalities, which can motivate them to have positive characters, just like their portrayal in this novel. By having positive personalities, they can make their dreams come true at the end of the novel. Secondly, there are so many educational values that the readers can learn from this novel, such as faithful to God and religion, always believe in ourselves, and keep being useful to other people. All the novel's educational values are an inspiration to be the right person to God and other people.

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