

ANALYSIS OF THE MORAL VALUE IN THE NOVEL "IMPERFECT" WRITTEN BY MEIRA ANASTASIA

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ABSTRAK

The diversity of genres and novel themes in the world, especially in Indonesia, has grown rapidly. In addition to entertainment, the novel also contains a moral message from the author that she wants to convey to her readers. "Imperfect" is a novel by Meira Anastasia, this novel raises the issue of body shaming and the motivation for self-love. This novel tells about Meira, who is the wife of an actor and also a director to appear perfect. Pressure from family, friends, and the environment finally makes Meira feel insecure and hate herself. In this book, Meira tells her anxiety in a language that is flexible and relaxed, she also adds witty illustrations that make this book interesting. This book turns a negative view of an imperfect body into a positive one. This study aims to analyze the moral message contained in the novel "Imperfect". This study uses a qualitative method and will examine and analyze the moral values contained in the novel that can motivate positive change. The results of the research on the novel "Imperfect" have many moral messages such as resilience in dealing with problems such as body shaming, motivation to love oneself, and turning insecurity into gratitude.

Keywords: Imperfect; Moral Value; Novel; Insecure.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a work created by humans in the form of oral and written which has aesthetic value and power and creates an emotional sense in the form of a sense of beauty, admiration, sympathy, hate, and other emotional forms (Wilde, 2019). Literature has an element of beauty in it which can be seen through the use of the language style brought by the author. Literary language is a special language used in literary works so there is a difference between reading literature and reading non-literary (Kraemer, 2015). This special language uses figurative language that can create emotions and imagination. In addition to the beauty and emotional style of language, literature also has a message in it that wants to be conveyed to the readers. The message can be a general description of life and moral values that are used as a reflection for the reader.

Literary work is the result of a person's imaginative work based on a reflection of everyday life. So literary works are usually fictional but still refer to the reality of life. Literary work is the idea of someone created through his view of the surrounding social environment and accompanied by beautiful language. As a work of fiction, literature has a deep meaning because literature is not just a fictional story or just the imagination of the author, but literature is a manifestation of the author's creativity in exploring, processing, and generating ideas in his imagination. Literary works are usually created from problems that surround the life of the author, either in the form of personal experience or from experiences outside the author. Literary works have meanings created by the author in the form of poetry, novels, short stories, and others that can be enjoyed and utilized by the audience.

A novel is a type of prose literary work. A novel is a work of fiction that has a story that is not too long and not too short. The existence of the novel is expected to have a positive influence on the reader so that the reader will be sensitive to the surrounding social reality. According to (Duckworth, 2015) the novel is literature that has a long prose form whose length can be estimated to fill one or two small volumes and describes real-life contained in a complex plot. In writing, novels do not have special provisions, such as poetry that pays attention to rhyme and rhythm, novel writing tends to be like telling stories using everyday language. The length of the story in the novel is longer than the short story.

The novel contains the plot, themes, characters, and characterizations which are representations of society in everyday life. Novel writing shows a series of events and settings that are structured and complex.

Novels also contain social values or moral values that arise as a result of problems between human relationships and problems. Novels usually make human life the object of their writing. In human life, social and moral elements are things that are inherent in every person and become an important part of human daily life. So that the novel contains values that can be a lesson for life. One of the values that we can take in the novel is moral value. Values have different meanings and meanings. In everyday life, the term value is not a foreign thing. The term value is very attached to human life, even though we often use it and feel the situation. Value is used as a measure in determining justice and truth. Value is something that is contained in humans that provides the basis for moral principles.

Values cannot be seen in physical form because values must be sought in the human process of dealing with other human attitudes. Values already exist and are contained in something, so we must realize and seek these values and understand them in their role and use in life. Value and goodness have a relationship, so it can be said that value is a positive relationship between relationships with humans. These values are social values, moral values, and cultural values. The word moral comes from the Latin "mores" which means customs, behavior, morals, and character which then develop into habits in good behavior. The moral is an action that is good or bad that is formed in humans because of a habit. Ordinary morals are considered as the behavior of human life which is bound by the necessity to achieve a good thing based on awareness. The moral is also teaching regarding good life behavior based on a particular religion or view of life. Moral can also be considered as a benchmark that can be used to measure the goodness and badness of a person's attitude.

The novel is one of the many literary works that can be taken from its moral value. In addition to entertaining, novels must be able to show the positive side that can be taken and applied in everyday life. However, even though it contains moral values, the stories produced by the author must be interesting and follow the times. Don't let the story bring the impression that it's too serious and rigid so that it can't be accepted by the public. The novel entitled *Imperfect* is the result of Meira Anastasia's work which was published in 2018. This novel contains body shaming and insults against Meira who is the wife of a famous actor and director. This novel also tells the story of Meira who lacks confidence because of the words and views of the people around her and also tells about the importance of family and environment in shaping one's character. In this novel, of course, many describe the existence of moral values, especially social values. *Imperfect* novels have a very relaxed and motivating storyline. Meira brought the story into the novel with a language that was flexible and relaxed so that it could be accepted by all circles. The meanings and values conveyed by Meira also seem deep and deeply touching to the readers.

Imperfect novels have moral values that are conveyed to their readers, namely how to respect each other, how to accept the shortcomings and differences that God has given us, and how to deal with people around us who underestimate us. This novel also gives motivation and support to readers who are experiencing insecurity, especially in their physical condition so that after reading this novel, it is hoped that they will be more confident and love themselves. The story in the novel is very motivating, the storyline is very unique and has moral values in the story, which makes the writer more interested in this novel. Therefore, the author is interested and chooses the *imperfect* novel as research material regarding the moral values contained in Meira Anastasia's work, namely *Novel Imperfect* in making a paper entitled "Analysis Of The Moral Value In The Novel "Imperfect" Written By Meira Anastasia".

METHODS

Research can be interpreted as an attempt to find, develop, and test the truth of knowledge carried out using the scientific method (Antwi & Hamza, 2015). The effort to find means an effort to get something new, the effort to develop means an effort to deepen and expand existing findings and assumptions about the truth. The research method used is the qualitative methods. The qualitative method is a method that focuses on in-depth observations to produce a more comprehensive study of a phenomenon (Queirós, et al, 2017).

The purpose of this descriptive research is to make a systematic, factual, and accurate description, picture, or painting of the facts, characteristics, and relationships between the phenomena being investigated. The research method used by researchers in this study is a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The research method used is a qualitative method. "Methodology is the process, principles, and procedures that we use to approach problems and seek answers" (Mulyana, 2008). According to Sugiyono (2007), qualitative research methods are research used to examine natural objects where the researcher is the key instrument, data collection techniques are carried out in a combined manner, data analysis is inductive, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization. Qualitative research aims to maintain the form and content of human behavior and analyze its qualities, instead of turning them into quantitative entities. The purpose of this descriptive research is to make a systematic, factual and accurate

description, picture or painting of the facts, characteristics and relationships between the phenomena being investigated.

FINDINGS

The novel *Imperfect* is the work of Meira Anastasia, the wife of the famous actor and director, Ernest Prakasa. This novel was published in 2018 and has been adapted into a film in 2019 with the same title as the novel. The imperfect novel raises the issue of body shaming and how to accept and love one's shortcomings and ones in oneself. This book was written through Meira's personal experience who complained about blasphemy from netizens about her *fiski*. In this book, Meira also shares her story about her experience as a woman, wife and mother who struggles to be nothing if not perfect. This book is successful in the market and has become a best seller and has succeeded in motivating great women out there to turn insecurity into gratitude. In this paper, the author will take moral values that can be taken as lessons.

1. Social values

- a) "See, handsome people don't necessarily have a beautiful wife, huh!" (*Imperfect* novel page 11)

The quote is a quote written by Meira in her novel, the quote comes from netizen criticism on Meira's Instagram which is focused on Meira's physical condition. This quote managed to hurt Meira's heart and became the beginning of her complaint. Criticism like this can hurt and become fear and even create a sense of insecurity. We as social beings should be able to hold our fingers from typing and commenting that is not good and can hurt other people's feelings.

- b) "My brother and my mom used to say, "Why are your thighs so big?" "Are you fat? "How come you're so skinny, eat something." (*Novel Imperfect* page 19).

This quote that Meira wrote came from her family's comments. Not only netizens, Meira's family also commented on her physical form. This becomes Meira's anxiety and makes her sense of insecurity grow again. Things like this should not need to be said because it can hurt someone's feelings and become a psychological impact.

- c) "When I was still living in Bali and had just given birth to a child, my husband once said I was getting fat and couldn't take care of myself anymore. In fact, he knew that what he said would hurt me, who was very insecure and physically, so I was very hurt and hated and even felt unloved" (*Novel Imperfect*, page 26)

This quote that Meira received from her husband made meira realize that criticism does not only come from the outside environment, but also from the closest environment, namely her own husband. The criticism mentioned by her husband made meira even more hurt and very insecure because her husband was the one who knew how she had been complaining all this time. Some women feel that criticism about their physical condition is normal, but there are also those who feel offended when they hear it, and even feel that they are not appreciated and loved.

- d) "He said, I put too much care in my appearance, such as eating out of mind, snacking a lot, and being too indifferent to myself." (*Novel Imperfect*, 2019 : 28)

Through this quote, it can be seen that women are always required to prioritize their appearance. When women put it aside, they will get criticism from their environment.

- e) "God's gifts such as eyes, nose, mouth, skin color, if you want to change it, you have to go through an operation process. However, the process is not carried out because of health problems, but for aesthetic problems." (*Novel Imperfect*, page 45).

From the quote written by meira, we can know that plastic surgery is now commonplace and has been done by many people. In this novel, Meira reveals that nowadays many people do plastic or cosmetic surgery not for health but for aesthetics.

Basically the word beautiful in women is a relative thing because basically all women in the world are beautiful but there are still many who lack confidence and are not grateful. So many of them do surgery to get the "perfect" beauty results. Actually, the definition of beauty is not like a thin body, sharp nose, long legs, sexy body, beautiful eyes and so on. But the definition of beauty is a healthy body and mind and a good personality.

- f) "If a woman is not married, it will be a disgrace to the family. Even though times are very different, as women we are still required to pay more attention to appearance." (*Novel Imperfect*, pages 67-68)

According to meira, this quote tells about the social justice of a woman in society because for them, women who have not been married at a certain age will be a disgrace in a family. Although this has rarely happened in the modern era like now, it does not rule out the possibility that this can happen again in the current era. The thing that causes the emergence of negative views about women who are late in marriage being a family disgrace is due to the fertility factor or menopause.

Even though late marriage is not something that should be covered up and a disgrace to the family. Because for some women they prefer to focus on building a good career first before deciding to get married and form the perfect family. Everyone has the freedom to choose, women in this world have their own rights. Getting married at an old age or getting married late is not something that should be disputed and reproached.

g) "The point that people see is that Ernest Prakasa's wife is no longer beautiful, a tomboy, her hair is weird. How come you still want it, Ernest!" (Novel Imperfect, page 115)

The quote above is a comment that is often received by meira, especially on social media. Women sometimes often think of other women as rivals in getting recognition for their beauty.

h) "Why do they have to use the words "sure"? do they know what I look like with long hair? Am I a woman, so I only look prettier if I have long hair, because short hair belongs to men? Is it forever that short-haired women will never be able to look beautiful?". (Novel Imperfect, 2019: 117).

Through the quote above, we can see that society's view of beautiful women is women who have long hair. Society views that if women have short hair they will look like men. They also think that hair is a woman's crown which symbolizes women's beauty, so they have a standard that beautiful women are women who have long hair.

2. Value of affection

a) "The doctor's treatment hurt me a lot, but it hurt even more because he did all that, treating me in front of my own husband. He made me feel that my body was not worthy of my husband." "My husband finally stopped talking on the phone, stopped the car on the side of the road and hugged me slenderly."

"I don't need to be defended by the way you get angry with people who have hurt me. I'm more calm and comfortable if you can calm me down. "That's what I told him at that time".

"Finally my husband apologized for making me feel more uncomfortable and promised not to bring this up again. We hugged each other for a long time on the side of the road in the car together." (Novel Imperfect ,2019 :73-74)

From the quote above, we can see that Meira's husband has a loving nature towards her, Ernest tries to calm Meira who is hurt by the words of a doctor. Ernest shows his affection through hugs and words that make meira calmer and happier. Even Ernest also apologized to meira for the uncomfortable situation and Ernest also promised not to bring up the problem again.

b) "always! Even though I must not forget that my husband is kind, considerate, and loves me and the children very much. He prefers to spend time with us than for himself". (Novel Imperfect, 2019: 126)

The quote written by meira shows that she must not forget and be grateful for her husband's kindness. The attention and affection given by Meira's husband to her little family made meira realize how happy and lucky she is to have a husband like Ernest. Meira also wrote that her husband prefers to spend time with his family than for his personal activities. This makes meira feel the happiness of her husband who has a sincere heart.

3. Value Of Helping Each Other

Helping each other are social creatures, they cannot live alone, or isolate themselves from social life (Abdillah, 2007). Helping is a habit that leads to the kindness of an individual that arises from Creating love between fellow human beings Compassion causes physical safety, can improve immoral behavior and mutual respect.

"Surely you often listen to safety procedures on planes before taking off. "Put on your oxygen mask, before helping others." "In my opinion, one of the most important things in life is how much we have a positive impact on others. Have we helped each other? Have we as humans been of any use to others?" There is no need to do extraordinary things. Being able to spread positivity and encourage those closest to you is also a noble thing. Sometimes, people just need to be encouraged and wanted if there is someone who loves them in this world. Giving encouragement to people in need, can save them from things that are not desirable. "We never know that a hug or even a simple smile can make someone happy and feel that his life is worth defending". "But how are we going to help people, spread kindness, and make the world a better place, if we haven't helped ourselves? because, even though you have a good support system and a supportive environment, the one who can make you comfortable, accept, and make peace with yourself is yourself. (Novel Imperfect, 2019: 44-45).

In the first quote, helping is a habit that leads to a person's kindness that arises from self-awareness. The quote above shows the nature of helping fellow human beings. Not only from goods but can also help in the form of a sense of concern for him. Sometimes people can't understand themselves, we too can help by listening and encouraging that all people are valuable and worthy of love. Our fellow human beings also

need to help people, spread kindness without having to be asked even though we must have the initiative or thought to help that person.

4. Hard Work Value

Hard work is a term that covers an ongoing effort (never give up) in completing the work that is the task and then stops.

"So the story is, after around I did regular exercise (home workouts and the beginning of the gym) which focused on the abs, I felt how come there was no change, right? The upper stomach is already starting to look thin lines, but the lower stomach is still distended." "I was annoyed and sad because I felt stupid. Tired of practicing, but wrong. It took quite a long time, until I had to go on a workout strike because I had to completely change my training method. My husband tried to comfort me by saying that it's better to know now than never to know and be a lingering problem. After that I had the enthusiasm again to workout with the limitations that my therapist had given me. (Novel Imperfect, 2019:95-96).

In the first quote, the above explains that Meira's belief to keep trying to exercise for about eight months. It was seen that at that time Meira had stopped striking because she had to change her exercise method, but her husband tried to comfort her. Meira did not give up easily and became even more enthusiastic.

5. Value Of Empathy

The value of Empathy Empathy is our ability to explore the feelings of others without sinking into them. Empathy is our ability to listen to other people's feelings without getting lost. Empathy is our ability to respond to the unspoken wishes of others. This ability is seen as the key to increasing the intensity and depth of our relationships with others. The value of empathy can be seen from the quote :

a) "Good friends know us for real." (Rara).

In addition to the words above when Rara delivered a speech, Rara also mentioned the name of the make-up company that houses her, namely Malathi. In Sanskrit, Malathi means good friend.

Therefore, in Rara's rebranding project, she wants to highlight that the make-up products that are being sold are good friends for all women who even think that they are not physically perfect. Because a good friend actually knows us for real.

b) "You don't have to be pretty like mama." (Hendro).

At the beginning of the story, we are told that Rara (Jessica Mila) has indeed been fat since childhood. He was constantly being compared to his skinnier and whiter sister. Rara complains to her father, Hendro (Kiki Narendra).

Her father says that she doesn't have to be beautiful like her mother, Debby (Karina Suwandi). This simple dialogue has deep meaning. Because things are good or beautiful, actually you don't have to have a benchmark. We can do good or be our own version of beauty.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it was found six moral values in Imperfect, including (1) Social values, and (2) Value of affection. Social values in Imperfect novel are found 8 times, and Value of affection is found 2 times. So it can be concluded that Meira Anastasia's imperfect novel contains the most social values which can be found easily in her novel. Through his novel, Meira Anastasia really gives a lot of moral values that will be very beneficial. In addition, this novel also contains more relationships with oneself because the author wants to set an example for all readers to behave, socialize and behave in everyday life by not looking at someone from their physical form and avoiding bad words, especially bodyshaming. to other people.

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