INTERNALIZATION OF ISLAMIC CHARACTER EDUCATION VALUES IN THE NOVEL ANAK KUAT BY TERE LIYE

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ABSTRACT

This research is intended to explore and interpret the values of Islamic character education implied in the novel Anak Kuat by Tere Liye. This research is motivated by the decline of morals in the field of education as well as in the general public. Therefore, the role of education, especially character education, is very much needed to be constantly taught and instilled in social life. The novel titled Anak Kuat was chosen because it is one form of literary work that contains many moral messages and Islamic values that can shape the reader's character into a resilient and ethical individual. This study is a literature-based research (Library Research) that employs a descriptive qualitative approach as its analysis method. The object of study in this research is the novel Anak Kuat by Tere Liye, which tells the story of a child's struggle in facing various challenges, both physically and emotionally. This novel contains important character values such as honesty, hard work, independence, responsibility, and social concern, which are implicitly depicted through the journey of the main character in living their life, identified through the narration and dialogues between characters that reflect Islamic teachings in a contextual, applicable, and relevant manner to the realities of contemporary life, especially in shaping the character of the younger generation.

Keywords: *Character Building, Novel, Children, Strong*

INTRODUCTION

Character education has become a familiar topic for many people. In fact, it is often discussed in the world of education, research activities. Character education is also a very important foundation in shaping a responsible personality, noble character, and able to face the challenges of life wisely. Character in the Islamic context not only includes moral values, but also spiritual values based on the Qur'an and Hadith.

يَٰبُنَيَّ أَقِمِ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ وَأۡمُرۡ بِٱلۡمَعۡرُوفِ وَٱنۡهَ عَنِ ٱلۡمُنكَرِ وَٱصۡبِرۡ عَلَىٰ مَآ أَصَابَكَۖ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ مِنۡ عَزۡمِ ٱلۡأُمُورِ

"O my son, establish prayer, and enjoin what is good, and forbid what is evil, and be patient with what befalls you. Verily, such are among the things that are required (by Allah)."

The above verse is Q.S Lukman (17) which means it reflects the foundation of holistic character education, including spiritual development through prayer, social

moral formation through amar ma'ruf nahi munkar, and mental strengthening through patience. These values become the basic principles in forming a person who is faithful, noble, and resilient in facing the challenges of life.

إنما بعثت لأتم مكارم الأخلاق

"Indeed, I was sent none other than to perfect noble character."

This Hadith emphasizes that the main purpose of education in Islam is to form and perfect noble morals, which include both moral and spiritual aspects as a whole. This means that education does not only aim to educate intellectually, but also to instill good values that stem from faith and piety. A complete character education must combine the teachings of social ethics such as honesty, justice, and care with spiritual development that strengthens human relationships with God. With this approach, individuals will be born who not only behave well in society, but also have the inner awareness to be morally and religiously responsible in every action taken.

Various phenomena that occur in modern life today show an increasingly troubling moral crisis. Even in the digital world, many cases of lies, violence, bullying, and even ethical degradation occur. This shows that many people, especially the younger generation, have deviated from ethical rules. This is also exacerbated by globalization, advances in information technology, and the lack of internalization of character principles in formal and informal schools (Asri Sulikhatin, 2021).

Character education needs to be carried out continuously and should not stop, because it is an important part of preparing the nation's next generation. This education must be aligned with the picture of humanity in the future and based on the philosophy and cultural and religious values typical of Indonesia. The goal is to foster and develop a comprehensive understanding and practice of national character. National character has a role as a cultural binder and must be reflected in the awareness and cultural intelligence of every citizen.(Muthoharoh, 2021)

Literary works are the result of the author's imaginative creations that are creative in nature. Literature itself is a representation of life and imaginative ideas poured into the form and structure of language.

One of the most popular literary works is the novel. Which reflects a whole unit that has artistic value. This artistic value is reflected through the depiction of characters, movements, and events that reflect real life, arranged in a storyline that is sometimes complex or complicated, so that it can make readers feel as if they are directly experiencing the experiences in the novel (Saragih et al., 2021).

In creating literary works, authors often insert implicit values that they want to convey to readers. This can be found in the novel Anak Kuat by Tere Liye, which was published in 2018. And this novel is a literature that contains a variety of educational values that can be used as lessons for human life (Nurul Aftika, 2021).

Through his work, the author presents a portrait of a character who has a strong belief in understanding the meaning of life as the youngest child. The character is portrayed as being able to realize her dreams despite having to face pressure from family and society who tend to underestimate and demand her to submit to norms without considering her emotional and mental conditions.

Literary works, in addition to reflecting socio-cultural aspects and individual experiences, can also contain elements related to the psychological conditions of the

characters. Literary works that focus on the psychological aspects of characters fall within the scope of literary psychology studies (Hidayati et al., 2024).

The research aims to examine the deeper character education values in the novel Anak Kuat by Tere Liye. Through understanding this value, it is hoped that this value can be realized in the practice of everyday life.(Fauziah & Hosna, 2024)

RESEARCH METHODS

Research that examines Tere Liye's novel Anak Kuat can be pursued through an approach that is in line with the problems identified in the work. Based on these considerations, the researcher chose to apply a qualitative approach. This approach aims to gain in-depth understanding without involving statistical procedures or numerical data. The main focus of this research is to describe the reality of social life in the novel, especially through observing the behavior of the characters (Hidayati et al., 2024).

This research applies a qualitative descriptive approach. Based on Sugiono's opinion, the qualitative approach is a research method that aims to examine objects in natural situations and the data in this study comes from the novel Si Anak Kuat by Tere Liye, published by Sabakgrip publishers. The novel consists of 427 pages and is the first print published by the publisher republika in December 2018 (Intan Purnamasari et al., 2022).

Qualitative descriptive method is an approach used to describe data findings factually, which are then analyzed based on the data obtained. The analysis process is presented in the form of an in-depth and comprehensive description through the description of words, not through statistical calculations. The results of the analysis are then compiled in the form of a systematic and structured scientific presentation (Kartini, 2023).

Data collection began by reading the text of the novel in depth and repeatedly to gain a full understanding of the storyline, characters, and social context behind the story. During the reading process, researchers noted certain important parts of the text that contained character education values, such as honesty, responsibility, independence, hard work, and social care. Relevant quotes were then recorded and classified based on the type of character values that appeared. The data that has been collected is then systematically arranged and documented to be further analyzed to reveal how character education values are represented in the story (Harahap, 2021).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tere Liye's Biography

Tere Liye, is a prolific writer who already has very many literary works in the form of novels, and he has the pen name Darwis, he was born in Indonesia born on May 21, 1979 in South Sumatra. He is the sixth son of seven siblings and grew up in a simple farming family. Despite coming from a limited economic background, Tere Liye managed to get a good education. He took his basic education at SD Negeri 2 Kikim Timur and continued to obtain his bachelor's degree at the University of Indonesia, majoring in Accounting, Faculty of Economics.

Since starting his writing career, Tere Liye has produced more than 30 works of fiction that span genres such as fantasy, action, romance, religion, children's literature, and history. Some of her popular works, such as Hafalan Shalat Delisa, have even been adapted to the big screen, proving the great appeal and impact of her works on readers and the national film industry.

Tere Liye is known for his humble lifestyle and choice not to overexpose his personal life in the media. He prefers to let his works speak, making him an inspiring figure in the world of modern Indonesian literature (Fauziah & Hosna, 2024).

Tere-Liye's Works

Tere Liye has 51 works that have been published, among these works that fall into the category of character education as follows:

1. Delisa's Prayer Memorization
2. My father is not a liar
3. Burlian or The Special Child
4. The Smart Child
5. The Brave Child
6. The Strong Child
7. Children of Light
8. The Child of the Storm
9. The Rainbow Child
10. The Savannah Child

Synopsis of Tere Liye's Strong Children Novel

Si Anak Kuat is the first novel in the Anak Nusantara series, this book presents a story that is entertaining, touching, and full of life values that can be learned from the inspirational characters in it.

"You are the strongest child in this family, Amelia. Not physically strong, but strong on the inside. You're the child with the strongest heart, the strongest understanding. You love your surroundings and genuinely want to help others." This book tells the life journey of Amelia, a child who has high hopes for the progress of her hometown. Of Tere Liye's dozens of books, this series is the crown.

This is a quote from the back cover of Si Anak Kuat. Amelia, or Amel, is the youngest of four daughters, the daughter of Syahdan and Nurmas. The story depicts the lives of people living in the valley at the foot of the hills, with a cultural background and social dynamics that are so thick.(Azizah Herawati, 2022)

Amelia, the youngest of four siblings, Eliana, Pukat, and Burlian, has a strong character. Her resilience is even an example for adults to emulate. Amelia is not only strong as often said by her father, but also inherits the best traits from her siblings. Her courage is seen when she is able to express her opinion in a village meeting forum dominated by adult men. She also shows courage when she confronts Chuck Norris, a classmate who is known to be fierce. Like Pukat, Amelia is known to be intelligent and is often asked to help Chuck in his studies.

Amelia also has a visionary mind, as evidenced by her idea of a coffee nursery that successfully mobilized the participation of the village community. The children of Mr. Syahdan and Mamak Nur are extraordinary. If only half of Indonesia's children had their insight and attitude, this country would be a much better place. Amelia is an inspiring role model for children, with a strong character that gives the impression that this story is real.

Tere Liye carefully describes the behavior, way of thinking, and dialogue between children's characters in simple yet meaningful language, so as to attract the attention and touch the hearts of readers. In addition, the novel also conveys a strong moral message about the importance of establishing social relationships and interacting positively with the surrounding environment.(Ricky Jenihansen, 2024)

Islamic Character Education Values in Tere Liye's Strong Children Novel

Tere Liye's novel Anak Kuat contains many moral messages that are harmonious in life. In it, essential values such as spirituality, nationalism, independence, hard work, collaboration, and integrity are depicted. Thomas Lickona mentions there are seven core and main character elements that must be instilled in all people including: honesty, compassion, courage, compassion, self-control, cooperation, hard work.

a. Honesty

Honesty is the ability to tell the truth and admit mistakes, honesty is also one of the basic attitudes that is important to teach students, especially from an early age, so that they grow up to be individuals who can be trusted in speech, behavior, and work-both towards themselves and others, at home, school, and the community environment. Honesty in conveying information is the main principle in communication, if this principle is not enforced properly, it can have a serious negative impact on human life (Hariandi et al., 2020). One form of honesty found in the strong children novel is when Amelia feels anxious after making a mistake and realizes that she cannot live in peace before admitting her mistake. She then decided to admit the mistake and apologize, even though it made her feel uncomfortable. This action reflects Amelia's courage to always be honest.

b. Religious

Religion is an effort to foster and develop important aspects of religious life sourced from Allah SWT, which includes three main components: faith, worship, and morals. All three become the basis for human behavior that is in harmony with divine provisions, in order to achieve prosperity and happiness both in this world and in the hereafter. Religion serves as the highest source of value for humans, because religion addresses the most basic issues in life, namely the formation of noble morals and behavior.(Almu'tasim, 2016)

Religious values refer to the concept of religious life that reflects the relationship or bond between humans and God. This value is not only related to the spiritual dimension, but also has a connection with life in the world, similar

to other values such as culture and social aspects. However, what distinguishes religious values from other values is their close relationship with the afterlife, a dimension that is supernatural and not yet fully understood by humans (Erni Susilawati, 2017). As in the dialog in the strong children's novel page 244 "When Nek Kiba conveyed the story of the Prophet who asked Auf bin Malik to multiply saying "La Haula Wa La Quwwata Illah Billah" seriously when his son was captured by enemies and criminals outside the city. And conveyed the point of the story that there was a moral message contained and Nek Kiba also said "Well, if you are still not sure, the closer the day the more you think, follow the example of Salim's story. Imitate his parents by saying a lot of sentences 'There is no power and strength except for the help of Allah, the Most High and the Most Great. May peace dwell in your hearts, and all affairs be smooth. Live with a peaceful feeling, because really in any matter, there is no power and strength but for the help of Allah.(Tere Liye, 2024)

c. Compassion/Humility

Affection plays an important role in social life because it is a universal need between fellow human beings. In a social environment based on love, there will be a sense of responsibility, a spirit of sacrifice, an attitude of helping, honesty, mutual trust, and efforts to build understanding and openness. All of these contribute to the creation of a harmonious and peaceful atmosphere. A person who has an attitude of humility/compassion does not consider himself superior to others but rather from an awareness of the importance of being modest and not boasting, in contrast to arrogant people who tend to overestimate themselves (Rozak & Tawadhu in Daily Life, 2017). For example, "At one time, Amel felt very upset with her eldest brother, Kak Eli. As the first child, Kak Eli often gave orders and told his younger siblings, especially Amel. He also often scolded Amel if she didn't do the household chores that were her responsibility. This made Amel think that her brother was harsh and did not love her. Until one day, Amel intended to repay her brother's treatment secretly, and she succeeded in doing so. However, this action only made Kak Eli even angrier, and in the end Amel was caught red-handed. As a result, their parents punished Amel. It was at this moment that her father gave Amel some advice. *"You're not too young to see it, Amel. You understand faster than your older siblings when it comes to understanding kindness. But obviously you're too stubborn to accept it. Eli loves you. No one is so fussy, reminding her so often that she doesn't love you. It's when other people decide to ignore her, that's when she no longer cares, no longer loves." Father said firmly, his intonation powerful, full of conviction with his words.(Tere Liye, 2024)*

d. Mutual cooperation

Gotong royong is a form of active participation of each individual in making a positive contribution to problems, needs, and collective interests in their environment, regardless of personal conditions. In accordance with its basic principles that emphasize benefits for the community, mutual cooperation is carried out jointly to ease the burden of work, so that tasks that initially feel heavy can be completed more efficiently (Putri et al., 2021). Although at first

glance it appears to be a simple activity, gotong royong actually contains deep values that are not fully understood by the general public (Aulia Dewanti et al., 2023). For example, when Amel fell and could not walk after carrying firewood from the field, Kak Eli, her eldest brother, carried her home. Despite being exhausted, Kak Eli did not complain and continued to show care and affection for her sister.

e. Independence

Self-reliance is the spirit and self-awareness to continuously strive to make oneself superior and better, have self-confidence, be able to manage thoughts critically in dealing with problems, and make wise decisions to act. This trait is also characterized by discipline, a sense of responsibility, and the ability not to depend on the help of others (Guidance et al., 2016) As an example when the moment when Amelia had to face her own fears (when Amelia proposed her opinion to advance her village so that it would not sink again due to economic factors by changing the coffee trees that have been growing for decades with new coffee seeds, which may not even be successful).

f. Social Care

Lexically, social care is defined as an attitude that shows attention to various aspects related to community life. Meanwhile, in a broader sense, social care is a form of awareness manifested in the attitudes and actions of individuals, groups, and organizations to pay attention to the conditions of other people, communities, and the surrounding social environment. This attitude aims to fulfill or improve the welfare of individual and group lives, as well as to preserve the environment for the creation of common benefits. Social care also reflects the values of humanity, solidarity, and social responsibility that are essential in social life.(Mukhtar, 2021) For example (When Amelia is the youngest child, which is often the opinion of the community that the youngest child should be the one waiting for the house, but Amelia's parents free their children to seek new experiences outside the village or outside the city to gain knowledge or work. But Amelia is not selfish, she thinks of her parents in the village, because she is the youngest child who is expected by the family to take care of her parents when they are elderly, but Amelia is also not only at home with the status of unemployment, she had left her village to overwrite knowledge outside the city and returned to being a real human being with a Doctor's degree and already has a profession as a Lecturer at the Open University, and is also a guest teacher at various educational institutions, including schools in the village where she lives).

CONCLUSION

Based on the research on Tere Liye's Strong Children Novel, it shows that Tere Liye's Strong Children Novel contains various Islamic character education values that are strongly represented through the storyline and the development of the main character. Character values such as honesty, compassion, mutual cooperation, and

independence are naturally integrated in the life experiences of the main character, Amelia, who faces social challenges and pressures from an early age.

Honesty is displayed in the main character's courage to admit mistakes and take responsibility for his actions, while compassion and humility are reflected in the willingness of other characters to understand and help each other, without prioritizing ego. The spirit of gotong royong is also reflected in the act of mutual help between family members, which shows the importance of togetherness in solving problems. Meanwhile, independence is shown through the main character's determination and courage in putting forward ideas and facing risks for the betterment of his village.

This finding confirms that literary works, especially novels, can be an effective medium in conveying Islamic character education messages. With a qualitative descriptive approach, these values can be identified in depth and used as reflection material for readers in real life. Therefore, *Si Anak Kuat* not only functions as a work of entertainment, but also as a source of inspiration and education that is relevant for the character building of the younger generation.

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