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## Character Education in Novels “Dahlan” by Haidar Musyafa: Religious Value and Curiosity Value

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### Abstract

Character education is undoubtedly found in many things. They are included in the family and language. Individuals can understand character education by looking at current conditions that shape personalities. Character education can also be found in literary works. In this study, researchers focused only on two character education values, namely religious values and curiosity values in the novel Dahlan by Haidar Musyafa. The research aims to reveal the spiritual and curiosity values of the Darwis character that represent daily behaviors with the quotations obtained. The research approach used by the researcher is literary psychology. The literary psychology approach is a scholarly work created by the author related to the character's character, the character's psychology, and the emotions he writes about. The data collection technique in this study uses heuristics and hermeneutics. It can be concluded that Dahlan's novel by Haidar Musyafa contains positive things that can shape good characters for readers. Character education values include religion and curiosity. The results of the research show and represent that humans always obey their beliefs so that they are always grateful for all the certainties that God gives. The results show and represent humans to always obey their beliefs to be continually thankful for all the certainties God gives. Then, the value of character education in the form of the value of curiosity seeks to reveal the unknown with the meaning of language.

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## INTRODUCTION

Character education is the most crucial thing in advancing a country; more than that, character education can also be interpreted as a condition that can affect the human condition in the nation. Many things, including personal beliefs, family dynamics, and educational experiences, can influence character education. The various factors that influence individual development include family, friends, the environment in which they live, language, and so on. (Putri et al., 2021). These things depend on the education system that the people themselves experience. Character education can also be conveyed through the delivery of language, which is the most essential tool in interaction. Language is a formal and non-formal communication channel that can be interpreted through many skills (Nurjam'an et al., 2023). Therefore, character education can also be interpreted through the delivery of language as a medium of understanding.

Character education obtained is undoubtedly found in many things. It includes family, language, and so on. Individuals can understand character education by looking at the current conditions that shape personality. Character education can also be found in literary works. Literary works are human products that come from thoughts, feelings, experiences, and observations in the form of fiction and facts that have messages that the author wants to convey (Waningyun & Aqilah, 2022). It is not just a description of a literary work but also a portrait relating to society and nature.

A literary work is a recreation of people's real lives written by the author. Literary works are inseparable from humans, and then to functioning, they are also used as a means of criticism and appreciation. Literary works in the form of short stories, novels, and dramas that involve problems in the content of the narrative given by the author from everyday life. This statement, as expressed by Nurjam'an et al. (2023) that literary works are character activities carried out by the author's figure to describe the character of the character's personality who wants to be displayed in a literary work in the form of a novel.

A literary work can be called a medium for purifying the soul for both the author and the reader. For readers, what is done after reading is getting open feelings and thoughts because, in literary works, there is entertainment and knowledge that becomes a spectacle and a guide to reading literary works thoroughly (Julianto et al., 2024). As for the writer, creating literary works whose soul experiences purification is open and

spacious in expressing everything in their thoughts and feelings.

A literary work can be an educational medium for developing, transforming, and shaping character and attitudes. This can be seen from the character of the character in the literary work, which will be used in the form of a novel. The existence of characters in novels can influence readers to know the characters in the novel. This is in line with Yudha et al. (2023) which states that character is a person's character, character, or personality formed from the appreciation of various policies to be used as a basis and perspective in behaving, thinking, and taking action. Various policies on several values, namely moral values, honesty, tolerance, courage to act, trustworthiness, environmental care, and respect for others.

In this problem, knowing and providing benefits for writers and readers about the characters used in literary works, namely a novel, is helpful. Character is an important lesson to be discussed today. Knowing a character in a novel can influence readers' behavior, take values from character characters, and know the storyline in the novel to attract readers. As for the author, it is helpful to analyze the character of the character that already exists in the novel and share the findings of the character of the character in the novel (Saputri & Laeliyah, 2020).

The value of a literary work can be accepted and understood by its readers, indirectly representing the reader's attitude and personality (Ellawati et al., 2023). Literature not only fosters noble character but also plays a role in the formation of character since childhood (Sukirman & Mirnawati, 2020). Similarly, a statement from Julianto (2023) The integration of character education can also be applied to Indonesian language subjects with active, creative, innovative, effective, and fun learning in reading lessons.

Research on character education, especially in novels, is often found in various scientific papers. Research by Yulianto et al. (2020) focused on the novel *Rumah Tanpa Jendela* by Asma Nadia by examining the values of religious character education, hard work, love of reading, friendly communication, and responsibility. Then, Syamsudin et al. (2020) focused on the novel *Sepatu Dahlan* by Khrisna Pabichara by examining the main character's behavior from the perspective of literary psychology. After that, there is research by Sulastri et al. (2020), which focuses on the value of hard work in the novel *Tentang Kamu* by Tere Liye. Then, Ellawati et al. (2023) research focused on the novel *Ayah* by Andrea Hirata by examining religious values and hard work. The difference

between the research studied by researchers and previous research is in the novel and the focus on character education values. Researchers focus on the value of character education of Darwis character in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa by emphasizing religious values and curiosity.

Darwis, in Haidar Musyafa's novel *Dahlan*, represents one of the significant figures and can be emulated for everyday life by KH Ahmad Dahlan. The book chosen is based on the novel literary work *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa. This book is an essential literary work with a character present, KH Ahmad Dahlan, and features light and easy-to-understand language. *Dahlan*'s book by Haidar Musyafa can inspire readers to follow in his footsteps and his charities and mobilize the people to achieve progress (Anzani et al., 2021).

The character of the main character in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa is expected to be a role model for readers, both students and the public. In addition to the characters that can be taken advantage of, *Dahlan*'s novel by Haidar Musyafa contains many educational values. Therefore, the novel series' educational values can influence today's students' behavior. (Sari et al., 2023).

Based on the focused research, researchers focused on only two character education values: religion and curiosity. This research problem is formulated as follows: (1) how is the religious value contained in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa? and (2) how is the value of curiosity contained in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa? These two values were chosen because they can be used as good examples and are found in *Dahlan*'s novel by Haidar Musyafa compared to other character education values. So, researchers are interested in discussing these two values and aim to describe the two values contained in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa.

Religious value is an attitude and behavior that is obedient in carrying out the teachings of the religion it adheres to, living in harmony with followers of other religions. Then, religious character education is an active effort to form an attitude and behavior that is obedient in carrying out the teachings of the religion it adheres to (Pasaribu & Fatmaira, 2023). The existence of research on religious values can represent how important it is to serve God (Khoiriah et al., 2023). Then, the research on the value of curiosity can certainly arouse interest and also a high search for information (Sukatni & Nugrahanta, 2023) The value of curiosity is a way of thinking, attitudes, and behavior; it reflects curiosity about everything seen, heard, and learned in more depth. It can also

be interpreted as behavior reflecting curiosity about a person's learning.

On that basis, the educational values in this novel can be used to strengthen the character of each learner, especially the religious and curiosity values contained in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The research approach used by the researcher is literary psychology. The literary psychology approach is a literary work created by the author related to the character's character, the character's psychology, and the emotions he writes about. In addition, the process of literary psychology affects the reader's ability to understand his psychology. Chamalah & Nuryyati (2023) She says literary psychology is an approach in literary studies that describes the psychological actions of characters. In addition, it can be interpreted as a style of analysis with a foundation based on psychological assumptions and perspectives discussing human life events. Therefore, the literary psychology approach in looking at the character of Ahmad Dahlan in the book *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa is to analyze the character values of the character described in character, based on the descriptions and dialogues in the novel.

Research design includes the type of research and research methods used by researchers. The type of research used is qualitative research. Qualitative research understands the phenomena experienced by research subjects in the form of behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc. Qualitative research is a way of description in the form of words and language (Julianto et al., 2023), while the research method used is the descriptive method. The descriptive research method describes the problem with the results of a description that looks as if it is without exaggeration in the study. Similar to Qomarullah et al. (2024) The descriptive method aims to explain the description and validation of the phenomenon to be studied.

The research data produced fragments of stories, sentences, words, dialogues, and paragraphs on the intended subject, namely the character education values of *Dahlan*'s novel by Haidar Musyafa. Then, the Research Data Source is where the data is obtained. Data was obtained in the form of literary research and data sources in the form of novels, short stories, dramas, and others. The research data source used is the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa. Javanica published this book with 414 pages.

The data collection technique in this study uses Techniques for Supriyanto (2021) Reading techniques in literary works are proper and then analyzed in heuristic and hermeneutic readings. Regarding this opinion, Harijanti et al. (2020) Heuristic reading is a technique based on the conventions of a language or the interpretation of the meaning of words by relying on separate discoveries by literary interpreters. Heuristic reading is the first level of reading based on linguistic rules. Heuristic reading can also be used to obtain data for research (Supriyanto, 2021).

Then, the data analysis technique is applied to understand the data accurately and objectively. In this research, the data analysis technique uses the second reading level, hermeneutic. The hermeneutic reading technique is applied to determine the connection of meaning with the elements in the literary text by integrating them into a unit of meaning (Azmi et al., 2021). Hermeneutic reading also has the meaning of interpreting the understanding of meaning, which leads to meaning that can be understood as a whole and integrated (Mulyono et al., 2021). Febtiani (2022) It was also stated that hermeneutic reading is an interpretation that focuses on meaning and message as objectively as possible. This means that the researcher focuses on repeated readings of *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa to obtain the religious value and curiosity value of the focused character.

Based on these explanations, applying heuristic reading as data analysis aims to process data for information and data characteristics easily in finding problems in research. The technique of analyzing data on the value of character education in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa is carried out with the following steps. They first searched and found data on the value of character education in Dahlan's novel by Haidar Musyafa. Second, data collection and data presentation were applied to answer the formulation of the problem with the focus that the researcher formulated and described in the form of words—third, verifying the data or giving the conclusion regarding the answer to the research formulated and describing it as data.

## RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the research and discussion include the value of religious character education and the value of curiosity contained in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa.

### Religious Value

Religious values are attitudes and behaviors that are obedient in carrying out orders regarding tolerance for the implementation of

other religions' worship, being grateful for all God's gifts, understanding all forms of his gifts, and living in harmony with adherents of other religions (Ellawati et al., 2023). Religion is an attitude that is obedient and obedient in implementing the teachings of the religion that is adhered to (Marcelina, 2022). This religious value is, of course, also related to faith. This faith becomes a strength for an individual because humans are free from materialism, avoid all kinds of lust, and have less need for worldly pleasures.

Ellawati et al. (2023) says that religious character value is related to the human mindset, both from one's words and actions, which are always strived to be based on divine values and religious teachings. Religious values are attitudes and behaviors that are carried out obediently in carrying out the teachings of the religion adhered to, as well as having tolerance for the implementation of other religious worship, being grateful for all God's gifts, understanding all forms of gifts from God, and living in harmony with adherents of other religions (Harmanti et al., 2018).

Religious value is also related to faith, a strength for a person because it can be separated from materialism, avoid lust, and need less worldly pleasure. It reveals that religious character value is related to the human mindset based on divine values and religious teachings, both in one's words and actions. In addition, Umar (2019) argues that religious value is a value that comes from the belief in God that exists. So, religious values are helpful and done by humans in the form of attitudes and behaviors that are obedient in carrying out the teachings of the religion they adhere to in everyday life. Based on the above opinion, it can be concluded that religious value is a person's perspective on his religion and uses his beliefs or religion in his life.

As in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa, there are seven religious values; the following are data from the novel.

- (1) "Syukur alhamdulillah... Nikmat yang Allah karuniakan pada keluarga kita sungguh besar sekali."
- (2) "Thank God... The blessings that God has bestowed on our family are truly great." (Musyafa, 2017:217)

The first data shows that the quote is a religious value that can be described as the behavior of human relationships with God. The data is characterized by gratitude to God. The character, Darwis, says he is grateful to have been given grace. As a Muslim, it is fitting to express incomparable

gratitude to the Creator for the blessings that have been given.

(3) "Untungnya Allah masih menjaga Hatiku, sehingga aku masih mampu mengendalikan diri"

(2) "Fortunately, God is still guarding my heart, so I am still able to control myself"  
(Musyafa, 2017:176)

The second data shows that the quote is a religious value that can describe human relationships with God. The data is characterized by a very high level of patience in controlling anger. The sentence means that God still controls the character's heart to maintain patience from unwanted things.

(4) "air mataku menitik. Aku berusaha menguatkan jiwaku agar tetap tenang menerima kenyataan. Tak putus-putusnya aku beristighfar."

(3) "My tears fell. I tried to strengthen my soul to remain calm and accept reality. I kept saying istighfar."  
(Musyafa, 2017:186)

The third data shows that the quote can describe the relationship between humans and God. This validity is shown in the meaning of the character's continuous istigfar or asking for forgiveness from God. Muslims are encouraged to say istigfar when they are affected by something.

(5) "Jadi, ke mana pun arah kita menghadap, pasti akan sampai kepada Allah jika memang Dia Tujuan kita. Buktinya saat thawaf di Mekkah, semua orang mengelilingi Ka'bah. Melakukan shalat dari berbagai penjuru menghadap ke arah Ka'bah"

(4) "So, no matter which direction we face, we will reach Allah if He is our destination. The proof is that during tawaf in Mecca, everyone circumambulates the Kaaba. Praying from all directions facing the direction of the Kaaba."  
(Musyafa, 2017:198)

The fourth data shows that the quote can describe the human relationship with God. This is evidenced in the quote, namely the event in Mecca, where Muslims flock to do tawaf or surround the

Kaaba, the center of the Muslim Qibla direction in worship. This also shows the behavior of Muslims in fulfilling their worship.

(6) "Sepanjang yang aku ketahui. Islam memang menjadikan malam dan hari Jumat sebagai hari yang paling diberkahi."

(5) "As far as I am concerned. Islam has indeed made Friday night and day the most blessed day."  
(Musyafa, 2017:201)

The fifth data shows that the quotation describes man's relationship with God. This is evidenced by invoking the privileges of the day and atmosphere. Blessings are believed to come on Friday nights and days accompanied by Muslim prayers and worship of God.

(7) "Artinya, membaca ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an dan doa dengan maksud agar Allah mengampuni orangtua atau keluarga yang sudah meninggal itu ada tuntunannya dalam Islam."

(6) "That is, reciting verses of the Qur'an and supplications with the intention that Allah forgive deceased parents or family members is guided in Islam."  
(Musyafa, 2017:201)

The sixth data shows that the quote can describe the relationship between humans and God. This is proven by reading the verses of the Qur'an, which is a good thing and can also be used as a means of forgiveness for those who have gone before us. This shows that God is the Most Gracious Creator. Reading the Qur'an is also a positive thing to do.

(8) "Hasilnya bagaimana, hanya Allah Yang Maha Berkehendak menentukannya. Sebab, hanya Dia yang lebih mengetahui kebaikan dan keburukan dari apa-apa yang kami ikhtiarkan."

(7) "What the outcome will be is for Allah to decide. Only He knows better the good and bad of what we endeavor to do."  
(Musyafa, 2017:319)

The seventh data shows that the quote describes the human relationship with God. This is evidenced by the meaning that we all must surrender to God's decree. What can be interpreted

with all acceptance must indeed be initiated. This shows that God is the Creator of everything.

(9) "jika aku melakukan kesalahan, atau bertengkar dengan saudara-saudaraku, bapak langsung mengajak semua anaknya berkumpul. Setelah itu, bapak langsung mengajak kami berwudhu, kemudian membaca ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an di langgar kesayangannya."

(8) "If I made a mistake or quarreled with my brothers, my father would immediately call all his children together. After that, he would take us to perform ablutions and recite verses from the Qur'an in his favorite place of prayer."  
(Musyafa, 2017:20)

The eighth data shows that if Darwis makes a mistake or quarrels with his siblings, his father immediately calls everyone together and then performs worship by reading Quranic verses in the place of prayer. It is one of the proofs of man's relationship with his god.

(9) "Insya Allah Darwis akan berusaha menjaga amalan sedekah, Kyai."

(10) "Insha Allah Darwis will try to maintain the practice of alms, Kyai."  
(Musyafa, 2017:53)

The ninth data brings up the dervish quote: Dahlan is trying to maintain his practices by giving alms.

(11) "Menurut pendapat Darwis, segala bentuk amal perbuatan yang tidak ada contohnya dari kanjeng Nabi itu dilarang dalam Islam. Bukankah perbuatan itu sama sekali tidak ada tuntunannya dlm Islam, dan cenderung mengarah perbuatan syirik, menyekutukan Gusti Allah."

(12) "In Darwis' opinion, all deeds that do not have examples from the Prophet are prohibited in Islam. Isn't that action has absolutely no guidance in Islam and tends to lead to shirk, associating partners with Allah."  
(Musyafa, 2017:62)

In the quote revealed by Darwis, all actions that the Prophet does not carry out are strictly prohibited. Then, these actions are reprehensible

and associated with God. Therefore, it is one form of religious value, namely fearing God.

Based on the literature, religious values can be said to be the actions and morals of a person who always obeys the commands of the religion he adheres to, accepts every difference in other beliefs, and lives peacefully with other people even though they have different religions (Harmanti et al., 2018). Religious values are related to characters who obey God in carrying out everything they believe in, tolerance by respecting people of different religions and believing in the existence of a greater power above humans (Kartikasari, 2022).

Based on character quotes obtained in literary works that are depictions of cultural activities, meaning can be understood through the potential that humans must create literature (Nurhamidah et al., 2024). One of them can be related to the religious value of the character. Literature is an expression of human anxiety that colors the world (Sukirman & Mirnawati, 2020). Literature is a cultural product born from the author's creation and a form and description of life related to the community's way of life. Literature symbolizes the author's creative freedom and social relations, full of ethics, norms, rules, ideological interests, and religious teachings. Literature is an individual product displayed in society. Therefore, writers carry their creative freedom and manifest it in the form of literary works that deal with all the rules, morals, ethics, and conventions in society (Alfiyah et al., 2023). In this case, the strengthening of Darwis character has a substantial religious value as evidenced by the quotations in Dahlan novels.

### Curiosity Values

Curiosity will always motivate oneself to continue to seek and know new things so that it will increase knowledge and experience in learning activities.

According to Ningrum et al. (2019), curiosity is a natural emotion that exists in humans where there is a desire to investigate and find out more about something they learn. Curiosity will make students continuously discover what they do not know; by finding out, students will find what they are looking for.

According to Soilo et al. (2022), curiosity is an attitude and action that constantly seeks to know more deeply and broadly from something he learns, sees, and hears, while according to Rodli et al. (2021), curiosity is the desire to investigate and seek understanding of natural events or social events that are happening.

Based on this understanding, it can be concluded that curiosity is a natural emotion in

humans where there is a desire to investigate and learn more about something they learn. Curiosity will make students continuously discover what they do not know; by finding out, students will get a lot of information and new knowledge and add to their insights.

As in the novel *Dahlan* by Haidar Musyafa, there are five values of curiosity; the following are data from the novel.

(1) "Darwis ingin seperti anak-anak yang biasa lewat di Malioboro itu, Bapak. Darwis ingin sekolah seperti mereka. Belajar di kelas-kelas dengan pakaian yang bagus-bagus."

(2) "Darwis wants to be like those children who used to pass by at Malioboro, Dad. Darwis wants to go to school like them. Studying in classes with nice clothes."  
(Musyafa, 2017:25)

The curiosity of the main character who asks why he is not like other children, especially in Malioboro, who can go to school, study in class, and wear nice clothes. This is a natural thing for a child to ask. Essentially, the father answers that the children in Malioboro in the novel are educated.

(3) "Begini Bapak. Apakah acara sedekah agung sadranan itu ada tuntunannya dari Kanjeng Nabi? Ataukah sekadar tradisi orang-orang Kauman?"

(4) "Here is the thing, Dad. Does the sadranan alms ceremony have any guidance from the Prophet? Alternatively, is it just a tradition of the Kauman people?"  
(Musyafa, 2017:58)

The second data shows the character's curiosity about the great alms of Sadran, derived from the Prophet Muhammad. In essence, the father answers firmly that Dahlan's character will find out when he grows up, indicating that there is something we can know when we are psychologically mature or able to accept something new.

(5) "Duh Gusti, jangan-jangan apa yang baru saja aku katakan tadi menyinggung hati Bapak?"

(6) "Oh my God, could I have offended you?"  
(Musyafa, 2017:25)

The third data is the curiosity of Darwis character about his question that might offend the

father. This indicates that the child also has guilt or cannot express his curiosity logically.

(7) "Bukankah memang seperti itu yang Bapak ajarkan pada kami?"

(8) "Isn't that what you taught us?"  
(Musyafa, 2017:142)

The fourth data is a question from Darwis character to the father. In essence, the father explains that he teaches his children about the usefulness of a Muslim who can positively impact the surrounding environment, which the character emphasizes by asking about, as in the quote above.

(9) "setelah dadaku terasa agak longgar, barulah aku dapat mengeluarkan suara, "Apakah tawaran Kangmas Nur itu serius, Ibu, Bapak?"".

(10) "Only after my chest felt a little looser could I make a sound, "Is Kangmas Nur's offer serious, Mom, Dad?"  
(Musyafa, 2017:92)

The fifth data is a question from Darwis character to his mother and father about his match with Walidah. Marriage in Islam is sacred; of course, many things must be prepared to reach that level.

(11) "aku mendengarkan penjelasan Bapak baik-baik. meskipun belum sepenuhnya paham dengan penjelasan beliau, aku tetap berusaha menyimak dan mendengarkannya dengan takzim."

(12) "I listened to Father's explanation carefully. Even though I did not fully understand his explanation, I still tried to listen and listen to him with reverence."  
(Musyafa, 2017:46)

The sixth data in Darwis' character quote is Darwis' curiosity about Bapak's explanation, but Darwis still tries to listen well. This is an ethic of politeness.

Based on the study obtained, curiosity is an attitude and action that constantly seeks to know more deeply and widely from what it learns, sees, and hears. Curiosity is an emotion associated with natural prying behaviors such as exploration, investigation, and learning. (Ningrum et al., 2019). Curiosity is found in the human experience (Latifah et al., 2021). The term can also denote the behavior caused by the emotion of curiosity. Since this

emotion represents the will to know new things, curiosity can be likened to igniting knowledge and other disciplines in human studies.

Based on the character quotes obtained, literary works can also be interpreted through various interpretations. One of them can be found in the character's dialogue or description by the author (Aprilya et al., 2022). Literature, which is very close to social life, can interpret a feeling that attracts readers to read it (Leong et al., 2022). Symbols, through character dialogue, describe a special event that can only be found in literary works. In this case, the strengthening of Darwis' character has the value of curiosity, as evidenced by the quotations in Dahlan's novel.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion above, it can be concluded that the novel Dahlan by Haidar Musyafa contains positive things that can shape good character for its readers, and there are character education values, namely religion and curiosity. The religious value of the character Darwis can represent humans always trying to obey and carry out the teachings of the religion they adhere to by upholding ethics. The religious value in the novel teaches humans to obey their beliefs so that they are always grateful for all the certainties that God gives. On the other hand, the value of character education in the form of the value of curiosity seeks to reveal the unknown with the meaning of language. The value of curiosity also certainly has a form of high curiosity to get the maximum answer. The novel Dahlan by Haidar Musyafa contains many character education values that readers can apply daily. So, this research study can reference the value of religious education and curiosity.

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