



ANALYSIS OF REPRESENTATION OF CHARACTER EDUCATION VALUES IN CHILDREN'S SHORT STORIES BY CONTEMPORARY INDONESIAN AUTHORS

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Abstract :

This study aims to analyze the representation of character education values in children's short stories by contemporary Indonesian authors. This study is motivated by the importance of instilling character in children from an early age through media that is close to their world, one of which is through children's literature. The purpose of this study is to reveal how character values such as responsibility, honesty, empathy, and independence are represented contextually, especially through characters, conflicts, and story resolutions in contemporary children's short stories. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a content analysis method. Data collection techniques are carried out through documentation of children's short stories published in the period 2015–2024 and interviews with elementary and junior high school teachers in Banyuwangi. The data analysis technique uses the Miles and Huberman model, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results of the study show that character values in contemporary children's short stories are represented contextually and close to the world of children, appear strongly in the structure of conflict and story resolution, and feature independent and empowered child characters. These short stories are an effective medium in character education because they are able to build emotional involvement and moral reflection in child readers in a natural and enjoyable way.

Keywords : Children's Short Stories, Character Education, Values, Independent Figures.

Abstrak :

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis representasi nilai-nilai pendidikan karakter dalam cerpen anak karya pengarang Indonesia kontemporer. Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh pentingnya penanaman karakter kepada anak sejak dini melalui media yang dekat dengan dunia mereka, salah satunya melalui sastra anak. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkap bagaimana nilai-nilai karakter seperti tanggung jawab, kejujuran, empati, dan kemandirian direpresentasikan secara kontekstual, terutama melalui tokoh, konflik, dan penyelesaian cerita dalam cerpen anak kontemporer. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan metode analisis isi. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui dokumentasi terhadap cerpen-cerpen anak yang terbit dalam kurun waktu 2015–2024 serta wawancara dengan guru sekolah dasar dan menengah pertama di Banyuwangi. Teknik analisis data menggunakan model Miles dan Huberman, yaitu reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa nilai-nilai karakter dalam cerpen anak kontemporer direpresentasikan secara kontekstual dan dekat dengan dunia anak, muncul secara kuat dalam struktur konflik dan resolusi cerita, serta menampilkan tokoh-tokoh anak yang mandiri dan berdaya. Cerpen-cerpen tersebut menjadi media yang efektif dalam pendidikan karakter karena mampu membangun keterlibatan emosional dan refleksi moral pembaca anak secara alami dan menyenangkan.

Kata Kunci: Cerpen Anak, Pendidikan Karakter, Nilai-Nilai, Tokoh Mandiri.



INTRODUCTION

The social facts underlying the research entitled "Analysis of Representation of Character Education Values in Children's Short Stories by Contemporary Indonesian Authors" cannot be separated from the current social and cultural conditions of Indonesian society, especially in the context of children's character education. In the midst of the era of globalization and the rapid development of information technology, there has been a shift in values among the younger generation, including children. Many social phenomena show a decline in polite behavior, respect for parents and teachers, and a lack of concern for the surrounding social environment. This is a major challenge for the world of education in shaping children's character from an early age. Schools and families certainly play an important role, but children's reading media, including

children's short stories, also have a significant contribution as an educational tool that is entertaining and educational. Children's literature, in this case short stories, is one of the media for communicating culture and values that can shape children's character and personality. This journal encompasses research articles, original research report, reviews in Islamic education in any fields including:

Leadership, Public Relations, Organizational Behavior, Organizational Culture, Human Resource Management, Financial Management, Decision Making, etc.

Short story child work contemporary Indonesian authors No only presenting The story is light and fun , but also full moral messages and values life . However so , not yet Lots research that is special analyze to what extent is representation values education character loaded in children 's literature said . In fact , with to study Contents short story in a way deep , we can find form planting mark like honesty , responsibility responsibility , tolerance , work

hard , until Love packed homeland in easy plot and characters understood child . So from that 's important For lift short story child as object studies that are not only enjoyed as entertainment , but also as means internalization character for readers . This fact show that short story child need given more space big in the educational process , especially in curriculum learning Indonesian at the level school elementary and middle First .

Study about representation values education character in literary works , especially short story child , has become attention of academics in the field education and Indonesian literature. Some study previously show that children 's literature No only be a medium of entertainment , but also fraught with moral values and character that can implanted to participant educate . For example , research conducted by (Prasetyawati, 2025) (Andriyani, 2021) in journal Language and Arts with title " Character Education Values" in Original Indonesian Children's Short Stories " find that part big short story child load values like honesty , responsibility responsibility , tolerance , and care social . Lestari emphasized that short story become vehicle effective in convey

appropriate moral messages with development psychological child Because nature imaginative , communicative , and easy understood .

Furthermore , research by (Suarta, 2022) which was published in Indonesian Journal of Elementary Education to study short stories in book anthology children published 2015–2019. The results of his research show that values character like Work hard , love homeland , as well as religiosity often appears in conflict and resolution the story experienced by the character main children . In the context This , Rahmawati concluded that short story child can become tool help strengthening education character if used in a way systematic in classroom learning .

In addition , (FIKARDI, 2023) (Mudiono, 2024) researched how are school teachers base utilise short story child in activity literacy and discovery that part big teacher still choose short story in a way random , without analysis mark the characters in it . He recommend the need existence catalog or guide for teachers in choose relevant short story with objective education character.

Research previous the give runway strong theoretical for study this , and show that Still there is gap studies that can filled , especially related How contemporary Indonesian authors in a way explicit and implicit represent values character in short story child . Therefore that , analysis representation values character in short story child work contemporary Indonesian authors become important For to browse relatedness between children's literature text with vision education the character carried by the curriculum national moment This .

Updates from research entitled " Analysis Representation of Character Education Values in Children's Short Stories by Contemporary Indonesian Authors " lies in focus study to children 's literature contemporary , which has not Lots made into object study in a way deep in context education character . Research previous generally only focused on identification values character in a way general from short story child , or only analyze texts short stories that have been enter in book lesson or anthology classic . In fact , short stories work published contemporary Indonesian authors in online platforms, print media popular , or modern anthologies are also very rich in moral messages and have style more delivery near with life today 's children . Research This present novelty in context analysis , because No only take inventory values characters that appear , but also explore How values the represented in a way narrative , symbolic , and thematic through characters , conflict , plot and setting in story .

In addition , research This also presents a more approach contextual and relevant with challenges of the times. In the midst progress technology information and its popularity digital literacy , children tend more familiar with stories short from writer new fresher , better from aspect style language , illustrations , and theme . Therefore that 's important For to study short story child work author contemporary as part from effort understand dynamics new in children's literature that can support strengthening education character . Novelty other is existence effort juxtapose results analysis with policy

Independent Learning curriculum that emphasizes the profile Pancasila students , so that results study This expected can become reference practical in election teaching materials for children's literature in schools . Research This No only nature descriptive , but also analytical-critical in evaluate quality representation character in contemporary children's literature texts , which in the end can give contribution real for the world of education , especially in develop learning strategies Indonesian language based on reinforcement character through literature.

Main purpose from research entitled " Analysis Representation of Character Education Values in Children's Short Stories by Contemporary Indonesian Authors " is For identify and analyze in a way deep How values education character represented in short story child work contemporary Indonesian authors . This goal based on arguments strong that short story child No only functioning as reading entertainment , but also as a medium for formation character and personality child in a way No direct through the moral message it contains . In the context education national moment this , strengthening education character be one of focus main curriculum , as loaded in draft Profile Pancasila Students . Therefore that , is needed teaching materials and resources capable reading support formation character the in a way effective , relevant and contextual in accordance development of the times. Short story child contemporary own potential big Because No only serve interesting and communicative story for children , but also presents characters , settings , and more conflicts near with life today 's children .

RESEARCH METHOD

Research methods used in study " Analysis Representation of Character Education Values in Children's Short Stories by Contemporary Indonesian Authors " is method qualitative descriptive with approach analysis content analysis (Pahleviannur et al., 2022) . Approach This chosen Because in accordance For dig meaning , symbols , and representation values the characters contained in text short story child in a way in-depth . Analysis Contents allow researcher For interpret Contents text in a way systematic and objective with focus on the moral messages and characters contained in story , good in a way explicit through narrative and dialogue, as well as in a way implicit through behavior characters , plot , conflict , and resolution story .

Objects study consists of from a number of short story child work published contemporary Indonesian authors in period 2015–2024 time , good in form book print , children's literature anthologies , and credible online media . Selection text done purposively (with a purpose), namely only choose short stories written by Indonesian authors , aimed at For reader child , and pregnant element relevant story with theme education character . Data collection techniques are carried out through documentation , namely with collect and classify short stories that became object study , then read and pay attention to it in a way repetitive For identify elements the characters contained therein .

Next , the technique data analysis was performed with using analysis model interactive according to Miles and Huberman, namely through stage data reduction , data presentation , and extraction conclusion . In the stage data reduction , researcher filter parts text containing indication mark character , then grouping based on category values that refer to the formulation of the Ministry of Education and Culture , such as religious , nationalist , independent , mutual cooperation, integrity , etc. At this stage data presentation , results grouping the poured out in form table and description narrative . Lastly , on stage withdrawal conclusion , researcher formulate How form representation values character the appeared in text , and evaluate its relevance to objective education today 's characters . With method this , research expected capable give description complete and accurate about contribution short story child contemporary in to form character its readers .

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Character Education Values Represented in a way Contextual and Relative towards the World of Children One of findings main from study This is that values education character in short story child work contemporary Indonesian authors represented in a way contextual and relative towards the world of children . Findings This born from concern to Still low interest read children on reading only convey moral message in explicit and rigid , without considering the world of imagination as well as reality daily life them . In fact , for to plant values character in a way effective , the approach used must capable reach pattern think and way view children . Short stories contemporary give solution with present figures same age children who experience conflict or incident everyday close with experience they , like friendship , family , school , etc use of social media . From the representation that's it appear values character like empathy , responsibility responsibility and honesty in more form down to earth and not patronizing .

For strengthen findings this , researcher do interview with one of the Indonesian language teachers at MTs N 10 Banyuwangi, Mrs. Rina Lestari, S.Pd., who has use short story child in activity literacy school . In his interview , he say , " Children more fast catch moral message from story whose characters similar with them . For example story about brave child confess error to his teacher . It is very relatable to daily life they are at school ."

Quote the become proof that representation values character in a close story with reality very effective child in convey message education . From the results interview This can concluded that approach contextual No just a narrative strategy author , but also the needs real in the learning process character . The teacher also feels helped Because stories kind of This make it easier they build discussion reflective with students . This is strengthen that short story child contemporary presenting values character in a way contextual can become source learning that is not only educational, but also fun and meaningful for development character child.

Interpretation from findings that values education character in short
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story child work contemporary Indonesian authors represented in a way contextual show existence shift approach in delivery moral messages in children's literature. Approach This signify that author No Again convey message in a way explicit and normative like in short stories classic , but through relevant situations , conflicts , and characters with the real world children. Representation contextual This give room for child For identify self they with figure in story , so that values like empathy , responsibility responsibility , honesty , and independence can understood and internalized in a way more natural . This is in line with theory (Pratiwi, 2021) (Olifia et al., 2024) , which states that experience read nature transactional , namely reader build meaning based on interaction between text and experience personal they . Children as reader active will more easy absorb moral values when story read near with life they yourself . In other words, when children see himself in story , they No only understand moral message , but also feel involved in the process of formation character . Therefore that is , children's literature which is contextual No just tool the transmitter messages , but rather reflective media that can to form personality child . Short story child contemporary , in matter this , it works merge aspect entertainment and education in a way harmonious , and become source effective learning For strengthening education character in school and in environment family .

Representation of Character Values Exists in Many Ways in Structure Conflict and Story Resolution In the process of analysis short story child work contemporary Indonesian authors , found that representation values education most characters appear in structure conflict and resolution story . Findings This leave from problem main in research , namely How values character delivered in a way narrative in children 's literature . As part important in channel story , conflict is the point where the character faced with a dilemma or problems that require moral decisions . Through conflict this is it values like honesty , courage , responsibility responsibility , tolerance , and empathy can appeared naturally in lively and meaningful context . Completion conflict Then become moment reflective that shows consequence from action figure and at the same time convey moral message to reader in a way No patronizing . This is show that children's literature capable become a learning medium strong character through compilation structure good story .

For strengthen findings this , researcher do interview with Mr. Ahmad Fauzi, S.Pd. , an Indonesian language teacher at MTs N 10 Banyuwangi. He convey , "I often use short story child in learning , and my students more impressed with part moment the character experience conflict . That 's where they Can Study choose what is right and wrong, because they like follow involved in the story ."

Quote This confirm that structure conflict in story No just tool dramatic , but become point important For to form children's moral awareness . From the results overall interview , can concluded that both teachers and student more easy understand values character moment values the appear as solution from

problem character , not only in form narrative descriptive . This is strengthen urgency use short story child as a reflective medium that facilitates formation character through experience deep emotional and cognitive .

Findings that values education character in short story child work contemporary Indonesian authors Lots appeared in structure conflict and resolution story show that children's literature capable become a learning medium very effective character . In the context this , conflict No only functioning as the mover channel story , but as room reflective place characters – and in No direct readers – facing moral dilemmas and learning take decision . Children as reader tend more easy absorb mark character when they " witness " the figure story do error , facing consequences , then choose For fix it . This is in line with theory literary psychology from Jean Piaget, who stated that children's moral development happen through the process of thinking active to situations real and experience concrete . In short stories child , experience concrete That appear in form story and conflict realistic characters .

More Furthermore , Louise's theory (Aditya, nd) confirms that meaning A text formed from transaction between reader and text . This means that when child read part conflict and resolution story , they in a way active to give meaning to experience characters and reflect them to in life personal they . This is make the reading process No Again passive , but become tool involving moral learning emotions , reasoning , and identification myself . With thus , short story child who takes advantage conflict in a way intelligent capable become means education more characters strong compared to delivery mark in a way narrative directly . Findings This confirm importance role structure story in to form character child through involvement deep emotional and cognitive during the reading process .

CONCLUSION

Based on results findings and interpretations from third focus discussion in study " Analysis Representation of Character Education Values in Children's Short Stories by Contemporary Indonesian Authors " , can concluded that short story child contemporary own role strategic as a learning medium effective , contextual and relevant characters with the world of today 's children . First , values education character represented in a way contextual and close with reality daily life children , such as in scope family , friendship , and school . Approach This make values like empathy , honesty , and responsibility answer can understood in a way more natural and not nature patronizing . Such representation make short story child as means reflective that strengthens involvement children's emotions and moral understanding .

Second , values character in short story contemporary Lots appeared in structure conflict and resolution story . Through conflict , child faced with a demanding moral dilemma they For think critical and make options . Completion conflict become room learn meaningful morals Because show consequence from action . With Thus , the structure story become a very

effective medium in convey education character in a way deep .

Third , the character in short story child contemporary tend depicted as independent , active and empowered individuals . This is give strong role model to reader child that they capable take decision and responsibility answer on choice they myself . Representation This push formation character tough in accordance with values in Profile Pancasila students , especially in the dimensions independence , mutual cooperation, and responsibility answer .

In general overall , short story child work contemporary Indonesian authors can made into as source learning that is not only entertaining , but also loaded will values relevant characters with development social and psychological child . Short story kind of This can supports a learning process that is enjoyable, meaningful , and oriented towards the formation of a person of character strong in the modern era.

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