

An Analysis of Moral Values Reflected in Andrea Hirata's Novel *Laskar Pelangi*

Firman Saleh, Sam hermansyah, Usman M

¹Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Hasanuddin

²³Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidenreng Rappang

Email : firmanalehsastraerah@unhas.ac.id

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abstract

This study aims to analyze the moral values reflected in Andrea Hirata's novel *Laskar Pelangi*. The novel presents a rich portrayal of educational struggles, social inequality, and human resilience, making it a significant literary work for moral and educational analysis. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method with a library research approach. The primary data source is the novel *Laskar Pelangi*, while secondary data are obtained from books, journals, and related literary theories supporting the analysis. The data are collected through intensive reading, note-taking, and classification of textual evidence related to moral values, then analyzed using moral and literary theory perspectives.

The findings reveal that *Laskar Pelangi* reflects several dominant moral values, including sincerity and integrity, responsibility and leadership, perseverance in pursuing education, religious faith and ethics, discipline, and the strength of friendship. These values are conveyed through the characters' actions, dialogues, and life experiences, particularly through the struggles of students and teachers in facing economic limitations and social challenges. The novel emphasizes that moral values play a crucial role in shaping character and guiding individuals to overcome adversity.

This study concludes that *Laskar Pelangi* not only functions as a literary work but also as a moral and educational medium that offers meaningful life lessons for readers. The moral values presented in the novel are relevant to educational contexts and can be used as references for character education, especially in fostering perseverance, empathy, and moral awareness.

INTRODUCTION

Literary works play an important role in reflecting human life, social realities, and moral values within society. Through literature, authors are able to convey ideas, experiences, and values that shape readers' perspectives and character. Novels, as one form of literary work, present complex narratives that portray human struggles, emotions, and moral dilemmas in a way that is both engaging and meaningful. Therefore, novels are not only sources of entertainment but also serve as media for moral and educational messages.

One of the Indonesian novels that strongly reflects moral and educational values is *Laskar Pelangi* by Andrea Hirata. This novel tells the story of a group of students from underprivileged backgrounds who struggle to pursue education in a small Muhammadiyah school with limited facilities. Despite economic hardship and social inequality, the characters demonstrate strong determination, sincerity, perseverance, and solidarity. The novel highlights the role of teachers as moral guides and emphasizes education as a means of shaping character and achieving a better future.

Moral values are essential elements in human life, as they guide individuals in distinguishing between right and wrong and in behaving ethically within society. Moral values reflected in literary works can influence readers' attitudes and provide meaningful lessons applicable to real-life situations. In *Laskar Pelangi*, moral values are implicitly and explicitly conveyed through characters' actions, dialogues, and life experiences. These values include integrity, responsibility, discipline, religious faith, perseverance in learning, and the power of friendship.

Previous studies on *Laskar Pelangi* have focused on various aspects such as educational themes, discourse analysis, and character development. However, a comprehensive analysis of moral values reflected in the novel remains relevant, especially in the context of character education. Analyzing moral values in literary works is important to understand how literature contributes to moral awareness and character formation, particularly for students and educators.

Based on this background, this study focuses on analyzing the moral values reflected in Andrea Hirata's novel *Laskar Pelangi*. This research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the moral messages conveyed in the novel and to highlight its relevance as a source of moral and educational learning. The findings of this study are expected to contribute to literary studies and serve as a reference for character education in educational settings.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature is a form of artistic expression that reflects human experiences, thoughts, and social realities through language. It functions not only as entertainment but also as a medium for conveying values, ideas, and moral reflections. Literary works often present representations of life that enable readers to understand human behavior and social conditions in a deeper and more meaningful way.

A novel is a long prose narrative that portrays characters, events, and conflicts in a structured storyline. It presents complex human experiences and explores psychological, social, and moral dimensions of life. Novels allow authors to express ideas and values through characterization, plot development, setting, and dialogue. As a result, novels become effective tools for transmitting moral and educational messages to readers.

Moral Values in Literary Works

Moral values refer to principles concerning what is considered right and wrong, good and bad, and appropriate or inappropriate behavior in society. Moral values guide individuals in making ethical decisions and shaping their attitudes toward others and their environment. In literary studies, moral values are often analyzed through characters' actions, interactions, and responses to conflicts.

Literary works frequently contain moral values that reflect the norms and beliefs of the society in which they are created. These values may be conveyed explicitly through narration or

implicitly through events and character development. Moral values in novels often include honesty, responsibility, perseverance, sincerity, discipline, respect, and empathy. By presenting moral conflicts and resolutions, novels encourage readers to reflect on ethical behavior and life choices.

Moral Values and Character Education

Character education emphasizes the development of moral and ethical values that shape individuals into responsible and morally conscious members of society. Literature plays a significant role in character education because it presents moral lessons in contextual and relatable ways. Through stories and characters, readers can learn moral values without feeling instructed or pressured.

Novels that focus on educational struggles and social realities often provide strong moral messages that are relevant to character education. Moral values presented in such novels can be integrated into learning activities to foster students' moral awareness, critical thinking, and emotional sensitivity. Therefore, analyzing moral values in novels contributes to understanding literature as an effective medium for character education.

Moral Values in *Laskar Pelangi*

Laskar Pelangi by Andrea Hirata is widely recognized as a novel that emphasizes moral and educational values. The novel portrays the lives of students and teachers who face economic hardship yet remain committed to education and moral principles. The characters demonstrate various moral values, such as sincerity in teaching, responsibility in leadership, perseverance in learning, discipline, religious faith, and solidarity among friends.

The moral values in *Laskar Pelangi* are reflected through the characters' struggles and interactions. Teachers in the novel serve as moral role models, while students learn to uphold integrity and determination despite limitations. These moral values are closely related to real-life educational contexts, making the novel relevant for moral and character education studies.

Previous Related Studies

Several studies have examined *Laskar Pelangi* from different perspectives, including educational themes, discourse analysis, and character development. Previous research has shown that the novel contains strong messages about the importance of education, social equality, and moral development. However, further analysis focusing specifically on moral values remains important to highlight how these values are constructed and conveyed through literary elements.

Based on the existing literature, this study positions itself to analyze moral values reflected in *Laskar Pelangi* in a comprehensive manner. By examining moral values through literary and moral theory perspectives, this research aims to enrich previous studies and contribute to a deeper understanding of the moral dimensions of the novel.

METHOD

This research applies a qualitative descriptive approach to analyze moral values reflected in Andrea Hirata's novel *Laskar Pelangi*. Qualitative research is chosen because it emphasizes understanding meanings, values, and interpretations rather than numerical measurement. This approach is appropriate for literary analysis, as the focus of the study is on moral values conveyed through narrative elements, characters, and events within the novel.

The object of this research is the moral values found in *Laskar Pelangi*, while the subject of the research is the novel itself. The primary data source is Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi*, and the data consist of words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, and narrative descriptions that indicate

moral values. Secondary data are obtained from books, journals, and previous research related to literature, moral values, and character education to support the analysis.

In this study, the researcher serves as the main research instrument. The researcher is responsible for selecting relevant data, interpreting meanings, and analyzing moral values contained in the novel. To assist the research process, note-taking and data classification are used to organize passages related to moral values systematically and accurately.

The data collection technique employed in this research is documentation. The novel is read carefully and repeatedly to gain a comprehensive understanding of its content. During the reading process, important passages that reflect moral values are identified and recorded. The collected data are then classified according to the types of moral values found in the novel.

Data analysis is conducted using descriptive qualitative analysis. The collected data are reduced by selecting relevant information related to moral values. After that, the data are presented in a structured narrative form. The analysis focuses on interpreting how moral values are reflected through characters' actions, dialogues, and experiences, as well as how these values contribute to the overall message of the novel.

To ensure data validity, triangulation is applied in this research. The findings are examined by comparing them with relevant moral theories and previous studies on moral values in literary works. This process strengthens the credibility of the analysis and ensures that the interpretations are logically grounded and academically reliable.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that Andrea Hirata's novel *Laskar Pelangi* reflects various moral values that are closely related to human life, education, and social interaction. These moral values are conveyed through the characters' actions, dialogues, and life experiences, particularly the struggles of students and teachers in facing economic limitations and social inequality. The novel presents moral values not as abstract concepts, but as lived experiences that shape the characters' attitudes and decisions.

One of the dominant moral values found in the novel is sincerity and integrity. This value is strongly reflected in the characters of the teachers, especially Bu Muslimah and Pak Harfan, who dedicate their lives to education despite receiving minimal material rewards. Their sincerity in teaching and integrity in maintaining moral principles become an example for students to remain honest, committed, and responsible in all circumstances.

Another moral value revealed in the novel is responsibility and leadership. This value is illustrated through characters who are entrusted with responsibilities and are expected to carry them out with accountability. Leadership in *Laskar Pelangi* is not portrayed as authority, but as a moral obligation to serve others, guide peers, and act fairly. These representations emphasize that leadership is closely connected to moral responsibility.

Perseverance in pursuing education is also a central moral value reflected in the novel. Characters such as Lintang demonstrate extraordinary determination to continue studying despite facing severe

obstacles, including long distances, poverty, and physical danger. This moral value highlights the importance of persistence, hard work, and sacrifice in achieving educational goals and improving one's future.

Religious faith and ethical behavior are additional moral values found in *Laskar Pelangi*. The novel emphasizes the importance of faith, discipline in worship, and ethical conduct in daily life. Religious teachings guide the characters' behavior, helping them distinguish between right and wrong and avoid actions that contradict moral and spiritual values.

The power of friendship and solidarity is another significant moral value reflected in the novel. The strong bond among the members of *Laskar Pelangi* shows that friendship based on empathy, loyalty, and mutual support can help individuals overcome hardship. This moral value emphasizes the importance of social relationships in shaping character and emotional resilience.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study show that *Laskar Pelangi* presents moral values that are deeply rooted in social and educational contexts. These moral values align with the concept that literature functions as a medium for moral reflection and character formation. Through its narrative structure and character development, the novel encourages readers to reflect on ethical behavior and moral responsibility in real-life situations.

The moral value of sincerity and integrity reflected in the novel supports moral theory that emphasizes internal motivation and ethical consistency as the foundation of good character. The teachers' dedication illustrates that moral actions are not driven by material gain, but by commitment to values and responsibility toward others. This reinforces the role of educators as moral role models in character education.

Responsibility and leadership, as portrayed in the novel, reflect the idea that leadership is inseparable from moral accountability. The characters' experiences suggest that true leadership involves honesty, trustworthiness, and service to others. This perspective aligns with moral education theories that emphasize leadership as a form of ethical practice rather than mere authority.

The value of perseverance in education reflects the moral principle of resilience in facing adversity. The struggles experienced by the characters illustrate that success is achieved through continuous effort and determination. This finding supports educational theories that highlight perseverance as a key moral value in fostering lifelong learning and personal development.

Religious faith and ethics in *Laskar Pelangi* demonstrate how moral values are shaped by spiritual beliefs and cultural norms. The novel shows that faith provides moral guidance and strengthens individuals in making ethical decisions. This reflects the role of religion as a source of moral values that influence behavior and character formation within society.

Finally, the moral value of friendship emphasizes the social dimension of morality. The strong relationships among the characters illustrate that moral development occurs through interaction, empathy, and mutual support. This finding supports the view that moral values are not only personal but also social, shaped through relationships and shared experiences.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion, it can be concluded that Andrea Hirata's novel *Laskar Pelangi* reflects strong and meaningful moral values that are closely related to education, social life, and character development. The novel presents moral values not only through narrative descriptions but also through the actions, dialogues, and life experiences of the characters, making the moral messages relevant and applicable to real-life situations. The moral values identified in this study include sincerity and integrity, responsibility and leadership, perseverance in pursuing education, religious faith and ethics, discipline, and the power of friendship. These values are portrayed through the struggles of students and teachers who face economic limitations, social inequality, and various life challenges. The presence of these moral values emphasizes that moral character is shaped through hardship, commitment, and consistent ethical behavior.

Furthermore, the findings indicate that *Laskar Pelangi* functions not only as a literary work but also as an educational medium that conveys important lessons about moral awareness and character formation. The novel highlights the role of education as a process that shapes not only intellectual abilities but also moral and emotional maturity. Through its moral values, the novel encourages readers to develop perseverance, empathy, responsibility, and respect for others. *Laskar Pelangi* offers significant contributions to literary studies and character education. The moral values reflected in the novel can serve as a reference for educators, students, and readers in understanding the importance of moral principles in everyday life. This study confirms that literature has a vital role in fostering moral values and shaping positive character development in society.

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