

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This study presents the values of character education found in novel *The Land of Five Towers* by Ahmad Fuadi translated by Angie Kilbane. It focuses on the values of character education in Madani Pesantren Gontor. In its relevancy, the values of character education in Islamic boarding house could be a medium of teaching-learning process in the curriculum for each major, including education for public school. This chapter covers background of the study, problem of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, the limitation of study, definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Character education is positioned to create national building vision. It creates the best moral quality for society, etiquette, cultured, and civilized based on *Pancasila*. This program is also become to be effort to support the wishing of *Pancasila* and the opening of UUD 1945. Besides that, many problems in the nation by character education support the spirit and effort for government to give priority to the character education as the building education. That spirit implicitly is given in *Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Panjang Nasional (RPJPN)* (The Plant of Building in National Long Period

Time) in 2005-2025, where the government creates the character education as one program that has priority to national building.¹

But character education in Indonesia right now can be said has many changes. Even it is better than before. Schools have many complete tools, infrastructures and fulfill the standard operational of learning (although still not for all). 20% national budget that has been given by the government brings the bigger effect to education in Indonesia. The purpose of government is to build human resources of Indonesian nation which not too far from the world of education. It means that education is very important to understand more than just how the education looks like.

Completeness and easiness of government's applied in education cannot be judge by the physical only. At this time education is more minimalist, where everything is helped by much easiness. It begins from technology or other tools that attribute knowledge for the students. Take for example the teacher in teaching can be very easy to explain the right position of countries with Google map which fulfill of right direction. All can be handled by technology. On the other side, the ease of educations' presented cannot be underestimated. It cannot be denied, the negative effects show up as the massive terrible in the world of education today.

The cases of education which published in mass media could be a parameter that the advance of era has through the boundaries—where the rude/anarchy/arrogant/drinker of teenagers are become the reality—not in

¹ Kementerian Pendidikan Nasional Badan Penelitian dan Pengembangan Pusat Kurikulum Dan Perbukuan. *Panduan Pelaksanaan Pendidikan Karakter*. (Jakarta: Kemendiknas, 2011), 8.

taboo anymore. The example that is usually happened are like engage in a gang fight between students, alcoholic, drug, sexual harassment, undisciplined to obey the rules—are being the indicator of uncontrolled education in Indonesia. As the nation, presumably we still contaminated *national inferiority complex*, it shown from liking and accepting anything without any selection from the western culture. Worse, the mass media also forget their obligation to educate and motivate the nation to love our culture. There is no the educative agendas for the students, at this time.²

The cases above happened because of lack in understanding about education character. Teacher is likely abusing education character without applying it in the right purpose and perspective in one way for education. In Indonesia, the implementation of character education right now is urgent. The images of society situation even education situation become mainstreaming character education implementation in Indonesia.³ The direction of character education to the values of character education becomes brittle because the sector to apply character education is not too serious. To proof those cases, do not be surprised if the future of Indonesia will be hold by corruptor, not responsibility leader with the nation, full of attitude under the average. At that time the education in Indonesia began to proof its badness.

The details of character education will be more difficult to enforceable when globalization is increasingly offering the variety of new products today. People become very apathetic and individualistic in looking at all things. The

² Muchlas Samani and Haryanto. *Konsep dan model pendidikan karakter* (Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya, 2012), 2.

³ *Ibid.*, 2.

culture will be broke, even we can say gone from the society, especially in phase of younger people. According to Lickona, to concern to the young people trend in general is most likely to show a bad illustration. Linkona divide 9 effects resulting from the trend of young people in general: violence and anarchy, stealing, cheating, ignoring the rules, brawling between students, intolerance, using bad language, too early of maturity and the deviation, and self-destructive attitude.⁴

To solve the phenomenon that occur in the society which cannot be controlled by the government, they tries to invite various forms of media sector to overcome the problems. They are family, educational units, communities, government, business, and mass media to do some action to resolve the problem about ignoring character education. The aim of government is to build a national multicultural life, a civilization of intelligent, and to build a peace-loving citizen with respectful to other nations in a harmony.

One of the media to overcome the problems in character education is literature. The function of literature is *dulce et utile* (beautiful and usefulness). Form of literature is interesting. It is easy to understand to make the people like to read, listen, watch, and follow the story. Meanwhile—from the aspect of contents—literature are useful. It brings the moral values in every creature. From moral values, people can to conclude whether it is right or not.⁵ One of the various values in novel is the values of character education.

⁴ Thomas Linkona (translated by Juma Abdu Wamaungu). *Educating for Character: Mendidik untuk Membentuk Karakter*. (Jakarta: PT Bumi Aksara, 2012), 20-30.

⁵ Haryadi. Peran Sastra dalam Pembentukan Karakter Bangsa. Staff.uny.ac.id. Accessed on 17 April 2015.

From the various forms of literature, novel is one of literary works that play a role in changing the direction of human perspective in character education. Novel can bring the reader's imagination to understand the story. It becomes an inspiring work in order to make people aware that a good role in the novel can be learned and applied. In reading the novel someone can catch the points from the writers. The points of the researcher's meaning are the values of character education in novel that has a story about education.

There are many novels on the market that tells the story about the education, one that into consideration is novel *The Land of Five Towers* by Ahmad Fuadi, where in the novel contains many values of character education that can be applied in solving the problems of character education in this era. The values of character education in this novel provide the values in Madani Pesantren. The values of character education in Madani Pesantren are very different than the values in public school.

Beside the values of character education are limited to the Islamic boarding house, the values in this novel gives the new ideas about how education can walk together with the rules that students should obey in Madani Pesantren. The form of rules can be in formal, informal, or non-formal. The rules and concepts in Madani Pesantren can create the new students' quality to apply the values of character education as it works. It concepts can be a references to the governments for how to create a best quality to the nation.

Based on the statements above, the writer as the researcher tries to conclude the values of character education found from the novel that is written

by Ahmad Fuadi with title *The Land of Five Towers* translated to English by Angie Kilbane. The novel is based on a true story in Madani Pesantren Gontor and played by the characters. The researcher takes novel *The Land of Five Towers* as literary work which has many values of character education found and need to be discussed. Based on the whole explanation above, the researcher chooses the title of this thesis is **“The Values of Character Education Found in Ahmad Fuadi’s *The Land of Five Towers*.”**

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of study, the problems of this research are formulated as follow:

1. What are the values of character education found in novel *The Land of Five Towers*?
2. What are the attitude changes of main characters influenced by the values of character education in novel *The Land of Five Towers*?

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem formulation above, the objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze the values of character education that could be found based on novel *The Land of Five Towers*.
2. To describe the attitude changes to main characters influenced by the values of character education based on novel *The Land of Five Towers*.

D. Significance of the Study

Based on the research, researcher gives the significances to guidance other people who want to follow this research.

For lectures, hopefully can be a new method to teach the students to use the values of character education. The lectures can apply the values of character education such as hard work, religious, discipline, independent, creative, loving homeland, friendliness, loving peace, the spirit of nationality, tolerance, social care, pleasure for reading, responsible, honest, and curious as the medium of teaching-learning process for students in general, and especially for students in STAIN Kediri.

For researcher, this research study hopefully helps the researcher to find out the alternative way of learning values from novel *The Land of Five Towers*. This can be a motivation and reference to study Indonesian literary. It can give the understanding about the values of character education in an Islamic boarding house, especially in Madani Pesantren.

For readers, this research hopefully can influence their education for using mainly values of character education in the novel *The Land of Five Towers* individually. It can support the enthusiasm in learning. It can make the person to more religious and obey the rules in doing something for their life. To give a new perspective to use the values of character education in daily life.

E. The Limitation of Study

The researcher studies about novel. The limitation of this research is based on the content of the story in novel *The Land of Five Towers*. It limits to the values of character education and attitude change that is played by the main characters based on the environment of Madani Pesantren and after the characters graduate from Madani Pesantren.

The main characters in novel *The Land of Five Towers* are: Alif Fikri, Raja Lubis, Baso Salahuddin, Said Jufri, Atang, Dulmajid (The Fellowship of the Manara) who play the whole story of this novel until they graduate and get success for their life. The next main characters are Kiai and Ustad in Madani Pesantren. Those are: Kiai Rais, Ustad, Ustad Kholid, Ustad Torik, Ustad Salman, Ustad Faris) when they teaches in Madani Pesantren.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Based on the statement of the research above, the researcher would like to give the definition of key terms which are used in this research. There are the values, the education character, the main characters, attitude changes, *pondok madani*, novel *The Land of Five Towers*.

1. The values

Value is derived from Latin word *vale're*, it means useful, capable, have power, force, so it is defined as something that is considered to be good, useful and the most valid according to the belief of a person or group

of people. Value is the quality of a thing that makes it preferable, desirable, pursued, appreciated, useful, and it can make people become dignified.⁶

2. The character education

The character education based in the novel *The Land of Five Towers* are the Islamic values compare with the general knowledge in Madani Pesantren Gontor, Ponorogo, East java. Based on *Kementerian Pendidikan Nasional (kemendiknas)* (Ministry of national education in Indonesia) and according to Lickona, the character of education refers to moral values in relation with phase of the moral value of human life.⁷

3. The main character

The main character is the main subjects of the novel to play the story from begin until finish. The characters in this research as the agent based in novel *The Land of Five Towers* by Ahmad Fuadi translated by Angie Kilbane. In this research refers to the main characters of the novel, they are: Alif Fikri, Raja Lubis, Baso Salahuddin, Said Jufri, Atang, and Dulmajid and their teacher who play the whole stories in novel *The Land of Five Towers*.

4. Attitude changes

Attitude change is the changes for people after get many experiences in their life. Attitude change comes from two factors. Those are inside and outside factor. Inside factor means the factor that come from someone's psychology to change his life from spirituality that connects with improve

⁶ Sutarjo Adisusilo. *Pembelajaran Nilai-Karakter* (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2012), 56.

⁷ Thomas Lickona, *Educating for Character. Mendidik untuk Membentuk Karakter*, terj. Juma Abu Wamungo. (Jakarta: PT Bumi Aksara 2013), 84.

heart and mind. Whereas, an outside factor is a factor that changes people from many experiences from outside or in this real life to connect with their environment.⁸

5. Madani Pesantren

The real name of Madani Pesantren is *Pondok Modern Darusalam*. Islamic boarding house that is located in Gontor village, Ponorogo, East Java, founded on September 20, 1926 by three brothers, KH Ahmad Sahal (1901-1977), KH Zainudin Fananie (1908-1967) and KH Imam Zarkasyi (1910-1985). The boarding house is better known as Pondok Modern Gontor or just Gontor. Currently, Pondok Modern Gontor led by KH. Hasan Abdullah Sahal, Dr. KH. Abdullah Shukri Zarkasyi and KH. Syamsul Hadi Abdan.⁹

6. Novel *The Land of Five Towers*

The Land of Five Towers is one of Ahmad Fuadi's novels translated by Angie Kilbane. Novel *The Land of Five Towers* (in English) published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama on November 1, 2011. The characteristic of the novel is based on values in islamic boarding school (Madani Pesantren). This novel also describes about education in the boarding school environment.

⁸John T. Cacioppo at al. *Attitude Change* (The Ohio State University: Academic Press, Inc, 1994), 1.

⁹Iskandarjet. "Fakta di Balik Film Negeri 5 Menara", *Kompasiana on line*, <http://www.hiburan.kompasiana.com>, 02 Maret 2012, accessed on 12 September 2014.