

## An Analysis of Moral Values in *The Alchemist* Novel



Erni Hastuti<sup>1</sup>, Kartika Amalia Safitri<sup>2</sup>, Teddy Oswari<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>English Department, Faculty of Letters and Culture, Universitas Gunadarma, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup>Management Department, Faculty of Economic, Universitas Gunadarma, Indonesia

**ABSTRACT:** Novel is a literary works that portray human life which contains cultural, moral, and educational value on its character and story. The moral values contained in the novel can provide views for the reader to be used as a basis and guide for social life where moral values will always be related to goodness, nobility of character, as well as the good and bad behavior that exists in an individual or society. The objective of the research is to find out what types of moral values contained in *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. This research used the theory of moral values by Kinnier (2000). The researcher used descriptive method to analyze the data. The subject of this research is *The Alchemist* novel by Paulo Coelho. The research result showed that there are 25 data which contains moral value on commitment to something greater than oneself, 6 data which contains self-respect with humility self-discipline and responsibility, 3 data which contains respect and caring for others, and 7 data which contains caring for others creatures, and environment found in sentences.

**KEYWORDS:** moral values, novel, literary works

### INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a medium for expressing the author's thoughts which contains many moral values that are beneficial to the reader. Literary work discussed various kinds of problems that occur in life, which are created in oral and written form. One form of literary work is the novel which is a long prose essay containing a series of a person's life stories with those around him by highlighting the characteristics of each actor. Nurgiyantoro (2010) described that the novel as a prose fiction literary work that is quite long, which tells an imaginative person's life. Meanwhile, Permana, et al (2019) stated that the novel is an extraordinary event that can be written and told in social life, and not a few can also cause changes in attitudes towards readers can even be declared fateful. Sayuti, (2020) novel has a long number of words so that it has sufficient opportunities to question the characters in a passage of time. So, it can be concluded that the novel is an expression of the human life story. The conflict that occurs can eventually cause a change in the way of life between the actors. In addition, the novel is a literary work that contains a lot of values or messages in it, one of which is moral values.

Moral values must be considered in a novel. With moral values, readers can understand what the author wants to convey. According to Subur (2015). Moral values, namely manners, ethics and character related to the behavior of every human being. Nurgiyantoro (2015) gives the opinion that fiction contains moral values that are applied in the behavior and attitudes that are applied to each characterization according to the author's view of morals. Through literary works, the reader's experience will be obtained when the reader understands the contents of the novel, it can also be applied to practice in life, and can be used as a thought and more or less can change the reader's behavior.

With morals, humans will respect each other more and it can be able to appreciate the differences of opinion in each individual. As stated from Kinnier (2000) there are four kinds of moral values, as follows: 1). commitment to something greater than oneself, self-respect with humility; 2). self-discipline and responsibility; 3). respect and caring for others; 4). caring for other living matters and the environment. Dawey (2004) said that morals are matters related to moral values. According to Satinem (2019) moral values are teachings about good and bad regarding attitudes, obligations, morals, manners. It can be understood that morals are values, rules, teachings about how humans should act and behave, both to themselves and to others. This means that the existence of moral values can create a good person in which humans can interact and respect to each other. So that, moral values are very important in human beings.

The study of morals has been carried out in previous research such as Utami & Arini (2017) his research deals with a novel entitled *Little Lord Fauntleroy* written by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The aim of the research is to reveal the moral values from Cedric's personality in the novel. This research used library study and descriptive qualitative analysis method. The result of this research that the moral values in this novel were honesty, kindness, hospitality, modesty, wisdom, empathy and responsible. Ardayati & Rahay (2017). His research discussed about the intrinsic elements and moral values found in *Totto Chan: the Little*

## An Analysis of Moral Values in The Alchemist Novel

*Girl at the Window* which using structural approach. The result of this research that the moral values in this novel were honesty, willingness to take responsibilities, independence and humility. Ralia, et all (2018) his research aims to find out the moral values in JK Rowling's Novel *Harry Potter and Prisoner of Azkaban* and their application to Indonesian morality education. This research used qualitative as the methodology. From the results, it is concluded that people in a novel always bring some value which related to education and teacher need to know how to use it.

Based on the explanation of moral values above, the purpose of this research is to describe moral values related to commitment something to greater than oneself, self-respect with humility, self-discipline and responsibility, caring for others, caring for other creatures and environment contained in the novel is *The Alchemist* novel by Paulo Coelho

### RESEARCH METHODS

The method used for data collection in this research uses descriptive methods. This research described moral values which can be seen in the individual's relationship with God, the individual and society, and the individual with himself. According to Moleong (2015: 2) In the descriptive method, the data collected is in the form of words, pictures, not numbers. The source of data used in this research is a document in the form of a novel. The novel used is *The Alchemist* (1988) by Paulo Coelho published by Harper Collin and Harper Perennia. The data used in this research are moral values in relation to commitment something to greater than oneself, self-respect with humility, self-discipline and responsibility, caring for others, caring for other creatures and environment in the form of sentences contained in the novel *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. Sentences that will be used as quotes or evidence that there are moral values in the novel *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. The data collection technique used in this research is library and note-taking techniques. The analysis technique consists of three activities that occur simultaneously, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. These three activities occurred simultaneously both before, during and after data collection in parallel. If this is not done, the result is that the researcher will face many difficulties because of the large amount of data in the form of sentence descriptions.

### RESULT AND DICUSSION

#### Result

In this research, the researcher found that there are many moral values obtained in *The Alchemist* novel after the researcher analyzed the data. There are four kinds of moral values based on Kinnier's theory that appears in this novel. The moral values types found in *The Alchemist* novel were sorted based on Kinnier's list of moral values types and discussed in detail below:

**Table 4.1 Kind of moral values in *The Alchemist* Novel**

Kind of Moral Values	Frequency
Commitment something to greater than oneself	25
Self-respect with humility, self-discipline and responsibility	6
Caring for others	3
Caring for other creatures and environment	7
TOTAL	41

From the tables 4.1, it can be seen that there are four kinds of moral values according to the Kinnier (2000) namely commitment something to greater than oneself which consists of 25 data, self-respect with humility, self-discipline and responsibility which consists of 6 data, caring for others which consists of 3 data, and caring for other creatures and environment which consists of 7 data.

#### Discussion

##### Moral Values in the novel

The researcher focuses on discussing about moral values in *The Alchemist* novel. Moral values are an overall principle about what is right and wrong. It is also used to judge an act whether it is good or bad. It is also defined as something that is socially acceptable in society, because no matter what religion, race or community a person belongs to, value such as honesty will be equally respected anywhere.

##### Commitment something to greater than oneself

According to Kinnier (2000), when you commit to something greater than oneself, a person should behave as follows 1). to recognize the existence of God and be committed to a supreme being, higher principle, transcended purpose or meaning to one's existence: 2). to seek the truths, 3). to seek the justice. By having a commitment with something to greater than oneself means we realized the existence of God, we consider there is something greater than all of the things in this universe which control everything such as how the wind blows, how the earth rotates in its axis and committed to the almighty and realize the purpose of

## An Analysis of Moral Values in The Alchemist Novel

living, it can also mean to seek truth and justice in every aspect of our life. Below are some examples which contain moral values taken from the novel.

### Data 1 :

“But **she has the Sacred Heart of Jesus** there, he thought, trying to reassure himself. He didn’t want his hand to begin trembling, showing the old woman that he was fearful. **He recited an Our Father silently.**” (*The Alchemist*, p.7)

In this narration, Santiago experienced recurring dream for two times, he met a Gypsy woman in Tarifa which is famous for interpreting the meaning of dream. When they talked to each other, Santiago felt scared because of he heard a rumor that Gypsies spent their lives tricking other people and liked to kidnap children, Santiago frightened that the woman will kidnap him, but then he tried to reassure himself by look around the room and notice that the Gypsy woman have the picture of The Sacred Heart of Jesus, it is a mystical-physical heart of Jesus as an object of devotion. By having the picture of Jesus, it means the Gypsy woman tried to remember the Jesus, and when Santiago recited the Our Father, which is the famous Christian prayer, he also considered the existence of God. This explanation suitable with the theory of Kinnier (2000) which divided kinds of moral values into four types, one of them is commitment to something that greater than oneself means admit the existence and committed to the Supreme Being, and its presence.

### Data 2 :

“In just a few hours **he had seen men walking hand in hand, women with their faces covered and priests that climbed the tops of towers and chanted—as everyone about him went to their knees and placed their foreheads on the ground.**

“A practice of an infidels,” he said to himself. **As a child in church, he had always looked at the image of Saint Santiago Matamoros on his white horse, his sword unsheathed and figures such as these kneeling at his feet.** The boy felt ill and terribly alone. The Infidels had an evil look about them.” (*The Alchemist*, p.21)

In this narration, Santiago arrived at the Tarifa, he paid attention around him and saw priest climbed the tops of towers and chanted which is reciting Adzan or a call to prayer, when everyone (the citizen) went to their knees and placed their foreheads on the ground which are performing Salat and Sujood. Santiago said that he is a child who always in church means that he is a religious Christian boy and he also realized the existence of God. This explanation is suitable with the theory of Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is commitment to something that greater than oneself means recognizing the existence of the Supreme Being by performing what God ask you to do and avoid things God ask you not to do.

### Data 3 :

You didn’t have to do any cleaning,” he said. “**The Koran requires me to feed a hungry person.**” (*The Alchemist*, p.28)

In this conversation, after all Santiago’s money robbed by a thief at Tarifa then he walked for a long time and arrived at the hill, he found a crystal shop and go inside the shop, after that Santiago then talked to the crystal shop merchant and offered him a help to clean the crystals at the shop and as a reward, the merchant should treat him a meal, but then he refused it by referring to the *Koran* that we should feed a hungry person, by saying this the crystal shop merchant realizing God existence because *Koran* is the Islamic sacred book which written in Arabic for every moslem. This explanation is suitable with the theory of Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is commitment to greater than oneself meaning you admit the presence of God and to act accordance to His Command. Through the conversation of crystal merchant, he recognized the existence of God because he stated one of the verses of *Koran* namely Al-Insan (76) which requires Moslem to feed the hungry person, in this context, Santiago considered as a needy because he have no money. “*And they give food in spite of love for it to the needy, the orphan, and the captive...*” (*Koran* 76:8)

### Self-respect with humility, self-discipline and responsibility

According to Kinnier (2000) a person with self-respect with humility, self-discipline and responsibility should behave as follows 1). to respect and care for oneself; 2). not to exalt oneself or overindulge to show humility and avoid gluttony, greed, or other forms of selfishness or self-centeredness; 3). to act in accordance with one’s conscience and to accept responsibility for one’s behavior. Having self-respect means we have to respect and care ourself, avoid being greedy and selfish and to act in accordance

## An Analysis of Moral Values in The Alchemist Novel

with one's conscience to accept responsibility for one's behavior. Having self-discipline also can be proven by having responsibility of oneself such as always studying or responsible for what we have done if we made mistakes.

### Data 4:

“His parents had wanted him to become a priest, and thereby a source of a pride for a simple farm family. They worked hard just to have food and water, like the sheep. He had studied Latin, Spanish, and theology. **But ever since he had been a child, he had wanted to know the world, and this was much more important to him than knowing God and learning about man's sins.** One afternoon, on a visit to his family, he had summoned up the courage to tell his father that he didn't want to become a priest. That he wanted to travel.” (*The Alchemist*, p. 4)

In this narration, Santiago thought that when he and his flocks of sheep continue his journey after having a recurring dream and he wanted to tell the merchant's daughter that he adores about how simple for a shepherd to know how to read by stating how Santiago learned Latin, Spanish and theology but ended up being a shepherd because he wants to know the world rather than learning about God and man sins have shown that Santiago has responsibility on himself because he did not want to give up his dream to his parents. This explanation is suitable with the theory by Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is self-respect with humility, self-discipline and acceptance of personal responsibility.

### Data 5:

“**It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting,** he thought, as he looked again at the position of the sun, and hurried his pace.” (*The Alchemist*, p.6)

In this narration, Santiago thought about the possibility of the other young shepherd with a larger flock of sheep came to the merchant shop asking for his beloved person's hand. The thought of Santiago has shown that he has an ambition, and he said the possibility of having a dream come truly made life interesting. By thought about this, Santiago described to have some self-responsibility. In this case, the responsibility to himself to keep on going and make his dream come true without knowing what might happen next. This explanation is suitable with the theory of Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is self-respect with humility, self-discipline, and acceptance of personal responsibility. By having this thought, Santiago also shown to have self-responsibility because he feel optimistic that his dream might come true, so he continue to pursue his dream.

### Respect and caring for others

According to Kinnier (2000) a person who have respect and caring for other should behave as follows 1). recognizing the connectedness between all people; 2). serving humankind and to be helpful to individuals; 3) caring, respectful, compassionate, tolerant and forgiving others 3). not to hurt others (e.g.do not murder, abuse, steal from, cheat, or lie to others). Having respect and caring for others means you recognize the connectedness between every human being around you, you can sense humankind and can be a helpful individual on society, not only feel the connectedness to other, you also must feel respectful, compassionate, tolerant and forgiving others. The concrete example of caring for others is feel sympathize when one of your old friends lost their loved ones.

### Data 6:

But the old man wanted to talk, and he asked the boy what book he was reading.  
**The boy was tempted to be rude, and move to another bench, but his father had taught him to be respectful of the elderly.”** (*The Alchemist*, p.10)

In this conversation, Santiago sat and thought about the Gypsy woman who can interpret dreams, and thought about what something he should say and how he must behave in front of the girl that he adores on the next day. When he had this thought, a mysterious strange man sat beside him and started to ask him question, at first he answer it dryly as if he sounds so invested with his reading, and he intended to move to another bench but he did not do that because he did not want to look rude and his parents told him to be respectful to the elderly. By having this thought, Santiago described to have some respect to others because he still sat on the same bench with the mysterious man so he does not his hurt feeling. This explanation is suitable with the theory of Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is having respect and caring for others.

## An Analysis of Moral Values in The Alchemist Novel

### Data 7:

He walked slowly through the market. **The merchants were assembling their stalls, and the boy helped a candy seller to do this.** The candy seller had a smile on his face: he was happy, aware of what his life was about, and ready to begin a day's work." (*The Alchemist*, p.26).

In this narration, Santiago walks on the market of Tarifa after he got robbed at the previous port, so he walked to the market to read the omens about how he continued his journey. By having this thought, Santiago described that he cares for other people because he wanted to be a helpful individual by helping the candy seller assembling their stalls. This explanation is similar with the theory of moral values by Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is having some respect and caring for others. Through this narration, Santiago described that he care for others because helping someone to do something is also a form of caring.

### Data 8 :

"Since they were visitors, **they would have to share living space with those who lived there, and would be given the best accommodations.**" (*The Alchemist*, p.54)

In this narration, Santiago continue the journey using caravan, but the caravan must stopped for a while in the dessert because there was a tribal wars happened, then the leader of the caravan collects all of the people and told them that they (visitors) must stay here until the war is over. By providing the best accommodations, tribal chieftains described to have the feel of caring others because providing best accommodations also means showing the feeling of care. This explanation is suitable with the theory by Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is having some respect and showing the feeling of care of others. Through this narration, the tribal chieftains proved that he shows the feeling of care because he would give the refugees the best accomodations.

### Caring for other living things and the environment

Showing that you care for other living things and the environment means you help conserve and protect other living things and the environment, you help to save the environment from any danger and care to other creatures other than human such as animals, plants. The concrete example about how people care and conserve other living creatures are by pet an animal, or watering the plant.

### Data 9 :

He saw to it that all the sheep entered through the ruined gate, **and then laid some planks across to it to prevent the flock from wandering away during the night.**" (*The Alchemist*, p.1)

In this narration, Santiago arrived at the ruined church as his first stop before he went to the merchant to sell all of his flocks's fur, he stayed at the ruined church with his flocks of sheep for a night, then he rested all of his flocks at the church and placed some planks across the flocks to prevent wandering during the night. By doing that, Santiago described that he care to other living creatures namely animal as his job as a shepherd. This explanation is suitable with g the theory of Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is caring for other living things and environment.

### Data 10 :

"They are so used to me that they know my schedule." He muttered. Thinking about what that for a moment, he realized that it could be the other way around: **that it was he who had become accustomed to their schedule.**" (*The Alchemist*, p.1)

In this narration, when having this thought, Santiago just woke up from his sleep and saw all of his flocks of sheep were also wake up and then he thought it was such a mysterious bond that he and his sheep got used to each other, or Santiago is the one who got used to with the sheep for the past two years, he leads them through the countryside in search of food and water. By having this thought, Santiago has prove that he care to his sheep so that he get accustomed to their schedule. This explanation is suitable with the explanation of the theory of Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is caring for other living things and environment. Through this narration, Santiago described that he care to his sheep until they both got accustomed to each other schedule.

## An Analysis of Moral Values in The Alchemist Novel

### Data 11 :

“If I became a monster today and decided to kill them, one by one, they would **become aware only after most of the flock had been slaughtered, thought the boy. They trust me, and they’ve forgotten how to rely on their own instincts, because I lead them to nourishment.**” (*The Alchemist*, p.4)

In this narration, Santiago thought about even when he wanted to slaughter all of his sheep, they trust Santiago will not hurt them (Santiago’s flock of sheep) because he gave them nourishment and forgot how to rely on their instincts in which Santiago always protect them. By having this thought, Santiago described to show that he care and protect all of his sheep. This explanation is suitable with the theory of Kinnier (2000) which divided moral values into four types, one of them is caring for other living things and environment. Through this narration, Santiago have proven to always taking care of sheep until they forgot how to use their instincts because Santiago always feed them with nourishment and the sheep always depend on him.

### CONCLUSION

From the data which has been analyzed in the discussion chapter, there are 4 types of moral values found in 41 sentences which contains moral values on the novel which consists of 25 data which contains commitment to something greater than oneself, 6 data which contains self-respect with humility, self discipline and responsibility, 3 data which contains respect and caring for others, and 7 data which contains caring for others creatures and environment found both in sentences. The most dominant moral values found is commitment to something greater than oneself because both of these novel contain lots of spiritual value which taught the readers about some concept of two religions namely Islam and Christ. Meanwhile, the rarest moral values found in this research is caring for other creatures and environment since there are only seven data.

### REFERENCES

- 1) Ardayati and Rahayu, A. 2017. An Analysis of The Intrinsic Elements and Moral Values in Tetsuko Kuroyanagi’s Novel “Toto Chan: The Little Girl at The Window”. *English Community Journal*. 1 (2); 65–68.
- 2) Dawey. 2004. *Pokok-Pokok Filsafat Moral*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- 3) Kinnier, R.T., Jerry, L.K and Therese, M.D. 2000. A Shortlist of Universal Moral Values. *Counseling and Values*. 45(1);4-16.
- 4) Moleong, L.J. 2015. *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung:Remadja Karya.
- 5) Nurgiyantoro, B. 2010. *Teori pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta:Gajah Mada University press.
- 6) Permana, A., Juwita, L and Zainab, A. S. 2019. Analisis Unsur Instrisik Novel Menggapai Matahari Karya Dermawan Wibisono. *Parole Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*. 2(1); 21-26.
- 7) Satinem. 2019. *Apresiasi Prosa Fiksi*. Yogyakarta:Deepublish.
- 8) Sayuti, S. A. 2000. *Berkenalan dengan Prosa Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gama Media.
- 9) Subur. 2015. *Pembelajaran Nilai Moral Berbasis Kisah*. Yogyakarta. Kalimedia:CAPS
- 10) Ralia, A., Kasmainsi and Indah. 2018. A Description of Moral Values in JK Rowling’s Novel Harry Potter and Prisoner of Azkaban and Their Application to Indonesian Morality Education. *LINGUISTS: Journal of Linguistics and Language Teaching*. 4(2);26-31.
- 11) Utami, D.B.U and Arini. R. 2017. An Analysis of Moral Values in Burnett’s Little Lord Fauntleroy Novel. *Journal of English Language and Education*. 3(1);29-41.



There is an Open Access article, distributed under the term of the Creative Commons Attribution–Non Commercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0)

(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits remixing, adapting and building upon the work for non-commercial use, provided the original work is properly cited.