

Main Character Morality in the Novel *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W

Anjas Rizky Utami¹, Sahid Teguh Widodo², Kundharu Saddono³

¹(Student of Magister Program in Departement of Indonesia Language Education, Sebelas Maret University, Central Java, Indonesia)

^{2,3}(Lecture of Sebelas Maret University, Central Java, Indonesia)

Corresponding author: Anjas Rizky Utami

ABSTRACT : The purpose of this study is to describe and explain the morality of the main character in novel *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W using qualitative research methods that focus on description. The data collection technique uses the reading-note technique, which is reading the novel that will be studied and noting the parts that are considered to be research data. Novel *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama, is used as a source of data in this study, which consists of 176 pages. The data of this research are in the form of quotations that show the morality of the main character in novel *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W, Triangulation method is used as validation of the data that has been found. The data analysis technique uses content analysis techniques in the form of reduction, presentation, and data collection. The results of this study indicate that the morality of the main character contained in novel *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W is dominated by the morality of human relations with oneself.

KEYWORDS : *Morality, main character, and novel.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a creation of writers who come from the phenomena of life that have been observed and experienced. One of the literary works that was born from the description of the phenomena of life is a novel. Novel as one of the literary works in which it describes and tells the life and events experienced by humans in their daily lives. In addition, novels often become alternative containers in conveying a meaning of life. This is in line with the opinion of Nurgiyantoro (2013: 31) which states that a novel is a work of fiction built by several elements that are interconnected so as to create a literary work meaningful life.

The story presented by the author in the novel is described as closely as possible to real life. This is inseparable from the observations and experiences experienced by the author in everyday life. The experience experienced by the author includes experiences that occur directly and indirectly. Experience directly experienced comes from experiences experienced by the author directly, while indirect experience comes from events experienced by others that are not directly experienced by the author. from these experiences used as picture material for composing. Muhtadi & Murniasih (2018) through literary works, an author can freely discuss life problems experienced by humans with various norms when interacting with their environment so that certain meanings about life in literary works are contained.

Apart from being derived from the phenomena of life that the author observes and experiences, a novel is also inseparable from the values of life. Through literature, authors can convey the values of goodness and truth to readers. Literary works in the form of novels are considered to be simple reflection materials to build a good-value personality. This is in line with the opinion (Semi, 1984: 49) which states that literary works are considered as the most effective medium for building morals and personality in a community group.

One of the values contained in literary works is moral values. Seha (2016) states that moral values contained in literary works can be illustrated by patterns of behavior that are in accordance with morals, morals, and character. Moral can be said to be a picture of human behavior in real life. Rahmawati & Ferdinan (2019) state that moral is a value related to the good and bad of human behavior in life. Someone is said to be moral, if he has a good personality and can be accepted by a group of people in his life.

Morality becomes part of the human image in attitude. Good and bad attitudes or right and one human being can be seen when socializing in his community group. Every human being can certainly behave, but not all attitudes describe good or right actions. This is in line with research by Maharina (2020) which states that morals are important for humans in social interaction with other humans, because with the existence of human

morals, they can adjust to their surroundings. It can be concluded that it is important for humans to have moral in themselves, so that they can adapt to the environment around them.

Research on morality has been done before. Research conducted by Muhtadin & Murniasih, S in 2018 with the title *Morality in the novel Tanduk di Ujung Tanduk* by Tere Liye. Research conducted by Muhtadin & Murniasih, S is more dominant in the morality of human relations with other humans (social) in the novel *Negeri di Ujung Tanduk* by Tere Liye. The similarity of research conducted by Muhtadin & Murniasih, S with the research under study both examines morality in a novel and the method used in the research is descriptive qualitative method. The difference in research lies in the object being studied, namely the novel being studied is different.

Mira Widjaya, better known as Mira W. is a novelist with nuances of teenage life. He has created many works, one of which is the novel *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta*. *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W is a novel that presents a form of morality in community groups that is reflected in the conversations and actions taken between each character. The novel's story focuses on the characters and characters of Kavela, a Junior High School (SMA) teenager who experiences bullying by her friends at school and is determined to change herself for the better in terms of appearance and behavior. Based on the explanation above, the focus of this research is to describe and explain the form of morality of the main character in *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W using the study of literature sociology.

II. THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Novel

Novel as one of the literary works indirectly plays a role in conveying the messages of life, because most of the novels' stories are based on stories of social and social life experienced by the author. Authors as part of society who directly experience and have experience in social situations have an important role in pouring their imagination and creativity into their literary works. This is in line with the opinion of Raharjo, Yusuf, & Kundharu (2017) which states that literature is a text that cannot be separated from the role of the environment and the authors of literary creators. The parts of a literary work, such as the author and their environment that are inseparable from culture, are seen as a social image of society at a certain time.

Novels are an alternative to moral learning materials for everyday life. Through the characters and characterizations described by the author, it can be seen as a reflection of right or wrong behavior. This is in line with the opinion of Eliastuti (2017) that moral statements contained in literary works are often described as indirect, that is, they are usually described as immoral things first so that readers can see things and describe behaviors that are not in accordance with morals. . Often times, morals are used as a measure to determine the good or badness of an individual's actions and behavior.

B. The Form of Morality

Morality comes from the Latin word *moralist* which basically has the same meaning as moral. In social life, there are several rules that are enforced and it is obligatory for every human to obey in his daily activities. Humans generally have a moral value that is embedded in each individual. It is the human duty to provide an attitude in accordance with the rules of morality that apply in society. Poespoprodjo (1986: 13) states that humans are judged by other humans through their actions. These include 1) medical measures that lead to an assessment of human biological health; 2) aesthetic actions that lead to an assessment of the beauty of motion, sound, and the results of creativity; and 3) moral actions that lead to judging human actions that are done on purpose. Every action performed by humans towards other humans in their community is assessed to determine good or bad and right or wrong of that human act. The morality of a person will be seen after interacting and socializing with other humans in the same community group and different groups of people, because morality refers to the pattern of actions taken by humans.

Morality is a system of principles of acceptance from and by every human being, prioritizing the interests of others over personal interests. Thus, there will be no conflict between morality and personal interests and there will be no conflict in following the moral rules that apply in society with personal interests (Hazlitt, 2003: 157-158). The form of morality that is used as a reference is divided into three, namely the human relationship with God, the human relationship with himself, and the relationship between humans and other humans (Nurgiyantoro, 2013: 441-445).

1. Human relationship with God

Morality that describes man's relationship with God inwardly and emotionally. This relationship is embedded in every human being, as an obligation he has. This means that humans as God's creatures must fulfill their spiritual need to worship their God as a form of gratitude for everything that has been obtained in the world. This form of morality is a personal matter with God, there is no interference from other parties. It should be that as a grateful human being, he will definitely maintain a relationship with his God.

2. Human relationship with himself

The form of morality which includes the affairs of the human relationship with himself. Humans as social beings in society must first instill good morals in themselves so that they can be accepted by others. The

form of morality is such as self-confidence, courage, self-esteem, and other attitudes that are contained in the human person. The form of the morality of the human relationship with himself was created so that his existence can be maintained in the community.

3. Human relations with other humans

The form of morality that concerns human relations with other humans includes human affairs with the environment of society. Humans as social creatures need other humans to socialize. Social interaction is an activity that can describe human relationships with other humans which are carried out to build harmonious relationships between people. Every community has rules and moral behavior that must be obeyed by each other, describing good and appropriate actions to community members from one environment or a different environment. The form of morality of human relationships with other humans such as mutual respect, respect, kinship, accepting differences, and other attitudes that are in accordance with the rules of social interaction.

III. METHODOLOGY

Qualitative methods that focus on description are used as the method of this research. Describe and elaborate on the explanation of the analysis results. Researchers emphasize notes with detailed, complete, and in-depth descriptions of sentences to describe the actual situation to support data presentation (Sutopo, 2002: 35). Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta by Mira W published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama in 2019, consists of 176 pages as a source of data for this research. Quotations showing morality in Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta by Mira W are the data of this research. The result of this research is a description which contains data quotations from Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta by Mira W, a technique that involves data in this study using a reading-note technique. Read the novel over and over again to find the data you need, then report the data that has been found. Data analysis techniques in research use content analysis, which is one of the techniques in assessing and expressing deeper meaning in a literary work.

IV. RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

The novel Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta by Mira W is a work published by the publisher Gramedia Pustaka Utama in 1987. This novel tells the story of a teenager named Kavela who is the main character. Kavela determination to change her behavior and behavior in order to be accepted by her environment is one of the unique things in the novel. Morality is depicted by the characters, snippets of quotes and actions between characters in the story. The form of morality is divided into three, namely the relationship between man and God, human relationship with himself, and human relationship with other humans. The form of morality contained in the main character of novel Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta by Mira Wis described as follows.

The Morality of Human Relationship with God

Human relationship with God is an internal relationship that has existed in humans since birth in the world. Relationship with God is an obligation and a necessity in itself. It is only natural that humans obey and believe in the greatness of God. Likewise, in novel Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta by Mira W, the relationship between man and God can be described as follows.

Throughout her teenage years, Kavela complained. Although only in the heart "God is really not fair. Why is there a girl who is gifted with a perfect beauty like Melati, while in the corner of the ring there is a girl who is full of flaws like herself?" (Widjaya, 2019:10)

The quote above describes a servant's request for help to his Lord. Kavela who questions about herself to God while asking to be given strength for what God has given to her. This attitude has a positive side when viewed from the perspective of Kavela's efforts to accept her reality. Then, the relationship between man and God is also seen in the following quote.

Kavela cannot lie to her mother. Sin. If you hang out with a friend, that's fine. Moreover, the collectors. (Widjaya, 2019:40)

The quote describes the figure of Kavela who is afraid of sin and reprisals for her actions from God. Kavela has been taught and instilled herself not to lie to her parents, knowing that this is part of sin. Kavela remembers God in every action she will perform. This attitude can be used as learning by readers, so that they always remember and sort out their actions before doing them.

The Morality of Human Relations with Himself

This study found data on the form of morality in human relations with themselves. The description of the explanation can be seen as follows.

There are no more Kavelas that the universal human being ridiculed. He now appears full of confidence. When applying as a Senior Digital Producer at his company, Roni did not expect that the beautiful CEO was a friend who was always made fun of. Kavela smiled proudly. If Roni doesn't recognize it, it means that his transformation is completely accurate! The surge got a thumbs up! Just don't ask for a bonus! (Widjaya, 2019:25).

The quote above describes a person who is full of confidence. Kavela is determined to change herself into a better person, physically in particular. Kavela is willing to do anything until surgical operations to change the shape of her face and body so that she doesn't experience bullying anymore like when she was in school. Kavela's self-confident attitude is also getting richer after the changes that happened to her, she feels more confident about her appearance now. This is done by Kavela so that she can be appreciated by the surrounding environment, especially by her friends who have bullied her. The relationship between man and himself can also be seen in the quote below.

Kavela struggled from the very bottom. With a minimal appearance, a graduate of the Faculty of Economics with a magna cum laude GPA of 3.60 and brilliant grades that are studded with decorative lights, it seems meaningless to look for a job he is interested in. Not giving up, he entered Informatics Engineering. Grapple with discrete mathematics, calculus, statistics, databases and software creation. (Widjaya, 2019:27).

The quote shows that the main character, Kavela, does not give up and give up hope, she wants to show her abilities and expertise in academics. Kavela strives to get a bachelor's degree with a maximum GPA. It did not stop there, Kavela added knowledge by studying engineering again. Her spirit was very strong and could not be swayed by anything else. Kavela looks focused and excited to achieve the goals she dreams of. Furthermore, the relationship between man and himself can be seen from the attitude of Kavela which is full of hard work and struggle as below.

Kavela immediately received Roni at his company. He is indeed actively developing his business. He needs additional employees. Personnel like Roni are urgently needed by his company to lead a team that creates websites that will be offered to companies engaged in insurance, hospitality, credit, and many others (Widjaya, 2019:51).

The quote describes the attitude that Kavela has in the form of an attitude of hard work, skill, and not easily giving up. Kavela builds her own company with the energy she has. Then without hesitation he also accepts good people, like his friend Roni who was a school friend. Kavela is a picture of working women who do not want to bother others, it is reflected in her independent attitude as well.

The Morality of Human Relationships with Other Humans

In addition to the morality of human relations with themselves, there are also human relationships with other humans. Humans as social creatures certainly need and interact with other humans in their community. Likewise, what is depicted in novel *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W The description of the explanation can be seen as follows.

“What else are you looking for, Ma? Mama is old. Mending mama traveling with Aunt Endang! Make a mama's portrait on the North Pole! Then share a photo of you and a polar bear! ”. (Widjaya, 2019:28)

The quote illustrates the attitude of Kavela who cares for others. Especially to his mother. Kavela who is already working and can fulfill the needs of her parents asks her mother not to work as a cashier anymore. Kavela cares about her mother's health and happiness, because for Kavela this is her way of repaying most of her mother's love and struggles when she was in school. Kavela wants her mother to be less tired and to have fun with her friends. This Kavela concern can be used as a lesson by the reader. As a child, it should be appropriate for parents to pay back and care for their health. Apart from this quote, there are other quotes that show the relationship between humans and other humans.

And he hurriedly pressed his body towards Rinaldi because half of his body was soaked. Understandably, the drizzle was getting heavier and Kavela sacrificed herself to protect Rinaldi's body from the rain. (Widjaya, 2019:34)

This quote shows Kavela's concern for Rinaldi, his friend. Kavela was willing to be hit by the rain because her umbrella had to be divided in half with her friend. This was not an imposition for Kavela, because it was Kavela who gave Rinaldi an umbrella ride. In addition to caring attitude, there is also a sense of helping each other. Kavela helps her friend Rinadi not to get hit by the rain by inviting her to take an umbrella together, even though Kavela actually knows that she will also be exposed to rain on the side that is not protected by an umbrella. Kavela's attitude can be used as a lesson to care for and help others in need. It is supposed to be a social human being who must have a sense of sympathy between each other.

V. CONCLUSION

The form of morality found in the main character in novel *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta* by Mira W is the human relationship with God, the relationship between humans and themselves, and the relationship between humans and other humans. Of the three forms of morality, the human relationship with himself dominates as a form of behavior and actions that describe a person's morality. The morality depicted by the main character Kavela can be used as learning by readers, literary works do not only function as entertainment tools. The form of morality seen in the main character is described by the author through excerpts of related expressions and actions.

REFERENCES

- [1] Eliastuti, M. (2017). Analisis Nilai-Nilai Moral dalam Novel Kembang Turi Karya Budi Sardjono. *Genta Mulia*. 8(1), pp. 40-52.
- [2] Hazlitt, H. (2003). *Dasar-Dasar Moralitas*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- [3] Maharina, B. D. (2020). Nilai Moral dalam Novel Merdeka Sejak Hati Karya A.Fuadi (Kajian Moralitas James Rachels). *Bapala*. 1(1), pp. 1-15.
- [4] Muhtadin, & Murniasih, S. (2018). Moralitas dalam Novel Negeri di Ujung Tanduk Karya Tee Liye. *Silampari Bisa*. 1(1), pp. 161-172.
- [5] Nurgiyanto, B. (2013). *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University.
- [6] Poespoprodjo, W. (1986). *Filsafat Moral: Kesusilaan dalam Teori dan Praktek*. Bandung: Remadja Karya.
- [7] Raharjo, Y. M., Waluyo, H. J., & Saddhono, K. (2017). Kajian Sosiologi Sastra dan Pendidikan Karakter dalam Novel Nun Pada Sebuah Cermin Karya Afifah Afra serta Pemanfaatannya dengan Materi Ajar di SMA. *Jurnal Pendidikan Indonesia*. 6(1), pp 16-26.
- [8] Rahmawati, E., & Achsani, F. (2019). Nilai-Nilai Moral Novel Peter Karya Risa Saraswati dan Relevansinya dengan Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia. *Lingua Franca: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya*. 7(1), pp. 52-64.
- [9] Seha, N., & Kristianto, D. (2016). Nilai Moral dalam Tanda Basa Baduy. *Kandai*. 12(2), pp. 269-282.
- [10] Semi, A. (1984). *Kritik Sastra*. Bandung: Angkasa.
- [11] Sutopo, H.B. (2002). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Surakarta: Sebelas Maret University Press.
- [12] Widjaya, M. (2019). *Cermin Tak Pernah Berdusta*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia PustakaUtama.