

MORAL VALUES DEPICTED ON *THE HELP* MOVIE (2011) DIRECTED BY TATE TAYLOR

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Abstract

This study discusses moral values depicted on *The Help* movie. *The Help* movie was chosen as an object is directed by Tate Taylor and released in 2011. This movie depicts moral values provide some message for the viewer through narration and visual in the movie. The research method in this research uses literary criticism method and structural approach that are needed to obtain in-depth data and careful reading of the text, a data that contains meaning. To find out moral values and its types, this study uses one critical theory as the great theory of *Utile et Dulce* by Horace and the main theory of moral understanding by Frank Palmer. As a result of this research, the writer found three categories about moral values in this movie, the first is relationship between human beings and own self. In this form researcher got some of moral value in *The Help* movie as like discipline, courage, honesty, toughness, steadfastness, sacrificed, friendliness. The second is relationship between human beings and other. Researcher got some of moral value that include the second form, kind-hearted, caring, sympathetic to the other, cooperative, thankfulness, helpful, justice, and tolerance. Human do interaction each other to keep a good relationship. The last is relationship between human and God. Worship and prayers.

Keywords: Moral values, human, *The Help*, movie.

INTRODUCTION

The Help is one of English movie and is produced by an Anglophonic speaking country, not Japanese, Indonesian or even Arabic. But, no matter the language used, how good the work is, of course, it always inserts moral values in it. So, in this film, the writer hopes that with this research we can be more sensitive to moral values conveyed through various aspects in a work. In this case, especially the work of moral values in a film.

Literature and value systems are two social phenomena that complement each other in their essence as existential. A literary work gives knowledge in the form of information. It has given much entertainment and biggest inspiration. It is presented through language to describe facts about a person, a place, or an event. It also informs us the way of life in society, like the customs, the rules, and the attitudes. Another form of art is movie. Movie, also known as film, is a type of visual imagination in the form of moving pictures and sound to tell stories or inform. A movie has a theme, setting, plot, characterization, and point of view.

In this global area, we need to improve our moral. Thus, we must pay attention to the moral education in order not to get bad influences. Moral education is not always presented by discussion in the class lesson formal condition but we can also use other ways to teach it, for example read literature book like novels or watch a movie to deliver its messages. So that, they will be attracted and apply the message found in the movie in their life.

The writer interested to choose *The Help* movie in this analyzing because the writer knows that this film is one of the literary work that described racial discrimination so we can get several moral values in it. This movie takes on the setting of the 60s in Jackson, Mississippi that clearly illustrates an issue of race discrimination between whites and blacks. Where black people as the maid and white as the employers. During work at White's house, black people get unfair treatment. The other reason is that this film adapted from best selling novel by Kathryn Stockett on 2008. *The Help* movie was released at August 2011 by DreamWorks Pictures.

There are some problems that occasionally happen related to race discrimination. Where white people doing discrimination to black people. Where there is a woman named Aibileen. She works at the white house as housemaid. She spent her life working there, cooking, clean the house, wash, iron, shopping in the market and also raise their children that's what she does in white house.

From the many portraits of discrimination, and the many moral values that are displayed or articulated in the film *The Help*, then in this study the researcher uses the theory of moral values in literary works according to William Wordsworth. Wordsworth says (1990) a class a poetry would be produced, well adapted interest mankind permanently, and not unimportant in the quality, and in the multiplicity of its moral relations.

According to Wordsworth's opinion above, literature or literary works can be adapted from the moral values that exist in the conditions of society. Moral is the idea or goal that the author wants to convey through his work to the reader. It can be concluded that every literary work of any kind has a moral message contained in it, as well as a novel must have a meaning stored in it.

In Literature has more than a few functions. literary works deepen readers' awareness and their understanding of life and the world. It deepens their understanding of something that is already known. They know that killing, for example, is evil and sinful. However, their knowledge about life, and about what should and should not be done becomes more real, because portrayal invites them to enter and experience it. It also entertains the reader. It has the ability to make them respond emotionally. At the time of making them shed tears, sad, and melancholy. Sometimes it also makes them feel sorry or angry with them, and afraid of ourselves (Sumarjo, 1991, pp. 8-9).

A literary work includes many messages or moral values from the author to the reader. This is related to Plato's thoughts about literary works that can educate humans. In addition, in line with Palmer (1992, p. 92) argues the purpose of decommentary is to provide information, persuade, or maybe in some cases to average good to action. In addition, dealing with Palmer:

We cannot even begin to understand fiction unless we presuppose the same strength of relations between the fictional deed and the fictional doer. When we engage with fictional work we do not understand or respond to

fictional characters as peculiar creatures motions of doing; they must be seen as 'authors' of their own actions in the way that we suppose ourselves to be 'authors' of ours (Palmer, 1992, p. 121)

Because the quote explains through character, it can show moral value. Characters in literary works can be referred to as writers. They can be represented by writers to give moral value through their actions in the story. The author writes a literary work with the aim of giving moral value to the reader. The reader can know how goodness in a literary work can be applied in real life.

According to Palmer that "to know what we learn from literature we must know what literature can contribute to our education first (education is related to what is good) and what literature can contribute to our moral education (all education has moral dimensions)" (Palmer, 1992, p. 181). The investigation of the novel *Miracle* is to find out how and in what way our understanding and appreciation of literary works.

Furthermore, according to Nurgiyantoro (1998, p. 321) a literary work has valuable moral values. That value is universal. Everyone is convincing about the goodness in life. Moral values in literary works can be universally accepted but background to people. Therefore, there are moral values that Wonder R. J. Palacio wants to provide some massage for the reader through narration in the novel. There are three categories of moral values: (a) Relationship between human beings and own self. Like human in real life, character in a literary work also has problem with himself. Character has problem for instance frightened, timidity, and shy. Then, character can solve his problem with wisdom, kindness and mature. (b) Relationship between human beings and other. As social beings, human do interaction each other to keep a good relationship. In a literary work, characters do also interaction with other character. They sometimes have a problem like in the real life. (c) Relationship between human beings and God. Despite fiction, a literary work also shows how relationship between character and God. Character has a hope to God about kindness of life.

Values and literature are complemetary and are insperable. Literary works born and sourced from human life and have a high value. Literature will be a contribution to the formation of values so that lovers of literature will be civilized, well-mannered, and virtuous men, and agreeing with the applicable rules. The values in the literature usually reflect the views of the author's life or values that are attractive to the author and are necessary to convey to the readers (Siahaan, 2019, p. 76).

Literary work according to Horace (in Teeuw, 1998, p. 8) is "*Dulce et Utile*" it is mean to delight and useful. In a good literary work, the readers will get the pleasure and usefulness provided by literary works in the form of beauty and high value experiences directly or indirectly.

According to Darma (2004, pp. 9-10). Horace considers, a good art work, including literature, is always have two criteria, namely *dulce et utile*, meaning that literature must be good, interesting, and giving pleasure. In addition, literature must provide benefits or uses for example inner wealth, life insight, and morals.

Agreeing with the explanation above, Budianta (in Kurniawan, 2009, p. 6) Horatius state that the function of literary works is *dulce et utile*, meaning that

literature has a dual function, namely entertaining and at the same time useful. Entertaining because literary works contain stories about life that are unique, interesting, and fun. So that is liked by many people, and useful because in the real life told that full of messages of meaning that can be obtained by the reader.

As to *utile*, it means that literature is morally good or worthy. We can say a literary text should include beauty and ethic. The writer says beauty because pleasure got from a literary text has something to do with the beauty of it. Humo writes that beauty is something that can evoke pleasure (Habib Mustopo, 1989, p. 100).

The latter issue is taken from Horace's saying. He says, '*Aut prodesse volunt aut delectare poetae/Aut simul et iucunda et idonea dicere vitae*' means that poets wish to either benefit or delight us, or at one and the same time, to speak words that are both pleasing and useful for our lives.

Like Horace, Sidney also speaks the same. The right author of a literary work, to Sidney, are those 'who imitate both to delight and teach, and delight to movement to take that goodness in hand, which without delight they would flye as from a stranger' (Abrams, in Lodge 1998, p. 11). To Sir Philip Sidney, the moral effect is the terminal aim, to which delight and emotion are auxiliary (Abrams in Lodge, 1998, p. 12). Johnson also claims that the end of literary work is to instruct by pleasing (1998, p. 15).

The usefulness value of literary works is one of the criteria of a good work, because through the presentation of the story, the author gives a new dimension of existing reality and then provides new life experiences and ways of looking at life wisely and full of wisdom and virtue for its readers. Thus, the literary work is not just entertainment but can shape the behavior of life (Sumarjo, 1991, p. 37).

This research uses literary criticism methods and structural approach that are needed to obtain in-depth data and careful reading of the text, a data that contains meaning. Literary criticism is not just judging, but there is still another activity that analyzes the work. As stated by Abrams that literary criticism is a study related to defining, classifying, parsing or analyzing, and appraisal or evaluation. Literary criticism is one type of essay, i.e. good or bad consideration of a literary outcome. That development certainly gives a reason for the content and form of literary results. Literary criticism is a study that is faced with the literary work, directly discussing the literary work with an emphasis on the assessment (Wellek in Suratno, 2010: 14).

The research focuses on finding and discussing moral values are found in the literature which is a little more capable of giving lessons to readers. As well as finding out and analyzing how the director Tate Teylor conveyed the moral values in her work in this research the writer used "*The Help*" movie. In addition, this study used a structural approach. This approach can analyse research with elements that build literature on the Way (Satoto, 1993).

Therefore, in analyzing this study, the writer analyzed the data using and this method to find aspects of moral values. In addition, the writer use one critical theory as the great theory of *Utile et Dulce* by Horace and the main theory of moral understanding by Frank Palmer. It can be used to explain and analyze literary works especially in moral values through characters in movie

and the other aspect on this movie. It is useful for supporting theory and analyzing objects.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Moral Values in Tate Taylor's movie *The Help*

The first discussion, the writer discusses the moral values that exist in Tate Taylor's movie *The Help*, the writer indirectly or directly incorporates moral values to provide advice to the viewer through narration. After watching literary works, the viewers can know the good and bad in it. Moral values related to the virtues of both speech and action in everyday life of humans. It is important to learn the good through literary works to be applied in real life.

Relationship between human beings and own self

Human problems with own self can be of various types and levels of intensity. The human problem with himself can be related to problems such as self-existence, self-esteem, self-confidence, fear, death, longing, revenge, loneliness, indecision between several choices and other things that are involved in the self and psychology an individual.

Courage

Courage is defined as a trait that dares to bear risks in making decisions quickly and on time. The nature of a person's courage is not owned from birth but this trait can be formed by creating a conducive atmosphere so that he feels comfortable and more confident. Courage means being willing to do things as they are difficult (Hornby, 2010). It is the ability to stand up for what is right even in difficult situations. Courage to make decisions is very useful for dealing with problems. People who have this trait do not hesitate in the face of danger because it gives the strength to take action as it is considered right in front of a strong opponent.

The value of courage in *The Help* movie is contained in the following dialog scene excerpt:



Image 01. duration 00.17.15

In image 01, when the scene is taking place when Aibileen is worshipping with other black people in the church. Exactly at the same time as a religious leader giving enlightenment to the congregation about doing good to others, including being brave to do whatever is true and stay on the right path. It is true that here they follow the standard of the book of the religion they profess, it is the Bible.

Honesty

Honesty is the mother of all forms of goodness that exist. Therefore it means otherwise, that lies are the origin of all kinds of vices and sins. Honesty is also the core of the teachings of every religion.

The researcher found the value from the honesty of the main character on *The Help* movie :



(Image 02. duration 1;09;57-1;10;02)

From the excerpt of the dialogue as stated in the scene (image 02), it shows from the perspective of the main character in the film, Aibileen. In his perspective he describes how tormented he is to the point that it feels as if he can't breathe deeply every year on the date of his son's death. Of course, this dialogue is a form of honesty from the main character, Aibileen, to try to express her feelings about the deep sadness that she has experienced so far.

The moral values contained in the dialogue excerpts above are not merely honesty to other people. But it's also a form of being honest with yourself, a form of acknowledging your own lowliness, and also a form of trying to love yourself.

Relationship between Human beings and other

Moral values related to human relations with other human beings and social relations can include tangible problems such as strong or fragile friendship, loyalty, betrayal, cooperation and kinship. The moral values in human relations with others in this novel are as follows;

Caring

The characters are essentially portrayed as social beings, as is human in general. As if any person, as high as any degree of his family, as **beautiful** or handsome as anything apparently, still, man can not live alone. We will always need help from someone else's hand. Keep it to great things, for something so simple we can't be self-reliant.

Sometimes in situations that are precarious, urgent and emergency, others certainly need help. The attitude of empathy, sympathy and care for others should be slowly cultivated in each person's personal character. It can be seen in the excerpt as follows:



(Image 03. duration. 2;12;21-2;12;25)

The first case example of the moral value of caring in the film "The Help" is shown by the interaction and dialogue between Minny and Aibileen with Skeeter (image 03). Even though in the screenshot of the scene that the researcher pinned above, there is no Skeeter in it. However, the dialogue that Minny says in that scene is directed at Skeeter. In Minny's dialogue, she firmly states that she will take care of Aibileen. in the story line Skeeter will leave the city to further her career.

But on the other side, Skeeter is also worried about Aibileen's safety because she has dared to speak out about the discrimination experienced by negro maids, including herself. This issue was raised by Skeeter which also became a bridge for her career development. So, it's no wonder that Skeeter is so worried about Aibileen's safety, considering that her role is also important in their movement. But even so, because Minny cares so much for her best friend, Aibileen, as well as for Skeeter, she believes that she and Aibileen can take care of each other while Skeeter is away and focus on her career.

Tolerance

Tolerance is a human attitude or behavior that follows the rules, where one must appreciate, respect, to the behavior or choices of others. This term in the context of culture and religion means attitudes and deeds that prohibit the discrimination of a group or other groups that have differences of belief in societal life.

Tolerances can be applied in a wide range of fields, as we often encounter tolerance between tribes to tolerance of trust or religion. On this occasion the researcher found the tolerance behaviour contained in *The Help* movie as follows:



(Image 04. duration 0;45;50)

In the scene data fragment (image 04), the moral value of tolerance in the film focuses on racial tolerance and social status. The data shows that the two characters in the film, Aibileen and Mrs. Skeeter, are in the same room and eat at the same table. Regardless of the storyline that tells in the passage after they have finished discussing their common goal. and if you identify the pattern used in the plot of the film, of course this kind of thing is not normal and will often end up being criticized.

As you well know, in this film, negro maids are strictly prohibited from eating at the same dining table, they even tend to eat in the kitchen, they are not allowed to use the same spoon to taste the food they are cooking, the plates and spoons they use tend to be distinguished unlike those commonly used by the host. Even for things like bathroom matters, negro maids are not allowed to use the bathroom in the house. They are provided with a separate bathroom which, of course, cannot be said to be sufficient in quality, moreover, it is usually placed in the yard or outside the house.

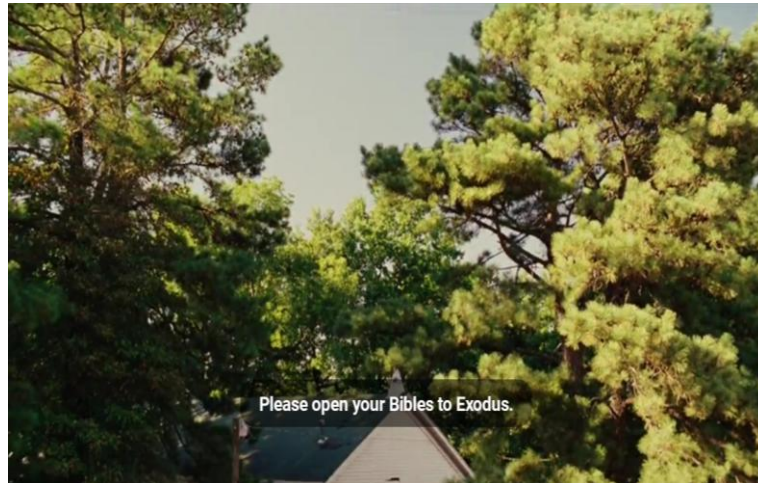
Therefore, from this case example the author tries to invite us to always be able to apply the values of tolerance in everyday life. Both in terms of racial differences as the main topic of discussion in this film, or even other things. If everyone can develop a sense of tolerance within themselves, of course the continuation of a peaceful and equal life will continue to grow.

Relationship between Human and God

The human relationship with God cannot be depicted with a vertical line. In dealing with problems in human life certainly requires a refuge. God is a place of complaining and grime. God as the most perfect substance where all things depend, including us as his people.

Worship

In this movie the director shows the relationship of Man with God one of them in the way that is to worship God, as found in the following quotation scene;



(Image 05. Duration. 0;39;29)

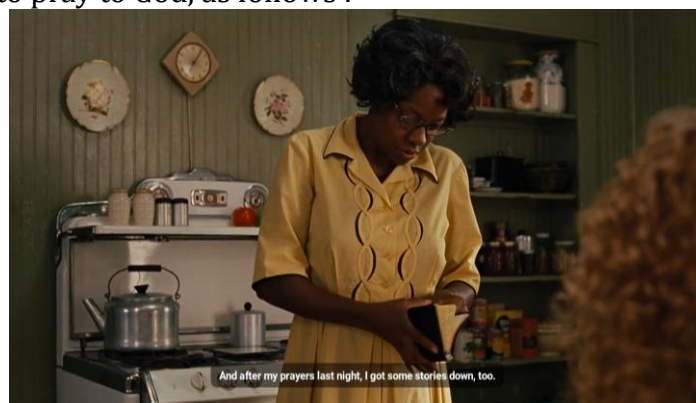
In the excerpt of the dialogue in the scene fragment above (image 05), it is a form of a direct command sentence spoken by the pastor to the church congregation. 'Please open your Bibles', as we know, the Bible is the holy book of Christians. Just like the holy book for other religious people, the bible is also used as a guide which is often read, memorized and even the teachings written in it are also practiced by devout Christians.

In the data this time, the researcher found an example of a case that provides moral value in the form of religious obedience symbolized by diligently reading the holy book, in order to maintain a good relationship with their God as a devout religious community should. As we all know, to be devout religious people, of course there are many ways we can do it. Apart from doing good to others, it seems that maintaining a good relationship with the creator, in this case God is trusted, is no less important. Of course, there are also many ways that we can take to maintain a good relationship with God, one of which is to be diligent in worship. In the sample data this time, the researcher gives an example of worshiping God by reading the holy book that is believed.

Prayers

As a people who believe in God we are obliged to pray always. The word prayes is interpreted as an activity to use words either openly together or in person to make requests to the Lord (Robert, 2000, p. 165). Ibn Arabi viewed prayer as a form of effort to cleanse and eliminate the bad values in themselves.

In this movie there are some quotations scenes describing the existence of moral values to pray to God, as follows :



(Image 06. Duration 0;44;30)

In the following data that the researcher embeds, there is a dialogue spoken by Aibileen to Mrs. Skeeter whose hair is visible in the scene (image 06). In her dialogue, Aibileen indirectly mentions her prayer activities. '...after I prayed last night. I wrote my story too.' From this sentence, Aibileen shows the audience that apart from holding fast to her beliefs by regularly attending church or reading the holy scriptures, she is never absent from always praying. This is one of the things that shows the attitude of obedience of a religious person.

From this data researchers can draw messages that contain moral values of the relationship between humans and God and their beliefs. As a religious person who believes in the existence of God, worship is certainly not a strange thing. But it has also entered into obligations that should always be carried out by a people.

CONCLUSION

Moral value is a way to an author can communicate with the readers of a literary work if they can understand what the author want to send. Usually in the end of read the novel or watch the movie, we can find the messages or moral values that delivered by author for us as the reader or audience. After doing the analysis, the researcher conclude the results there are two statement of problems and will described in two points;

These kinds have three categories about moral values in this movie, the first is relationship between human beings and own self. In this form researcher got some of moral value in *The Help* movie as like discipline, courage, honesty, toughness, steadfastness, sacrificed, friendliness, worship, prayers. The second is relationship between human beings and other. Researcher got some of moral value that include the second form, kind-hearted, caring, sympathetic to the other, cooperative, thankfulness, helpful, justice, and tolerance. Human do interaction each other to keep a good relationship. The last is relationship between human and God. Worship and prayers.

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