

THE MORAL VALUES PORTRAYED IN THE MAIN CHARACTER IN PAULO COELHO'S THE ALCHEMIST

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Abstract

The Alchemist novel was chosen as the object in doing this analysis because the novel told about the main character's behavior that shown good moral values in life. The objective of this study was to find the moral values that conveyed by the author through his work The Alchemist novel. The researcher particularly discussed the moral values as the main theme in this analysis. The researcher applied philosophical approach in order to help the researcher in analyzing and in determining this analysis. Descriptive qualitative was applied to elaborate the ideas. The researcher limited the analysis into five moral values. The data were narration and dialogue in the novel The Alchemist as data source. It focused on the moral values inside the novel. The result of this analysis reveals about how the five moral values; wisdom, courage, self-control, love and affection, harmony and unity are portrayed by the main character to reach his goal. He struggles hard to find his treasure and make his dream come true, but he realizes that actually the most valuable treasure is the process that he has passed to find the treasure itself.

Key words: Moral, Novel, Value.

INTRODUCTION

Every single work must contain certain meaning to make the reader interesting to read its work. Moral and values are two things that cannot be separated and really important in a literary work that will give influence for the readers and even inspire the readers to be better human life (Suprayogi & Novanti, 2021). Morals and values are a part of an individual lives (Mahendra & Amelia, 2020). They often dictate the behavior, personality and the way of living for a particular individual ((Sulistiani et al., 2021), (Yunara & Kardiansyah, 2017), (Saifuddin Dahlan, 2013)). Moral has a meaning which concerns to the principles of right or wrong behavior (Kuswanto et al., 2019). While in literary work itself moral means that sometimes expresses or convey truth or counsel to the right conduct. Moral is the human behavior that runs based on the standard that has been set to guide people for doing right. In literary itself moral is something that counsel to the good things that can be accepted by the reader. Moral is also a set of rules shaped by the society where we live and we believe about some certain tradition. It is sometimes used to differentiate the right form the wrong to live our life to be a better human life based on the culture where we live in as a part of the society.

In moral there are values to judge whether the standard of the moral itself valuable or not. It means that values are defined by an individual how an individual believed to provide an internal reference for what is good, beneficial, important (Sari, 2018), useful, beautiful, desirable, constructive, and another thing that according to him is good and beneficial for his life. They are significant to the behavior of a person (Yunara & Kardiansyah, 2017). They determine how the individual behavior will be during his lifetime (Kuswanto et al., 2020). A moral value is a universally accepted as ethical principle that governs the day to day living of life. Moral values are something worth that come from the individual or

character ((Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), (Kardiansyah, n.d.)) and it is valued in different ways by the society according to their social point of view ((Sari & Oktaviani, 2021), (Handayani & Aminatun, 2020), (Sasalia & Sari, 2020)), their way of thinking, their belief and also their culture ((Oktaviani et al., 2020), (Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018)). Moral values promote the highest quality of life because it given the worth values of life for human life. Each moral value represents social point conviction for which each individual must take responsibility on it to have quality of human life.

The discussions of moral values are also found in *The Alchemist* novel. The story of this novel is written by Paulo Coelho who tries to describe the main character named Santiago. There are a lot of things that can be taken as the moral values from the process that was passed and portrayed by Santiago. The way of the main character struggles hard and the way he overcome all the challenges and obstacles inspire the researcher to dig up about the moral values inside of the novel by applying the philosophical approach in this analysis. Everyone can convey good moral values in life. We can get the moral values from other people and also from this study. All people have their own dream and destiny that want to be achieved in their life. The discussion of moral values here to give understanding about certain moral values even applied in our life as a human life in facing every single challenge and obstacle to reach our dream. That is why the title “The Moral Values Portrayed in the Main Character in Paulo Coelho’s *The Alchemist* is chosen by the researcher to explore and to understand more about moral values in order to be applied in daily life for being a better person in the future life.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Philosophical Approach

Philos means love and sophia means wisdom, so the meaning of philosophy can be concluded as love of wisdom. Philosophy signifies a natural and necessary urge in human-beings to know themselves and world in which they live, move and have their being. From that statement above can be concluded that philosophy is the natural signifies that belongs to every human life to define themselves and the world where they live. The urges are necessary as the energy that pushes people to do and to live in their dream and their goals of life. Philosophy interpreted man and his various activities in a comprehensive manner ((Ayu, 2019), (Apriyanti & Ayu, 2020)). It also helps to coordinate the various activities of the individual and the society. It explores the basic source and the aims of life and how they behave. Philosophy is the rational attempt to have a world-view. It means that philosophy is the rational thinking of human life to have a world view toward all the things that happened and exist in his environment. It tries to make one conception of the entire universe by uniting some elements and aspects why and how they have interrelation one to another in this world.

Moral Values

Moral is something that needs to be understood by people in their life in deciding what they have to do in well behavior so they can be accepted by the society where they live as a human being. Moral subjectively define by the society, philosophy, religion or individual conscience. They set what are the standard of moral that appropriate to be applied for their society according to their custom, tradition and belief ((Mandasari, 2016), (Muliyah & Aminatun, 2020), (Berlinda, 2015), (Mandasari, n.d.)). People with different

custom, tradition and belief will have different standard of moral also. Moral is applied differently based on the society such as western is different of eastern. The code of conduct in Western is allowed to give people something use the left hand, but it is will be judged impolite by the Eastern. This is happened because of Eastern and Western has different moral standard that apply for their society. But whatever the moral is the purpose of moral is to guide people to do good things and have good quality of life so they can be accepted and influenced the society in right manner (Gulö, 2014), (Ambarwati & Mandasari, 2020).

Morality is something that is looked and done based on our own standard and belief to do something right that has certain purpose as we live in society to create a harmony relationship between individual to be a better person in the future and can be accepted as a part of society. In moral values, it is also important to know the meaning of values. Values are not posited by man, but are part of the nature of things. Means that values are something that cannot be created but it is discovered by the individual or a group based on what is strongly believe to be true by them. It depends on the individual itself how she or he understands and interprets the values itself regarding to the concepts, events (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021), people (Eklesia & Rido, 2020) and things.

METHOD

Library research is conducted to help the researcher in finishing this study. It is used in collecting data and information from books, journal, and articles (Purwarianti, 2014) from the internet sites that have relation with the analysis about the moral values portrayed of the main character in Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*. In this research the researcher applies the descriptive method to analyze the problem that has mentioned in problem formulation. Since this study is a literary works and the data are non-numeral static so the qualitative research method is proper to be applied in this study (Ayu & Zuraida, 2020). Data elaborate in this research are in the form of narration and dialogue which convey about certain moral values that portrayed by the main character. In this step the researcher gets the data from the novel is discussed by the researcher. The data source is the novel *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, and it is very important to understand deeply the content of the novel ((Fitri & Qodriani, 2016), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020), (Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020), (Sasalia & Sari, 2020)).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Alchemist novel tells about the main character named Santiago that struggle hard to find his treasure. He struggles to find his treasure that he gets from his dream, bring him to the real happiness and goals of life. The processes that have to pass are not easy. From his experience in conquering all the challenges and obstacles in his life we can take a lot of moral values.

Wisdom as the Knowledge of Understanding in Santiago's Life

Wisdom is the knowledge of understanding to know everything that happened surrounds us. The main character realizes that everything on earth will not happen accidentally. Everything has the purpose and is controlled by the same hand as the One who creates this universe. When someone wants something, there must be cost that should be paid. Having wisdom needs a commitment. When he has made a decision, he has to run on it and take the responsibility with all the consequences.

We have to be prepared for change, he thought, and he was grateful for the jacket's weight and warmth. The jacket had a purpose, and so did the boy. His purpose in life was to travel, and, after two years of walking the Andalusian terrain, he knew all the cities of the region.

The main character (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), Santiago realizes that everything in this world has its own purpose and he is grateful for everything. Wisdom makes him realize that everything in this world has time, and it can change. Santiago thinks that he has to prepare himself for all the possibilities that will come forward. The statement, "*The jacket even though weight enough*" means that the jacket has the purpose to keep someone in warmth. Santiago knows that his life also has purpose to travel. He wants to know everything not only by reading books but also by experiencing all the things directly. That is why he decides to be a shepherd to travel around the world, and he leaves his parents. The wisdom gives him the knowledge that for all the decisions there are consequences that have to take, and his dream to travel the world brings him to know the cities and the region where he lives. Wisdom seen in Santiago, the main character has motivation to have the peripheral contact with intellectual values of insight, truth and knowledge. Santiago thinks that even jacket has the value in human's life.

The Self Control of Santiago

In this analysis, well self-control is showed by the main character named Santiago. He can master himself well, even though as human life he often finds something that bring him into the situation that can make him give up. He can control himself well and try to think in positive way.

The boy had been working for the crystal merchant for almost a month, and he could see that it wasn't exactly the kind of job that would make him happy. The merchant spent the entire day mumbling behind the counter, telling the boy to be careful with the pieces and not to break anything. But he stayed with the job because the merchant, although he was an old grouch, treated him fairly; the boy received a good commission for each piece he sold, and had already been able to put some money aside.

Actually Santiago does not want to stay longer with the crystal merchant, because of the merchant's attitude. He has to master himself to not give up with the situation he has, he knows even though the merchant spent the entire day mumbling to him but the merchant treat him fairly. Self-control means mastering oneself, he knows what is worthy and beneficial for himself and also knows what are thing that can damage him. He feels that his job to sell the crystal glasses is not his passion. He is in the condition that he does not want to do, but he thinks again that this is the only way that he can do to make his money back and continue his journey to find his treasure. Santiago prevents himself not to be selfish but he has to think about his future. A lot of people give up when they are in the situation that breaks their secure zone. Because the lack of self-control he lose their dream. Santiago chooses to keep staying in the crystal merchant because he knows that he has to pursue his dream

Love and Affection

Love gives the positive energy toward in people's life. In this novel love is defined by Santiago in positive action. When he is falling in love, it gives him courage to convey his feeling toward the girl to whom he is falling in love and do many things else in his life.

Love gives him positive energy in his life. It is not something that prevents him to move forward to pursue his dream. Love gives him strength to overcome the obstacles and the problem in his life.

When he looked into her dark eyes, and saw that her lips were poised between a laugh and silence, he learned the most important part of the language that all the world spoke—the language that everyone on earth was capable of understanding in their heart. It was love. Something older than humanity, more ancient than the desert. Something that exerted the same force whenever two pairs of eyes met, as had theirs here at the well. She smiled, and that was certainly an omen—the omen he had been awaiting, without even knowing he was, for all his life. The omen he had sought to find with his sheep and in his books, in the crystals and in the silence of the desert.

The quotation above shows the Santiago's feeling when he is falling in love. He feels the feeling he has never felt before in his life, when at the first time he sees the girl. He feels something different when he sees the girl, he feels there is energy in his heart to force him to have and approach to the girl. He believes that it is love, love that will give him happiness in his life. The desert girl was able reached his heart. Santiago said –*Something older than humanity, more ancient than the desert*, it means Santiago has an understanding about love itself. He defines love as something older than humanity, love was exist before the world begin even before he meets the girl. Love is more ancient than desert, nobody knows to whom he will fall in love and nobody knows when is the time. But God has made everything beautiful on His right time. When at the first time he sees the girl, he knows that it is omen for him. Santiago shows an omen as a thing that will make his life to be more meaningful in running his days.

CONCLUSION

The Alchemist novel written by Paulo Coelho conveys a lot of moral values inside of it. The moral values inside of a novel are conveyed implicitly by the author. The readers have their own understanding about the moral values that found in the novel according to their background, education, religion, culture, tradition and many other aspects. In this analysis the researcher also has her own opinion toward the moral values that found in this novel. The researcher tries to analyze the moral values based on some theories and used the philosophical approach in doing this analysis. By reading this analysis the researcher believes that it will give good understanding about moral values and how we should behave as human life that have a dream in our life.

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