

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this second chapter, the relevant literature related to the study is reviewed to strengthen the theoretical framework. This chapter focuses on the discussion of moral values, movies as literary works, the Saving Private Ryan movie, and previous studies related to the topic.

A. Literary Work

According to Klarer (1999), literature refers to the entirety of written expression, although not every written document can be categorized as literature in the strict sense. Literary works are distinguished by their aesthetic and artistic qualities that go beyond practical or utilitarian writing such as newspapers or legal documents. In other words, literary works are creative expressions that use language or symbols to convey meanings, emotions, and reflections on human experiences.

Klarer (1999) also states that literary works encompass various forms of human expression that are imaginatively and symbolically composed to represent experiences, ideas, and values of life. The main types are fiction, drama, and poetry, with movie as a modern literary form that also has narrative and aesthetic elements.

On the other hand, drama is a literary form written for performance, combining language with visual expression. This genre includes tragedies, comedies, and historical dramas that depict human conflicts and emotions. Poetry is the oldest literary form, rooted in oral tradition, characterized by rhythm, rhyme, and figurative language to express feelings and ideas. In addition to these three traditional forms, Klarer (1999) also mentions movie as a modern form of literature

because it has narrative and symbolic elements that can be analyzed like written literature.

Although Olsen (1976) discusses literary works in the context of written texts, his institutional theory can also be applied to movies as artistic works. Similar to literature, a movie exists within a cultural and social institution involving directors, writers, and audiences who share certain conventions and interpretations that define it as an art form.

1. Movie

Literary works include not only traditional forms such as novels, poetry, and drama, but also modern artistic expressions such as movie. Reimer (1979) views movie as an independent art form that deserves the same critical attention as written literature. Further, Reimer (1979) states that a movie, just like a literary text, presents narrative elements such as characters, themes, setting, and symbolism through its own visual and auditory medium. Rather than simply being a visual translation of a written story, movies function as a unique mode of artistic communication with their own aesthetic principles, including cinematic techniques such as editing, sound, and visual composition, in this sense, movies can be considered part of literary studies, as they convey meaning, emotion, and moral reflection through narrative structures similar to those found in literature.

Therefore, movies can be analyzed as literary texts since they employ storytelling techniques to express human thoughts, emotions, and moral messages. In this sense, *Saving Private Ryan* serves as a cinematic literary work that reflects

moral values and humanistic ideas, making it relevant to be analyzed through the perspective of intrinsic elements and the *8 Dimensions of Graduate Profiles*.

2. Intrinsic Elements

In every literary work, including movies, there are internal components that build the story and give it meaning. These are known as intrinsic elements, which include the theme, characters, plot, setting, and other aspects that shape the overall structure of a narrative. Intrinsic elements of literature relate to the interpretation and analysis of the literary work itself. On the other hand, extrinsic elements lie outside the literary work but do not directly influence the construction or system of literature. In the context of film, intrinsic elements include theme, plot, characters and characterization, setting, and point of view. Each of these elements plays an important role in the overall understanding and appreciation of a film. (Yusuf et al. 2022).

Dinneen and O'Connor (2008) states that intrinsic elements are elements that are in the body of a literary work. Without an intrinsic element, a literary work will not be formed properly. In other words, intrinsic elements are the basic foundation of literary works. Every literary work, whether in the form of prose, poetry, or drama, has intrinsic elements in it. However, each form of literary work has its form of intrinsic elements. For a short story, the intrinsic elements consist of theme, character, plot, setting, character or character, language style, point of view, and message.

The most important component is the intrinsic elements of a movie. Character, setting, plot, conflict, and theme are among the five intrinsic elements of a well-written and captivating short story (Locher et al., 2019). Each element plays a specific role in constructing the unity of a story. The following section will discuss these intrinsic elements in more detail.

a. Theme

Yusuf et al. (2022) as cited in Oktaviani et al. (2024) states that the theme in literature is the main concept that is introduced progressively in the narrative rather than being explicitly states by the author or narrator. In a film, this main concept is known as the theme, which serves as the message that the producer wants to convey. Themes in popular movies today include war, love, good versus evil, humans versus technology, and others.

Russel (2010) as cited in Putri (2023) states that theme is the main idea in literature. The theme is created into the story subtly rather than being conveyed by the narrator/author. The theme is the general idea of the film; the theme is also the message that moviemakers want to convey in their movies. In the *Saving Private Ryan*, the main theme centers on sacrifice, duty, and humanity amid the brutality of war.

b. Plot

Klarer (1999) defines plot as the logical sequence of events that structures the narrative and leads to a transformation of the initial situation. Plot provides coherence to the story by connecting causes and effects in a meaningful way. In

traditional literary structures, Klarer (1999) identifies four key stages of plot development: exposition, which introduces the background and characters; complication, where conflicts begin to arise; climax, representing the turning point of highest tension; and resolution, which provides closure to the conflict. This linear progression of events is known as a linear plot, where the narrative follows a chronological order. Klarer also notes that in some modern works, authors experiment with non-linear plots or flashbacks to create emotional depth or emphasize specific themes. Ultimately, plot functions as the backbone of a literary work that connects all elements and conveys the story's overall message and moral direction.

c. Setting

According to Klarer (1999), setting refers to the time, place, and social environment in which the events of a story occur. It provides the contextual background that supports the characters and the plot, shaping the tone, atmosphere, and meaning of the narrative. Klarer (1999) emphasizes that the choice of setting is never random; it is deliberately constructed to reinforce the themes and emotional resonance of the story. For instance, a story set in wartime naturally evokes tension, heroism, and sacrifice, which influence the moral interpretation of the events and characters. Setting can also symbolize the internal state of the characters or the broader cultural and historical context. Thus, setting is not merely a backdrop but an active element that interacts with other intrinsic components to give depth and realism to the literary work.

d. Characters

Klarer (1999) states that characters are figures or personas who play a role in a literary work, representing humans (or sometimes specific symbols) and performing an important function in constructing the narrative. He writes that: “The term ‘character’ designates the individuals who appear in the story and who are involved in the action.” This means that characters are individuals who appear in the story and are directly involved in the course of events or conflicts.

Characters are an important part of a story. Characters help convey the message of the story through their behavior and expressions. According to Gill (1997), characters are figures in literary works, while characterization is the way in which these characters are created.

Characters are the result of characterization. In addition, characters can be classified into minor characters (antagonists) and main characters (protagonists):

1. Antagonist characters are related to the conflicts faced by the protagonist in achieving the goals that the protagonist represents for the audience. Antagonist characters are usually known as the bad characters in a story.
2. Protagonists are good characters who usually solve problems in the story and fight against antagonists. According to Pickering and Hoeper (1981) as cited in Indriani (2019), protagonists are usually easy to identify: they are essential characters without whom the story would not exist in the first place.

Klarer (1999) explains that characters can be distinguished into several types based on their function in the narrative structure and the complexity of their personalities.

1. Main Character (Major)

The main character is the center of attention in the story, where the main conflict is centered and the story develops. They usually undergo changes throughout the story, for example, changes in personality, outlook on life, or morality. It is the main character who plays the most important role in conveying the moral message and main theme of a literary work.

2. Minor Character

Minor characters are supporting characters who help build the story, strengthen the setting, or support the development of the main character. They usually do not undergo significant development, but are still important to complete the narrative structure. They can serve as a comparison, balance, or support in developing the main character.

Apart from the intrinsic elements, Saragih et al. (2022) states that it is also essential to examine the extrinsic elements, which involve factors outside the text that influence the creation and interpretation of a literary work. Related to the extrinsic elements in short stories, Kazantseva and Szpakowicz (2010) argue that these elements consist of the community background, the author's background, and the values contained in the story, such as moral, social, religious, and cultural values. The community background refers to the historical and social circumstances

that shape the story, including ideological, political, and economic conditions. The author's background involves the writer's personal experiences, motivation, and literary orientation, which affect the style and theme of the work. Meanwhile, the values represent the ethical, cultural, and moral aspects embedded in the story, which convey messages and reflections about human life. Therefore, moral values can be considered part of the extrinsic elements because they reflect how a literary work communicates the author's or society's moral perspective and contributes to the reader's moral understanding.

1. *Saving Private Ryan*

According to Bodnar (2001), *Saving Private Ryan* is a movie that tells the story of a group of American soldiers led by Captain John Miller on a mission to rescue a young soldier, Private James Ryan, after his three brothers were killed in World War II. Bodnar (2001) explains that the movie depicts the horrors of war realistically, especially in the opening scene at Omaha Beach, while still maintaining the classic image of American soldiers as good and moral figures not natural-born killers, but ordinary people who fight out of a sense of responsibility and love for their country.

Auche and Mehdi (2019) states that *Saving Private Ryan* is a 1998 American epic war movie directed by Steven Spielberg and written by Robert Rodat. Produced by DreamWorks Pictures, Paramount Pictures, and Amblin Entertainment, the movie is set in 1944 during World War II in Normandy, France. The movie tells the story of a group of American soldiers led by Captain John H. Miller played by Tom Hanks on a mission to find and bring home Private James

Francis Ryan (Matt Damon) after his three brothers were killed in battle. The movie also stars Edward Burns, Tom Sizemore, Barry Pepper, Vin Diesel, Giovanni Ribisi, Adam Goldberg, and Jeremy Davies.

a. Plot of *Saving Private Ryan*

Saving Private Ryan, based on events and narrative characteristics of the classical combat sub genre, is divided into five acts, including a prologue and epilogue that different from the main body of the movie in that these take place in the pres, while the other three acts are set during the Second World War and structured in the mould of the heroic fable. These three acts for the memory of an elderly veteran shown in the movie's brief prologue and epilogue (Ramiez & Nevado, 2022)

According to Spielberg (1999) in Ramiez and Nevado (2022) the prologue and epilogue play an important role in conveying the main message of the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, even though most of the film's duration (around two hours and thirty-five minutes) focuses on the dangerous mission of the troops to find and bring Private James Francis Ryan home safely. The brief scene featuring the old man at the beginning of the movie contrasts sharply with the longer, more intense main scenes depicting the soldiers' war experiences. This contrast deliberately makes the audience momentarily forget that the entire story is actually told as a flashback from the perspective of the old veteran. With this narrative structure, Spielberg (1999) creates a deeper emotional resonance at the end of the film. When the story returns to the old man in the epilogue, the audience is reminded that everything they have witnessed represents painful but meaningful memories of

sacrifice and loss. This technique not only strengthens the emotional closure of the movie but also highlights broader themes of memory, humanity, and moral obligation

Achouche (2022) tells that the events depicted during World War II in *Saving Private Ryan* closely follow the conventional structure of the classic war movie sub-genre. The story begins with the introduction of the squad during the chaotic assault on Omaha Beach. Captain John H. Miller, a seasoned leader burdened by the trauma of combat, is assigned a mission that defines the film's narrative to locate and rescue Private James Ryan. Throughout their journey, the soldiers express doubts and frustrations about the mission, while the young and idealistic Upham maintains a romantic perception of war as a space for brotherhood and honor. Miller's internal trauma is subtly revealed through the recurring trembling of his hand, symbolizing the heavy emotional toll of leadership and the moral weight of his decisions.

Further, Achouche (2022) states that as the mission progresses, the squad suffers its first major loss when Private Caparzo is killed by a sniper. The men seek shelter in a church, where they expose their emotional struggles, question the purpose of their task, and reflect on the human cost of war. Medic Wade copies Caparzo's blood-stained farewell letter for his family, and Upham once again idealizes the meaning of sacrifice. The next day, after obtaining new intelligence about Ryan's location, Miller's vulnerability becomes evident to his men when they notice his trembling hand once more. Trying to reassert his authority, he orders an attack on a German machine gun post, resulting in Wade's death. This second loss fractures the squad's unity, leading some soldiers to demand revenge on the

captured German responsible for their comrade's death. However, Miller, persuaded by Upham's moral reasoning, prevents them from violating the military code and restores the group's discipline through a heartfelt speech where he reveals his true motivation to earn the right to go home after the war.

Then, Ramirez and Nevado (2022) tells that eventually, the squad finds Private Ryan, but he refuses to leave his post until he fulfills his duty to defend the bridge that will enable the American advance toward Paris. Faced with his determination, the squad decides to stay and help him hold the position. The final battle is fierce and tragic; most of the men are killed, including Captain Miller. In his final moments, Miller imparts the film's central moral message to Ryan with his last words: "Earn this." The story concludes with a voice-over reading a letter to Ryan's mother announcing the success of the mission, leading into the film's epilogue that returns the audience to the present, connecting the entire narrative to the reflection of memory and moral legacy.

b. Characters of Saving Private Ryan

Ramies and Nevado (2022) describe the characters in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, they are:

Captain John H. Miller is the main character and the leader of the squad, portrayed by Tom Hanks. As a captain, he embodies the values of responsibility, leadership, and sacrifice. Miller is depicted as a calm and strategic commander who carries the emotional burden of war. His trembling hands symbolize the psychological trauma he experiences, yet he continues to lead with compassion and discipline. Through his moral decision-making and dedication to his mission, Miller

represents the ethical center of the movie and serves as a symbol of moral strength in times of conflict.

Sergeant Mike Horvath is Captain Miller's second in command and one of his most loyal subordinates. He is pragmatic, brave, and deeply devoted to his leader. Horvath often acts as the emotional backbone of the squad, providing balance between duty and empathy. His unwavering loyalty to Miller shows the importance of trust and cooperation among soldiers, reflecting the value of solidarity and brotherhood.

Private Richard Reiben is a rifleman known for his outspoken and skeptical nature. He often questions the logic and morality of the mission to save one man at the expense of many. Reiben's defiance and critical thinking reveal the moral dilemmas faced by soldiers in wartime. Despite his doubts, he ultimately follows his commander's orders, showing that courage is not the absence of fear or disagreement but the ability to act despite them.

Private Adrian Caparzo is portrayed as young, impulsive, and caring. He is the first soldier in the squad to be killed in action, a moment that serves as a harsh reminder of the fragility of life in war. His death deeply affects the other soldiers and highlights the theme of sacrifice. Caparzo's character represents the innocence and vulnerability of youth caught in the brutality of combat.

Private Stanley Mellish is another rifleman who is both brave and loyal. His humorous personality and strong sense of duty make him an endearing member of the team. Mellish's tragic death in the final battle emphasizes the cost of heroism

and the randomness of survival in war. His character embodies courage and the willingness to fight for moral principles despite personal risk.

Private Daniel Jackson serves as the squad's sniper. He is calm, precise, and guided by his religious faith, often quoting scripture before taking a shot. Jackson represents discipline and devotion, symbolizing how faith can coexist with the harshness of war. His composure and sense of purpose contribute to the squad's unity and morale.

Technician Fourth Grade Medic Irwin Wade is the squad's medic who demonstrates compassion and selflessness. He risks his life to save others and serves as the moral conscience of the group. Wade's death while trying to help his comrades underscores the humanitarian dimension of the story, reminding viewers that empathy and sacrifice remain essential even amid violence.

Corporal Timothy Upham is a non combat soldier assigned as an interpreter for the squad. Initially inexperienced and fearful, Upham undergoes significant moral and psychological growth throughout the mission. He evolves from a timid observer to a decisive participant who learns to confront violence and injustice. Upham's journey reflects the film's broader theme of moral awakening and personal transformation during wartime.

c. Setting of *Saving Private Ryan*

According to Ehrenhaus (2001), the setting of *Saving Private Ryan* not only serves as a backdrop for depicting the events of World War II, but as a rhetorical space that shapes how audiences remember and interpret the war. Set in Normandy, France in 1944 during the Allied invasion, the movie

situates its narrative in one of the most decisive and violent moments of the war.

The opening scene on Omaha Beach and the closing scene at the Normandy cemetery frame the narrative in a commemorative setting, directing the audience to interpret the soldiers' experiences through the lens of national memory and sacrifice. Ehrenhaus (2001) also explains that the realistic and violent depiction of the battlefield is deliberately designed to immerse the audience in the emotional and physical intensity of war, making the setting a crucial medium for conveying the moral weight of the soldiers' actions. In this way, the setting becomes more than just a geographical and temporal marker; it functions as a symbolic environment that shapes the audience's understanding of duty, loss, and collective memory.

d. Theme of *Saving Private Ryan*

The main themes in *Saving Private Ryan* center on sacrifice, morality, and American national identity. Kodat (2000) highlights that this movie establishes itself as a form of respect for the generation of World War II veterans, while also emphasizing the idea that individual sacrifice is the foundation of American values. Through Ryan's rescue mission and the quotation of Abraham Lincoln's letter in the General Marshall scene, the movie presents war as a moral arena that demands courage, unity, and loyalty. However, Kodat also shows that this theme serves to address the anxieties of modern American culture, in which the movie uses the past of war as a symbol to reaffirm American national identity and moral legitimacy in the contemporary era.

B. Moral Values

According to Nurgiyantoro (2013), morality is something that the author wants to convey to the reader; it is the meaning contained in a work, the meaning suggested through the story. According to Hurlock (2017), as cited in Rahmadillah (2024) the definition of morals is behavior that conforms to the moral code of a social group. Morals themselves are manners, habits, and customs. Moral ideas or rules that have become habitual for people in a culture determine moral behavior.

As states by Linda and Eyre (1993) in Febrian (2021), moral values arise from a process of comprehending and implementing values concerning God and others in everyday life. These principles are intended to assist people in leading a fulfilling and significant life. Instilling moral values is important as it frequently arises as a reaction to societal issues. Istighfarah (2021) states that moral values act as a base, guide, and orientation for leading a meaningful, concentrated, and productive life. This illustrates the significance of moral values in influe In short, this statement means that moral values are important because they form the basis for humans to behave correctly, build good relationships with God and others, and create an orderly and meaningful life.

Kaur (2019) states that moral education refers to all efforts made by schools to shape how students think, feel, and behave in relation to moral principles and the distinction between right and wrong. The purpose of education is not only to develop intellectual abilities but also to nurture good character and ethical awareness. The reappaerance of moral education in modern times arises from increasing concerns about social and behavioral problems that affect both schools and society at large.

According to Saphiro (1999), as cited in sari (2013), emotional intelligence is associated with moral behavior, patterns of thinking, problem-solving skills, social interaction, personal emotions, and academic performance. Therefore, it can be concluded that moral education serves as the foundation for character development, which aligns with the values promoted in the concept of *8 Dimensions of Graduate Profiles* within Indonesia's educational framework.

Therefore, moral values portrayed in literary works can serve as an important medium for character education because they help readers and viewers understand ethical behaviour through characters' actions and decisions.

C. 8 Dimensions of Graduate Profiles

Conceptually, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (Kemendikdasmen)(2025) explains that *The 8 Dimensions of Graduate Profiles* is designed as an approach to address challenges in the learning process while meeting the demands of education in the 21st century. This approach aims to develop higher order thinking skills, encourage the application of knowledge in daily life, and create a learning process that is conscious, meaningful, and enjoyable. This document has been compiled as an academic foundation to support the implementation of deep learning in Indonesia, with the goal of building a conducive educational ecosystem capable of competing globally, characterized by eight main traits: having Faith and Piety, Citizenship, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Independence, Health, and Communication.”

According to the document issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikdasmen, 2025), the *8 Dimensions of Graduate Profiles* include:

1. Faith and Piety to God Almighty.

The dimension of faith and piety to God is related to religious beliefs, the implementation of religious teachings, and behaviour that reflects moral and ethical values. Individuals who possess this dimension tend to show honesty, responsibility, empathy, and respect for others. In *Saving Private Ryan*, this dimension can be seen through the characters' actions in maintaining humanity, showing compassion, and trying to do what is morally right despite being in a war situation.

2. Citizenship

The citizenship dimension refers to an individual's ability to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, love their country, respect diversity, and maintain unity. Individuals with a strong sense of citizenship demonstrate responsibility toward society and the nation. In *Saving Private Ryan*, this dimension can be observed through the soldiers' loyalty to their country, their sense of duty, and their willingness to sacrifice for a greater purpose.

3. Critical Reasoning

Critical reasoning is the ability to think logically, analyze information, evaluate situations, and make appropriate decisions. This dimension is important because it allows individuals to understand problems deeply before deciding what action to take. In *Saving Private Ryan*, critical reasoning is shown when the characters consider military strategies, face moral dilemmas, and make decisions in the middle of dangerous situations.

4. Creativity

Creativity is the ability to generate ideas, solutions, or new actions in dealing with problems. Creative individuals are able to adapt to difficult situations and find effective ways to achieve their goals. In *Saving Private Ryan*, creativity can be seen when the characters use different strategies and unusual methods to survive and accomplish their mission.

5. Collaboration

Collaboration is the ability to work together with others in order to achieve common goals. This dimension includes communication skills, respect for others' opinions, shared responsibility, and solidarity within a group. In *Saving Private Ryan*, collaboration is clearly reflected through the relationships among the characters, who support one another, work together during the mission, and try to protect each other.

6. Independence

Independence refers to the ability of individuals to manage themselves, make decisions, and take responsibility for their actions. Independent individuals do not always rely on others to solve problems. In *Saving Private Ryan*, this dimension can be observed when the characters are required to make quick decisions and act responsibly in urgent situations.

7. Health

The health dimension includes the ability to maintain physical and mental well-being in order to carry out activities effectively. Health is not only related to physical condition but also to the ability to manage emotions, pressure, and fear. In *Saving Private Ryan*, this dimension can be seen in the way the characters try to

maintain both their physical and mental endurance despite being in highly stressful war situations.

8. Communication

Communication is the ability to convey ideas, opinions, and information effectively to others. This dimension includes speaking, listening, understanding situations, and interpreting messages from others. In *Saving Private Ryan*, communication plays a crucial role because the success of the mission depends greatly on the characters' ability to give instructions, understand situations, and cooperate through effective communication.

D. Previous Study

In this part, the researcher reviews several previous studies related to the topic of this research. These studies, which include both theses and journal articles, demonstrate that similar topics have been previously explored by other researchers. Therefore, they serve as important references and comparisons to support and strengthen the analysis in this study.

As mentioned in the first chapter, several previous studies have analyzed intrinsic elements and moral values in various movies. To provide a clearer context, this section reviews three selected studies relevant to the current research. These studies were conducted by Umboro (2021), Ulfani and Rohmah (2021), and Wijayanti et al. (2023). Each study discusses different aspects of the intrinsic elements and moral values in movies, which serve as important comparisons for this study. The similarities, differences, and research gaps between these studies and the current study are outlined below to show how this study provides new

insights by linking literary analysis with the values of the 8 Dimensions of Graduate Profiles.

Several previous studies have examined intrinsic elements and moral values in movies, providing a relevant foundation for the present research. Studies conducted by Umboro (2021), Ulfani and Rohmah (2021), and Wijayanti et al. (2023) show that movie analysis has commonly been approached through either structural analysis or moral value identification. Umboro (2021) focused solely on intrinsic elements such as plot, characters, setting, and conflict in *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, emphasizing how these elements build the narrative structure. Meanwhile, Ulfani and Rohmah (2021) examined both intrinsic elements and moral values in *Bad Genius*, identifying lessons such as honesty and responsibility. On the other hand, Wijayanti et al. (2023) concentrated only on moral values in *Justice League*, discussing ethical messages like courage and loyalty.

The similarities across these studies lie in their use of qualitative descriptive methods and their shared focus on either intrinsic elements or moral messages in movies. However, the key difference is that none of these studies integrate intrinsic elements and moral values within a broader educational or national character framework. This creates a research gap that the present study aims to address. Unlike previous works, this study not only analyzes the intrinsic elements and moral values in *Saving Private Ryan*, but also connects these findings to the principles of the 8 Dimensions of Graduate Profiles, thus providing a contextual contribution to Indonesian character education.