

## **A REFLECTION OF PURITAN VALUES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY SEEN IN GEORGE SANTANAYA'S THE LAST PURITAN**

**Rita Fransisca1**  
English Education

[fransiscarita@gmail.com](mailto:fransiscarita@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

George Santanaya's *The Last Puritan* presented the values of puritan people in America in 1937. The values of puritan people inside of the novel reflected that values do not only appear as the good aspect but values also appear as the bad one. The values inside of these novel appear from the main character Oliver Alden and the other character who support the ideas of puritan values itself. The purpose of the study was to find out the puritan values in America society inside of the novel *The Last Puritan*. In analyzing the research, the researcher analyzed the data taken from the narration and dialogue of *The Last Puritan* novel. In order to catch the goal, this research uses Sociological approach. Sociological approach was an approach that has a function to explain and to support the analysis by interpreting and focusing on the text in the novels. By sociological approach the researcher analyzed about the puritan values in America inside the novel. As it is library research, the researcher involved the data needed from references. Here the researcher applied descriptive qualitative method to elaborate and to perform the data concerning to the problem analyzed. In conclusion, the result of the research was found in the novel *The Last Puritan*. Some of the values in puritan people in America are fanaticism, hypocrisy, harsh and self determination. Those values are appearing inside of the novel that the researcher analyzed deeper in page of analysis.

**Key words:** American Society, Puritan Values, Reflection.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

According to (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020) Human life needs a friend and a good environment, where they will mutually support each another. When people feel comfortable in their environment (Ruyani & Matthews, 2017), they will create a groups which has the same vision, mission, culture ((Laila Ulsi Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018), (Oktaviani et al., 2020)), and beliefs ((Muliyah & Aminatun, 2020), (Berlinda, 2015), (Mandasari, 2016), (Mandasari, n.d.)). It is clear that society have their own way to around their life with their perception ((Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019), (S. N. Sari & Aminatun, 2021), (Rahmania & Mandasari, 2021), (F. M. Sari, n.d.), (Erya & Pustika, 2021)). It happens because in every single society they have different value toward life. It is a way that we can find several group in society. It also happens in England. Several societies in England tried to find their own perception toward life and they named it as "puritan". The Puritans were a group of people who grew discontent in the Church of England and

worked towards religious, moral and societal reforms. They contended that The Church of England had become a product of political struggles and man-made doctrines (KUSWOYO et al., 2013). The Puritans were one branch of dissenters who decided that the Church of England was beyond reform. Escaping persecution from church leadership and the King, they came to England.

In this case all of puritans people try to struggle make their own world in surrounding society and create their own rule. It appears because puritan people know that their group was different from the other society. Their group is blessed with God and the main point that can be seen from puritan group. They believe that every single thing that happens in their life or something which is supposed to be done is based on God perception and God true law. They wanted to purify their national church by eliminating every part of the Catholic influence in England and beyond. The Puritans is a reflection of the modern definition of the term and not of the historical account. They were not a small group of people. In England many of their persuasion sat in Parliament. The official Church of England is the Anglican Church. The name "Anglican" means "of England." The Synod of Whitby in 664, led by the two Archbishops of Canterbury and York, is seen traditionally as the start of the English Church. Until the Reformation, the Church of England acknowledged the supremacy of the Pope.

In Santanaya's *The Last Puritan* story is about the condition of Puritan people during 1937. Olive as the main character in this novel is the puritan people. This novel portrays the atmosphere of puritan people that appear in the main character inside of the novel ((Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020), (Kardiansyah, 2017), (Sasalia & Sari, 2020)) and how the main character itself runs his life in surrounding of society with his own rules. George Santanaya's *The Last Puritan* with the main discussion is values of puritan people that appear inside of the novel ((Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020), (Fitri & Qodriani, 2016)) and the researcher take the point that this research as the new research because there is no another researcher who analyze about Santayana's novels especially about puritan values itself. The researcher chooses Santayana's *The Last Puritan* as data sources in discussing about the Puritan value. In this research, the researcher only focuses on the the puritan value in American at that time that can be analyzed with sociological perspective ((Amelia, 2021), (Suprayogi Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020), (Rido, 2018), (Wahyudin, 2018), (S Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020)).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Puritan**

God created the world with a wide range of differences. It ranges from differences in skin color, hair color, ethnicity (Oktaviani, n.d.), race, culture ((Laila Ulsi Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018), (Oktaviani et al., 2020)), language ((Laila U Qodriani & Wijana, 2020), (F. M. Sari, 2018), (Pustika, n.d.), (Wahyudin, 2015), (F. M. Sari, 2020)) and religion. There is then a reason why God created these differences because of the differences. It brings its own color to the surrounding environment. In this discussion the researcher discussed about the cultural history of religions that exist in England society that is the puritans. The Puritans believed that the Bible was God's true law, and that it provided a plan for living. The established church of the day described access to God as monastic and possible within the confines of the church. Puritans stripped away the traditional trappings and formalities of Christianity which had been slowly building throughout the previous 1500 years. Theirs was an attempt to purify the church and their own lives. Puritans believed and were concerned with their salvation. They wanted to live up to God's commandments, to fulfill their part of the covenant with God as they understood. It is important to know that the Puritans believed that salvation was to be found by living in the world, not apart from it. No monasteries for them, but rather their salvation lay in being workers in the world. The Puritans not only battled with the church and episcopate leadership establishment of their day, they also clashed with the culture of their time. The church at the time was not only solely in charge of spiritual matters, they also had heavy influence and total control of temporal and societal living.

### **Puritan Value in America**

Value cannot be separated with our life. Every value will get quality if it has relation with our social life. For example, Honesty is example of values; this value has no meaning if it does not be applied with the right way. Value is related with human personality ((Saifuddin Dahlan, 2013), (Yunara & Kardiansyah, 2017))). Value makes people understand toward something which is wrong or not, because he/she has responsibility, especially value is related with human personality . An important understanding of the term value is that it is a standard behavior that is useful or worthwhile. Values in literature means the principles of right or wrong behaviors which are worthwhile and value just can be real inaction wholly if it became responsibility of the involved person.

## **METHOD**

In this analysis the researcher uses library research because the data that are gotten come from library add research apply the descriptive qualitative method with the reason that this method is more suitable to use for analysis. Qualitative methodology is a way of looking at the world. The following are some of the ideas that qualitative methodology attempt to address. Qualitative means that the procedure which will be produce the descriptive data in written or oral form and this method can help the researcher to analysis the data of novel by Santanaya's, So in this analysis the researcher applies this method to describe a reflection of puritan values in England society seen in George Santanaya *The Last Puritan*. In this research, narration and dialogue which appear in *The Last Puritan* novels is going to be taken as data meanwhile the data source of this research are taken from novels. Data source are any information that taken from the source information which become the focus of analysis. The data source of this research is from the novel *The last Puritan* by George Santanaya's which the story focuses on the life of puritan in America.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

For the first time puritan group was born in England but because of the government at that time have believe toward England church so the people who disagree about that policy so they separated their self and create one group of religion named is Puritan. They have values that make them different from other group of society there are fanaticism, hypocrisy, self determination and the last is harsh.

### **Fanaticism**

The fanatic in this part that the researcher will analyze is about fanaticism in religion of puritan while fanatic in this case is someone who is convinced that just believing in God and living a moral life is simply not enough and this values is appear in the main character that is Oliver Alden. He is believes that the magnitude of those behaviors must be commensurate with the strength of his faith. The more he believes, the more he has to do to show it. In this part of the analysis the researcher explained about puritan people in America which is have fanaticism value inside by the character Oliver Alden

in *The Last Puritan* which is in the morning day Oliver as the main character inside of this novel have one argument thinking in his own self and stated that:

In those high-walled pews, with their locked doors, every worshipper might pray in secret, as if in his own closet; and he took care that his own words should never intrude rudely into the privacy of their sacred convictions. (George Santayana, 1937:33)

In this narration the researcher can analyze that the life of puritan people at that time is really based on God perspective, they used high-walled pews here means that the puritan people want to make the condition of their worship uninterrupted for others people and they feel calm in prayer and for the next step of their worship they locked the doors to make sure that when they want to pray they sit in the right place, peace place and do not touch with people who does not has the same vision as puritan perspective in worship and then the other purpose puritan people lock the door meanwhile they praying it is because they do not want other people see them in the middle of their worship and also when the door is already lock so the place of their worship is empty and there is nobody there. Beside that locked the doors here shows that puritan people are the closed people especially in their religion. When they want to prays, they will lock the doors so they will focus on the prayer itself, talked to their God without knowing by other people. They need some privacy when they prayer, that is way it is become the reason why puritan people always locked the doors and used high-walled pews in every single of their worship. Here the puritan people will use their own word to talk with their God but still in the polite language because they always keep their sacred convictions.

### **Hypocrisy**

As what the researcher already discussed in the theoretical framework toward value especially puritan value in America, so in here the researcher found the second value that appear inside of *The Last Puritan* novel that is about hypocrisy. Bremer clear explain that hypocrite person is someone who act like an actor that is full of pretense and create an image that is not in their standard of life. Here Oliver as a main character inside of the novel has the characteristic like Bremer was explain about hypocrite itself. In the first value the researcher can analyze that Oliver is the fanaticism person who really obey the rules of his religion but in the other hand of his life makes mistake also but he try to cover up that mistake so all of people sill respect to him and know him as a holly man who never make mistake, sin and the other think that go away from the rules of puritan people

which is Oliver trust. Oliver always give the statement to make sure that all of people believe with every single word that Oliver say just like.

“I don't like lies: and I don't like them in favour of morality, any more than against morality. They make morality false, they make it hypocrisy. First admit the truth, and then make the best of it.”  
(George Santayana, 1937:165)

Oliver emphasize that he hated and did not like the person who lied as mentioned in that narration that clear stated “I don't like lies: and I don't like them in favour of morality” it is mean that he show op the hypocrite itself because in front of people or other society he say that he truly hate lies because it was so reprehensible in his religious teachings but in the reality he do such kind of liar in his life. The sentences “They make morality false, they make it hypocrisy” prove that Oliver in this case hates someone who say about lies and hates someone who makes their morality different from their reality and Oliver called it as a Hypocrite. Peoples who lied in the view of Oliver is a person who has a fake identity and fake moral, and those who lie are people who are afraid to admit his mistakes and it is hypocritical.

### **Self Determination**

Self determination is a part of values that can be analyzed with the researcher and it is appear also in *The Last puritan* novels. This behavior believe that someone have the opportunity to choose what they want and which way they supposed to choose in their life. Usually someone who has “self determination” in their thinking, they did not care about what people say toward what they do because they believe with their own self that every single think in their life is in the right way. Based on the theoretical framework the researcher found one quotation that explains about self determination itself. Self determination based on Press stated that someone who reaction of self determination have their own experience and events toward their life and also self determination makes the people who believe it do behavior change even it is bad or good and they will focus to make it happen. It is happen also with the main character Oliver Alden. He has different perception toward the values in his life. He does unmoral relationship even he know that in puritan rules it is forbidden to do , he loves Jim as his boyfriend and he loves most his religion that is puritan itself.

## Harsh

In this part the researcher will analyze about the last value that can be found in *The Last Puritan* novels and it is called as harsh value. According to Cook in the theoretical part that the researcher can found about the meaning of harsh value is about someone who have strong individual worship and try to live holly and go away from the worldly properties that can make them move away from God and also sometimes they or can be called as puritan people have one characteristic that is intolerance toward anything that is not in line with the rules that they had. Harsh value that appear in this novels mention the real meaning toward harsh values the main character at the time. While Olive as the main character try to make sure his decision that to choose his own friend without go away from the teaching of his religion and sill being his own self without influenced by the other person. This becomes the duty for Dr. Peter Alden as Oliver father who is supposed to remind him to keep his religion and adherence to the teachings of his religion. One narration inside of the novel that the researcher found emphasize about the harsh value that his father try to apply it to his son, Oliver.

"What are you going to do.? You must choose your own friend wisely with your beauty puritan heart"

"I haven't decided. I want to think it over to-night. I'll let you know in the morning."

"do not assume that you will make your shame, your life only for purify the puritan and your destiny was to be a holy puritan if you fight and destroy your destiny, then I am and God will punish you until the death" (George Santayana, 1937: 221)

From that quotation shows that Dr. Peter Alden as Oliver father try to make sure that Oliver must choose the right decision toward anybody who want to be his friend, because his father do not want his son choose the wrong friends and make him break all the rules of his religion. The word "wisely" that his father mention to Oliver emphasizes that Oliver must be careful in determining who should be his friends and who had shunned him. In the next narration, Oliver stated that he has not chosen yet about that one because for the first he thinks that there is no harm in trying to make friends with anyone but because of his father give admonition about it so Oliver think twice and he said that "This is wasn't to be an easy decision and he supposed to discussed it alone with God." In here

the researcher can analyze that Oliver feels depressed and confused about what his father want in his life, but he try to understand it and fix the problem by his own.

## CONCLUSION

After finishing all the concerns of this research and finished all of the main topic of analysis toward the data and the main problem as well, eventually the researcher can offer the conclusion based on the analysis from the previous chapter. The researcher concludes that there are some values that appear in puritan people in America that can be seen in George Santanaya's *The Last Puritan* which are supported by Sociological Approach. The analysis deals with puritan values and gives the understanding about what the values of puritan people are in America. In this case the researcher found the values of puritan people in the text inside of the novels, and the researcher found there are several puritan values inside of the novel there are fanaticism, hypocrisy, harsh and the last is self determination. Those are the values that the researcher analysis. The first is about fanaticism; which explain that puritan is the fanatic person toward their religion and the second values is about hypocrisy; which shows that even thought puritan people is the fanatic person toward their religion but in the other hand they make their religion to manipulated their bed character in front of society. the third one is about harsh ; in this case harsh is the bed character that puritan people have and this explanation is already explain clearly in part of analysis. The last values in puritan people is about self determination that puritan people have; self determination in here focused on how puritan tries to make their own rules and their own word without depending on other society in surrounding their life and also they do not really care about what people say about their religion or their own life because they believe that everything they do is based on God rules.

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