

An Analysis of Educational Value in the Novel “Never Let Me Go” by Kazuo Ishiguro

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ABSTRACT

This research was aimed to analyzed the educational values in the novel entitled “Never Let Me Go” by Kazuo Ishiguro. The educational values that were expected to found were believing and being faithful to god almighty, being noble moral, healthy, knowledge, competence, creativity, independent, becoming democratic citizen and responsible. The researcher use descriptive qualitative approach to analyzed the novel. Specifically, the researcher used content analysis in gathering the data. The data were gathered by reading the novel thoroughly to identify and classify the educational value that can be found. The results of the study show that there were only seven educational values that can be found in the novel. Sorted from the most frequent encounters to the least are the value of responsibility, creativity, being noble morals, competence, healthy, knowledge and independent. Meanwhile, the other educational values, namely being faithful to god almighty and becoming democratic citizen, were not exist in this novel.

Key Words: *Novel, Educational Value*

INTRODUCTION

Novel is an imaginative literary work. Novels tell about almost the entire life journey of a person or several characters. Characteristics and characters in the novel are described as complete and clear by an author so that novel lovers will get the message contained in the novel. The appearance of a novel is a reaction to a situation. A novel is a description of human life that has its value. The existence of novels is very much determined by the public as novel lovers to see the quality of a novel. In a novel, the author makes the value of education the topic to be raised. Novel connoisseurs will get added value from reading novels, novel connoisseurs not only get entertainment but also get something that can be picked as a message.

The value of education can be used as a measure by a person or society to determine good or bad things to do. The value of education will encourage people to act positively in life or social life. The goal is to shape someone’s personality to be even better. The value of education is highly valued by society and the nation. Society needs educational value. Because at this time, in our beloved country there have been so many destructive ethics of someone generation, one example is the spread of Narcotics which has a very negative impact and

can cause death. This person has broken his ethics because he is very far from god. Therefore, the value of education to shape a person’s personality to become a better person. In this educational value, it can be used as a reference in everyday life. Society will form a good person following the norms in life. The value of education will make this nation even better. Novels that make education an element of the story include the novel “*Never Let Me Go*” by Kazuo Ishiguro.

NOVEL

Novels are imaginative works that tell the whole side of the problems in the life of a person or several characters (Kosasih, 2012). In addition, Guerin and Labor (2005) stated that novel is a genre of fiction and might be defined as the art or craft of contriving through the written word to represent the human life. Novels begin with the emergence of a problem and end with problems solving.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE

There are some definition of educational value, according to Haryadi (1994), educational value is a teaching that is of high value according to the rules of education which is a bridge towards the achievement of educational

goals. This is in line with Thornberg (2008), that educational values refers to the pedagogical practices in which people learn values and morality to acquire knowledge of relating to other people. The value of education in a novel means a noble teaching that supports educational goals that are depicted in the elements of a fictional narrative story. Educational values are limited as something that is important, good and valuable (Mainun, 2015).

Education aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who Believe and Being Faithful to God Almighty, have a noble character, healthy, knowledgeable, competent, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens (Aziz, 2012). This is in line with Irawan and Andriani (2018) That education is the effort to create the atmosphere and the process of learning to actively develop one's potential. In addition, Barcalow (1994) stated that educational values can be used to evaluate the action of others whether it is good or bad, right or wrong, morally acceptable or unacceptable (immoral); morally required, prohibited, or permitted; morally praiseworthy or blameworthy.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research is called new methods that are art because the research data is more concerned with interpreting the data. Qualitative research seeks to understand a phenomenon or event by focusing on the total pictures rather than breaking it down into variables (Ary, 2010). Qualitative research is often called naturalistic because the research is carried out in other conditions. Furthermore, it is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning of individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem (Cresswell, 2014). This research method uses descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive research is a procedure to solve the problem being investigated by describing or depicting an object of research based on the facts as they are (Siswanto, 2010). Bogdan and Biklen (1998) explained that qualitative research can also be descriptive research. The data collected in descriptive qualitative is usually in the form of words or

pictures rather than numbers. The author will use descriptive research to describe and analyze the data. Once the data collected, the data will be identified based on what value they represent and then will be presented in the form of a table.

The subject used by this researcher is the educational value contained in the novel "*Never Let Me Go*" by Kazuo Ishiguro. The detailed information of the novel is presented in the table below:

Table 1
Novel information

Title	Never Let Me Go
Author	Kazuo Ishiguro
Originally Published	April 5, 2005
Page Count	244
Publisher	Faber and Faber
Genres	Dystopia, Science Fiction, Speculative fiction, Psychological Fiction

The instrument of this research is checklist. Checklist is list obtaining the names of aspects educational values. In this study, the researcher only gives a numbers and checklist on each page of the novel *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. In carrying out this research the researcher was also assisted by the educational values specification table which was adopted from Aziz (2012).

In collecting the data, the researcher used Reading Technique, The steps in reading are first, reading the entire novel and reading it repeatedly so that researcher can find and understand the contents of the novel regarding the educational value contained in the novel "*Never Let Me Go*" by Kazuo Ishiguro. Second, identifying the educational value contained in the novel. Then the reading results are used as the basis for classifying the data based on the parts that are related to the objectives of the research. The last Note Taking Technique, Technique notes taking used in this research is to record quotes or texts that describe the

educational value, namely in form believing and fearing god almighty, noble morals, healthy, knowledge, competent, creative, independent, democratic and responsible. Then the selected text is entered on the data card.

In analyzing the data, first reading, start to analyze the novel by reading it thoroughly, then identify any educational value in each sentences, namely: Believe and Being Faithful to God Almighty, have a noble character, healthy, knowledgeable, competent, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens. secondly. In carrying out data analysis, the researcher conducted the data reduction, that is the activity of selecting research data in the form of quotations from the novel "*Never Let Me Go*" that has been determined to be related to the research problem, namely selecting data related to aspects of educational value, then analyzed the data and described according to the theory used. The final step is the analysis where the researcher analyze the data that already been identified. The researcher analyzed each sentence that has educational values and categorize them based on the context. In addition, the data will be presented in findings by quoting each of the sentences and discussed it.

FINDINGS

The research was conducted by reading the novel "*Nevel Let Me Go*". In order to analyze the educational values in the novel, the researcher read it repeatedly. Therefore, the researcher was able to identify the sentences that contained educational values including believing and being faithful to God almighty, being noble moral, healthy, knowledgeable, competent, creative, independent, becoming a democratic citizen and responsible. To sum up the findings of the educational value in this novel, the overall data is presented in the table below.

Table 2
Educational values

No	Aspects of Educational Values	Number of Encountered
1	Believing and Fearing God Almighty	0
2	Noble Morals	8
3	Healthy	4
4	Knowledge	4
5	Competence	6
6	Creativity	15
7	Independent	3
8	Democratic	0
9	Responsibility	19

DISCUSSION

Based on the data presented in the table above, the value of believing and fearing God almighty and being a democratic citizen received zero encounter. It means that in the novel "*Never Let Me Go*" there is no any of these to value. The reason for the inexistence of believing and fearing God almighty in the novel is because the author was an atheist. Therefore, instead of providing the novel with religious value, the author wrote the novel from the perspective of an atheist. In addition the reason for the result did not found any value of being democratic citizen is that the novel itself is more focusing on the Katty's life as the main character. The story is evolved around her relationship with her friends rather than to the God and her view as a citizen. Therefore, these values cannot be found in this novel.

The value of noble morals in this novel is mostly about how a person's attitude should be in certain situations and conditions. Aziz (2012) explain that it is important for a person to be a good and noble moral. It could be about being sorry for one's mistakes, forgiving, being grateful and care or pay attention to something or someone. There are three areas that represent good characters or noble morals; self, other and the community (Pearson & Nicholson, 2000). In this novel, the most common cause for the value

of being noble morals is in the area of others. Ratnasari (2018) explained that some characters included in this area are forgiveness, politeness, respectfulness and compassion. Forgiveness is when someone consciously decides to let go of resentment and anger. Politeness is knowing about the basics of good manners, common courtesies and etiquettes. Respectfulness is about treating oneself and others with kindness, dignity and civility. Finally, compassion is feeling deep sympathy and pity towards the suffering and misfortune of others. The novel "Never Let Me Go" contains all these for characters which are included as the educational value of being noble morals. Therefore, this novel could give the reader a glimpse of what being noble moral is.

Healthy as an educational value in this novel is mostly about how someone's health condition should be. It is about how to get and stay healthy either physical and psychological. It is in accordance with Aziz (2012) that the aim of education is not only to be health physically, but also psychologically. In addition, it is stated that one of the educational values in Indonesia is being healthy (Indonesia, 2003). Therefore, the value of being healthy is important to be taught to the students and society. In relation to Pearson and Nicholson, being healthy is a good character from a person to himself. This is aligned with Kabae who explained in his research that being healthy is a good deed to one's own self (Kabae, 2015).

The value of knowledge is about informing or understand regarding certain topic or knowledge. Aziz (2012) explain that the value of knowledge is related to the characteristics of a person who has certain information and knowledge. In this novel, there are only four encounters of this value which most of them is about having the information of a certain topic. The character Katty appears to be at the three of these encounters. She was knowledgeable about shopping, about the origin of certain acts people take from television and her understanding that she has learned a lot while at Hailsham.

The fourth value is competence. In this novel, the value of competence mostly appears to describe the character's capability or skills. In

addition, being competent can be defined as having the skills and knowledge to produce or do something that can compete against others' (Saragih, Fitrah, & Suryani, 2015). It is in line with Aziz (2012) that a person can have the value of competence if he/she could apply his/her knowledge into the environment and create benefits out of it. In this novel, the value of competence is shown mostly in the character description. Katty was described as a good carer who could make her donor recover better. Tommy was described as someone who has a good capability in playing football.

The next value is creativity which is mostly about how the characters in this novel solving their problems and creating a way in doing something (Aziz, 2012). This is in line with Susanti, Hamidina and Nst (2013) that creativity is the ability to think and create or produce something new. In this novel, the value of creativity can be seen in Katty and her friends who were able to create a new way to listen to music together. Furthermore, Katty's creative imagination regarding a certain song in her favorite tape could lead her to something that is precious and enjoyable to her. The novel itself has fifteen sentences that contain this value. Therefore, this novel could provide the reader with the idea of what the value of creativity is.

The value of independent is shown very little in this novel. The first one is about how someone could find the enjoyment of being alone. While the other two are about someone who insisted to take care of himself on his own. Being an independent individual is a positive attitude that everyone should have. Learn to be an independent individual needs to be taught to everyone because it could help for the success in life. Aziz (2012) explain in his book that being independent is about not having one's life depends on others. Although human naturally a social creature, the concept of being independent is meant that someone should not be always

Finally, the educational value with the most encounter is the value of responsibility. In this novel, the value of responsibility is mostly shown for being responsible for what one has done. This is in line with Ratnasari (2018) that responsibility is accepting the personal,

relational and community obligation even if they are difficult or uncomfortable. Related to this, Aziz (2012) explained that being responsible means to be prepare for the result of one's actions and utterances. In this novel, the value of responsibility is emphasized more on the relation of a person to another rather than to personal or community.

All in all, the novel "*Never Let Me Go*" contains quite a number of educational values sorting from the most to least values are responsibility, creativity, noble morals, competence, healthy, knowledge and independent. Therefore, this novel is expected to be able to provide the reader with these educational values which might be beneficial for the reader.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The aspects of educational values in the novel *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro is classified into nine aspects, namely: (1) Believing and Fearing God Almighty with a total of nothing, (2) aspects of Noble Morals 8 quotes, (3) aspects of Healthy 4 quotes, (4) aspects of Knowledge 4 quotes, (5) aspects of Competence 6 quotes, (6) aspects of Creative 15 quotes, (7) aspects of Independent 3 quotes, (8) aspects of Democratic nothing, (9) aspects of Responsible 19 quotes. Related to educational values in novel *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. The aspects of educational values that is more dominant in the novel *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro, namely the aspects of Responsible with a total 19 quotes and aspects of Creativity 15 quotes.

The suggestions as follows:

1. For literary activities, they should be able to use research as a references, and can be used as a motivation for writers to create literary works that can attract readers.
2. This research can be used as input to improve literary insights regarding aspects of educational values.
3. This research can provide inspiration and reference material for other

researchers to conduct deeper and more motivated research with better results.

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