

CHARACTER EDUCATION IN TERE-LIYE'S *AYAHKU (BUKAN) PEMBOHONG*

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Abstract

This research aims at describing the character education in the novel *Ayahku (Bukan) Pembohong* by Tere Liye. The character education in this novel was analysed using the theory proposed by Zamroni (2011). The focus of the research is the character values reflected by the characters of the novel. It is reflected that the understanding of life is not as complicated as people think if people always thank God for whatever God has been bestowed on them. Life is a grace of God that must be thanked. The method of research applied is qualitative descriptive. The research result shows that the character educations reflected in the novel are honesty, discipline, hardworking, and friendly. Tere Liye's novel was full of tangible behaviours performed by the main characters to handle the events in various forms of interaction among the characters.

Keywords: character education, character value, character building, honesty, discipline, hardworking,

1. Introduction

Character education value is now a priority in the Indonesia education major. The government not only prioritizes knowledge and skills, but also aligns the two with the value of character education. Azzel (2011: 10) states that character education is the soul or spirit of an education. Without character education, the teaching process is nothing more than training the intellectual intelligence or just sharpening the brain for students in school.

The impact of the educational values in educational curriculum constantly underlines the values which may explicitly not be taught to the students. For example, when they are taught a literary work like a novel, they various character values like honest, religious, patient, hard work, friendly and humble. The students will highly get the point of the value of character education when they understand the contents and meaning of the character education.

Ayahku bukan Pembohong is a novel that was first printed in May 2011. This novel tells about the life of a curly boy named Dam and his father. This novel tells about two different time settings: current time and flash back to the past. This novel was deliberately written by Tere-Liye who tried to give an understanding about the character

education values to readers. Tere-Liye explains the understanding that life is not as complicated as people think. Life is a grace of God that must be thanked.

Ayahku (bukan) Pembohong is a novel whose story setting is in a school called the Elephant Academy. This novel uses an easily understood style of language.

Today, Character education is believed to be an important aspect for the improvement of the quality of human resources to support the progress of a nation. The qualified character needs to be established and nurtured starting from an early age (Gunawan, 2014: 28).

The basis of character education implanted since childhood or who can be called psychologist as golden age because of early childhood proved to determine the ability of children in developing their potential. The results showed about 50% of adult intelligence variability occurs when the child is 4 years old. 30% occurs at the age of 8 years old, and the remaining 20% is mid- or late-decade (Gunawan, 2014: 56)

The above statements shows that character education is the soul or the spirit of education which should be taught from the early age of man. Without character education, people will face many disturbances in their life (Azzel, 2011:65)

Consequently, the purpose of education that has been mentioned above is the purposes of National Education which focus on piety, moral and moral development or student character. It can be said that character education is related to the proficiency of human life (Prasetyo, 2012: 15).

Base on description above, the writer tends to explore and examines more deeply about the character education value in the novel *Ayahku (Bukan) Pembohong* written by Tere-Liye

2. Literature Review

Etymologically, the term character derives from the Greek *kharakter*, *kharassaein*, and *kharax*. English calls characters and in Indonesian language is *karakter*. While in the Great Indonesian Dictionary (2008), character is defined as morality that distinguishes someone from others, or it means innate heart, soul, personality, manners, behaviour, personality, characteristic, human nature, or character. In line with the definition, Gunawan (2012) states that a good and superior character is someone who tries to do the best things to God, to him/ herself, or to the environment. Supporting the definitions, the General Director of Islamic Education in Indonesia argues that the character can be defined as the totality of inherent personal traits and identifiable on a unique individual behavior. This trait particularly distinguishes between one person and another. This trait can be identified on an unique individual behavior; thus, this character is closely related to individual personality (Mulyasa, 2012: 5).

In fact, it cannot be far away from virtue, moral, character, or behavior, Imam Abu Hamadi Al Ghazali, as quoted by Abudin Nata in Gunawan (2012), says that moral is an embedded character which arise simple actions without complete thought and consideration formerly (Gunawan, 2012: 4).

Moral means ethic or behavior which is suitable with an acceptable general ideas about human action good or bad actions. There will be a similarity between ethical and

moral. Meanwhile, character can be clarified as an insight self-appearance. Character is behavior, attitude, moral and ethical. Further, character means moral, attitude, ethic and modesty. Thus, character implies attitude, moral and trait (Gunawan, 2012: 13).

According to Zamroni (2011), the government in form of Research and Development Agency, the Curriculum Centre of the Ministry, National Education has formulated character education materials which cover the following aspects:

a. Religious

Religious is attitudes and behaviours that obedient in implementing the religious teachings that follow tolerance of the implementation of other religious worship and live in harmony with other religious followers.

b. Honest

Honest is behaviour that based on an attempt to make him a person who can always be trusted in all his words, actions, and work.

c. Tolerance

Tolerance is an attitude and act that respects different religious, ethnic, ethnic, opinion, attitude, and other person's differences.

d. Discipline

Discipline is an attitude or action that shows orderly behaviour and obedience to various existing rules and regulations.

e. Hard Work

Hard work is a behaviour that shows a genuine effort to overcome the barriers to learning, the tasks, and can solve them as well as possible.

f. Creative

Creative is the ability to think and to do things for generate a new way or result from what we have.

g. Independent

Independent is an attitude or behaviour in doing all tasks given.

h. Democratic

Democratic is a way of thinking or mind set, attitude, and acting that assesses equal rights and obligations with others.

i. Curiosity

Curiosity is the attitude and action that always try to know more deeply and extends from something that has been learned, seen, and heard.

j. Spirit of Nationality

The spirit of nationalism is a way of thinking, acting, and insight that put the interests of the nation and the State above the personal and group interests.

k. Loving Country

Loving country is a way of thinking, acting, and doing that shows loyalty, awareness, and high appreciation of the language, physical environment, social, cultural, economic, and politic of the nation.

l. Appreciating Achievement

Appreciating achievement is an encouraging attitude and action to produce something useful for others, and to acknowledge and to honour the accomplishments of others.

m. Friendly or Communicative

Being friendly or communicative is an act that takes into account the pleasure of talking, getting along, and being happy to work with others.

n. Peaceful love

Peaceful love is the attitude, speech, and action that cause others to feel happy and secure for their presence.

o. Like to read

Like to read is the habit of providing free time to read the various readings that give good deed.

p. Environmental care

Caring for the environment is the attitude and action that always seeks to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develop efforts to repair the already existing natural damage.

q. Social care

Social care is the attitude and action that always want to give donation for other people and people in need

r. Responsibility

Responsibility is a person's attitude and behaviour to carry out its duties and obligations.

3. Method of Research

The research method of this study is descriptive qualitative. This research shows the nature of the situation as it exists at the time of the study as stated by Gay (1987: 189) that descriptive research determines and reports the way the things are. This research is also qualitative since all the data collection is in the form of words. Since this research is a descriptive qualitative research, the main instrument of this research is the researcher himself as the key-human-instrument.

The research approach used in this research is descriptive qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a study that uses a scientific background to interpret the phenomenon that occurs and does by using various methods and the results can be used to analyse phenomena. In qualitative research, the usual methods used are interviews, observations, and utilization of documents (Denzin and Lincoln 1987 in Lexy J. Moleong, 2016: 5).

The research character used in qualitative research has several characteristics, namely: scientific background, human as instrument, qualitative method, analysis inductive data, and basic theory and descriptive. Based on these characteristics, the researcher should be active in appreciating the contents of the novel and find the main data according to the formulation of the problem.

4. Result and Discussion

1. Honest

Being honest is the attitude or nature of someone who states something real. Honesty must be owned by every one because this attitude is the basic principles or the reflection of one's character. Honesty can also be a reflection of one's personality.

Consequently, honesty has a high value in human life. One of the characters analysed in this study is honesty. It is one of the values of the character education. This value is depicted in Tere Liye's Novel *Ayahku (Bukan) Pembohong*.

"Dan kau lupa, Ayah dikenal seluruh kota sebagai pegawai yang jujur dan sederhana. Dia tidak kaya. Dia bukan pejabat tinggi, tetapi martabatnya tidak tercela. Tidak pernah berbohong". (Tere Liye, 2011: 273)

"And you forget, Daddy is acknowledged throughout the city as an honest and simple employee. He is not rich. He is not a high official, but his dignity is not reprehensible. Never tells a lie".
(Tere Liye, 2011: 273)

The quotation above shows that Dam's father is known as a modest and honest person. His attitude drives everyone to respect him very much. He lives happily. Being honest is a form of Dam's father's moral value that exists in his real life.

The descriptions above shows that honesty is a moral value possessed by the noble characters. It takes courage and confidence to apply it. Honesty should be maintained in the heart as positive behaviour so that it will bring charity to us and others as well.

2. Discipline

Discipline is the ability to do a particular job or activity to achieve success. Discipline is the practice of making people obeys rules or standards of behaviour, and punishing them when they do not. Discipline is the quality of being able to behave and to work in a controlled way by obeying particular rules or standards. The disciplines reflected in the novel *Ayahku (Bukan) Pembohong* are:

"Aku berlatih dua kali lebih semangat dibanding anggota klub lain-datang lebih awal, pulang paling akhir. Aku tidak pernah lagi datang terlambat ke sekolah, semangat mengayuh sepeda, selalu mengerjakan tugas rumah yang diberikan ibu, bahkanaku mengiyakan ide Ayah agar mengisi waktu senggang dengan bekerja". (Tere Liye, 2011: 51)

"I practiced twice as much enthusiasm as other club members who came in more quickly, and came home last. I never arrived late at school anymore; zealously pedalling my bicycle; always do homework assigned by my mother, even affirm my father's idea to kill my free time by working. My mother initially objected, but my father said that it was important for Dam to study independently. I just listened to their discussion from my room while studying" (Tere Liye, 2011: 51)

The quotation above shows that Dam is a disciplined person. He gets a second chance of the submission test to be the member of the swimming club. When he manages himself to become a member of the swimming team, he tries his best to obey

every rule so he can take advantage of the opportunity well. Dam tries to sleep, goes to school and does his tasks on time. Dam's father educates his son to grow up into a disciplined person like Admiral Andalus. To achieve success in any case requires hard work and high discipline. Discipline is a moral value that really appreciates time and use time for useful things.

"Kau tahu, Dam. Laksamana Andalus terkenal di seluruh dunia, dihormati anak buah, teman-temannya. Disegani musuh-musuhnya karena disiplin dan selalu tepat waktu." (Tere Liye, 2011: 109)

"You know, Dam. Admiral Andalus is famous throughout the world. He is honoured by his subordinates, his friends. He is respected by his enemies because of his discipline and he is always on time." (Tere Liye, 2011: 109)

From the above quotation, it can be seen that someone who is disciplined will gain respect from everyone. Like Admiral Andalus who is respected by his friends and opponents. Someone who is accustomed to disciplining himself to do anything is much respected and honoured. All his behaviours become an example of others to achieve success. Life teaches someone to be discipline.

3. Hard Working

Hard working is something or someone that is diligent in labouring and that puts effort into doing and completing tasks. Hard working is a formidable attitude and behaviour as never give up doing the best thing in realizing goals and ideals. **The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose and we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.** Self-courage to face difficulties and obstacles are in the process of realizing dreams. Someone who is used to work hard has a strong character.

Sejak kecil dia tidak pernah berhenti bekerja keras. Sejak kecil dia belajar langsung kalimat 'jangan pernah menyerah'. Sang Kapten akan kembali dan dia akan mengalahkan lawan-lawannya. Semangatnya tidak akan patah oleh kaki yang patah apalagi hanya cedera ringan. (Tere Liye, 2011: 16.)

"Since childhood, he never stopped working hard. Since childhood, he learned directly the phrase "never give up". The Captain will return and he will defeat his opponents. His spirit will not be broken by a broken leg let alone only a minor injury (Tere Liye, 2011: 16)

The data above shows that the captain gives an example of hard work. Limitations are not the obstacle to achieve success. The most important thing is never give up and keep trying as the motivation given by swimming instructors to Dam to continue working hard to achieve success at the swimming club.

"Hanya anak-anak yang tidak kenal menyerah, terus berjuang hingga titik akhirlah yang berhak menggunakan jaket kebanggaan klub". (Tere Liye, 2011: 26)

"Only children who do not know surrender. One who continues fighting until the end point is the one who has the right to use the club's pride jacket". (Tere Liye, 2011: 26)

Lessons on hard work are also exemplified by the surviving residents of the Bukhara Valley to continue to strive for good life despite the many obstacles they face.

"Lembah Bukhara tidak dibangun dalam semalam, melainkan seratus tahun"... "Alim Khan menjelaskan pemahaman hidup yang sederhana, kerja keras, selalu pandai bersyukur dan saling membantu". (Tere Liye, 2011: 138-140)

"The Bukhara Valley was not built overnight, but hundred years." ... Alim Khan explained a simple understanding of life, hard work, always smart and grateful. (Tere Liye, 2011: 138-140)

Based on the quotation above, it can be said that a comfortable and peaceful life like in the Bukhara Valley is the result of hard work. It requires tremendous struggle and patience to create a prosperous life. The famous Bukhara Valley is a prosperous and peaceful country. The most important thing to remember is to make it such a great country that will take a process of hard work and an unyielding spirit.

"Setiap pagi ibu-ibu dan anak gadis mengurus tenda, pemerah susu ternak, memetik sayur di kebun, menumbuk gandum, menenun, membuat garam, menyamak kulit dan mengajari anak-anak mereka. Sedangkan laki-laki dewasa pergi menggembalakan ternak, menanami ladang-ladang, mempelajari keterampilan membuat tenda". (Tere Liye, 2011: 154)

Every , mothers and daughters take care of tents, milk, pick vegetables in the garden, pound wheat, weave, make salt, tan skin and teach their children. Whereas adult men go to herd cattle, plant fields, learn tent making skills. (Tere Liye, 2011: 154)

The quotation above shows that the population of Bukhara Valley is always preoccupied with their jobs. There is no time to laze around and to realize a better life. They always work hard to live. Like the residents of Bukhara Valley who always work hard, the people of the Wind Ruling Tribe also always work hard to bring about a good life.

4. Friendly

Friendly is actions that show pleasure in talking, hanging out, and working with others. Friendships make individuals more favoured by colleagues, family and other people who may be unknown. Friendly communication is an act that shows pleasure in

talking, associating, and cooperating with others. One of the values given from the novel *Ayahku (Bukan) Pembohong* is friendly or communicative. This can be seen from the following quotation.

"Aku ikut tertawa, menatap Jarjit dengan tatapan lebih bersahabat. "Kau mau pulang bersamaku naik sepeda? Ini dua kali lebih menyenangkan dibandingkan angkutan umum." (Tere Liye, 2011: 85)

I laughed, staring at Jarjit with a friendlier look. "Do you want to go home with me by bicycle? It's two times more fun than public transport. " (Tere Liye, 2011: 85)

The quotation above shows that Jarjit usually goes home by a luxurious car, but now Jarjit goes home by a bicycle together with Dam. Once, both of them were enemies, and now both of them are friends. Being friendly and being pleasant to anyone will create a peaceful life like the lives of people in the Bukhara Valley.

"Kau tidak bisa membayangkan betapa menyenangkannya tinggal di perkampungan itu. Mereka bukan orang yang sibuk mengurus diri sendiri, ambisius, dan penuh rencana. Mereka orang-orang yang suka bergurau, bercengkrama dan bermain. Mereka menjalani hidup dengan sebenar-benarnya hidup itu harus dijalani, mengalir apa adanya". (Tere Liye, 2011: 155)

"You can't imagine how nice it is to live in that township. They are not people who are busy taking care of them, are ambitious, and full of plans. They are people who like joke, chat and play. They live the life with the truth that life must be lived, flowing as it is". (Tere Liye, 2011: 155)

In line with the data above, it shows that Dad meets the inhabitants of the Bukhara Valley who live peacefully, kindly, care for and friendly. As a sign of gratitude for saving Dad, he gives Tetukong his travel notebook as a gift.

5. Religious

Praying is a form of closeness of a human being with his God. Praying is a form of acknowledgment of man as a weak creature to beg and to hope something from God, the omnipotent. In *Ayahku (Bukan) Pembohong*, the data dealing with the prayer activities are found in the activities of Dam. He takes care of his mother when his mother ill. The following quotation implies Dam's hope that his mother can recover from her illness. Praying shows human relations with God. Starting the activity by praying means hoping something for God's blessings.

"Kami bangun pukul empat pagi, memulai aktivitas dengan berdoa"... "Di atas segalanya, Ibu terlihat sehat. Itu hadiah paling istimewa". (Tere Liye, 2011: 117-121)

“We wake up at four in the morning, start the activity by praying”. ... “Above all, Mother looks healthy. That's the most special gift. (Tere Liye, 2011: 117-121)

Her mother's condition which gradually recovers makes Dam feel happy. She is able to be grateful for the little things that have happened in her life. It is the way of thankful for the slightest favours. It is the evidence of human relations with God that lasts harmoniously. On the other hands, the teachings about the goodness of life remembered by Dam is from Alim Khan, Dam's friend in Elephant Academy,

4. Conclusion

After Character Education in Tere Liye's *Ayahku (Bukan) Pembohong* is analysed, some conclusions can be drawn up. The Character Education Values in the novel really portray the true Indonesian men in that time. Tere Liye, the author of the novel, draws some characters and several incidents in the novel to arise the education values of his age where this novel is written. The Education values being revealed from the main characters of the novel have influenced and inspired the protagonist of the novel to gain the success in his life. The society being shown is fully discipline and hardworking. They have a great passion as well as motivation to gain their success through discipline and hardworking.

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