
Values of Life in Mitch Albom's "Tuesday With Morrie"

Gusti Ayu Made Rai Suarniti

Faculty of Letters, Universitas Warmadewa, Denpasar, Bali-Indonesia

raisuarniti78@g-mail.com

Received: 16/05/2019

Revised: 07/10/2019

Published: 15/10/2019

How to cite (in APA style):

Suarniti, G, A, M, R. (2019). Values of Life in Mitch Albom's "Tuesday With Morrie". *RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*, 5(2), 91-96. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22225/jr.5.2.1096.91-96>

Abstract - The title of this research is Values of Life in Mitch Albom's Tuesday With Morrie. This research focuses on analyzing the types of values which are found in novel Tuesday With Morrie. This study aims to analyze the types of value of live on the novel Tuesday With Morrie and describe its implementation in human's life. There are four methods of research used in this paper, they are: finding data resource, collecting and clasifying the data, analyzing the data, and the last is presenting the result of the analysis. All of the data used in the research are taken from Albom's Tuesday With Morrie. The result of the analysis showed that in general there are two kinds of value found, they are entertainment value and educational value. Based on the educational value, there are three values found, such as society and civilizations value, moral – ethic – religion value, and practical value. The result of the study also showed that all of the all data can be implemented in daily human's life.

Keywords: Educationa; entertainment; value

I. INTRODUCTION

Literature is the art of written work. It is derived from the latin word "littera" which means by "Arts and Letters". As a written work of human, literature has to be reviewed on two points of view. They are language value and the content. A well organized written work without any values will be meaningless. In opposite way, a good valued written work with bad organized written work will be difficult to understand by the readers. This kind of written work cannot be said as a literature.

In general, literature creates two major values (Karmini, 2011). They are entertainment value and educational value. Literature has entertainment value because a good literature can entertain or give emotional contact toward reader or audience (happy, sad, love, hatred, curiosity, etc). Meanwhile, it has educational value because literature can give value which can be found implicitly. After reading the literary work, educational value can be derived

into three. They are, cultural value that are contained a deep relation between society and civilizations; moral – ethic – religion values; and practical value that can be done in everday's life.

As a prose fiction, novel is now applied a great variety of writings that have in common only attribute of being extended works of fictions written in prose. As an extended narrative, the novel distinguished from the short story and from the work of middle length called the novelette. It's magnitude permits a great variety of characters, greater complication of plot (plots), the development of millieu, and more sustained exploration of character and motives than do the shother, and more concentrate model (Abrams, 2009). Those elements are considered belong to intrinsic elements.

According to (Kenney, 1966), the intrinsic elements of novel can be divided into: character, plot, setting, point of view, style, and theme. So, it can be stated that intrinsic

elements of novel play important roles in creating values. Intrinsic elements should be related with the values that found in a novel. In the novel, Tuesday With Morrie, aforementioned has several elements of intrinsic (Kenney, 1966) such as character, plot, setting, point of view, style, and theme that must be studied.

In previous research, (Nurlinda, Martono, & Wartiningsih, 2013) found that the values in DEE's Particle novel consisted of educational, religious, social, individual values. The results they found are in line with this results, because it is only natural for each novel to display an educative moral behavior for its readers. Another research was conducted by (Emi, 2017) found the identified moral values include the moral values of the types of human relations with oneself, human relations with humans, human relations with society, human relations with nature, and human relations with God. All forms of value from the five types of moral values are contained in the novel. indirectly the both of research above have the same meaning but differ in terms of translation. Based on background and previous research above, this research is analyze the types of value of live on the novel Tuesday With Morrie and describe its implementation in human's life.

II. METHOD

The four systemically method used in this research are finding data resource, collecting data and classifying, analyzing data, and presenting the result of analysis. The source of data used is library research conducted by reading and skimming the novel Tuesday With Morrie then noticing, collecting, classifying, analyzing, and presenting the data consisted with value of life appears in the novel. Tuesday With Morrie is a first novel written by Mitch Albom. The novel narrates the story of a middle – ages person named Mitch Albom "the book narrator" who is reunited again with his lovely old-professor, Morrie Schwartz. Descriptive method was used in analysing the data based on theoritical basis. The first analysis were done on the type of values of life found in the novel Tuesday With Morrie. Then, the second analysis were focused on how the values in Albom's Tuesday With Morrie are implemented in human's life. The theories of literature are proposed by (Wellek & Warren, 1956) about character and characterization then supported by (Reaske, 1970) about dramatic structure, (Dubey, 2013)

about social literature and (Albrecht, 1954) about literature and society. Meanwhile, the theories of value are proposed by (Ahlava, 2012) about value in literature then supported by (Rachel, 2003) about moral value, (Aguas, 2013) about Ethic and moral value and (Graham, 2005) about spiritual value.

III.RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Value of Life in Tuesdays With Morrie

Entertainment Values

Entertainment values can be created if there areemphathy and symphaty. These elements will create an emotional bond between the author and the reader of novel. These emotional bonds can be expressed by laugh, anger, sad, gloomy feeling, and uncertain feeling. When these emotional bonds are created, reading a novel will be a entertaining activity to do. The entertainment value of the Novel Tuesday with Morrie will be revealed by the datas that are found as follows:

"The last class of my old professor's life took place once a week in a house, by a window in his house, by a window in the study where he could watch a small hibiscus plant shed its pink leaves" (Albom, 1997).

This data revealed how entertainment was being conveyed by the author. It can be seen between the phrase "the last class of my old professor"and clause "a small hibiscus plant shed its pink leaves". The author tried to convey this value by using related elements. From the phrase "the last class of my old professor" it can be concluded that the professor will meet his final fate "death" as what does happen to the hibiscus plant. The beauty of pink leaves of plant shed, soon or late will be dissapeared. However, the shed of pink leaves will create new fress leaves for the hibiscus plant. As human does, human will meet his final fate after all, that is "death". however his idea and thought that he left behind will be forever remembered.

"A funeral was held in lieu of graduation" (Albom, 1997).

Different with the data 1, the author tries to convey his entertainment value by using a contradictive elements. It can be seen from the words "Funeral" and "Graduation". What people thinking about funeral is the end of human story because of the incapable and desperation of human to avoid his last faith "death" which full of sadness and gloomy feeling for whom he has left behind.On the

other hand, graduation indicated the end of a particular education or a celebration for what he has learned so far.

Educational Value

Educational value can be divided into three categories, they are society and civilizations values; ethic – moral – religion value; and practical value. Every value that found in novel Tuesday With Morrie is presented and discussed in this sub chapter. Each of the value that are found is described as follows.

Society and Civilizations Values

Literature as the reflection of society is generated from the social and civilization phenomena. In life, as a living thing, human always face the circle of life. They are birth, youth, aging, sickness, and death. Society react differently to every part of this circumstances. People will be happy when there is a birth that gave by a mother. People will celebrate this in their own way. This reaction also happen when in youth time. Society will be happy to know that someone they love has been raised for sake of society. However, the reaction of society when someone they know facing their aging, sickness and death will be different.

Society will feel unhappy to see someone they know or love are dying. It is because society are hardly to accept the concept of losing someone they know or love. This culture has been existed far away before the civilizations. It is part of human instinct. People fear of losing someone because society need him/her for both material and spritual supports. In conclusion, the presence of others make people good about themselves and the absence of others make people bad about themselves. Society and Civilization values also found in this novel. The values found are described in data and analysed as follows:

"And you have to be strong enough to say if the culture doesn't work, don't buy it" (Albom, 1997).

This quotation was said by Morrie when he was visited by Mitch. What Morrie wants to emphasize here is the culture that has been raised by the society does not make people good for themselves. Morrie wanted Mitch feeling happy about Morrie's dying instead of feeling unhappy. Morrie said to Mitch to be "strong enough" because to deny culture that has been raised by the society is not an easy task.

"Life is a series of pull back and forth"...

Love wins. Love always win" (Albom, 1997)

It is said by Morrie when Mitch complaining about his life and age. Mitch complaining about what is expected of him versus what he want for himself. What meant by this quotation is in life, we will face a time when we are high above and also down below. This refers to the succesful and failures that person might experience in their life.

Moral – Ethic and Religion Value

Literature offers Moral, Ethic and Religion value. Those there element are close related each other. Morality is, at the very least, the effort to guide one's conduct by reason, to do what there are the best reason for doing while giving equal weight to the interest of each individual who will be affected by what one does. How we achieve this effort by using Ethic that rule in society. Religion has a related to Moral and Ethic because every single person believe in his own faith to determine whether the good act or the bad act. In novel Tuesday with Morrie, Moral – Ethic – Religion value are also found as follows:

"Let it come in, We think we don't deserve love, we think if we let in we'll become too soft. But a wise man named Levine said it right. Hesaid, 'Love is the only rational act.'"(Albom, 1997).

This is a conversation on first Tuesday between Morrie and Mitch. This quote is said by Morrie to Mitch according to what Morrie had learnt most from his disease. Through his difficult time, only love that make Morrie survive and be freed eventhough his movement is limited by his disease and his torment become real day by day. Morrie believe that the love is the only rational act.

Practical Value

In life, there is so many value that we can use as our principal in action. Becoming aware of your values gives your life a sharper focus and better clarity. Your most important values serve as a filter through which you make the choices that define who you are. If you are unhappy with certain areas of your life, look at your values to see if they are aligned with your actions. We can also learn everyday's life value from literature. Literature gives not only value to society or community but also to ourself. In novel Tuesday, there are some practical value found. The values found is listed and analyse as follows.

Commitment

Commitment shows loyalty and it can

show bravery and tenacity as well. A commitment is a promise made and an expectation we have created. Honoring our commitments can make the difference between achieving what's most important to us or feeling disappointed and defeated. In the novel Tuesday with Morrie, this value is shown by the Mitch attitude toward his beloved professor, Morrie. Eventhough they have been separated for years, Mitch always shows his respect to his professor Morrie by taking care of Morrie and listened to Morrie in every Tuesday they met. The value of Commitment is also shown by Morrie's attitude to Mitch. As a representation of teacher, Morrie keeps his commitment to spread his influence to his student until his last moment in earth. In conclusion, the value of commitment can be seen from the relation among student and teacher which can be used in everyday lifes. The loyalty of Mictth to Morrie can also be shown on the following quotation.

Micth got morrie something micth announced, holding up a brown paper bag. Micth has stopped on his way from the Airport at nearby supermarket and purchased some turkey,potato salad, macaroni salad,and bagels. Micth knew there was plenty of food at the house. But I wanted to contribute something. Micth was powerless to help otherwise. And I remembered his fondness for eating. "Ah, so much food" he sang "Well. Now have to eat it with me" (Albom, 1997).

The quotation above shows a commitment. In other words, it can be stated that Micth has a ccommitment with Morrie. It clearly can be seen from the words "Ah, so much food" he sang "Well. Now have to eat it with me".

Compassion

We are all part of this thing called the human condition. No doubt we have different skin color, religious preference and political view, but at the end we still need to take care of each other.As Morrie says in the novel below.

"But it's hard to explain, Mitch. Now that I'm suffering, I feel closer to people who suffer than I ever did before. The other night on the TV, I saw people in Bosnia, getting fired upon, killed, innocent victim and I just started to cry" (Albom, 1997).

The above quotation shows that this is the first Tuesday discussion between Morrie and Mitch together. Here, Morrie expressed his feeling to someone that he doesn't even know. He was grieving for stranger. This attitude

makes Mitch confused, he was wondering why Morrie taking care of people he doesn't even know.

Devotion

In Tuesday with Morrie, the devotion value can be shown from the Eighth Tuesday of Morrie and Mitch. In this conversation Morrie and Mitch are were talking about satisfaction. The true satisfaction can not be gotten by either what we want or what we need. The real satisfaction can be gotten by showing devotion to others. In the novel both Mitch and Morrie got their real satisfaction. Despite of all limitation of his disease, Morrie keeps showing his devotion to other by give his precious time to share his knowledge and experience to world and to his student. The devotion becomes essential part of education. The devotion can be shown on the following quotation.

"The truth is, you don't get satisfaction from those things. You know what really gives you satisfaction?

What?

"Offering others what you have to give"

You sound like a Boy Scout

"I don't mean money, Micth. I mean yourteam. Your concern. Your storytelling" (Albom, 1997).

The quotation above shows a devotion.It clearly can be seen from the words,Offering others what you have to give. In other words, Morrie's preach above can be stated asdevotion.

Gratitude

Gratidude is the proper, fitting or called for response to benefits or beneficence from a benefactoe. It is with a grateful heart that helps us too see so much abudance in our life. This value reminds us that what we have today can be taken away tomorrowIn novel Tuesday with Morrie , the value of gratitude can be found in Morrie's attitude toward his disease. however, Morrie doesn't embarashing with his disease. In fact Morrie felt gratitude about his disease. He saw his disease , unfortone as a gift from God. He said in his quote on second Tuesday with Morrie that he was lucky.

"It's horrible to watch my body slowly wilt away to nothing. But it's also wonderful because of all the time I get to say good - bye".

He smiled. "Not everyone is so lucky" (Albom, 1997).

In conclusion, Morrie feels gratitude

even in his hard time. Morrie always shows his gratitude to God. It clearly can be seen from the words. Not everyone is so lucky."

The implementation of values Found in Albom's Tuesday With Morrie in human's life

The reality of society's life is frequently shown in literature. As a human products, literature presence as the reflexion of human being. The value found in Tuesday With Morrie considered can be implemented in human's life.

Mitch Albom was Morrie's former student at Brandeis University. Mitch was a man with a good heart to his former professor. When Morrie was suffered from ALS, a debilitating and incurable disease that damaged his body, yet cruelly, made him intellectually clear. Every week he traveled to visit Morrie. He showed his commitment in loyalty compassion and devotion to his favorite professor. So does Morrie Schwartz, Mitch's favorite professor. Although Morrie suffered with his diseases. He kept his strength and continued to teach Mitch, about "The Meaning of Life," and how to accept death and aging from his experiences. The description shows a good relationship between Morrie and Mitch, a professor and a student. Their relationship can be considered has a good and positive value that can be directly implemented in daily human life. Here, Mitch, as a student cares and very much respect to his teacher, Morrie. So, the story in the novel of Tuesday with Morrie can be stated as a reflection of a real human life.

In addition, the description above also shows Morrie's spirit commitment. Although he was suffered from ALS disease, but he kept his passion to teach Mitch. This fact also shows that somebody should keep his commitment to the others in any condition. The readers of the novel Tuesday with Morrie can learn how important to keep a commitment..

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the analyses, there are two general values found in the novel. They are entertainment value and educational value. The entertainment value is considered as a value that could entertain or give emotional contact toward reader or audience such as happy, sad, love, hatred, curiosity, and etc. Entertainment values can be created if there are empathy and sympathy. These elements will create an emotional bond between the author

and the reader of novel. Meanwhile, educational value means facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. The educational value found in the novel could be divided into three values. Those are society and civilization value, moral – ethic – religion value, and practical value. The society and civilization value is reflected about the situation of the society where the main character live. The moral – ethic – religion value means the behavior of the characters, particularly about good and bad, right and wrong. In addition, the practical value is meant by practical is relating to experience, real situation, or actions rather than ideas and imagination. The values found in Albom's Tuesday With Morrie could be implemented in the real human's life. Although Morrie suffered with his diseases he kept his strength and continued to teach Mitch, about "The Meaning of Life," and how to accept death and aging from his experiences. The good relationship between Morrie and Mitch can be considered has a good and positive value that can be directly implemented in daily human life. Here, Mitch, as a student cares and very much respect to his teacher, Morrie.

REFERENCES

- Abrams, M. H. (2009). *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Aguas, J. J. S. (2013). Ethics and Moral Philosophy of Karol Wojtyla. *Kritike*, 7(1), 115–137. Retrieved from http://www.kritike.org/journal/issue_12/aguas_june2013.pdf
- Ahlava, L. (2012). Poetics Of Paucity, Or, Rhetorics Of Replenishment Georges Perec's La Disparition. In *Values in Literature and the Value of Literature conference*. Retrieved from <https://blogs.helsinki.fi/values-in-literature/files/2012/05/Abstraktit-blogiin-valiivalla31.pdf>
- Albom, M. (1997). *Tuesday with Morrie*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Albrecht, M. C. (1954). The Relationship of Literature and Society. *American Journal of Sociology*, 59(5), 425–436. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1086/221388>
- Dubey, A. (2013). Literature and Society. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science*, 9 (6), 84–85. Retrieved from <http://iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol9-issue6/O0968485.pdf?id=6191>
- Emi. (2017). Nilai Moral Dan Nilai Budaya Dalam Novel Kelopak Cinta Kelabu Karya Suhairi Rachmad Dan Implikasinya Dalam

Pembelajaran Apresiasi Sastra Di SMP. *Jurnal Perbahsi*, 7(1). Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.31851/pembahsi.v7i1.1285>

Graham, G. (2005). *Philosophy of The Art*. New York: Routledge.

Karmini, N. N. (2011). *Teori Pengkajian Prosa Fiksi dan Drama*. Denpasar: Pustaka Larasan.

Kenney, W. (1966). *How to Analyze Fiction*. New York: Monarch Press.

Nurlinda, Martono, H., & Wartiningsih, A. (2013). Nilai-Nilai Dalam Novel Partikel Karya Dewi Lestari (DEE). *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Pembelajaran Khatulistiwa*, 2(2), 1-17. Retrieved from <https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/215090-nilai-nilai-dalam-novel-partikel-karya-d.pdf>

Rachel, J. (2003). *Element of Moral Philosophy*. New York: Mc-Grawhill.

Reaske, C. R. (1970). *The College Writer's Guide to The Study of Literature*. Canada: Random House.

Wellek, R., & Warren, A. (1956). *Theory of Literature*. New York: A Harvest Book.