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### **A study of moral values in the novel meniti jalan impian of lathifah barkah**

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#### **Abstract**

This study aims to obtain an overview of the moral values contained in the novel. Moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral actions are three interrelated components of moral values which are the focus of this research. The research problem taken is how the moral values contained in the novel Meniti Jalan Impian by Lathifah Barkah. The method used in this study is the method of analyzing the contents of the stories contained in the novel with a research focus on moral values. The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach that is more focused on a series of words, sentences, and paragraphs. The research that has been done on the Meniti Jalan Impian novel by Lathifah Barkah contains moral values related to moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral actions. Based on research that has been done on the Novel Meniti Jalan Impian by Lathifah Barkah there are moral values related to moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral actions. The results of the

study found that there were 63 moral value data related to moral knowledge, 30 moral value data related to moral feelings, and 17 moral value data related to moral action.

### **Keywords**

Literary Works, Novels, Moral Values

### **Introduction**

Literary works are expressive results or creations of thoughts that are communicated communicatively (easy to understand) by the author. Literature is imaginative, creative and attracts readers (Maulana, 2021). The purpose of literary works is not only as an entertaining composition but also inserts religious, social and moral values (Wuryani, 2017). A literary work is a creative work that is born from the imagination of the author and is also born from the touch of thoughts and ideas from a writer as its creator (Arifin, Muh, 2019). Literary works can provide inspiration, entertainment, and a deeper understanding of life (Sopianti & Firmansyah, 2023).

Literary works are divided into three types, namely prose fiction, poetry and drama. Fiction prose is also divided into several types in various forms such as romance, novels, novelettes, and short stories (Hermawan & Shandi, 2019). Through literary works, an author is able to express his imagination with feeling so that it becomes a meaningful story (Al Falah & El, 2022).

One of the well-known and popular literary works at this time is the novel (Andriani et al., 2019). Novel is one of literary works. Novel is a work of fiction which consists of internal and external elements. The author deliberately combines these elements and makes it real with the incident so that it seems as if it really happened. (Maulana, 2021).

Novel is a literary work in the form of prose which has internal and external elements. The novel comes from the Italian "novella" which means story or fairy tale. Novels are longer and more complex than short stories and lack structural boundaries and rhyme. In a novel, the author usually guides the reader to find messages tucked in like a picture of the reality of life (Ahyar, 2019).

A novel is the result of someone's imaginative work that provides a picture of life in it and can more or less influence changes in behavior for each of its readers (Permana et al., 2019). Writing a novel is not easy, therefore it requires a strong imagination (Saragih et al., 2021). Novel literary works more or less influence behavior change, because usually readers imitate what they read (Khoerul Mar'ati, 2019). The novel as a literary work is made by the author as a medium to convey messages and ideas to readers based on their thoughts, feelings, and experiences (Nuryanti et al., 2020).

The resulting literary works contain values, one of which is moral values. Therefore, people who read should get moral values in literature (Murti & Maryani, 2017). Moral teachings in literary works are often not conveyed directly, but through things that are immoral first (Eliastuti, 2017).

In general, moral refers to the notion of good and bad that is generally accepted regarding actions, attitudes, obligations and so on. Morals in literary works usually reflect the author's view of life regarding the values of truth that he wants to convey to readers (Murti & Maryani, 2017). These values, for example, are respectful, helpful, hardworking and caring (Aytekin, 2014). Helping others, being friendly, polite and tolerant are the dominant moral values (Puspitasari et al., 2021).

Moral value is one of the values related to the deeds, actions, or words spoken by someone when interacting with society. A person is called moral if he has a good personality and is accepted by society while he is called immoral, that is, he does not follow ingrained behavior in social life (Rahmawati & Achsani, 2019).

There are two kinds of values in life, namely moral and non-moral. Moral values require us to do what we have to do. While non-moral values do not meet the requirements above. These values show more behavior related to what we want or like (Lickona, 2020).

Moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral actions are three interconnected components of moral values which are the focus of this research (Lickona, 2014).

Morality is a person's actions, behavior or speech when interacting with other people. More specifically, morality is issues related to social processes. A person without human morality cannot carry out social processes. For example, if a person performs an action in accordance with the prevailing values in that society which is acceptable and pleasing to society, then he is considered to have good behavior and vice versa. That is why moral values are very important in the soul of every person.

The decline in ethical procedures will have a major impact and influence on other communities. Therefore, this must start from oneself and awareness of the lack of morals in ethics. So that when a creator or author creates a literary work, especially fictional literature, it always gives a moral value that will be conveyed to those who will read it. Therefore this will be useful and useful (Rosyanti, 2017).

In this study there are problems resulting from an analysis or study process, namely the importance of moral values in everyday life. The research problem taken is how the moral values contained in the novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah.

The relevant research regarding moral values was conducted by Rachman et al., and published in his journal entitled "Moral Values in the Novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata as Alternative Teaching Materials in High School". Stating that moral values are divided into three categories: the relationship between humans and oneself, humans and other humans, and humans and God.

Furthermore, it was conveyed by Sulastri Siti Mularod, published in her journal in 2022 with the title "Analysis of Moral Values in the Novel *Find Me in Your Istikharah* by E. Sabila El Raihany. Stating that moral values are divided into two categories: positive and negative.

This research is interested in trying to conduct a study on a novel entitled *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah. This novel tells inspirational story of a student who has a busy life in the field of organization, so that her daily activities are very busy. He also has several fostered members and he helps them to continue their education. After repeatedly reading the contents of the novel entitled *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah, the novel contains moral lessons that we can learn from the journey of this inspiring story.

The difference between previous and current research is the source of the data. Current research uses a novel entitled *Meniti Jalan Impian* of Lathifah Barkah. Judging from the research object, namely the study of moral values, current and previous studies have similarities.

Because the writer realizes that there has been no previous research that examines the moral values in this novel which will be published in 2021, this research is interested in raising this topic with the title "A Study of Moral Values in the Novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah".

### **Research methods**

The research method is defined as a scientific way to obtain data with specific purposes and uses. For that, there are four keywords that need attention, namely the scientific method, data, purpose, and specific uses. The scientific method means that research activities are based on scientific characteristics, namely rational, empirical and systematic (Sugiyono, 2015).

The method used in this research is content analysis method. The content analysis method is used to analyze the contents of the story contained in the novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* of Lathifah Barkah with a research focus on moral values.

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach. A qualitative approach does not use statistics, but through data collection, analysis, then interpretation (Setiawan, 2018). The reason for choosing a qualitative approach is because the research is more focused on a series of words, sentences, and paragraphs about the moral values found in the novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* of Lathifah Barkah's work to obtain the final result.

The source of this research is literature review in the form of a novel. The novel used is titled *Meniti Jalan Impian*. This novel was written by Lathifah Barkah which was published by LovRinz and Friends in the first printing of 2021 in Cirebon City. This novel has a total of 234 pages with illustrations of a bird, a tree with pink flowers and brown twigs, a brown wooden bridge, a Tosca blue mosque, and a woman looking at a mosque wearing Muslim clothes and a pink headscarf.

The data obtained in this study are in the form of quotations of words, sentences, paragraphs and dialogues regarding moral values in the novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah. This data collection technique is the most important step in research, because the purpose of research is to obtain data (Creswell, 2016).

The data collection techniques include reading, marking and recording data in the form of words, sentences, and paragraphs that show moral values related to moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral actions in the novel. *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah.

The description of the coding of this research is as follows

1. H-n stands for page and -n stands for the 1st (page) description and so on.
2. P-n stands for paragraph and -n stands for description (paragraph) 1st and so on.
3. K-n stands for sentence and -n becomes the 1st adverb (sentence) and so on.

The data processing technique used in this study is a qualitative data processing technique, namely the method used to process data is narrative or text in nature and does not make calculations. As for technique The data processing used in this research includes reading, analyzing, and collecting the results of the analysis of moral values in the novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah.

Analysis guidelines in a study are needed, this is used as the main thing that forms the basis for solving problems to obtain the final results of a study. The analysis guidelines used in this research are reading, identifying and concluding the data in the novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah by providing coding (H-n, P-n, K-n) which contains moral values and conclusions related to moral values.

The quality of research results is influenced by two main things, namely the quality of research instruments, and the quality of data collection. In qualitative research, the instrument is the researcher himself.

## **Results and discussion**

Based on the research that has been done on the novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah, there are moral values related to moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral actions. The results of the research found that there are 63 data of moral values related to moral knowledge, 30 data of moral values related to moral feelings, and 17 data of moral values related to moral actions.

### **Moral Knowledge**

Moral knowledge in this study is divided into four parts, namely moral awareness, knowing moral values, perspective taking, moral reasoning, making decisions, and understanding oneself.

### **Moral Consciousness**

Moral awareness is a condition in which humans are unable to know that the circumstances they face involve moral issues and require further consideration.

"However, this time there was a different feeling that came over Noura, she felt insecure, as if someone was following behind her, she took the time to look, there was no one." (H6:P4:K1).

The quote that contains a form of moral awareness is shown by the character Noura, she thinks that someone is following her from behind, but she cannot decide whether it is true or not. This involves a moral conscience. Therefore, it is required to be able to reproduce the information in order to determine the truth.

### **Knowing moral values**

Knowing moral values is a situation where understanding a moral value means understanding its application in various circumstances.

"Maybe just reduce it, Sis, the organization is so you don't get tired. So I don't often fall asleep in class either." Hilda suggested. (H3:P1:K1-K2).

The quote that contains the form of knowing these moral values is shown by the character Hilda, who has compassion for Noura so she advises her because she often falls asleep during class hours. In this case the attitude of the character described by Hilda is able to make a moral legacy that is passed down from one generation to the next.

### **Perspective Taking**

Perspective taking is about an ability to take another person's point of view, knowing a situation from another person's point of view, describing in the mind how he thinks, reacts and feels.

"No, sis. Later, my mother will scold me again if I get close to me. I don't want you to be disappointed." (H25:P1:K4-K6).

The sentence that contains the form of taking this perspective is shown by the character Siti who thinks about how her mother will react when she finds out that Siti is close to Noura again. Thus it can think of other people's point of view.

### **Moral Reasoning**

Moral reasoning is a state in which a person knows what it means to be a moral person, why one has to be moral, and why fulfilling promises is important.

"Does that mean you're back at Secretariat? We already have a meeting scheduled for this afternoon," Gugun said. (H4:P3:K1).

This quote which contains a form of moral reasoning is shown by the character Gugun who reminds Noura to keep her promise. With this it can be concluded that moral reasoning is understanding the meaning of being a moral person and why fulfilling promises is important.

### **Make decision**

Making a decision is a situation where a person is able to think about what steps he can take and what the consequences will be.

"For Noura, who is used to going home from meetings after sunset, walking down the road to her boarding house, which is quite quiet, isn't something that scares her anymore." (H6:P3:K1).

The quote that contains the form of making a decision is shown by the character Noura, who is used to meetings and comes home late at night. So walking down a fairly quiet road is not a problem. With this it can be concluded that making decisions is able to think about the steps to be taken and the possible consequences that must be faced.

### **Understanding Yourself**

Understanding yourself is about understanding your own strengths and weaknesses and knowing how to correct those weaknesses.

"Yeah.. Noura just doesn't like it, Pa. There's a lot of data like that, numbers, and you have to be good at accounting lessons, financial economics and the like. Besides that, the work is monotonous, you really have to be prepared to deal with numbers, and lots of people's money. Even if you become a marketing force, there must be business with finances like that, Pa. Noura doesn't like it, Pa.." Noura replied (H38:P3:K1:K5).

This quote contains a form of self-understanding shown by the character Noura by knowing her own weakness, namely not liking accounting lessons because a lot of data is in the form of numbers. In this way, you are able to know your own weaknesses.

### **Moral Feelings**

Moral feelings in this study are divided into six parts, namely: conscience, self-esteem (*self esteem*), empathy, loving kindness, self-control, and humility.

#### **Conscience**

Conscience has two sides, namely the emotional side and the cognitive side. In discussing this research, the authors describe data regarding conscience as follows:

"Well, I mean Mbak, you're real, take care of yourself, don't go out at night again. After all, based on the demands of Islamic Sharia, as a woman it is best not to be outside at night, and the best place for women is inside the house." (H11:P2:K1-K2).

The quote that contains moral feelings in the form of conscience is shown by the character Mbak Anis, who reminds Noura not to go out at night. Thus the character Mbak Anis has an emotional side, which makes us feel obligated to do the right thing.

#### **Self Appreciation (self-esteem)**

Self-esteem (*self-esteem*) that is if we have healthy self-esteem, of course we will respect and respect ourselves.

"Especially when teaching, meeting teenagers who may lack parental love, have a lot of upheavals, need friends to pour out their hearts, and then Noura can

be present and provide a little way out, is a very happy thing." (H14:P2:K3)

Quote sentences that contain a form of self-esteem(*self-esteem*) this is shown by the character Noura who respects herself for being able to be present and provide a little way out, is such a happy thing.

### **Empathy**

Empathy is about an ability to recognize or feel the situation experienced by another person.

"Hopefully in the future there will be many other Siti-Siti that he can help, how can they stay in school without thinking about costs, when their parents are all limited, but going to school and studying as high as possible won't be a problem. Maybe he needs to create a free school? But how? Doesn't that cost a lot of money?" (H14:P2:K5-K6).

This quote that contains a form of empathy is shown by the character Noura, she really wants to help children to be able to go to school without thinking about the cost of education. Therefore Noura's attitude is very empathetic towards children by caring about an education without having to think about costs.

### **Loving Kindness**

Loving goodness is a condition where people who love kindness feel happy when they do good.

"He tried sincerely to help Siti, he even intended to interview Siti's mother, the results of which would be used as scholarship data for Siti." (H20:P4:K11).

The quote that contains the form of loving kindness is shown by the character Noura who loves kindness by trying to sincerely want to help Siti. Thus, people who love goodness, they will be happy to do good.

### **Self control**

Self-control is about emotions that can overwhelm the mind. That is why self-control is such an important moral quality.

"Yes, ma'am.. Sorry beforehand. I just want to help Siti, Mom, become Siti's close friend, not try to take Siti away from Mother, really...," Noura tried to defend herself. (H20:P3:K1-K3)

The quote of the sentence which contains a form of self-control is shown by the character Noura who tries to restrain herself from going against Mrs. Siti's words.

### **Modesty**

Humility is a condition in which we must overcome pride.

"Assalamu'alaikum, ma'am. Meet me, Noura. I am taking Siti here because Siti was hit by a car earlier and has just been sorted by Mbak Murni, a close neighbor," explained Noura. (H19:P4:K1-K2).



This quote of a sentence that contains a form of humility is shown by the character Noura who is humble towards Mrs. Siti because she has helped Siti and does not ask for anything in return. Thus humility is an essential part of good character. Humility also helps us overcome pride.

### **3.Moral Action**

Moral action in this study is divided into three parts, namely: competence, will, and habits.

#### **Competence**

Competence is the ability to change judgments and feelings as an effective moral act, and to help someone who is facing difficulties.

"Yes Miss. I'm already ah, I don't dare to have meetings at night anymore. I optimize activities on campus in the afternoon. (H11:P3:K1-K4).

This quote contains a moral action with a form of competence shown by the character Noura who decides not to attend meetings anymore and optimizes activities on campus until the afternoon. With this it can be concluded that moral competence is the ability to change judgments into effective moral actions.

#### **Desire**

The will is needed to maintain that emotions can be controlled by the mind. The will is also required to prioritize duty over pleasure.

"Yes, it's easy to just have a lot of sunnah sunnah, if you don't have enough pocket money for your daily needs." (H18:P7:K1).

The quote that contains a form of will is shown by the character Noura who is willing to sacrifice her pocket money to help treat Siti's leg. With this it can be concluded that the will is needed to prioritize obligations, not pleasure.

#### **Habit**

Habits are factors that shape moral behavior, such as helping others, being honest, being polite and fair.

"Yeah, sorry guys, I overslept." While clasping hands and making greetings on the chest, Noura immediately sounded apologetic. (H6:P1:K1-K2).

Excerpts of sentences that contain forms of this habit are shown by the character Noura who has good manners and is responsible for the mistakes she makes. With this it can be concluded that habit is a factor forming moral behavior.

#### **Conclusion**

Morality is one of the actions, behaviors, or speech that a person does with other people. The moral value of a literary work (novel) is conveyed through stories. Because a novel has a message or lesson to be learned by readers from the story.

The results of the research that has been carried out on the Study of Moral Values in the Novel *Meniti Jalan Impian* by Lathifah Barkah, there are three components of moral values related to moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral actions which are the focus of this research. The results of the study found that there were 63 data on moral values related to

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