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Character Values in Children Songs Lyrics by Sumaryanto as an Effort to Develop Children's Personality

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Abstract

Children song by Sumaryanto is a learning medium that was created with the character values contained. The purpose of this study is to analyze and describe the values contained in children songs by Sumaryanto that can shape a child's personality. The method used is qualitative with a psychological approach and arts education. The data collection techniques was conducted through observation, interviews, and document study. The data validity technique used was the source triangulation technique. The analysis process was started from data collection, data reduction and clarification, drawing conclusions and interpretation. The results showed that children songs by Sumaryanto have character values that can help children's development. The values including the values of caring for the environment, the value of curiosity, the value of respect for parents, and the value of honesty. These values appeared through the lyrics contained in every song by Sumaryanto which certainly had a good impact on children by implementing these good qualities.

Keywords: children songs, character values, child development

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INTRODUCTION

Children are unique individuals so they are decent to get educational services according to their needs and development. The environment actually has a big role and influence in the development process of a child. Geldard & Gerald (2012; check Hidayat & Nur, 2018, p. 30) reveal that the environment is the biggest part in influencing the behavior change of each child. It happens because the environment tends to predominantly related to every aspect of child development. According to Suharto (2012, p. 88) Education is a process of cultural inheritance and national character for the younger generation which also functions as a process of developing the nation's culture and character to improve the quality of people's lives in the future. In line with this statement, Jazuli (2008, p. 25; examine Suharto, 2012, p. 1) reveals that education is part of the value education cluster.

Generally, character values can be formulated as the value of living together based on the following pillars: peace, respect, cooperation, freedom, happiness, honesty, humility, love, responsibility, simplicity, tolerance, and unity (Ekowarni in Gufron, 2010, p. 15; Mutakin et al., 2014, p. 363; Sudjana & Hartati, 2011, p.15). According to the Ministry of National Education (2011, p. 7; check Rachmah, 2013, p. 11; Zulnuraini, 2012, p. 1) character education in educational units has identified 18 values that come from religion, Pancasila, culture, and National Education Goals, namely: Religious, Honest, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creative, independent, democratic, curiosity, national spirit, love for the country, respect for achievement, friendly/ communicative, love peace, love to read, care for the environment, social care, responsibility.

Through a learning process, character values can be conveyed to children by using media such as in learning cultural arts (Sugiarto, 2013). Generally, in the learning process of the music art, the teacher will use songs as learning material as a process to

support the development of cognitive, psychomotor, emotional, and social aspects of children.

Music becomes a strong energy field to be able to influence children's psychological condition. Music has a content that is full of values of beauty that are very appropriate with the potential of children (Respati, 2015, p. 113). Childhood (golden age) is a very important period as the basis for character building in each individual. At this time, they become great imitators, they do something based on what they see and hear (Nurajizah, 2016, p. 14). Plato (in Djohan, 2020, p. 189; check Respati, 2015, p. 113) states that in education, music becomes the highest position because there is no single discipline that can merge to the soul and accompany it with a gradual ability beyond rhythm and melody.

The curriculum of education in schools has certain themes for the material to be taught to students, for example in the subject of arts and culture, the material taught must follow a predetermined theme. The theme in children songs can also be further developed by the teacher in the learning process (Sinaga, 2010, p. 6).

Children songs today are very difficult to be found. This is due to the influence of gadgets that have included in the world of children, modernization has slowly reduced children songs that should be played in everyday life. The role of parents in accompanying shows for children needs to be considered (Sugiarto, 2017). Likewise, the children song by Sumaryanto, which is now rarely used as a learning medium, even though the song is easy to be understood, to be sang and of course, has good character values for children.

Research on character in children's education is very important. Sinaga (2010) in his research suggests thematic learning through television media has a major influence on children's musical activities. The relevance of this journal is about children songs. Wadiyo and Haryono (2016) have also suggested their research results which show that teachers seem interested in the songs being played. Likewise,

Razak and Ruswandi (2019) suggest that the interaction between peers has a significant influence on children's prosocial behavior. This peer-to-peer interaction allows children to interact and recognize various forms of prosocial behavior. Technically, shared reading involves active communication between story readers and listeners. The 10-day intervention for the mixed-aged group showed a significant improvement. Another study from Hidayat and Nur (2018) shows that the character value profile, critical thinking, and psychomotor of children aged 5-6 requires the role of teachers, schools, and parents.

Starting from a childhood favorite to the music art that is proved by winning championships in several competitions, Sumaryanto is increasingly consistent to the world of music until now. Starting by participating in various competitions in Blora, then becoming a representative of Blora in art competitions in Java level even national level and then continuing to create children songs which are used as learning media for elementary schools in Blora.

The lack of learning media made Sumaryanto feel concerned about the world of children which started to be competed by adult songs and also the modernization of gadgets. Like a song composed that was inspired when Sumaryanto saw the beauty of nature accidentally while on a trip for an excursion. The song tells about the beauty of nature with an easy to remember melody that causes this song to become a learning medium in elementary schools in Blora regency. For several years, this song was also printed on the back page of the Student Worksheet and had become a compulsory song for arts and culture learning in elementary schools in Blora regency.

The lyrics of the children song by Sumaryanto are composed of retlessness because children are now more familiar with adult songs and of course this is not suitable for children. Songs that should be learned by children support aspects of children development with lyrics that contain character

values so that they can be applied in everyday life.

This study aims to analyze the values contained in songs Sumaryanto that can shape children's personality. It is hoped that this study can enrich or develop knowledge as a science that studies the music art as a medium of learning in schools. This study is also expected to be able to broaden horizons and as a scientific reference for studies related to children songs.

METHOD

The research method used in this study is a qualitative research method because this study aims to describe, analyze, and interpret the character values in Sumaryanto's songs. In accordance with the problem to be studied, this study uses an interdisciplinary approach which is used to understand a study problem by combining several disciplines, namely psychology and art education. The other sciences used to study the musical aspects, namely the form of songs and the suitability of children's songs by Sumaryanto.

The data collection techniques used in the study is observation, interviews, and documentation. Interviews were conducted by asking questions to the main resource person, Mr. Sumaryanto as a children's songwriter. Another resource person is Mrs. Manis Sabdha Rilawati as an elementary school teacher who used Sumaryanto's children song as a learning medium.

The documentation data collected are: photos of children when singing Sumaryanto's songs, documents, and newspapers containing news about Sumaryanto's songs. The validation of the data from various sources obtained during the next research will be described, categorized, and analyzed to produce a conclusion. The data analysis technique used in this study refers to Miles and Huberman's analysis translated by Rohidi (2011; check Adil, 2018, p. 4; Pahrudin et al, 2019, p. 56; Kusumastuti, 2014, p. 11). The analysis process was carried out with a cycle model starting

from the data collection, reducing data and clarifying, concluding and interpreting all information selectively. The way data analysis was put in a comprehensive and systematic framework.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Alamku yang Indah (My Beautiful Nature) Song

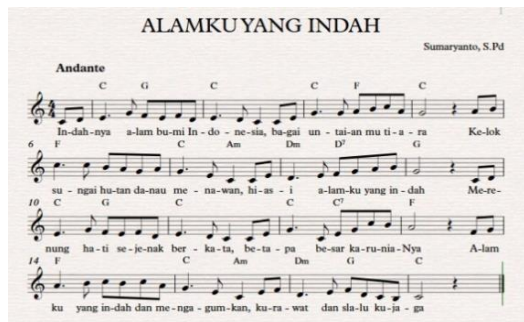


Figure 1. Beautiful Natural Music scores

The *Alamku yang Indah* (My Beautiful Nature) song is a song that tells about the natural beauty that is green and cool. The lyrics were composed of simple words but straightforward in conveying messages to protect the environment from being damaged. In the lyrics of this song, there was the requirements for environmental care character values, it can be seen in the lyric fragments as follows.

The natural beauty of Indonesian, like a string of pearls

Curving charming lake forest rivers, decorate my beautiful nature

The heart contemplating and said for a moment, how great is His gift

My beautiful and wonderful nature, I care for and always protect

Cognitive Aspects in a children song by Sumaryanto entitled *Alamku yang Indah* (My Beautiful Nature), the lyrics provided insight and knowledge to children about plants, life, and the natural surroundings. If it was associated with educational theory, these songs could be included in the realm of knowledge.

The natural beauty of Indonesia as outlined in the song would increase children's knowledge) while memorizing the lyrics. In addition, through a song entitled *Alamku Yang Indah* (My Beautiful Nature, it could increase children's understanding of natural life and the surrounding environment.

Overall the meaning in the song entitled *Alamku yang Indah* (My Beautiful Nature) is to teach humans to be grateful for God's great gift and very useful for the source of life which could be material for reflection to always remember Him and took part in protecting it from being damaged (See Rosmiati, 2014, p.81).

Hijaukan Lingkungan Kita (Let's Green Our Environment)



Figure 2. Score of *Hijaukan Lingkungan Kita* (Let's Green Our Environment) song

The next nature-themed song is entitled *Hijaukan Lingkungan Kita* (Let's Green Our Environment) song, by reading the title alone, everyone can conclude the story in this song, which is about the invitation to protect the environment that is getting damaged due to noise and smoke from factories and illegal logging. The *Hijaukan Lingkungan Kita* (Let's Green Our Environment) song has the character value of caring for the environment, which can be seen in the lyrics as follows:

Look guys over there

A cloud of smoke rose high in the sky

With the sound

The roar of the engine rustles our environment

Come on, avoid those influences

Come on, let's green our environment

The words " *Deru mesin mendesir bikin cemar lingkungan kita* 'Ayolah hindari pengaruh itu semua' dan 'Ayolah hijaukan lingkungan kita (The roar of the engine rustles our environment" "Come on, avoid those influences" and "Come on, let's green our environment" are clearly invite children to protect the environment from being polluted, which also brings out the value of the responsibility character. The character values of caring for the environment and responsibility that are inferred into the *Hijaukan Lingkungan Kita* (Let's Green Our Environment) song, certainly have a good impact on children's development, namely in the aspects of cognitive and emotional development.

Overall, the meaning in the *Hijaukan Lingkungan Kita* (Let's Green Our Environment) song is to teach humans to be grateful for God's great gift and very useful for the source of life which can be a material for reflection to always remember Him and take part in protecting it from being destructed (See Rosmiati, 2014, p.81)

Lagu Ombak (Waves Song)



Figure 3. Score of Waves Song

It is different from the previous nature-themed song which clearly contains an invitation to preserve the environment, the *ombak* (waves) song contains knowledge about what the waves are like. How do they look and color, as can be seen in the lyrics of the *Ombak* (Waves) song as follows:

*Gaze at the waves on the sparkling clean ocean
Watering the cliffs and beautiful corals is
captivating From far away, jump and chase
Like singing and dancing cheerfully
White and white waves want my heart to play too
White waves my heart is cheerful looking at you.*

If we look closely, the lyrics of the *Ombak* (Waves) song seem to invite children to imagine what the waves look like that the child may never have seen. The character value that appears through the *Ombak* (Waves) song is the value of curiosity about new things, and of course this value has a good impact on children. The cognitive and emotional aspects of children also developed, the cognitive aspects which knowledge of waves causes the brain to start to be active and work to imagine the shape and sound of the waves ringing in the mind. Then the emotional aspect that develops is when the child imagined a wave of the heart feeling happy.

Overall, the meaning in the *Ombak* (waves) song is to teach humans to be grateful for God's great gift and very useful for the source of life which can be a material for reflection to always remember Him and take part in keeping it from being destructed (See Rosmiati, 2014, p. 81).

Patuh Ayah, Ibu dan Guru (Obedient to Father, Mother and Teacher) Song



Figure 4. Score of *Patuh Ayah, Ibu, dan Guru* (Obedient to Father, Mother, and Teacher) Song

This song provides an overview of the actions by a child through the lyrics as follows:
At home I obey my mother and father

*At school I obey all my teachers
All advice I never ignore
I tried with sincerity, my heart was cheerful*

When it is understood carefully, the lyrics illustrate the two environments. The first environment is the home and what must be obeyed is the parents, the second environment is the teacher and what the child must be obeyed is the teacher who teaches science. The lyrics are structured from simple words but the requirements of the message are to be devoted to parents and respect for teachers. The character values that appear are also related to a familiar figure in the children daily life, these values are filial piety and respect for elders.

Overall, through a song entitled *Patuh Ayah, Mother, and Guru* (Obedient to Father, Mother, and Teacher) teaches children to respect their elders, helps unconditionally like a father, a mother who loves and cherishes her children all the time with sincerity, self-sacrifice and selflessness (Puspitasari & Herdiati, 2020, p.145).

***Ibuku yang Baik Hati* (My Good Mother) Song**



Figure 5. Score of *Ibuku yang Baik Hati* (My Good Mother) Song

The song entitled *Ibuku yang Baik* (My Good Mother) is a song that has a devoted theme like the previous song. The difference is this song gives a illustration of a mother in which the mother has a big influence on the child because the mother is someone who has great kindness to the child's life. The lyrics are as follows:

My good mother, your kindness always be remembered

*Your struggles and prayers are always for me
Now I have grown my mother looks old
I will reply your kindness with my devotion Please accept my sincere thanks*

The lyrics are structured by simple words but full of positive messages in teaching children to be filial and sincerely reply the mother's kindness. The character values that appear are respect for parents in this case the mother and also reply the mother's kindness. The emotional aspect of children will develop after understanding that filial piety is an obligation of a child by means of sincere reply one day. This song teaches children to respect their elders, to help unconditionally like a father, a mother who loves and cherishes her children throughout the ages with sincerity, self-sacrifice and selflessness (Puspitasari & Herdiati, 2020, p.145).

***Kantin Kejujuran* (Honesty Canteen) Song**



Figure 6. Score of *Kantin Kejujuran* (Honesty Canteen) Song

The song entitled *Kantin Kejujuran* (Honesty Canteen) is one of the songs with a familiar theme in children's daily life, especially at school. Canteen is a place in the school, selling a variety of snacks starts from filling to quenching thirst.

*Look, let's see what is that
My friend scramble for food
They put money according to the price of food
O o that is called an honesty canteen*

Honesty is a very rare thing in adult life, so honesty must be taught to children from an early age so that it can be a guide of behave in

the future. The character value that appears in this song is the value of honesty. The cognitive, emotional, and social aspects of children will also develop through the values taught in the *Kantin Kejujuran* (Honesty Canteen) song. The cognitive aspect gives the knowledge that honesty in buying food is something that everyone should do. The emotional aspect gives the impression that if the child acts honestly paying the price then he will feel proud of his honesty and if the child acts dishonestly he will probably feel guilty. The social aspect also develops by reminding friends to be honest in paying for food according to the price listed.

The *Kantin Kejujuran* (Honesty Canteen) song can be used as a medium for character education in children. Because, there is a very good moral message in life. Children can be introduced to honesty in all aspects of life. The meaning of honest value is being honest in behaving and being honest at work (check Rosmiati, 2014, p. 76).

CONCLUSION

Children songs by Sumaryanto entitled *Alamku Yang Indah* (My Beautiful Nature), *Hijaukan Lingkungan Kita* (Let's Green Our Environment), *Ombak* (Waves), *Patuh Ayah, Ibu, dan Guru* (Obedient to Father, Mother, and Teacher), *Ibuku Yang Baik Hati* (My Good Mother), and *Kantin Kejujuran* (Canteen Honesty) song, each of them has a role in the aspects of children development. Cognitive aspects by providing knowledge through nature-themed songs, aspects of emotional development by making children more sensitive to the environment through nature theme songs and sensitive to older people to respect and not argue, social aspects develop with interactions with friends when practicing, psychomotor aspects also develops and can be seen when children shake their body and moves their lips when singing.

The presence of children songs by Sumaryanto as a medium of learning in elementary schools has helped teachers to provide material in accordance with the

existing curriculum. The creation of children songs by Sumaryanto has a simple goal, namely to provide media for children to express themselves according to their world and according to their level of psychological development, so that children can develop properly. Thus children will grow up bringing the good values that they got during elementary school.

The presence of Karya Sumaryanto's children's songs as a medium of learning in elementary schools has helped teachers provide material in accordance with the existing curriculum. Sumaryanto's creation of children's songs has a simple goal, namely to provide a vehicle for children to express themselves according to their world and according to their level of psychological development, so that children can develop properly. Thus the child will grow up bringing the good values that he had during elementary school.

In the world of education, the children songs by Sumaryanto have implications for children during the learning process. Children songs by Sumaryanto are an alternative for children to learn about new things through lyrics that contain about nature. Apart from being a medium for learning children songs, Sumaryanto's works can also be a guide by looking at the values in the lyrics.

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