

THE VALUES OF CHARACTER BUILDING FOUND IN NOVEL “THIS EARTH OF MANKIND” AS EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

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ABSTRACT

Every person needs education to help develop not only physical but mental nature of human beings towards civilisation. This continuous process never stops as it provides fundamental rules for life for adults and young people, and it stresses the importance of helping children learn and practice behaviors that reflect universal ethical values. Each student has distinctive characters and then came the character education/character building in the educational process. The character building intends to develop students' potential in learning common attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that are important for them to be responsible, kind-hearted citizens. This research tried to dig the values for character building in the novel “This Earth of Mankind” by Pramoedya Ananta Toer as a media on educational process to build students' characters. The values were taken from the dialog and monolog. Discourse analysis consisting of data display, data reductive, data interpretative was employed to analysis the data of this research. The analysis results indicated values contained in the novel as follows: (1)Love for Reading; (2)Curiosity; (3)Forgiving; (4)Love for Writing; (5)Friendliness; (6)Hard work; (7)Religious; (8)Attitude; (9)Integrity; (10)Honesty; (11)Responsibility; (12)Patriotism; (13)Discipline (14)Independence; (15)Tolerance;

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesian people have adopted Bhineka Tunggal Ika as the national motto. This is to explain the spirit of unity in Indonesia. Different ethnicities, religions, races and customs do not hinder the formation of a strong and powerful country. Unity will not grow without processes. One of the processes that can be adopted is education.

According to Sujana (2019, p. 29), education is an effort to help the souls of students both physically and mentally, from their natural nature towards a better human civilisation; for instance, suggestions or

directions for children to sit properly, pay attention, not disturb others, know what a clean body looks like, wear neat clothes, respect the elders and love the minors, or care for one another. Education never stops, it a sustainable process that keeps generating sustainable values shown in future humans, and as for the Indonesian context, guided by cultural values and Pancasila. This is what we called the character education.

Character has been a bustling topic and one of the possible solutions to various national issues. In 2011, Kemendikbud (Ministry of Culture and Education)

formulated 18 character values typical of Indonesia. These are religiosity, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hardwork, creativity, independence, democracy, curiosity, nationalism, patriotism, appreciation for achievements, friendliness/communicativeness, love for peace, love for reading, environmental awareness, social awareness, and responsibility.

Character is the set of values that results in a system, which underlies the thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors displayed [2]. Character education arouse due to the numerous indicators that this nation, in particular the successor generation, has entered the level of morality crisis. Free intercourse, baby abuse, theft, drug abuse, pornography, and corruption have been some issues that cannot be solved up to the time being. For that reason, the education world is compelled to implement these virtues in class due to the fact that high cognitive results have been much less powerful as a way to produce a generation who has highbrow and ethical intelligence.

Ade Chita Putri Harahap in her research entitled "*Character Building*" elucidated that education is a learning process for individual to get the high knowledge and understanding about specific objects. Moreover, education is a process to get a chance, development of the someone's skill in proving the self-confidence and innovative act. Character education is a formation, transformation, and development of the student potential to make them having a good mind, kind heart and proper behaviour following the Pancasila as a life guideline of the Republic of Indonesia. In this time, the character education has already become a limelight in many countries to prepare the quality generation in the future.

Kristjansson (2015:2) stated that character building is a form of moral education focusing on the development of the kindness done by students. To the extent, Kamaruddin (2012:225) elucidated that character value generally is about the human activities, which is about the relationship with

the God, within him/herself, other people, and environment that give impacts to the mind, attitude, feeling, words, and the behaviour following the religion, law, and daily culture. Moreover, Sahlan & Prasetyo (2012:35) explained that character education becomes one of the containers in gathering the noble values of mankind which compiled from religion, culture, customs, local wisdom, and so on.

Media has revolutionized the teaching and learning process around the world (Hussain & Safdar, 2008). Various stories, dramas, and novels as expressions of past generations have been adapted for the public's perception that the world is the result of humanity's past experiences (Osterhammel, 2014). Brumfit & Carter (1986) argued that "literature is an ally of language" ensuring that literature and language cannot be separated by any text. Literary language helps us learn a language. Literary texts sometimes teach English as a second language for specific purposes, such as introducing new vocabulary to students (Çakmak et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2021).

There has been much research on using literature as character building. Hart et al. (2020) argued that the study of literature has a unique and valuable place in helping students develop virtue, and present areas for development in literature-based character education in the future. Further, Tyra (2012) asserted that books are pivotal and influential. They are influential as children often remember the stories from the books they are read. In addition, children learn to love books and to relate to them. Therefore, it seems natural to use books not only academically, but also to teach important lessons. Last but not least, Novianti (2017) adopted English Bildungsroman, *Jane Eyre* in her lesson and concluded that most students can successfully identify the virtues of the novel and relate to the characters and their events.

This Earth of Mankind written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer is the first phenomenal book of the Buru tetralogy which tells us about the Dutch Colonialism in Indonesia. It tells a story of Minke, a minor

royal Javanese studying at the *Hogere Burger School* (HBS) in an era when only the European descendant colonists can be expected to achieve that level of education. Minke is a talented young writer whose works have been published in several Dutch magazines and is widely admired. However, as a "native," Minke is hated by many of his fellow students who all claim to be of European descent. He is portrayed with the courage to confront the injustices given to his fellow Javanese and the challenging aspects of his own culture.

Minke is introduced to an Indonesian woman named Nyai Ontosoro, a Dutch's concubinage named Herman Mellema. Minke falls in love with her daughter Annelies. They eventually marry at an Islamic wedding according to "native" practice, but has no legal effect under Dutch law because it is done without the consent of the legitimate Dutch guardians.

During this period, women were commonly concubinages with Dutch men living in the East Indies. They were considered morally inferior because of her concubinage status, even if they had no choice, like Nyai Ontosoro. Their children were in an uncertain legal position as illegitimate "indigenous peoples" who, as a result, lacked legal rights, unless legally recognized by their father. In this case, they were considered "Indo" and the mother lost all rights to them in favor of her father. As a concubine, Nyai Ontosoro suffers because of her low status and lack of rights, yet she significantly is aware of the injustice of her suffering and believes education is the key by which her basic humanity can be acknowledged.

The researchers believe that this novel is suitable as materials taught in English class. Not only because it is written by an Indonesian native, but also the essence of the story which is loaded with historical materials that could bring us to understand Indonesia from different yet realistic point of view. Being published more than 30 years ago, and written during the colonialism era by a living witness has made the novel an outstanding

source of learning the values cultivated in this nation, which the youngers should learn about. The English language edition of *This Earth of Mankind* was first published by Penguin in 1983. Pramoedya's work has, on the whole, met with critical acclaim in the West, in particular the United States. With this in mind, the researchers believe that breaking down the values contained in the book is useful for teachers to adopt it as a source of character education.

This study probed the characters of the two main leads; Minke and Nyai Ontosoro. The researchers tried to identify and reflect on the 18 values shaping character education stipulated by the Department of National Education through its Center for Curriculum mentioned upfront.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive analysis method referring to Sugiyono (2015) that the descriptive analysis method is used to analyse data through description or describing the collected data as it is. The quotation means that the data will be analysed through depiction or comparison to the context of the sentence and its meaning. In this study, the researchers selected the novel *The Earth of Mankind* as the data source. The technique of data analysis in this research used the flow model analysis techniques. The data analysis steps flow adopted Miles and Huberman's (2012:15-19) consisting of data collection and data classification, data reduction, data display, and withdrawal of conclusion and verification.

Data Collection and data Classification.

Data which have already been collected then were classified based on the type of the data, and analysed with the Descriptive Qualitative approach. The description tries to manifest the uncover social fact and the author's ideology.

Data Reduction

Data reduction is defined as the selection process focusing on simplification of data, abstraction, and transformation of the rough data shown up from the notes written in fields. Data reduction is a continuous progress of the project which is orientation on the qualitative

research progress. Data selection only focuses on the data, which is related on the research question, on this case, is about the values that can be found in the novel *This Earth of Mankind*, for students' character education.

Data Display

For this step, the data which has already set then compiled in an orderly and detailed manner for easy understanding. These data then analysed to get the information about the values that can be used to build students' character.

Conclusion and verification

The researchers drew up the conclusion based on the data that had been processed by data reduction and data display. The inductive way, that was used, changed the general conclusion into specific conclusion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

For Reading

The novel is narrated in the first person by a young Javanese man named Minke. He was an educated person so love for reading, this character is very important to help him to finish his study. And he can know about the news that it still popular to be discussed the information that can Minke got make him become superior in the conversation by the information that he has already get first by reading.

"Minke," Nyai said, "is it true people can now make ice? Ice that is really cold, as the books say?" "It's true, Mama, at least according to the newspapers." (P: 34)

"I could not find the word in the Dutch dictionary." (P: 40)

"So how do these European girls answer?"

"Their answer, Mama, is thank you." "Like in the books?" (P: 33)

This novel shown us a good character of Minke which is he love for reading we can see in the conversation between Minke and Nyai Ontosoroh. He always can give an improvement that he was an educated person by answer the question about what Nyai Ontosoroh asked to him. And also we can see his love for reading when he has a

conversation with Nyai Ontosoroh, he said that he cannot found the word in the Dutch dictionary. We can see that he was loved for reading dictionary to mastered the Dutch Language. Reading can stimulate brain work to be better and also it still can keep the brain work become more active and pretend for memory loss.

Curiosity

Curiosity is pivotal for all people because someone who has it will always seek to know deeply and widely from what have they have learned, seen, and heard. This relates to the obligations towards oneself and society which will result in broader knowledge. This trait is well reflected in Minke, as he is portrayed as a young writer whose works have been published.

"I want to know if the newspaper reports are true." (P: 34)

"There were also vague reports saying that a German had made a vehicle that worked by electricity. Oh Allah, and I couldn't really understand what electricity was."

We can see Minke really wants to know about the reports from the Germany by his expression. He is an educational person whose mind goes beyond the age. Minke's critical thinking leads him to dig more about something he is interested in. For sure, curiosity suits the current educational trend of student-centered learning in which they are free to seek for advanced information with the help of diverse tools provided.

Forgiving

Become a person who was easy to give forgiveness was so hard cause they heart must be strong and not be arrogant. Nyai Ontosoroh is a good person because she is easy to forgive. When Minke's friend did some unexpected act that maybe offend the host, he was scare and asking for forgiveness because maybe they will be expelled.

"Forgive my friend, Mama." She smiled, nodded to me, stood up, and then left too. (P: 35)

The value of forgiving was shown by Nyai Ontosoroh, when Minke was scare and asking

for forgiveness she was only smiled. This character was good to be taught and implemented on the student because if student was easy to forgive there will be a good relationship between them and they will be easy to accept in the civilian.

And also Minke, he was a person who easy to forgive something even it was hurts. We can see it when Mr. Mellema comes to break something that it is precious for him. Which is when the moment that he have a dinner with Nyai Ontosoroh and annelies, after what he has heard from Mr. Mellema who insulting him with dirty words only because he was a native people he still can forgive that incident which happened to him.

“Forgive us, Minke,” Annelies whispered, holding her sobs back. “It’s nothing, Ann.” (P: 49)

The value that Minke shown that he can forgive the incident that happened to him very quick to be forgiven by Minke and Minke doesn’t angry and still be patient about the insulting from Mr. Mellema event those words very hurts to be heard but Minke didn’t have any avenge to him.

Love for Writing

Love for writing that is one of the value or character that we can found from Minke. This skill was generally found on educated person because in the educational process we will write something about the material. For the people who love for writing will have a good brain health, can strengthen memory, familiar with creative thinking, familiar with critical thinking and can save much knowledge so that the brain work is more optimal because often to be used.

“I entered the room, opened up my notebook, and began writing about this strange and frightening family that, by sheer accident, had now involved me too in its affairs.” (P: 68)

“I wrote down all of Annelies’s words. And what about Darsam, the fighter? I still did not know much about him.” (P: 68)

Someone who love writing can create something like a book, article, journal and the other else that it can be enjoyed by someone who read it maybe first time it was only a hobby but maybe someday it will become a

chance for us to reach something, that is the character which were needed for this country to start create something not only enjoy creation from the outside.

Friendliness

Nyai Ontosoroh is a humble person. It can be seen when Nyai Ontosoroh meet Minke for the first time as she accepts Minke as her guest affectionately in the front of her daughter, Annelies.

“Annelies’s guests are my guests too,” she said. Her Dutch was so fluent. When Minke confuse how to call Nyai Ontosoroh, Nyai Ontosoroh is over to call her like annelies. (P: 29)

When Minke is confused how to call Nyai Ontosoroh, she easily encourages Minke to call her Mama, just like Annelies.

“Well, then, call me Mama, like Annelies—that is if you don’t feel insulted, Sinyo.” “Yes, Minke,” the daughter added. “Mama’s right. Call her Mama.” (P: 30)

From here, we can see that Nyai Ontosoroh is a very humble person to her guest since day one. This value is eastern-typical that it exists up to the time being. Friendliness makes other people feel comfortable to be around us.

Hardwork

Minke goes to a HBS with other wealthy kids who tend to have some European ancestry, unlike most of the local population. Minke is a talented young writer yet as a "native", he is disliked by many of his fellow-students. However, it does not beat him any second to fight for his life.

“Young life breathed nothing but pleasure. I was succeeding in all that I was doing. I was doing well in my studies. And I had an unworried heart and clear emotions.” (P: 22)

Other than Minke, Nyai Ontosoroh is also a hard worker. She is told to be succesfully manage the whole of this great agricultural firm (P: 24). Moreover, famous line of hers stated that someone who do something by him/herself will have more satisfying rather than not doing something and get nothing.

“Happy are they who eat from the products of their own sweat, obtain pleasure from their own endeavors, and advance because of their own experiences.” (P: 44)

Religious

Minke was a Moslem he knows about the rules to be a good Moslem, which is follows all the rules that exist in Islam and know what is allowed and what is not allowed in Islam.

“Suddenly she asked: “You’re Moslem?” “Why?” “So that you don’t eat pork.” I nodded.” (P:30)

In this moment when Nyai Ontosoroh asked to Minke that he was a Moslem and Minke nodded that it means “yes”, this is to makes Nyai Ontosoroh not to serve a pork in a food that is to give for Minke. In this part we can see Minke was doing the rules that not allowed for Moslem which is to eat a pork even in their food has been said there is a pork. He can hold his lust not trying to eat a pork. The value that we can get from this was about Minke was followed about the rules from his religion and he didn’t break the rule. All persons who have a religion is teaching that they should be always to be grateful for the blessings of God that has been given to us. And for that we can be a religious person that never forget the God, because Minke is a Moslem he was so grateful and thankful for all of the people before him who have struggled to found the new age in the term of the development of the scientific and technology. One of the things that experienced development at that time was the printing press. Moslem has been teaching to be always grateful whatever God has given to us, this act can makes person become a religious in their behavior of life.

“I was truly grateful to all those people who had worked so tirelessly to give birth to these new wonders. Five years ago there were no printed pictures, only block and lithographic prints, which gave very poor representations of reality” (P: 17)

This values was important to implemented on the student because grateful it was a relationship between us and God, we must be grateful from everything that what we have get and we have pass. Because with our

grateful our life will be blessed by God, in this novel the main character Minke was so grateful for all people before him for their struggle so he can get the result and enjoy it.

Attitude

The value about attitude that its can reflect who we are and our pride in the society, are we good or not. In This Novel we can found that Nyai Ontosoroh has a good attitude.

“I thought so. You’re indeed clever, Nyo. Not one in a hundred people can write like that.” (109)

When Nyai Ontosoroh said that she was impressed by the story that makes by Minke. Nyai Ontosoroh did that to giving awards, and compensation for their work or efforts to write the work. This value for character building is good because respect to each other is important and it will make the relationship closer because we are respect to each other in society.

Nyai Ontosoroh is also person who has a care characteristic. When Minke had a trouble she was doing something to help Minke.

“Ann, fix Minke’s clothes and bring them here,” ordered Nyai, “Who knows how long they will detain him. He can bathe and breakfast first, can’t he?” “Of course, Nyai, there’s still a little time.” (P: 116)

When she found Minke she already help him to take care him become healthy. She let him take a bath give him food and drink, care is a good character because basically if someone help someone else because we are care. So character building for having care must be done to makes people care each other.

Integrity

Nyai Ontosoroh was a brave woman in this novel, when Mr. Mellema came and said something that it is disturb her party and guest she was mad and angry to Mr. Mellema she said.

“Close your mouth!” shouted Nyai loudly in Dutch, “He is my guest. “You have no rights in this house. You know where your room is.” (P: 48)

As a woman who has a high self-esteem Nyai Ontosoroh dares to do that with her courage.

Minke was kiss Annelies because he cannot hold his feeling for her any longer Minke was falling in love on her, when he kissed her he was fear about bad something will come to him but it doesn't make him confused. When Annelies tell Nyai Ontosoroh that he kissed her Nyai want some improvement.

"Now Minke, kiss Annelies in front of me. So that I may know that my daughter does not lie." I trembled. Yet I could not resist her command. And I kissed Annelies on the cheek. "I'm proud, Nyo" (P: 51)

Minke has a great integrity because he didn't run from what have he done before to Annelies. When Nyai Ontosoroh wants to see him kiss Annelies he did it.

Honesty

In the foreign people the man who not have a family name was acknowledged by their father, but is it truly their culture which like that so when Minke was Introduce himself to the foreign he just honestly tell that he doesn't have a family name Even though Minke was from a prominent family.

"Annelies said. "Otherwise people will think you're not acknowledged by your father." "I don't have a family name. Truly I have none," I answered. (P: 26)

We also can see that Minke is honest person from the dialog when Minke were asked by Nyai Ontosoroh about his business. Nyai Ontosoroh asked is that Minke has an own furniture workshop and how many the number of the employee, Minke said the truth that he has no furniture workshop he just only bring the commodity.

"Does Sinyo own his own furniture workshop? How many tradesmens?" "No, I only sell the furniture. I carry pictures with me." "So you came here to sell furniture? (P: 44)."

Nyai Ontosoroh is also honest person when she said to Annelies that she was beautiful, not only to make her happy but also is the truth.

"You know I've often said that you're beautiful? And extraordinarily beautiful ? There's no doubt you're beautiful, Ann. Sinyo is not wrong." (P: 31)

Responsibility

Nyai Ontosoroh has a great responsibility because she is who take cares the Mr. Mellema family and all of the things that they have. She did that to makes the family still existed.

"Forgive me that I must offer a defense for myself in my humiliation—what would become of all this? His children ... his business . . . we would be reduced to destitution." (P: 48)

She was strong woman because after Mr. Mellema didn't care about his company Right now Nyai Ontosoroh who has the responsibility to manage all of the business of Mellema 's family.

Minke was a person who love writing and he have already make an article, His article has already published. And it comes from the newspaper the short story titled *Een Buitengewoon Gewoone Nyai*. Even that title was changes he still recognize it and the story is from his own imaginings based on Mama's day-to-day life.

"I think I recognize the person described in this story." The material wasn't from Annelies, but my own imaginings based on Mama's day-to-day life. "Who's the author, Mama?" I asked, pretending. "Max Tollenaar. Is it true you only write advertisements?" Before the conversation became involved I quickly confessed: "Yes, I wrote it, Ma." "I thought so. You're indeed clever, Nyo. Not one in a hundred people can write like that. Though if you mean me in that story ..." "I based my imaginings on Mama," I answered quickly." (P: 109)

Minke was dare to said that the story was his creation and his sources of the references was Nyai Ontosoroh. So for that he has a responsibility for the story and he must be ready if Nyai Ontosoroh was criticize or sue him.

Patriotism

The news about the Mr. Mellema's family was already spread out and many of them tells that family was so bad, and Minke's best friend Jean said to him that he was an educated person and because of that he should

makes a fair judgment between feeling and public news about Annelies family.

“You’re educated, Minke. An educated person must learn to act justly, beginning, first of all, with his thoughts, then later in his deeds. That is what it means to be educated.” (P: 56)

“I think you should find out for yourself if what people say is fair or not. To go along with unfair gossip is wrong. You might find you’re judging a family that is perhaps better than the judge himself.” (P: 56)

Minke as an educated person might be better search more to found the truth about Annelies family to have his own judgment rather than he following the issues or gossip that might be was not true from Annelies family that maybe can give a justice for Annelies family.

When Minke got letter from darsam by Nyai Ontosoroh he open and read it after that he knows that annelies was sick and Nyai Ontosoroh was worried about her health. He also said that Annelies was her only helper to finish her work and without her Nyai Ontosoroh will be difficult to finish her work and then she ask Minke to come and visit them after heard that Minke Without any longer decided to go there to visit them.

“How many arguments could I now assemble to justify myself in my actions. Good. I will go” (P: 63)

Discipline

Nyai Ontosoroh was an individualism who has a discipline character. She was never forgot what should she do as a person who have the responsibility to manage the factory. She has another time to work and another time to do something else, she has already manage it and she always follow it.

“The servant cleared the table. “ Mama must continue her work in the office, Annelies explained.” (P: 35).

When Nyai Ontosoroh was finish the lunch she must go again to work, we can see that Nyai Ontosoroh has a discipline character because she is not leave or forget her time she must go to work.

Minke was a discipline person he was not forgot about the time when he must study or when he must do something else. It is like that

he has already makes a schedule for his activity in anywhere that he can possible do it. “Let’s go hunting, I am sorry, Rob, but I need the time to study. Actually, I like hunting too. Perhaps some other time? Good, another time, It’s a pity, Rob, but I have to study.”(P: 105)

When Minke invited by Robert Mellema for hunting he was reject it because he still need a time for study even he has already at their house for five days Minke still need a time for study and not only for having a joy at there. This value for character building is very important because as a student we must discipline, we cannot forget the time to have a study by ourself. It seem like student relies that they still need for study.

Independence

The independence characteristic is needed for all person because this skills which is decided that we are ready or not to face the world. Because we must stand alone and not depend on others, it means that the individual ready to stand alone by taking some initiative. We can see from Minke how he can take the initiative to trying offered the commodity.

“Top-class furniture, Mama.” I began my propaganda. “The latest styles and models from Europe”. I go to meet the ships bringing newcomers from Europe. I also visit the houses of the parents of my school friends.” (P: 44)

When Nyai Ontosoroh asking about his business he answered that he can be independence by taking an initiative to bring his commodity to the ships that bringing newcomers from Europe, and also Minke visit the houses of the parents from his school friends. So we can see that Minke was ready to face the world because he can take an initiative to survive, This character was very Important to be implemented on the student to makes them ready to stand alone and survive.

Tolerance

When Annelies said to the servant that Minke that was Moslem she give order to them to not let a pork touch their food Minke was silent and only look around the house.

“Then she quickly turned to me and asked, “Why are you so silent?” “Don’t you know?” I asked in return. “Because I never dreamed

I'd ever come face to face with such a beautiful goddess as this." (P: 31)

Minke do that because he was trying to be tolerance because their religion was different. To honor it Minke didn't say any words and then when Annelies ask him why he was so silent he just said that he was amazed by the beauty all around him.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research analysis and discussion above, we can know that literature like novel has so many educational values that we can found from the story. We can see it from the novel *This Earth of Mankind* write be Pramoedya Ananta Toer. This novel tells us in a colonialism age and this story is about native person and European. Minke is a native public figure who has a chance to have study in HBS and Nyai Ontosoroh is a mistress of

Mr. Mellema, and also there is Annelies daughter of Nyai Ontosoroh and the value from novel *This Earth of Mankind* can be found by the event that happened in the novel and from that there is a hidden meaning that we can take. The event that happened to the main character or the others character. There is 15 values that can be used as a character building for student, (1)Love for Reading; (2)Curiosity; (3)Forgiving; (4)Love for Writing; (5)Friendliness; (6)Hard work; (7)Religious; (8)Attitude; (9)Integrity; (10)Honesty; (11)Responsibility; (12)Patriotism; (13)Discipline (14)Independence; (15)Tolerance; All of this values can be used to build the character of the student to be a better person and useful in the public.

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