

## THE MORAL MESSAGE AND CHARACTERISTIC OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN NOVEL "THE KITE RUNNER"

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### Abstrak

Pelari layang-layang merupakan cerita fiktif paduan kisah pelik seorang anak kecil dengan awal konflik yang terjadi di Afghanistan. Di tandai dengan kejatuhan system monarki dan intervensi Uni Soviet, peristiwa tersebut menjadi latar belakang yang mengubah hidup sang pemeran utama. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui karakter dan nilai moral dari novel pelari layang-layang. Ada dua jenis sumber data dalam penelitian ini, yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Peneliti menggunakan pengamatan langsung melalui novel dan dokumen informasi apapun. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa secara teori penelitian ini mampu mengelaborasi ciri-ciri tokoh utama dan menjelaskan pesan moral yang ingin disampaikan pengarang kepada pembaca melalui novel pelari layang-layang. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Data yang diperoleh dengan menggunakan teknik pengumpulan data berupa novel, dan berbagai sumber informasi dokumen. Metode kualitatif adalah penelitian yang bersifat deskriptif dan cenderung menggunakan analisis. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan karakter dalam novel bahwa amir, sang tokoh utama, adalah anak dari orang yang bercukupan di Afghanistan, dia memiliki gadis-gadis yang selalu mematuhi. Hal-hal yang menjadi keinginannya untuk meminta bantuan, Hassan tidak pernah mengingkari perintahnya. Mengingat Hassan telah menunjukkan rasa hormat total kepada Amir. Dia bebas membuat Hassan sesuai keinginannya. Sedangkan pesan moral yang ingin disampaikan kepada pembaca dalam novel ini berbuat benar, dimana hal ini mencakup, sikap peduli, memaafkan, tolong menolong, jujur dan berani.

**Kata Kunci:** The kite runner, novel, karakteristik, pesan moral.

### Abstract

*Kite Runner is a fictional story that combines the strange story of a small child with the beginning of the conflict that occurred in Afghanistan. Marked by the fall of the monarchy system and the intervention of the Soviet Union, these events become the backdrop that changes the main character's life. The purpose of this study was to determine the character and moral values of the kite runner novel. There are two types of data sources in this study, namely primary data and secondary data. Researchers use direct observation through novels and any*

*information documents. The results of this study indicate that theoretically this research is able to elaborate on the characteristics of the main character and explain the moral message that the author wants to convey to the reader through the kite runner novel. This study uses a qualitative method. The data obtained using data collection techniques in the form of novels, and various sources of document information. Qualitative methods are descriptive research and tend to use analysis. The results of this study show the character in the novel that amir, the main character, is the son of a wealthy person in Afghanistan, he has girls who always obey him. The things he wanted to ask for help, Hassan never disobeyed his orders. Remembering Hassan has shown total respect to Amir. He was free to make Hassan as he wished. While the moral message that wants to be conveyed to the readers in this novel is to do the right thing, which includes caring, forgiving, helping, honest and brave.*

**Keywords:** *The kite runner, novel, characteristic, moral message.*

## INTRODUCTION

Moral as a reference for behavior in a social environment is something that should be applied by every individual. Shaffer said that morals can be interpreted as norms and institutions that are able to regulate individual behavior in undergoing a relationship with the community (in, Asri Budiningsih 2004: 24). Moral are generally accepted good and bad regarding actions, attitudes, obligations, and so on. Moral is a standard of behavior that supports everyone to be able to live cooperatively in a groups. Moral can refer to societal sanctions regarding right and acceptable behavior. Therefore, by understanding the moral teachings in a social group, an individual will be able to adjust and be accepted in his environment. However, if there is an individual or group who does not understand or do not practice the moral teachings that exist in an environment, then they have committed a violation. This violation is usually caused by environmental influences and the understanding of moral teachings that the individual gets. Many cases as a result of these moral violations lead to a mass judgment and not infrequently due o this moral discrepancy, For example, cases of sexual crimes against children, the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) noted that from 2019 to 2020 there was an increase of 100 percent (<http://www.kpai.go.id>). Apart from that, other moral violations such as corruption, human rights crimes, and wars have always been hot topics around the world (<http://www.globalissues.org>). as this happens in various countries in the world, Indonesian can not be sepatate from it.

Indonesia as a country that adheres to Eastern culture basically uphold moral values, especially religious values. However, the fact that exist today is that in Indonesian there are a lot of people's behaviors that are contrary to existing moral values. It is undeniable that every day in the Indonesian media they always report immoral things such as murder, rape, corruption, theft and harassment. The Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistics (in Criminal Statistics 2020) note that between 2019 and 2020 there were 1,020,337 crime cases throughout Indonesian with various types of crime cases. As an Eastern cultured country and the most Muslim population in the world, these immoral behaviors should be surprise, because Islamic teachings clearly prohibit immoral behavior and command moral behavior. As in the Qur'an, the letter Ash-Shuraa Verse 40-42 explains that: *Dan balasan suatu kejahatan adalah kejahatan yang setimpal , tetapi Barang siapa memaafkan dan berbuat baik (kepada orang yang berbuat jahat) maka pahalanya dari Allah. Sungguh, dia tidak menyukai orang-orang zalim(40). Tetapi orang-orang yang*

*membela diri setelah dizalimi, tidak ada satu dosapun terhadap mereka (41). Sesungguhnya kesalahan hanya ada pada orang-orang yang berbuat zalim kepada manusia dan melampaui batas di bumi tanpa (mengindahkan) kebenaran. Mereka itu mendapat siksa yang pedih (42).*

In the verse above, it is explained that Allah hates those who do wrong and will give them painful punishment. Of course in this case tyranny is a representation of immoral acts. In the next verse Allah also says that whoever forgives and does good then his reward is Allah, so it can be understood that in the verse there is a command and prohibition that Allah commands his people to do good behave according to moral values and nature, and forbid doing actions or immoral behavior, where it will harm others and oneself. Thus it is very important to understand and practice moral values in society. As for the way, such as deepening the knowledge of religion or can also take lessons from stories full of wisdom in literary works. Literary works always contain a lesson with moral values. The moral painting is often depicted from the behavior and character of the figure in relation to his environment or himself (Hanafi, Y., Hadijah, 2021). Therefore, there will be a lot of wisdom that will be obtained by the reader through literary works, so this is very much in line with what is needed by each individual in understanding moral values.

There are various literary works that exist with many moral lessons, one of them is *The Kite Runner* Novel, a work by Khaled Hosseini which is very appropriate to take moral lessons for individuals, especially because of its distinctive eastern cultural background that upholds religion as a source of values. The novel *The Kite Runner* takes place in Afghanistan, where the majority of the population is Muslim. In contrast to Indonesia, the Muslim population of Afghanistan in the novel's description is divided into two groups; Sunni and Shia. The existence of groups in the novel *The Kite Runner* gives birth to an attitude of social discrimination against one another. The minority Shia or Hazara groups become a lower class social group, where they are also widely used as slaves by the Pashtun, the Sunni group of Afghanistan. From this discriminatory attitude, conflicts often arise that give birth to immoral behaviors. But in the story it is also described that there is a very intimate friendship between the children of the Hazara and the Pashtun. In addition, the story of the Afghan revolution is implicit in this novel, Khaled describes how Afghanistan was before and after the Russian invasion and overthrow of the Afghan government supported by Russia. More than that, the impact of the invasion and revolution is the changing social structure of Afghan society which creates a new conflict in this novel. In this novel, it is also told about the sin of a child whose ego and fear in helping his best friend make him wallow in regret for the rest of his life. The story present in this novel is so emotional, the story of moral tragedy, friendship, betrayal and loyalty is neatly packaged in this novel.

## METHOD

In this research, the writer used a qualitative method by collected and analyzed data from any sources, the little is determined after the writer knows the main problem of the object to be studied in this research. The determination of the research title was very important because it could find out the object of research, what subject would be studied, where was the research location, and the objectives to be achieved. The writer used descriptive qualitative method in order to describe and explain what has been interpreted from the object of the research. The source of data are: first is primary data, which is novel *The Kite Runner* and the secondary data are document of any information. In this research, the instrument used by the writer was note-taking. Ray (2005) defined note-taking is a method in assembling data required by using note cards to write down the data findings from a source of data. Based on the definition of note-taking above, the writer

used it as a tool to take the same note in the novel includes chapter, page, and number in different color cards. It can ease the writer to identify sentences and to remember what has been reading.

To obtain data is intended in accordance with the problems in this study, the writer used the following procedures to collect the data:

1. Searching and downloading, The writer searched and download Novel “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini from a web page <https://play.google.com/store/books>
2. Reading, the writer read the Novel “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini intensively to get a comprehensive overview by reading.
3. Coding, The writer made a codification to classify the data into meaning and message analysis by making bold the data and the writer also made and fill the data sheet.

The data analysis include several procedures of identification. The steps used for analyze the data as follows:

1. Presenting the data, the writer presented the data in the form of narrative.
2. Describing the data, the writer describe the data that include the useful bits of advice especially the characteristics of the main characters of the main characters and the moral messages.
3. Interpreting the data, the writer interpreted the data that include the use of analysis of the moral message. It concern about the moral message implied behind the Novel “ The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini.
4. Counting the data, The writer counted the data of the moral messages, compared them to find out the most dominant of the moral messages used in Novel “ The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini concluding the data.
5. The writer made a conclusion based on data analysis.

## **FINDINGS**

### **The main characters and characteristic of main character**

Amir, the main character, is the son of well-do person in Afghan. He has the maidens who always obey him. The things that he fell desire to ask for help, Hassan never deny his order. Considering Hassan has shown the total respect to Amir. He freely makes Hassan as he wants. The quotation above says that Amir is like a king of Hassan. Noword was heard from hassan’s mouth when Amir said to do. Amir only possesses Hassan as his friend. Wherever he goes, Hassan must be with him. Amir seems to be more comfortable beside Hassan. And he fellsaway from scary as long as Hassan is with him. As common character of the 15 year-old boy, who is behaving more uncontrollable. They sometime don’t have idea what the things are dealing with. The advice of his father is not effected him. He eagerly keeps on his childhood, ignoring anything that may block his way. Whereas, the group of foreign armies were being occupied his homeland. Sure, the dangerous will be naturally happen. No bullet firing on the air, but unpleasant greeting addressed to his friend Hassan. The mockery statement was addressed to Hassan. While Amir remained calm. If he listened to his father’s advice that mock would never be happened. On his desire the unpleasant condition fanning to his friend Hassan. Luckily, those soldiers don’t touch them, there are free to go to the movie. Again, as a young boy, Amir was also having the character of imitation another person. It is happened when he was to raw of his age.

### Moral messages

The value of being is a value that is within evolved human beings into the behavior and the way we treats other (1974). Values of being include:

1. Honesty “Over the years, I had seen a lot of guys run kites. But Hassan was by far the greatest kite runner I’d ever seen. It was downright eerie the way he always got to the spot the kite would land before the kite kid, as if he had some sort of inner compass.”(Khaled Hosseini:49)
2. Bravely “they’re hunting ducks,” Ali said in a hoarse voice.”they hunt ducks at night, you know Don’t be afraid.” (Khaled Hosseini:56). In ancient time until now that life in the universe has many obstacles, trials, cases and problems faced by human. The higher the knowledge or position the bigger obstacle will be.
3. Confident and Potential, “I didn’t know what to think. Or what to say. Was that was it whould take? Had he just slipped me a key, I was good kite fighter. Actually a very good one. A few times, I’d made it to the final three.” (Khaled Hosseini:52). The success or failure human in everything that they will do whether for themselves or his self is required smart thinking criticize therefore they will reach the goal of their or his idea fluently.
4. Self-Discipline and Moderation, “when I had finished my mother’s book not the boring history ones, I was never much into those, but the novels, the epics I started spending my allowance on books.” (Khaled Hosseini:19). As we know mostly western people is very discipline in the way everything. Events in formal or informal it must be done suitable with the sequence.
5. Values of Giving, the values of giving is that values need to be practiced or provided which would then be accepted as given. Values of giving include: This part of values of giving which consist of 6 parts but also in this study only found out 3 parts of them appear on the conversation in the novel of the *kite runner*.
6. Loyalty and trustworthy, “He put on his gloves again. ‘I grew up with ali,”he said through clenched teeth. “my father took him in, he loved Ali like his own son. Fourth years Ali’s been with my family. Forth goddamm years”. (Khaled Hosseini:126). Long time ago until now the loyalty and trustworthy of someone is needed to increase strong ten and increase relationship in the intuitions whether government or non-government intuitions.
7. Love and affection, “we did ayena masshaf, where they gave us a mirror and threw a veil over our heads, so we’d alone to gaze at each other’s reflection, looking at Soraya’s smiling face in the mirror, in the momentary privacy of the veil, I wishpered to her fot the first time that I loved her. A blush, red like henna, bloomed on her cheeks.”(Khaled Hosseini:157). This affection is to be required understand to each other in all aspect of human life such as a young womens and a young mans having love, parentand son, sisters and brothers, mother and son and than affection friends each other and between host and maid servant.
8. Kind and friendly, “well, everyone in my school knows what it means,”I said. “let’s see. ‘Inbecile.’ It means, intelligent. I’ll use it in a sentence for you. When it comes to words, Hassan is an imbecile. “Aaah,” he said, nodding.” Humans were created by God in the best possible way. God considers all human beings to be the same, noting more or less. Basicially all human beings are good. Both in al aspects suchas both parents, teachers, both younger and older people. All humans, nothing bad, all good. Even if there are humans who are bad, it is the choice of the human being themselves. In all religion teachings it is said that all people in

this world are good people. If they are not well they may have problems with their life. Therefore we as religious people must be always do good to other's.

## DISCUSSION

### The main characters and characteristic of main character

Based on the findings above about the main characters, Amir as the main character who is the son of a rich man in Afghanistan. His father who is well-known among the people but Amir felt that the relationship with his father was not the same as other children, the Amir's life that was not paid attention by his father was caused by his father's busy life. Different from Hassan who only comes from a simple family. Hassan's father who only works as a servant at Amir's house and Hassan is a very patient, Amir's wishes are always obeyed because he is the only friend Amir has. The character of the Amir as a more demanding youngster to be considered a good boy. He tried to get his parents' charm through conversation but he didn't find it. He easily assumed that his father had no desire to pay attention to him. But he was recognized by the audience through his father, as a young boy who had a father who was famous and kind to everyone. Amir is a smart person who gladly accepts lessons about Islam.

### Moral messages

The writer concludes that this novel has a value that must be applied in behaving and treating others. The first is honesty, that the quotation above belongs to honesty because the one of character in the novel his name Amir acknowledge that he has seen one big event that could not easier to get it by ordinary people or young boy but all of sudden young by from lower class of people appeared and able to catch the kite easier. Then bravely make someone to never give up surviving their life itself. So, to overcome or minimize the risk people must be strong or brave (Syarifuddin, S., & Hasyim, I., 2020). Confident and potential, the quotation above belong to confident and potential because in his story the character name's Amir is a person who really believes in his abilities. He became very confident because he had won a kite runner race in his area. Then Self-Discipline and moderation which character of Amir is a child who is orderly and discipline in all things. Values of Giving, oyalty and trustworthy like Hassan's father as well as a servant who works with Baba. Love and affection, that the quotation above belong to love and affection because Amir and Soraya are husband and wife who really love other. Last is kind and friendly, one eager to know anything that he doesn't know well or uncommon thing.

## CONCLUSION

While talking about the theme in the novel is very sensitively element which describes all the events in novel where the character involved themselves in different part. However. It result the easiness of understanding what the novel say in which describes about the chaos and betrayal that was looking for the escape from the culture of his (main character) birth. Though he enjoyed much of childhood, Hassan's attakin the alley gives the whole of Amir's childhood a bad taste. The destination that they choose brought them to the embraced of the happiness that they found in Afghan community in California, those who do not forget about the culture in their homeland. In each single novel may not go out from its moral message which makes the readers to adopt some moral advantage from the novel. 'The Kite Runner' also serves the moral message which deals with the greatest regret appears from the soul of main character (Amir). Therefore his entire liferevolve around regret, knowing the regrets create the uncomfortable life so he must be

looking for a chance to redeem his regretful by returning and finding the boy (son of Hassan). Then, 'The Kite Runner' is morally to those who allow injustice thrive and those behave morally gets screwed and getting the obstacle in raising their kids.

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