

A Study on Moral Values Represented in Shawshank Redemption Movie

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ABSTRACT

This research analyzed Shawshank Redemption movie, a movie by Frank Darabont. This movie told about the struggling of Andy Dufresne who was accused of the murder of his wife and her affair. This research focused on moral value of the movie. The methodology of this research is descriptive qualitative method. This study aims to found the moral values of Shawshank Redemption movie. Documentation method was used to collect the data and descriptive analysis technique to analyze the data. The results of this study are the moral values found in the Shawshank Redemption movie; honestly, hard work, unconditional love and kindness, compassion, and cooperation. Then hard work as the most dominant moral value appears in the Shawshank Redemption movie, because this moral value often occurs in this movie.

Keywords: Shawshank Redemption; movie; and moral value

INTRODUCTION

Moral value describes the values associated with good and bad deeds that guide human life in general, values that can encourage people to act or do something, and are a source of motivation for humans to live life by behaving well. Banerjee (2012, p. 57) states that moral values are what we hope to become role models and guidelines for the children in our environment because children pay attention to us and imitate us as adults when they want to determine right and wrong feelings and action.

Therefore, our values and morals as humans become a reflection of our spirituality. Moral is a behavior that must be applied to each individual to be able to socialize with neighbors or associations properly and to establish respect. Therefore, it is imperative that parents and the environment instill morals from childhood so that our future generations will become children with good morals and can be accepted well in the wider community.

Shawshank Redemption is 1994 American drama movie directed by Frank Darabont and produced by Niki Marvin, starring by Tim Robbins as Andy Dufresne and Morgan Freeman as Red. This film was adapted by a novella by Stephen King entitled *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*. This movie tells about a young man named Andy Dufresne who is a banker who spent his life in Shawshank State Prison for twenty years. While in prison Andy befriended a senior inmate named Red who helped him to fight to escape from the prison.

The study on moral values has been discussed by Elya Susana entitled "Moral Value in Charlotte Bronte's Novel *Jane Eyre*". She finds some moral values of the novel, she explains the three moral values of humans with three characters, first is the relationship between humans and themselves, with society and with God. Moral values that humans have when

dealing with themselves are patience, sincerity, responsibility, self-control, honesty, hard work, hatred, regret, hypocrisy, hatred and revenge. Then the relationship with the community or society is kinship, loyalty, mutual cooperation, and harmony. And the last relationship with God, namely, not prejudice, obedience and always being grateful (Susana, 2018).

This study provides an analysis about moral values in Frank Darabont's movie *Shawshank Redemption*. Moral value is generally defined as message that is conveyed or a lesson to be learned from a story or event. That is why the focus of the analysis is the moral values in *Shawshank Redemption* movie with two objective studies; to find out the moral values in *Shawshank Redemption* movie and to find out the most dominant moral values that appearing in *Shawshank Redemption* movie.

LITERATURE REVIEW

MOVIE

Movie or usually called as film is a combination of art or literature with industry because movie is a meeting between business people in the film industry with artists and actors to form a literary work that can be enjoyed by many people. Apart from aesthetics and commerce, movie is recognized as a unique and powerful art and literary form because it is equivalent to drama, music, painting, and even sculpture. (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, p. 3).

Movie or motion picture has the similar form of expression as other literature but movie is the most expensive literary art in the process. Movie is classified as a visual art because of its volume, mass, shape and line. Movie is similar to the art of photography because of the light and shadow in it. Movie is similar to sculpture in that it manipulates three-dimensional space. Movie is also similar to the art of dance because it contains moving images that contain complex rhythms. Movie is similar to the art of poetry in that it uses parable communication such as metaphors. The last movie is similar to drama and novel, because movie communicates through action, gestures, speech and dialogue. Movie expands and can take us to a different time space (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, p. 3).

ELEMENT IN MOVIE

Elements in the movie are very important to build and develop the story in the movie to be more real and can be enjoyed properly and clearly. Klarer (2013, p. 14) states that fictional literature such as novels, films and dramas have important elements. These are plot, character, narrative perspective, and setting.

Characters in literary works can be presented as individuals with certain types. Characters that are displayed in literary works have only one particular characteristic or character, which are called flat characters, while round characters describe types with more than one or complex features or characteristics (Klarer, 2013, p. 17).

Narrative perspective is also called point of view. Point of view in a literature is how the writer characterizes the actors, time and atmosphere in a story. He categorized point of views in three positions; first is omniscient point of view or as a third person point of view. Characteristically using the word "she" and "he". The second is first-person narration or

minor characters, using "I" or "we" perspective. And the last one is a figural narrative situation, through figures acting in fictional literature (Klarer, 2013, p. 20-21).

Setting is also an aspect that needs to be analyzed in fiction. Setting describes the location, social environment and time period in which the action in the story takes place (Klarer, 2013, p. 25). In the *Shawshank Redemption* movie, the story takes place in 1947 in a prison called the Shawshank State Penitentiary.

Plot means a series of stories that occur from the beginning to the end, the plot consists of events in the whole story that are chronological, sequential and must be related. According to (Klarer, 2013, p. 15) the ideal plot line includes four consecutive sections; exposition as first part or introducing all the characters and providing an overview or background of a story, complication is when problems and conflicts arise then eventually come to climax, climax or turning point is the highest point in a story and the last one is resolution when the problems are resolved.

MOVIE AS MEDIA LEARNING IN EDUCATION

Media technology providing various forms of self-expression. The purpose of educational media is to increase creativity, think better, and communicative abilities because today's educational media is described as a tool or process of learning development with the help of media (Ferodov, 2015, p. 5).

One example of media for education is movie. Movie is one type of audio-visual media that involves sound as a sense of hearing and moving images as a sense of sight. A movie can be interpreted as a story that is broadcast in the form of a moving image using sounds that support making the story livelier and more interesting for all to watch. Through movie, we can find out things that are sometimes impossible for us to happen in the real world. Movies can increase our knowledge with many things. For example, movies explain the process of the universe. Movies can also take us to the world of the past by presenting historical events that occurred in the past.

Movies are very effective as learning media for anyone because this media is quite interesting and easy because in addition to getting knowledge, watching movies can also entertain the audience, therefore watching movies is a fun and not boring learning activity. Nowadays we can easily watch movies on television or on the internet, we don't have to go to the cinema because we can download and even stream paid movies from the internet like *Netflix*.

MORAL VALUE

In Indonesian, the word moral is translated as rules of decency or a term used to determine the boundaries of the nature of another role, will, opinion or limits on actions that can be said to be right, wrong, good or bad. The words moral and ethics have the same meaning, namely habit. Moral can be defined as values and norms that serve as guidelines for a person or group or organization in regulating their behavior. Thien & Tu (2019, p. 564) states that without having morality, humans as social beings will not last long because morality reflects the rules of behavior of each individual related to the rules and standards of good and bad actions and behavior.

Moral is closely related to the values taught by religion and culture. All religions in the world generally teach the same moral values to their followers, namely to always do well with oneself, as well as with other people and obey God. Thien & Tu (2019, p. 564) states

that no human being is born perfectly, therefore humans must train themselves and perfect their morals to become good humans because morality is the most useful thing in life.

Moral values are used to improve and promote correct moral education and apply healthy morals to individuals with good behavior. Therefore, moral values are very important to be introduced and applied to society (George & Uyangga, 2014, p. 41).

Moral values are taught to be developed in moral education as certain valuable qualities that are useful in building good and healthy character. Moral values are values that are essential to determine human perceptions of moral consciousness in society. Moral values that must be in the soul of an individual in social life are honesty, respect, patience, responsibility, obedience, integrity, respect, hard work, loyalty, justice, equality and tolerance (George & Uyangga, 2014, p. 41)

Values are the rules by which we make decisions about right and wrong (Siddiqui, 2011, p. 2). In general, the notion of value is a thought that sulks and guides human life in useful things, namely what is considered right, good, important, beautiful and worthy. Values are also a reflection of people's lives and guidelines to build good social interactions. More than that, even values can be a reflection and a picture of the life and order of society that help each other to build their social order.

People who have no value in their lives will act and behave arbitrarily and tend to hurt the feelings of others. Hilter as one example, he may believe that certain religions and races are not better and inferior. He or she may feel powerful and strongest about beliefs and act out violence and hatred. Then people will ask, does the Hilter have any value? Which means whether the Hilter has good life values such as equal moral wisdom, honesty, responsibility, compassion, and respect (Kirschenbaum, 2013, p. 177).

Moral values are related to human emotions and fundamental human experiences that inform us in many ways. Emotions in humans do not have good and bad qualities; emotions can be interpreted into positive emotions and negative emotions that help humans to motivate them to behave that are considered good or bad (Thien & Tu, 2019, p. 572).

Moral values are a necessity and obligation that children and students must have in their lives because knowing and applying moral values can help them face the tough life as adults. Invaluable service or kindness born of moral values such as feeding a hungry person, helping people cross the road when they can't, or sharing sadness and comforting someone who is sad (Banerjee, 2012, p. 57).

Important to know the types of moral values as well so that we have guidelines before doing something. Banerjee (2012, p. 57) states that there are seven top moral values that can serve and help society if students apply these seven moral values; unconditional love and kindness, honesty, hard work, respect for others, co-operation, compassion, and forgiveness.

a. Unconditional love and kindness.

Love must be unconditional but not detrimental to others, love here is not loved like a couple but love for fellow living beings. If we love someone with good intentions then other people will love us too. By having a lot of love then goodness will always be with us and there will be no evil (Banerjee, 2012, p. 57).

b. Honesty

Students and children should be taught that lying or dishonesty and cheating are inappropriate behavior because dishonesty has no future benefit. A person who likes to lie and is dishonest will only cause bad consequences for himself or herself and even for others.

c. Hard work.

The success that humans get is mostly from effort and hard work and then a little motivation. This does not mean that students are encouraged to cheat on exams, they should study hard to get perfect scores instead of using shortcuts (Banerjee, 2012, p. 57).

d. Respect for other

Respect is appreciating all the difference. Banerjee (2012, p. 57) states that in today's society, many of them are too competitive and have the heart to hurt others for their personal gain. Therefore, respect for others is very important; respect for differences in race and religion, gender, and unequal lifestyles.

e. Co-operation

Cooperation is needed as social beings. When there is no cooperation, it will not get the maximum result for everyone, but it will benefit some selfish people. Therefore, everyone needs to work together to achieve common goals (Banerjee, 2014, p. 58).

f. Compassion

People who have their compassionate nature will be more sensitive and understand the needs of others, they will help people in need such as helping the poor, giving food to hungry people, or even unhappiness (Banerjee, 2012, p. 58).

g. Forgiveness

God teaches us to be generous to forgive enemies or people who hurt our feelings or physically. If we are reluctant to forgive others, there will always be feelings of anger in us and even a sense of revenge (Banerjee, 2012, p. 58).

From the discussion above the researchers can conclude that moral values cannot be created in an instant, but it must take time to make people aware of moral values. Starting with the environment and interaction with the community there, and also teaching moral values in schools is very important with existing values such as respecting differences, carrying out orders or responsibilities, and avoiding prohibitions created in that environment. By paying attention and guiding and behaving based on certain aspects in the community, someone will behave well and be able to please others and one.

METHODOLOGY

In conducting this research, the researchers used descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative researchers collect information and data by themselves by observing behavior, interviewing, and examining documents. Qualitative researchers do not usually use questionnaires. They do not send instruments to others, and do not need to take individuals to the laboratory to obtain data (Creswell, 2014, p. 234).

The primary data source is from the object *Shawshank Redemption* movie that directed by Frank Darabont and the secondary data taken from several types of literary books and journals related to the object of research, the data sources used provide real and up-to-date information. The researchers used the documentation method as a way to collect data and descriptive analysis technique to analyze the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researchers analyzed element and moral values in *Shawshank Redemption* movie. The description of the elements and moral values:

ELEMENT IN SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION MOVIE

There are thirteen characters played in *Shawshank Redemption* movie. They are categorized into three groups. The first one is protagonist; Andy Dufresne, played by Tim Robbins. Andy was a young deputy director of a bank who was accused of the murder of his wife and her affair. The second is antagonist; Warden Samuel Norton, Captain Byron Hadley, and Bogs Diamond. The third is supporting character; Ellis Boyd Redding, Brooks Hatlen, Floyd, Snooze, Heywood, Ernie, New fat prisoner, Tommy Williams, and a District Attorney.

The story or the plot of this movie begins when Andy Dufresne, an educated young man and deputy director of a bank, became the accused for the murder of his wife and her affair. Even though Andy explained everything according to the facts, everyone did not believe it and the prosecutor demanded that he was sentenced to double life imprisonment. The complication section is when Andy started to get noticed by Bobs, a leader in a homosexual group at the Shawshank prison named The Sisters. The Sisters liked Andy and often tried to harass Andy. The climax of this movie is when Mr. Norton killed Tommy because he didn't want Andy to get out of prison because he wanted to continue to take advantage of Andy to continue his corrupt actions. The resolution of this movie is when Andy finally released from prison through a wall he had punctured for nearly 20 years, Andy crawled through a 500 yard long human sewage pipe. Before Andy escaped from prison he uncovered all the crimes of Mr. Norton, which were often corruption and murder cases in prison. This made Mr. Norton scared and depressed so he decided to commit suicide. Finally, Andy can live according to his dreams, which is to live quietly by the beach on an island called Zihuatanejo in Mexico.

There is a special character in this *Shawshank Redemption* movie, he is Red. Besides being an old prisoner and friendly with Andy, Red is also a narrator in this movie.

All the scenes in the *Shawshank Redemption* movie take place inside the Shawshank prison, but the researchers found certain rooms in the Shawshank prison and also the place before Andy was in prison and after Andy was released; in a court, in a bus, in Shawshank prison, on the roof of the prison, in the laundry room, in the library, the prison grounds, on the beach in Zihuatanejo Mexico.

MORAL VALUE IN SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION MOVIE

1. Honestly

The researchers found scene and dialogues that show honestly in the *Shawshank Redemption* Movie:

Andy said the truth during the trial in court. He said all his feelings when he found out that his wife was having an affair. Before the shooting incident Andy said that they had fought and his wife wanted a divorce in Reno but Andy didn't want to. Andy got angry and went to some bars and got drunk, then he came to his wife's house and watched her make love and get shot. That's what led Andy to become a defendant for his wife's murder. But he still said honestly and according to the fact that he did not shoot his wife and her affair. Even though whatever he said was never believed by anyone in court and he got 2 times life in prison

D.A : When they arrived, you went up to the house and murdered them?

Andy: No. I was sobering up. I realized she wasn't worth it. I decided to let her m have her quickie divorce.

D.A : Quickie divorce indeed. A .38 caliber divorce, wrapped in a handtowel to

muffle the shots, isn't that what you mean? And then you shot her lover!

Andy: I did not. I got back in the car and drove home to sleep it off. Along the way
I stopped and threw my gun into the Royal River. I feel I've been very clear
on this point. (Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F. (Director). (1994).

Shawshank Redemption. Performed 00:03:19 – 00:03:44).

2. Compassion

The researchers found scene and dialogues that show compassion in the *Shawshank Redemption* Movie:

During his first year in prison, Andy was very quiet and closed until finally he met red. One day Andy volunteered with Red and his friends to renovate the roof of the prison and got a cigarette as a wage. It was at that time that Andy listened to the conversation of a guard named Mr. Handley with other police. They talked about taxes and Andy offered to help him get him tax free. As his salary, Andy only asked for a bottle of beer for each of his co-workers or fellow volunteers. Thanks to Andy, the inmates who volunteered to coat the roof of the prison in the summer were able to enjoy cold beer during recess. Even Mr. Hedley became friendly to all of them and they had a beer with the other policemen on guard.

Andy : ... I'd only ask three beers apiece for my co-workers, if that seems fair.

Trout : (guffawing) Co-workers! Get him! That's rich, ain't it? Co-workers...

Andy : I think a nan working outdoors feels more like a man if he can have a bottle

of suds. That's only my opinion. (Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F.

(Director). (1994). Shawshank Redemption. Performed 00:36:45-00:37:05)

3. Co-operation

The researchers found scene and dialogues that show co-operation in the *Shawshank Redemption* Movie:

Humans are taught to cooperate in achieving a goal and not be selfish. Banerjee (2012:57) states that everyone needs to work together to achieve common goals.

Red as the narrator explained that Andy had succeeded in making the best prison library in New England. In achieving that success Andy did not work alone, because there was cooperation between Andy and his friends

Red (V.O.) : By the year Kennedy was shot, Andy had transformed a broom closet smelling of turpentine into the best prison library in New England. (Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F. (Director). (1994). Shawshank Redemption. Performed 01:17:52 – 01:18:00)

4. Unconditional love and kindness

The researchers found scene and dialogues that show unconditional love and kindness in the *Shawshank Redemption* Movie:

When Andy was hospitalized because he was beaten by the sisters, Red and his friends wanted to give a warm welcome when Andy returned from the hospital so that Andy would feel happy. They agreed to find rocks as a gift for Andy, because Andy really likes stones as his hobby of sharpening stones

Red : I'm thinkin' Andy could use a nice welcome back when he gets out of the infirmary.

Heywood: Sounds good to us. Figure we owe him for the beer.

Red: Man likes to play chess. Let's get him some rocks. (Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F. (Director). (1994). Shawshank Redemption. Performed 00:45:56 – 00:46:13).

5. Hard work

The researchers found scene and dialogues that show hard work the *Shawshank Redemption* Movie:

Andy wanted to find a new book for the Shawshank prison library, Andy had intended to solicit funds from the warden and his friends laugh at him because they know the warden will never give funds. It was true what Brooks said if the warden wouldn't give the donation. After being rejected by the chief warden, Andy had intended to write a letter requesting funds to the State Council. Andy planned to send one letter every week. Andy kept sending letters even though there was no reply.

Andy : Still, I'd like to try, with your permission. I'll send a letter a week. They can't ignore me forever.

Norton: They sure can, but you write your letters if it makes you happy. I'll even mail 'em for you, how's that? (Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F. (Director). (1994). Shawshank Redemption. Performed 00:55:37 – 00:56:00)

THE MOST DOMINANT MORAL VALUES APPEARING IN THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION MOVIE

Something that is said to be dominant is something that is stronger, more numerous, and powerful compared others. Jakobson (in Osadchuk, 2018:17) states that the word dominant refers to one of the most important, elaborate, and productive things. Something that is dominant can be interpreted as a special component in a literary work¹. Therefore, the most dominant moral values appearing in the *Shawshank Redemption* movie that can be found is hard work, because it is the moral value that often occurred in this movie. Several actions that indicate this are contained in some scenes, as follows:

- 1. Hard work and never gives up can be seen when Andy wanted to renovate the library in prison and get new books. The first thing Andy did was try to ask for donations from the head of the prison but he refused, then Andy tried to send a letter once a week for 6 years. Until finally Andy was able to reach his hopes with hard work and perseverance that never gave up on renovating the library and even making it the best prison library in New England.
 - Red (V.O.) : By the year Kennedy was shot, Andy had transformed a broom closet smelling of turpentine into the best prison library in New England. (Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F. (Director). (1994). Shawshank Redemption. Performed 01:17:52 01:18:00)
- 2. When Brooks was declared free from prison, he actually had no purpose in life anymore, but he still worked hard to live his boring life because he was very old.

 Brooks (V.O.): It's hard work. I try to keep up, but my hands hurt most of the time. I don't think the store manager likes me very much.

(Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F. (Director). (1994). Shawshank Redemption. performed 01:02:28 – 01:02:40)

3. When Andy had been imprisoned for exactly 19 years, he found someone who can be a witness that he never killed his wife and her affair. Andy found a new hope there that he could get out of prison with the help of a witness. Andy was very excited and worked hard to tell and convince the chief warden of this matter but the warden never listened to him and killed Tommy as a witness because he didn't want Andy to get out of jail.

Andy: It wouldn't matter. With Tommy's testimony, I can get a new trial.

Norton: That's assuming Blatch is even still there. Chances are excellent he'd be released by now. Excellent.

Andy: They'd have his last known address. Names of relatives... (Norton shakes his head) Well it's a chance. Isn't it? How can you be so obtuse? (Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F. (Director). (1994). Shawshank Redemption. Performed 01:32:52 – 01:33:00)

4. Losing a witness who can help prove Andy innocent and able to get out of prison made Andy sad but he did not lose hope of remaining free from prison. He worked hard and did not give up on making holes as a shortcut to get out of prison using only a small chisel hammer, because of his hard work and the hope that Andy could finally be free from prison, to get out of prison Andy took 20 years to perforated a long wall. Of course, this required extraordinary perseverance and hard work that never gave up, he crawled through the human sewage pipe 500 yards or the equivalent of a football field.

Red (V.O.) : Andy crawled to freedom through five hundred yards of shitsmelling foulness I can't even imagine. Or maybe I just don't want to.

Red (V.O.) : Five hundred yards. The length of five football fields. Just shy of half a mile. (Marvin, N. (Producer) & Darabont, F. (Director). (1994). Shawshank Redemption. Performed 01:59:20 – 02:00:30)

These moral values are very important to be applied in real life. They have a good and useful contribution to real life for both students and society. The moral value of honesty contributes important to students and society because they must have the value of honesty to become a good human being. For example, students must be honest in taking exams, they must not cheat. Another moral value that makes an important contribution to students and society is hard work and co-operation, because without hard work and cooperation, humans will tend to be lazy and reluctant to achieve their goals. For example, students have to work hard by studying hard and persevering to get perfect scores and pass the exams. In addition to working hard for themselves, co-operation is very important because as social beings must work together to succeed together or complete work together. For example, students need to work together in doing picket cleaning the classroom. They all divide the tasks so that the work is completed quickly. Compassion and unconditional love and kindness also have important contribution to students and society. For example, when classmates do not bring food supplies, then by having moral value compassion they will share their lunches with friends who do not bring it. Examples of unconditional love and kindness contributions when

a friend is sick then we will visit them, another example when a friend is having a birthday or passing an exam then we will give congratulations and gifts.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the research, the research concludes that there are five moral values that found in *Shawshank Redemption* movie. Those are honestly, compassion, co-operation, hard work, and unconditional love & kindness. Hard work as the most dominant moral values appearing in the *Shawshank Redemption* movie, because it is the moral value that often occurred in this movie. The moral value of honesty was seen when Andy told the truth and was in accordance with the facts while in court. Compassion was seen when Andy managed to give his colleague a bottle of beer and helped then taught Tommy how to read for his test. Co-operation was seen when Andy and his friends worked together to make the best prison library in New England. Hard work was seen when Andy wanted to renovate the prison library he worked hard and diligently to keep sending letters to the government for 6 years. Unconditional love and kindness seen when Andy was in the hospital, his friends gave gifts.

The dominant moral values that often appear in *Shawshank Redemption* movies is hard work; Andy had high hopes and kept working hard never gave up to renovate and make the best prison library in New England. Brooks hopes to see Jake every time he finished work and he still tried to work hard even though his hand hurts. Andy found great hope when he found a witness who could testify that he was innocent, he worked hard to convince Mr. Norton about this even though still failed. Andy did not lose hope of getting out of prison. He worked hard for nearly twenty years to punch holes in the walls.

Watching movies is one of the interesting activities and tends to be liked by everyone because it is not boring. In addition to entertainment, watching movies can also help us increase our knowledge of many things. One of which we can get a life lesson called moral values from movies. Every movie always provides positive messages that viewers need to imitate in their daily lives. Moral values must be taught from childhood by parents and the environment even at school. By learning and having knowledge about moral values, children and students in schools will behave properly.

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