

MORAL FACTORS THAT ENCOURAGE THE MAIN CHARACTER TO ACHIEVE SELF UNITY IN THE NOVEL "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" BY ELIZABETH RUDNICK

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to explore the moral factors that encourage the main character to achieve self-unity in the novel "Beauty and the Beast" by Elizabeth Rudnick. This study used a philosophical approach related to exploring the elements of morality in literary works. The theory used is the theory of Linda and Richard (1993) about the form of moral values, and Cady's theory (2005) about the influential factors in moral formation. The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Then, the researcher applied the library research method. The moral principles of the main character are portrayed in the attributes of honesty, courage, peace, independence and potential, discipline and moderation, respect, love, selflessness and sensitivity, kindness and friendliness, justice and compassion, according to the findings of this study. Meanwhile, the variables that lead to the creation of moral values might come from chance, intents from the environment, and their own will. Except for the principles of loyalty and chastity, Belle, the novel's main character, has demonstrated all of the moral values that have been theorized. Belle is most influenced by her own willingness to demonstrate her moral principles, which is caused by various factors that influence her to practice such beliefs, according to the investigation.

Keywords: Moral Value, Philosophy, Self Unity

1. INTRODUCTION

People, particularly teens, have begun to feel disconnected from moral teaching in the millennial period. It happened because moral teaching is not widely dispersed, both within

families and throughout educational institutions. They have no idea what is right and what is wrong, which leads to them spreading a negative impact on those around them. Those behaviors

can be noticed in their daily actions, one of which is their attitudes toward other individuals. It was published in the Indonesian newspaper *Republika* (2019) under the heading "*Kasus AY, Cerminan Bobroknya Moral Generasi.*" The news reported on the younger generation's unprincipled morals in Indonesia. It alluded to an event involving a middle school girl who was a victim of

There is a phenomenon related with that issue. Following the tragedy, several incidents of teenagers committing cruel deeds have become regular news stories. It also stated that teenagers are becoming more liberated and deified of freedom, resulting in a more lawless lifestyle in their lives. This occurrence highlighted the significance of moral instruction, which should begin at a young age. It was previously suggested that one way to learn morals and moral behavior as a child is through try, error, and failure in school. However, one's lifespan is insufficient to figure out and understand moral principles, thus moral principles and behaviors must be learned from a young age, either from family, school, friends, or the environment (Eyre & Eyre, 1993).

Despite the fact that moral education is not taught in most school lessons, people can learn moral principles from the society in which they live, their surroundings, and their companions. Finally, moral lessons can be learned individually by incorporating nonfiction or fiction reading habits into daily activities. Kennedy and Gioia (1995) defined fiction as "tales that are not fully true, but at least somewhat made up and imagined." He also stated that fiction is intended to convey a

feeling of how people act, rather than a record of how some individuals act at a specific period. As a result, a work of fiction not only entertains readers, but also helps to open up their minds and senses.

The simple example can be selected from a well-known fable in society, which contains a straightforward moral lesson that can be understood in a variety of ways. The tale known as "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" is one of the most well-known fables, and it has been retold in a variety of ways. In short, the story revolves around a young shepherd boy who repeatedly deceived and lied to the townspeople by claiming that a wolf was hunting his sheep. The locals disregarded him when he cried "Wolf" for the third time, thinking he was trying to play a joke on them, but this time is the genuine issue, when the wolf comes to hunt the shepherd's sheep.

A fiction can then unconsciously assist readers in learning or applying the moral of the story as one of the important impacts that the author meant to convey. Pojman (2000) claims that moral ideas are frequently found in literature, allowing readers to grasp moral existence in novel ways. It is based on the readers' interpretation of the moral found in the works. The novel is a type of modern literary fiction in English that is widely described as a book-length prose story in which the author attempts to convey a sense of true life experience through what is written (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995). Novels are considered narrative imaginary literary works because they are long and complicated, and they cannot be read in one sitting. Plot is a

novel aspect that aids the story's progression through a structural sequence of events emerging from a conflict (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995). As previously stated, morals are conveyed through the process, which means that each of the occurrences in chronological sequence from the story contains the moral conveyed by the author through the character's portrayal of values throughout the story.

A fantasy fiction work based on a fairy tale called "Beauty and the Beast," adapted and written by Rudnick, was discovered by the researcher. Elizabeth Rudnick is a novelist who previously worked at Disney Press in New York City as a senior editor. Rudnick (2021) studied American Civilization with a specialty in Literature at the College of Middlebury in Vermont, as she mentioned in her own blog. She then went to Columbia for a publishing degree and fell in love with children's books. She collaborated with bestselling authors and helped bring blockbuster films like Tron, Pirates of the Caribbean, Enchanted, and Prince of Persia from the big screen to the page. She wrote children's novels, including Tweet Heart, which was her first published book.

2. THEORY OF THE RESEARCH

The research is expected to be able giving moral education to readers explained in this research. It is expected for readers who will read this research are able to apply the values through it by knowing which actions are right or wrong, and also able to deepen their morality awareness of human nature conveyed in the novel.

The data for this study was analyzed using a moral philosophical approach, with the novel "Beauty and the Beast" by Elizabeth Rudnick as the data source. It was designed to discover the many types of moral value proposed by Linda and Richard

(1993), which are divided into two categories: values of being and values of giving. There are six different types of value for each classification. Honesty, courage, peaceability, self-reliance and potential, self-discipline and moderation, and fidelity and chastity are all values of being. Loyalty and dependability, respect, love, unselfishness and sensitivity, compassion and friendliness, and justice and mercy are the virtues of giving. It also looked into the aspects that shape the main character's moral ideals, based on Cady's influential moral shaping factors.

a. Moral Value

According to Barrow (2007), moral philosophy refers to the act of thinking and reflecting upon moral issues, such as what makes individuals and their behaviors good or harmful. The philosophical study of morality could not provide a universal description of good and bad behavior, but it could, depending on the culture and place. This method of investigation was not limited to investigating the life of reality. Classical Greek and Roman critics have used a moral philosophical method to analyze literary works, particularly Samuel Johnson, and this approach is considered as the earliest in literature.

The classification supplied by Linda and Richard (1993) is utilized as a theory by the researcher on the character as the testimony with the goal of bringing out the important values that should be applied in life. The goal of the study was to see if the character exhibited the moral principles as theorized, as well as to see if the novel could convey morality through the character.

b. Influence factor toward Moral Value

Some features of life reflections have contributed to the search for the life people desire to live, complicating ethical or moral thought. As a result, having a moral outlook on one's own worth is crucial. Moral values are not generated automatically; people must take action and be exposed to influencing variables in

order to form moral values (Cady, 2005). When people first began to build their moral values, they were exposed to a variety of influential factors.

There are several important things that can be used as references, including: 1) moral value imposes the chance, 2) Moral value could intent for surrounding, 3) Moral value can be factored by own willing ness.

The attempts to explain and justify self and own behaviors are evidence of growth in self-construction (Cady, 2005). This component had to do with one's readiness and drive to pursue something that one desired, and where one's realization occurred. Their moral ideals were formed during the course of their lives as a result of their imaginations, goals, and inspirations.

C. Previous Study

This research is certainly inseparable from previous research which has a significant impact on the development of ideas in this study. This research is certainly different from previous studies. This research focuses on the moral values contained in the novel *Beauty and the beast* by Rudrick. The approach used is a philosophical approach that explores the intrinsic elements in the novel. The first research that contributed to the development of this idea was written by Rahmi, E., & Arianto, T. (2022) who analyzed the novel *catch me if you can* by Abagnale. This study provides a psychological dimension in literature that contributes to the discovery of self-actualization. This study also analyzes personality, but the difference is that this research uses a psychological approach. The second study was written by Kasibara, D. C. (2022) which presents the analysis of personality related to the existence of the main character in Wendy Wesserstein's novel *Isn't it romantic*.

Rudianto, G., & Zakrimal. (2020) also analyzes the moral values contained in the work of Gurindam 12 "*Raja Ali Haji*".

According to Rudi Gurindam 12 provides a new dimension of teaching Islamic moral values which is quite valuable for Malay society and literature in general. Nur Alifah, S. (2021) analyzes the values contained in the power of Prince Dipanegoro's prediction about the end of the order in Java in 1785-1855. Rosyid, A. A. (2020) provides a different new reference about reading critical discourse in online media studies, especially the lectures of cleric salaf. According to Rosyid, there was a patriarchal majority ideology that was dominantly echoed in the lecture.

3. METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

This is a qualitative investigation. According to Creswell (2013), qualitative research is undertaken to investigate and understand the meaning of social problems or events by individuals or groups. This study aimed to reveal the collected data so that the researcher could interpret the information. Because the data was in the form of words, sentences, and discourses, this study used a descriptive qualitative design. This research strategy is practical and effective for the researcher to examine moral values of characters and the influence factors acquired by characters in order to develop moral values in the novel "*Beauty and the Beast*."

In doing the research, the research object plays the most crucial function. The types of moral ideals and influential variables received by the main character in the novelization of "*Beauty and the Beast*" are the subjects of this study. The main character in the novel implied and demonstrated positive human values and manners that should be learned. As a result, the novelization of "*Beauty and the Beast*" is an appropriate data source for the study.

The descriptive analysis method was used to analyze the data from this study. Ratna (2004) explains that descriptive analysis begins with summarizing the facts obtained in the data source and then

moves on to analysis, which includes not just interpreting but also providing sufficient explanation and comprehension. The following are the actions that were taken to analyze the data.

1. It began by examining the novelization's inherent characteristics.
2. Arranged obtained data according to two research objectives: moral values and the influential variables used to shape moral values in the main character.
3. Analyzed and interpreted classified data using Linda and Richard's (1993) theory of moral values and Cady's influential components of moral formation theory (2005).
4. The data was interpreted and reported in words and paragraphs.

4. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

In this analysis, it has the purpose to find out the reasons and the influential factors that the main character, Belle received to perform or do the moral values as analysed in the first research analysis.

1. Honesty

The first analysis looks at how influential it was for Belle to perform the moral ideals of honesty, which was influenced by her own willingness in the quotation below. It is a factor that is determined by one's realization, consciousness, and desire to pursue something of value. It is as stated in the following quotation.

"She tried to get away from Gaston by speeding up even more. This discussion had dragged on far too long. She could see her cottage's front door ahead of her like a beacon of safety. But Gaston was having none of it. His enormous legs soon covered the distance between them, crushing the vegetables in the small garden with his boots." (Rudnick, 2017, p. 54)

As previously discussed, Belle performed the act of honesty in response to Gaston's obstinacy in proclaiming his wish to marry Belle. Belle had previously received such words from Gaston, but this time it was too much for her to bear. Even though Belle tried to avoid talking to Gaston more and hinted that she wanted to be left alone, the stubborn Gaston failed to notice the indication, stopping the door Belle was going to open and crushing the vegetables produced in the garden. Belle's own willingness served as a crucial influence at the time. She was aware for what she was trying to do, which is to tell her unwillingness to marry Gaston and stop him from pursuing her and do more than what he should not do.

Next, the value of Belle's honesty was influenced by chance, and the value she portrayed was imposed on her by chance. The influential aspect of imposed by chance suggests that someone's value arose spontaneously and personally, without intent, and is simply applied to someone's moral framework. Belle's honesty act demonstrated how she genuinely felt about the villagers' perception of her towards Beast, however the quotation below highlighted the influence element she received. It could be seen from quotation below:

"“Well... they know how to have a good time,” Belle said.

The Beast nodded. “Sometimes, when I take my dinner, I listen to their laughter and pretend I am eating with them.”

“You should!” Belle said, impressed he would admit such a thing. “They’d love that.”

“No, I’ve tried,” he replied, the moment of levity gone as quickly as it had come. “When I enter a room, laughter dies.”

Belle’s mouth opened and shut. That was exactly how she felt whenever she went into town. She said as much to the Beast.” (Rudnick, 2017, p. 184)

When Belle was together with the Beast, she found out that the Beast felt the loneliness in the castle, as he thought that the castle's staff had outcasted him because of his roughness. Belle did not expect that he would admit how he truly felt to her, which she thought it was impossible for him judging from his personality. She then felt the similarity between both of them, where Belle felt the same thing as Beast while walking around the town she lived, which is the feel of being outcast and nonbelonging. The influential factor that received by Belle to do the value of honesty is imposed by chance, which she unconsciously went with flow and admitted her deep feelings that she never told anyone after the Beast admitted what he felt also.

Another factor of imposed by chance had influenced Belle to perform the value of honesty, where Belle revealed the Beast's existence to the villagers is shown below.

"Reaching out, Gaston put a hand on her shoulder. Then he gave her a condescending smile. Ever the showman, he spoke as much to the crowd as to her. "We all admire your devotion to your father," he said, "but you'd say anything to free him. Your word is hardly proof."

Panic gripped Belle's heart. She needed something to show them that she wasn't making it up." (Rudnick, 2017, p. 223)

In this case, Belle attempted to explain and declare that Maurice is not insane and that he did not lie about seeing a Beast in a castle in the woods, which is the truth because Belle is also a witness. Gaston, on the other hand, refused to let Belle stop him from trying to put Maurice to the asylum. He pretended he didn't know anything and assumed Maurice was lying. He then accused Belle of assisting Maurice in lying as well, claiming that she would do everything to free her father. Because of Gaston's statement, which exacerbated the

villagers' distrust of Belle, the authority she gained was imposed by accident, and she had no other option, in order to save her father from being sent to the town's asylum.

2. Courage

Belle's portrayal of bold principles was influenced by a number of factors. The worth of courage on Belle was determined by her own willingness, as stated in the passage below.

"Picking up her pace still more, she tried to get away from Gaston. This conversation had gone on long enough. Up ahead, she could see the front door of her cottage, like a beacon of safety. But Gaston wasn't having it. His long legs quickly closed the gap between them, his boots crushing the vegetables in the little garden." (Rudnick, 2017, p. 54)

The same reason as quoted in honesty value, the act of courage did by Belle is to prevent Gaston's stubbornness and outrageous actions happened more the next time if she has not done something. The factor that influenced Belle is considered in the type of own willingness to pursue, where she was aware and trying to fix what she should fix, which is by disrupting in the middle of his talking and had the courage to close the door right in front of the town's respected man, even though she knew that he might not like it.

The courageous action did by Belle in the quotation below was shown. In her unhesitant attempt to find out what happened to Maurice, she received the influential factor of imposed by chance.

"Philippe," Belle said, rushing over and letting the big horse into his paddock so he could drink. She patted him gently. "What are you doing here? Where is ...?" her hand stilled. Then it began to shake as she saw the torn straps where the harness had once been attached. Her eyes grew even wider as she noticed the tattered

reins. Something had happened to her father – something bad.” (Rudnick, 2017, p. 75-76)

From the quotation, it showed that Belle was in the middle of feeding morning meals to the chickens and she heard a snort from Phillipe. She thought that it was weird for him to found his way back home and without Maurice. Belle felt something was wrong, until she saw evidence of the accident on Phillipe’s torn straps and considering Phillipe’s sweat and nervously shifted feet. Without any hesitant and preparation, she immediately let Phillipe leading the way towards her father. The value she did is imposed by chance, as it is the reflective action where her consciousness was beaten by her worries about what had happened to Maurice.

The factor of imposed by chance also had influenced Belle in portraying another value of courage, which is shown through her action in stopping the wagon that had her father courageously by her own body. It is shown in the quotation below.

“Maurice was slumped inside the wagon’s cage. As Belle watched, Pere Robert ran up to the man locking Maurice inside – Monsieur D’Arque, the head of the town asylum. “This man is hurt!” Pere Robert said. “Please! He needs a hospital, non an asylum!”

Ignoring him, D’Arque finished his task and headed up to the driver’s perch. Gaston walked over and leaned against the wagon, seeming to whisper something to Maurice.

Belle had seen enough. That wagon wasn’t going anywhere. Kicking Philippe forward, she made her way into the middle of the crowd. “Stop!” she cried.” (Rudnick, 2017, p. 220)

The quotation above had shown that the action did by Belle in stopping the wagon that had Maurice inside is considered as physical courageous, as it involved someone’s physical in doing the

value. The influence that she got is imposed by chance, which she witnessed the incident where even the town’s priest, Pere Robert could not stop the wagon from bringing Maurice to the asylum, led by Monsieur D’Arque, the asylum’s head. As she thought that nothing could stop the wagon from going, she decided to rely on herself to save her father. Using words would not do, so she used her body to stop the wagon, which then it really stopped and allowed Belle to argue more for her father’s justice, after her courageous action.

3. Peaceability

The first peaceability value portrayed by Belle as analysed before is when she heard the villagers talking behind her, loud enough to be heard by her. The reason and the influential factor that she got to have the value of peaceability is from her willingness, as quoted below.

“It was the same reaction she got anytime she mentioned books. Or art. Or travel. Or Paris. Anything other than talk of the village or the villagers was met with indifference – or, worse, disdain.” (Rudnick, 2017, p. 22)

The exact reason why Belle decided to keep quiet and did not care about what they said, because it already happened for several times. From the quotation, it was the reaction of a villager that Belle talked to, and it also applied on every villager’s reaction whenever she talked about something that are beyond their minds. The influence that Belle got is through her own willingness, which it was factored by her own decision on staying quiet and not confronting them, because she knew that no matter what she did, they would still treated her as the weird girl they always knew.

The calm value as shown by Belle in the novel was factored by her own willingness, where she stayed unbothered with the thrashing by the school’s

headmaster towards them. It is shown in the quotation below.

“As if she had ignited a powder keg of explosives, the villagers who had gathered went off. Some, like the fishmonger and the headmaster, expressed outrage at Belle’s audacious behavior. Others, like Pere Robert, cheered her on. Amid it all, Belle sat unbothered. Let the headmaster scream and shout and throw a fit, she thought. He should be concerned with his students’ education.” (Rudnick, 2017, p. 50-51)

As analyzed before, the headmaster of the town’s school had shouted and embarrassed Belle and the little girl in front of many people, while she was teaching the girl to read. Belle was unbothered by what the headmaster said, and staying quite instead of talking back to him. The calm posture portrayed by Belle as quoted above, was influenced by her own willingness. It means that she stayed calm with her awareness that it is better to stay put then oppose what the headmaster was going to argue.

The initiative action of Belle in trying to cure the Beast’s wounds and injuries dedicated to her value of peaceability, which was factored by her own willingness to do so. It is as shown with the quotation below.

“Then, and only then, had Belle let out a huge breath and allowed herself to start shaking. And once she started, it had taken a long time – and a very hot bath – to stop.

But that was then and this was now. Now she had her hands full trying to treat the Beast, who was proving to be a big baby when it came to pain.” (Rudnick, 2017, p. 164)

Belle was growing tired of the Beast’s whining and grumpiness over being fixed. She was determined, however, to recover the Beast’s injuries, as he was approaching death if he was not cured. Her own

willingness, which she regarded the potential of the Beast’s death and her attempt to repay Beast’s rescue of her by taking care of him, is the influential reason that she received to convey the worth. Putting aside her concern of the Beast’s nasty and rough demeanor since her arrival at the castle, she persisted in trying to heal the wounds and got into a dispute with him in the process, until he finally gave up and allowed her to heal his wounds.

5. CONCLUSION

The novel’s data was evaluated using the theory of moral values to examine Belle’s characterization, and it was discovered that she had portrayed the moral values as theorized. Belle portrayed the moral values of honesty, courage, peace ability, self-reliance and potential, self-discipline and moderation, loyalty and dependability, respect, love, unselfishness and sensitivity, kindness and friendliness, justice and mercy, and justice and mercy out of twelve types of moral values. The analysis’ findings may be valuable to readers in learning and developing those qualities of values in real life.

Moral values are not generated automatically; one must take action and consider the influencing elements in order to develop moral values. Belle was largely influenced by her own willingness and awareness to do the moral values as indicated in the first study question, and was caused by certain causes that might affect her to do the values, according to the analysis. This study also demonstrated that moral philosophical theory can be applied to fictional characters.

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