



Cultural Values in the Novel “*Charlotte’s Web - E.B White*”: Literary anthropology Approach

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is to learn more about the cultural value of the novel *Charlotte’s Web - E.B White*. The qualitative descriptive technique was used in this study, which is based on the literary anthropology approach. The information was gathered by carefully reading the text, identifying, and categorizing it. The goal of this study is to help find the friendship depicted in the novel *Charlotte’s Web*. This study focuses on the many forms of friendship and how they are depicted in the novel. W. D. Ross (1999) theory was used to identify and classify the data, while Robert Stanton (1965) theory was utilized to analyse the friendship depicted in the novel *Charlotte’s Web*. The findings of this study reveal three forms of friendship in the characters represented. The three forms of friendship are as follows: 1) friendship of utility, 2) friendship of pleasure, and 3) friendship of the kindness.



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INTRODUCTION

Cultural values are abstract concepts that are utilized as general rules and guides in acting and behaving (Gibson, 2017); (Logan, 2016). People or groups have a significant and even emotional interest in relative values. As a result, values might be viewed as the ultimate purpose of human life.

Meanwhile, according to (Bennett, 2015), cultural values are perceptions that most community members have about things they regard to be extremely honorable (Gibson, 2017); (Vuong et al., 2018) (Bachmann-Medick, 2016) A society's value system serves as a point of reference and guidance in activity. As a result, a person's cultural values have an impact on the accessible choices, methods, tools, and manufacturing purposes (Tadaki et al., 2017).

This demonstrates that literature achieved through the representation of persons in society in a work. Literary works can contain the creator's thoughts, experiences, ideas, feelings, excitement, beliefs, and expressions in tangible shape and language (Lowenthal, 2017).

The novel is one of several genres of literary works. Novels are literary works in the form of fiction in the form of prose that contain stories about life, both via plots and characters who portrayed and typically drawn from real-world occurrences (De et al., 2018). Sikander et al., (2018) added that, Novels serve as a source of joy and beauty for their readers, as well as being dulce et utilitarian. Reading novels can produce feelings of delight in one's spirit. It emerges from the spirit after envisioning broad when reading books. Readers can also get

beauty through beautiful language or a compelling tale. De et al., (2018) expresses his opinion on the novel's boundaries, stating that the novel is a fictitious and narrative prose with a long and complicated plot by giving the characters as stated in the story a sequence of interconnected events and locations. Sikander et al., (2018) further stated that the novel's structure is made up of narrative parts constructed by supporting aspects or internal stories in the novel that support each other as a whole. The building part of the novel's structure consists of themes, tales, plots, characters and characterizations, setting, author's point of view, story style and tone (Novak, 2015).

Novels are constructed with the representation of characters based on reality in order to impose psychological impact on readers (Rajan, 2017). Novels give attention not just to form, but also to the message or meaning to be delivered to the reader. Through the stories in the novel, the author of the novel wishes to communicate a message to the reader in an oblique manner. Typically, the message comprises added values, either implicitly or explicitly expressed in a novel.

The values contained in the novel such as the values of moral values, religious values, social values, and cultural values. One of the interesting values for researched in the novel are cultural values.

Cultural values in the novel reflects a culture that is applies in real society Novels are created in line or in harmony with the social context that is part of the culture. It happened because literature is influenced by society and at the same time can influence public. In addition, (Hallowell, 2017) and (Alesina & Giuliano, 2015) reveal that literature also presents a life that is largely made up of reality social community. Literary works also imitate what is in the subjective

world and nature humans in society. Literature can also be referred to as a document or as a portrait of social and cultural reality.

Cultural values in a novel can be studied with a literary anthropological approach. Literary anthropology is one of the literary approaches that are useful for help analyze literary works based on the cultural aspects contained in the literature itself (Breda-Verduijn & Heijboer, 2016).

This is in line with the opinion of (Salman & Assies, 2017) who stated that anthropology means learning about human science, while literature means a tool for learning teach. Broadly, what is meant by literary anthropology is the science of knowledge in this connection literary works analyzed in relation to anthropological problems. It can also be said that literary anthropology is analysis of literary works which contain elements of anthropology.

Thus, in order to detect cultural values in novels, understanding of culture is required in order to interpret the values it includes correctly. The author explores the significance and kinds of friendship in this study.

Friendship is defined as someone who is constantly at your side and can relate to both you and others (Schneider et al., 2017). Following a study of friendship in the novel *Charlotte's Web*, the author will identify the many forms of friendship. Friendship is a very intimate relationship between one person and another in which they support each other in times of hardship or pleasure, without taking sides, are fair, and are devoted to one another. According to W.D. Ross (1999:129), there are three forms of friendship: friendship based on mutualism, friendship based on enjoyment, and friendship focused on.

Literary anthropology was chosen to bring out the cultural values that exist in the novel. The cultural values

contained in the novel will be studied using cultural theory Paulson, (2018).

The purpose of this study is to describe the transformation of cultural values which includes (1) the maintenance of cultural values and (2) changes in cultural values that found in novels.

METHOD

This research is a qualitative descriptive study of a novel text with a literature review which has a scope of study in the form of the novel *Charlotte's Web* - E.B White.

This research uses an approach literary anthropology as the main approach in analysis. anthropological literature is a study of the reciprocal influence between literature and culture (Fernando Poyatos, 1988). In addition, the scope of research also focuses on the transformation of cultural values contained in the novel with subfocus, namely (1) preservation of cultural values and (2) changes in cultural values contained in the novel *Charlotte's Web* - E.B White. The research procedure is steps from start to finish to complete the research. These steps consist of three stages, namely (1) the preparation stage, namely determining the topic or type of research, looking for and finding problems, finding theoretical foundations to deal with these problems, and submit proposals, (2) stage implementation, namely looking for primary or secondary data, completing data, and analyze the data, and (3) the evaluation stage, which is to re-check the results of the analysis, draw conclusions, and compiling reports (Endraswara, 2008).

This research was carried out by analyzing the contents of literary works that were assisted with data analysis tables. Therefore, the instrument in this study is researchers themselves who are assisted by data analysis tables. Data analysis table contains quotes of the

novels which are arranged based on the sub-focus (1) the preservation of cultural values and (2) changes in cultural values contained in the novel *Charlotte's Web* - E.B White.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Friendship of utility

"It is true," said the old sheep. "Go to the Fair, Templeton. You will find that the conditions at a fair will surpass your wildest dreams. Buckets with sour mash sticking to them, tin cans containing particles of tuna fish, greasy paper bags stuffed with rotten ... "That's enough!" cried Templeton. "Don't tell me anymore. I'm going." "Good," said Charlotte, winking at the old sheep" (White, 1952: 123)

When everyone was ready to go to the fair, Templeton didn't seem willing to go to the fair to join Wilbur and Charlotte. Templeton said he just wanted to stay there, looking for food and enjoying his days on the farm. Charlotte and Wilbur really wanted Templeton to come to the fair to help them out while they were at the fair. Charlotte with the help of the old sheep once again teases Templeton, saying that at the fair there is a great deal of food that he can look for and find there.

2. Friendship of pleasure

"Wilbur didn't want food, he wanted love. He wanted a friend-someone who would play with him. He mentioned this to the goose, who was sitting quietly in a corner of the sheepfold. "Will you come over and play with me?" he asked. 8 "Sorry, sorry, sorry," said the goose. "I'm sitting on my eggs". (White, 1952: 28)

Friendship based When on the farm, Lurvy will give food to Wilbur, but when going to feed Lurvy feels that Wilbur is sick and not eager to eat. Actually what happened, Wilbur felt lonely on the farm because he needed a friend to be able to play with him. Wilbur was sad to find his friends around the farm, he met his friend's goose. Wilbur asked him to play with him, but the goose refused to play with Wilbur because the goose was busy incubating his eggs.

3. Friendship of kindness

"Wilbur walked up to the fence and saw that the goose was right--one board was loose. He put his head down, shut his eyes, and pushed. The board gave way. In a minute he had squeezed through the fence and was standing in the long grass outside his yard. The goose chuckled. "How does it feel to be free?" she asked. "I like it," said Wilbur." (White, 1950: 17).

The goose tries to convince and tries to help Wilbur get out of the farm. Just then, the fence from Wilbur's cage loosened and the goose told Wilbur to break down the wooden fence so he could get out of the farm. Wilbur obeyed the goose's orders and broke down the fence. The fence was broken and Wilbur was finally able to get out of the farm. He can freely enjoy the green grass and can also enjoy the beautiful atmosphere outside the farm. It made Wilbur's heart happy to be able to get out of that place and enjoy his freedom. The goose was also very happy when Wilbur was able to get out of the farm. Wilbur immediately went to find Fern to meet him when he came out of the farm. Indeed, Wilbur really needed his best friend Fern there, because Fern took good care of him so Wilbur did not want to be separated from Fern.

Based on the character's behavior or actions. From the types of friendship according to kindness, the writer finds friendship that is described by the character or character between Wilbur and his friend Fern which we can find in the following quote.

"While Fern was in school, Wilbur was shut up inside his yard. But as soon as she got home in the afternoon, she would take him out and he would follow her around the place. If she went into the house, Wilbur went, too. If she went upstairs, Wilbur would wait at the bottom step until she came down again. If she took her doll for a walk in the doll carriage, Wilbur followed along. Sometimes, on these journeys, Wilbur would get tired, and Fern would pick him up and put him in the carriage alongside the doll. He liked this. And if he was very tired, he would close his eyes and go to sleep under the doll's blanket". (White, 1950: 10)

Fern's behavior or character is indeed very good and very caring for Wilbur and vice versa, it can be seen in the quote above as an example. Wilbur's caring attitude was evident when he and his best friend Fern waited for the school bus in front of the house. When the bus came to pick up Fern, Wilbur faithfully waited for Fern until the bus left the house and disappeared from Wilbur's sight, then Wilbur would leave that place. Wilbur will faithfully wait for Fern patiently until Fern returns from school, and when he arrives Wilbur will immediately greet and welcome Fern. Because of his love and concern for Wilbur for Fern, he was willing to follow Fern wherever he went. When Fern was going out for a walk in his pram, Wilbur would definitely follow Fern, all the way enjoying the scenery, when Wilbur was getting tired Fern would

put Wilbur in the carriage and take him along. Fern thought it was a return to Wilbur for always caring for Fern. Wilbur's behavior is indeed very good, he shows concern for Fern and will be with Fern at all times.

CONCLUSION

Friendship in the novel Charlotte's Web makes us understand about true friendship. Friendship is a close relationship between two or more people. Friends are people who show concern and also always be fair to each other and friends are also people who will be ready accept us as we are, both hard and happy. Charlotte and Wilbur in the novel shows how they forge a sincere friendship with each other. To achieve goals, do not expect profit, and help each other. The friendship between the two of them is indeed very deep and indeed only death that could separate the friendship between the two of them.

The author finds that there is a moral message contained in the novel Charlotte's Web. That is the value of friendship. In the novel the characters Charlotte and Wilbur is a friend who loves each other; help each other to achieve their goals. Like when Charlotte was willing to sacrifice her life for protect Wilbur from being eaten at Christmas. The value above shows how much the importance of a friend in life Friends will always be there to help us in times of trouble and joy.

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