



COURAGE IN HARPER LEE'S NOVEL *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*

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ABSTRAK: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui keberanian dalam diri Atticus sebagai karakter utama dalam novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* karya Harper Lee. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori keberanian Daniel Putman untuk menganalisis bentuk-bentuk keberanian dan faktor yang mempengaruhi karakter dalam moral keberanian. Data tersebut berupa ucapan dan tindakan. Dalam penelitian ini data diambil dari kutipan berupa dialog, kalimat, frasa dan kata. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa karakter utama Atticus memiliki jiwa keberanian dari tiga bentuk keberanian yang ada. Ketiga bentuk keberanian yang ditemukan merupakan sebuah hal yang mendarah daging dalam diri manusia yang menjadikan manusia tersebut berguna tidak hanya untuk dirinya sendiri melainkan berguna dalam masyarakat dan lingkungannya. Inilah yang merupakan tahap pertama dalam cara kerja bentuk-bentuk keberanian dalam diri karakter, yaitu keberanian fisik, keberanian moral dan keberanian vital. Ketiga bentuk dari keberanian karakter ini, memunculkan beberapa faktor yang mempengaruhi keberanian moral karakter, yaitu faktor sosial dan politik, situasional, personal, dan persepsi terhadap situasi.

Kata kunci: *Keberanian, Novel*

ABSTRACT: This study aimed to determine the courage of Atticus as the main character in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The research design in this analysis was a qualitative research method. This study used Daniel Putman's theory of courage to analyze the forms of courage and the factors that influences character in moral courage. The data were in the form of speech and actions. In this study data were taken from quotes in the form of dialogues, sentences, phrases and words. The results of this study show that the main character Atticus has a spirit of courage from the three forms of courage that exist. The three forms of courage found are ingrained in humans that make these humans useful not only for themselves but useful in society and their environment. This is the first stage in how the forms of courage work in character, namely physical courage, moral courage and vital courage. These three forms of character courage give rise to several factors that affect the moral courage of the character, namely social and political, situational, personal, and perception of the situation.

Keywords: *Courage, Novel*





INTRODUCTION

In essence, literature is everything that is written and has various forms, both fiction and non-fiction which also has aesthetic and imaginative values in the integrations of literary narratives. According to Klarer (2013:3), literature is an expression of feelings that is poured into written form and is bound by the literary text itself, that every written literary text can be called literature in a more accurate sense. Literature is an amazing idea comes from the thoughts of the author to make an amazing art in the form of literary work and can be enjoyed by people. Mays (2014:1) stated that literature is an imaginative written work that is artistic in nature with various forms, namely poetry, prose, drama and various other works that are in accordance with the study at a certain historical period. Literary works are not only a process of imagination depicted in writing, and not only limited to the form of the work but literary works can be useful for readers because through literary works readers can find awareness about the truth of life which is described in the form of fiction stories. We can find several literary works that are in accordance with life, both through writing and in other forms. According to Turco (2020:21), there are so many forms of literary works that are in great demand by many people, the types of writing to be found in literature is called genres; the primary genres are fiction, drama, poetry and nonfiction-all of these terms are umbrella terms, for there are subgenres in each category, such as the novel, novella, novelette (long story) and short story. The novel is an exploration and journey about the hardships of life, contemplation, and depiction of existence in certain spatial dimensions which include shifts, unity, fragility, efforts and results as well as human achievements in the realm of art (Larsson and Woolf, 2017:132). So, that's why when an author writes a novel based on an event, a background story, or an incident, he needs characters from the story, characters who really fit the story, because that's the most important part of the job. The characters in a story play the most important role in building the story to make it more alive and of course to entertain the reader. The story of an interesting character will make a special impression on the reader and the work is increasingly in demand by many people. Meanwhile, Mays (2017:219) stated that characters in a story or in a literary work are those who do or are actors in the story, starting from the character entered, displayed by the author from the beginning of the story. Based on the definitions above, it can be concluded that the character of the story described by the author is the main character in a story and depends on what story he wants to raise and of course it is related to human life in it, but if the author composes a story without seeing what is depicted by the theme or what the main idea of his own work is, it is impossible. Based on this thought, the theme in a work is also the most important element, because the theme is the driving force of the story, where the direction of the story or work can run optimally and of course it can attract the interest of the reader. According to Mays (2017:383), theme is the point of a work of fiction that has an essential meaning or main purpose. The theme is an illustration of the supporting elements of the



story that are filtered from the equivalent of the story and the form of the story details can be seen significantly in the statements of the stories.

In addition, it can be seen that the themes that shape the character can also be divided into several groups, for example, the theme of courage can also be divided into several options, such as courage based on the plot, courage based on the setting, but here the writer wants to show courage based on the character in the given theme. Courage is basically formed from within and a person habits, courage emerges as a form of resistance against oneself and many people. In the same case, in this study if seen from the issue of social background and real life, many rely on forms of courage such as physical courage, which shows strength but not with a process where courage does not always go like that. In this study, the courage is question is the courage for truth, honesty, justice, responsibility and idealistic attitudes towards a form of violence using healthy patterns without physical combat. In this study, courage becomes the main point to examine what kind and to what extent the act of courage occurs in a person based on its form. According to Elmes (2012:56), courage is a form of self-defense in terms of protecting and guarding oneself from all forms of fear, anxiety, doubt and discomfort about something that might happen. Courage occurs out of habit, a strong mentality and self-confidence can bring out the courage to be present in a person. Based on the existing understanding, it can be indirectly concluded that basically self-courage is present because of one's habits, based on the extent to which one can follow what is based on it. It is the same with literary works, because a story follows the pattern of the author who sets the theme of the work he writes. In this study, the writer is going to carry out a study of the novel. The novel entitled *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960, consisting 376 pages. It tells that the main character named Atticus who is a lawyer in Maycomb County. His wife has long since died and Atticus lives with his two children, Jem and Scout, and a housekeeper. Atticus is the best and most progressive father and attorney, representing justice, love, courage and truth. Atticus is opposed to racial discrimination, injustice, wickedness and hypocrisy. Atticus teaches his children to see things from other people's perspectives. He teaches them to imagine what they would do if a problem came up and they had to deal with it themselves. Atticus taught about things that were unusual for his two children's age, but Atticus allowed it and stressed to his children that the truth must be maintained. Through Atticus's courage and righteousness, Scout and Jem Finch's life is turned upside down by their father, Atticus Finch's attempts at defending young blacks. In those days, Atticus Finch was defending someone often thought to be a lowlife. Atticus Finch is pecked by the whole town for defending someone who is considered the scum of the earth. Atticus was not the least bit afraid of any threat to his family and defended himself, although his children always asked Atticus why he defended Negroes, Atticus gave an indiscriminate understanding of truth so his children understood



what Atticus was doing. In fact, Atticus showed his courageous side, even though he knew that there would be a lot of pros and cons to the case he was taking on.

Judging from the phenomenon that occur and the existing theories, the writer is interested in analyzing the courage of the Atticus Finch's character by using the theory of courage. So, the title of this research is Courage in Harper Lee's Novel To Kill A Mockingbird.

METHODS

This study used the descriptive qualitative method by (Creswell, 2014:61) that said, qualitative method was used to understand people's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behavior and interactions. The source of data in this study was taken from the novel To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. The book has 376 pages, consist of two parts, part one consist of 11 chapters and part two consist of 19 chapters. The book was published in 1960 with enormously popular, it was translated into some 40 languages, sold more than 40 million copies worldwide, and was one of the most assigned novels in American schools. In 1961 it won a Pulitzer Prize. Data collection certain techniques were needed in order to achieve maximum results. In collecting the data, the writer uses some steps, as follows: reading the novel carefully and comprehensively; finding out all the words, quotes, phrases and sentences related to depiction the characteristics of the main character described in the novel, collecting words, quotes, phrases, sentences related to depiction the characteristic of the main character described in the novel related to the form of courage theory, and grouping words, quotes, phrases, sentences related to depiction the characteristic of the main character described in the novel related to the form of courage theory. After finishing, the writer was going to analyze the data to achieve the purpose of the study. In analyzing the data, using some steps: Classifying the data related to the courage of Atticus, discussing the data based on the relevant theories of the courage of Atticus as the main character, and making the conclusion based on the result of the data.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The writer explained about the form of courage and the factors influence of moral courage is found in Atticus as the main character in the novel To Kill A Mockingbird. The data will be analyzed using theory of forms of courage and the factors that influence of moral courage.

The Form of Courage

1. Physical Courage

Physical courage that is, overcoming a fear of death or physical harm for the sake of a noble goal such as defense of country or family (Putman 2010:9). Physical courage can include an attempt to maintain a kindness to society or people with expressions of salvation or physical behavior based on it for a social purpose. To support the explanation, it can be seen from the dialog between Atticus and his son.

As if to confirm what we saw, the town fire siren wailed up the scale to a treble pitch and remained there, screaming.

"It's gone, ain't it?" moaned Jem.



"I expect so," said Atticus. "Now listen, both of you. Go down and stand in front of the Radley Place. Keep out of the way, do you hear? See which way the wind's blowing?" (Lee, 2010:71).

Atticus shows that is not just that he's worried about a dangerous problem or situation, but how he can see that even in a precarious situation, he's focusing his courage on the people around him, or in this case, the people closest to him, his children. Atticus feels that the action taken is an act of courage that he must take to save his children, telling Jem, as an older brother, to look after Scout no matter what happens. Physical courage allowed Atticus to put their egos aside, as their conversation concluded. The simple point Atticus is trying to make is that when a man is in charge, he must do his duty to the best of his ability; Atticus reiterates that this kind of physical courage is an example that needs to be developed again, because people cannot always be true to their word.

2. Moral Courage

Moral courage that is, overcoming fear of social ostracism or rejection in order to maintain ethical integrity (Putman 2010:9). Moral courage can be highly active, such as defending integrity by fighting to improve a highly sexist or prejudice-filled workplace.

Atticus sighed. "I'm simply defending a Negro—his name's Tom Robinson. He lives in that little settlement beyond the town dump. He's a member of Calpurnia's church, and Cal knows his family well. She says they're clean-living folks. Scout, you aren't old enough to understand some things yet, but there's been some high talk around town to the effect that I shouldn't do much about defending this man. ..."
(Lee, 2010:77).

Atticus believes that courage does not always show the strongest side of a person, but how to defend the integrity of one's life by not guaranteeing the lives of others with moral views or perceptions that can open small minds to small groups of people. One of the most admirable actions that a human being can perform is an act of moral courage. Moral courage is aimed at stopping the unfair treatment or degradation of individuals by reinforcing moral standards and values. The key to a morally courageous act is having the ability and willingness to overcome barriers and to withstand pushback from others.

3. Vital Courage

Vital courage refers to the perseverance through a personal struggle or disease or disability, even when the outcome is ambiguous (Putman 2010:23). Vital courage is new compared to moral and physical courage which have been known since ancient times.

..." said Atticus. "She's not suffering any more. She was sick for a long time. Son, didn't you know what her fits were?"
Jem shook his head.



"Mrs. Dubose was a morphine addict," said Atticus. "She took it as a pain-killer for years. The doctor put her on it. She'd have spent the rest of her life on it and died without so much agony, but she was too contrary—" (Lee, 2010:114).

Atticus' vital courage this time is through a conversation with his son that discusses Mrs. Dubose's death and her long illness, Atticus discusses how miserable Mrs. Dubose was before she died, and now she is free from it all, and Atticus' intention in talking about this to Jem and Scout is to know that someone needs comfort if they feel that what they are living and the challenges they face are so difficult. Mrs. Dubose is a brave character according to Atticus. She has been addicted to the painkiller morphine and is determined to be free of this addiction before she dies. Unwittingly, as Jem reads to her, he helps her overcome her addiction.

Factors Influence Atticus's Moral Courage as the main character

1. The Social and Political Context

This factors includes among others the social position of the intervenor person or the form of government (democratic vs authoritarian) under which the morally courageous person lives (Putman 2010:160).

When my father was admitted to the bar, he returned to Maycomb and began his practice. Atticus's office in the courthouse contained little more than a hat rack, a spittoon, a checkerboard and an unsullied Code of Alabama. His first two clients were the last two persons hanged in the Maycomb County jail. Atticus had urged them to accept the state's generosity in allowing them to plead Guilty to second-degree murder and escape with their lives, but they were Haverfords, in Maycomb County a name synonymous with jackass.

(Lee, 2010:5).

In the Maycomb area when Atticus became a lawyer, even though at the beginning of his work, Atticus had seen many rules that were not commensurate with the motives of the problem, Atticus knew that such rules would remain following the traditions and customary patterns of the socio-political system at that time. While during those years in Maycomb, Alabama there were many important events that chronicle the long period of American history that created a depression of poverty and affected all the residents of Maycomb. This proves that the factors that influenced Atticus' courage were due to one of them being the traditions and customs of the socio-political system of the community.

2. Situational Factors

Situational factor consist inter alia of the place where the situation happens and how the situation develops (Putman 2010:160). This factor influences the overall location of moral courage, at times confirming that Atticus' moral courage is influenced by the scene of the problem.

Later, when I was supposed to be in bed, I went down the hall for a drink of water and heard Atticus and Uncle Jack in the living room: "I shall never marry, Atticus."

"Why?"



"I might have children."

Atticus said, "You've a lot to learn, Jack."

"I know...."

(Lee, 2010:89).

The conversation between Atticus and Jack took place at Atticus' house in the evening when Scout wanted to get a drink of water and heard her father and uncle sitting in the living room talking. Scout's defense of himself is not justified by Atticus because Atticus wants his son to understand that no matter how much threat he receives, violent and evil actions are not the best way. Related to the situational concept contained in the quote above is the place where the discussion between Atticus and Jack takes place, which talks about a lesson about Atticus' moral courage to his son.

3. Personal Factors

Personal factor include competencies and resources such as empathy or knowledge, and motivational variables such as justice sensitivity or prosocial beliefs (Putman 2010:160). This factor is the determinant and driver in finding quotes as well as dialogues or conversations between Atticus and others.

For a big man, Atticus could get up and down from a chair faster than anyone I ever knew. He was on his feet. "Apologize to your aunt," he said.

"I didn't ask her, I asked you—" Atticus turned his head and pinned me to the wall with his good eye. His voice was deadly: "First, apologize to your aunt."

"I'm sorry, Aunt," I muttered...."

(Lee, 2010:137).

Atticus told Scout to apologies to her aunt, so that the problem would be over quickly and there would be no misunderstanding between Scout and the intent of her aunt's prohibition and secondly to teach Scout how important it is to apologies, even though Scout's words were not meant for her aunt, but to Atticus but still according to Atticus whose name is a rule no matter who he is if even if his child is at fault then his child must apologies first. This is a moral and ethical teaching. This personal factor can be seen in Atticus' moral fibred which he always teaches to anyone including his children, Atticus teaches things of moral value so that his children do not see it in others but in themselves.

4. Perception of the Situation

Perception of the situation contains attention or evaluation of the person's own helping abilities (Putman 2010:160).

"Scout," said Atticus, "nigger-lover is just one of those terms that don't mean anything—like snot-nose. It's hard to explain—ignorant, trashy people use it when they think somebody's favoring Negroes over and above themselves. It's slipped into usage with some people like ourselves, when they want a common, ugly term to label somebody."

(Lee, 2010:112).



Another example that shows Atticus' caring and concerned side is when he explains to Atticus about his love and responsibility for his job handling the case of Tom Robinson who is a Nigger, and Atticus' explanation to Scout is about the responses of people out there who always look down on black people, Atticus' intention in giving these explanations is that in the future his children can open their minds that the rights and authority between their people and black people are there, there is no difference anymore even if there are still those who think so but Atticus has first given the information and lessons to them before they first know the wrong things about the law and their equality.

CONCLUSION

There is courage portrayed in the character of Atticus as the main character that has found in To Kill A Mockingbird novel. Atticus is portrayed as a courageous figure in terms of truth, justice, welfare, racial, and class equality without discriminating against skin color. However, after doing further examination and looking at forms of courage, the writer found that Atticus also has a character imbued with various forms of courage, such as physical courage, moral and social courage, and vital courage or intuition. The courage possessed by the character Atticus is driven or influenced by several factors, including interpersonal factors, socio-political factors, environmental factors, and situational factors that bring Atticus to complete the value of courage from several sides. Atticus as the main character who acts as a father in To Kill A Mockingbird is just like other fathers in the real world who have traits and behaviors. Every character in the story described by the author certainly has a character or another side, there is no longer a character consideration that determines the good and bad of a character, as is the case with Atticus' character that has been analyzed. Atticus in his role as a lawyer who is very busy with his work but does not forget his duties as a good and wise father towards the mental readiness of his children. We can see how Atticus educates and teaches everything related to courage, truth, and true justice. Atticus becomes a character that can be emulated by the way he shows true courage. The courage found in the characters in this story is about the human perspective in assessing the meaning of truth. From the theory of courage and some of the factors that influence it, it can be concluded that a person's strengths and weaknesses cannot be measured by how much someone makes mistakes. Our understanding of everything must be seen from various aspects before we can be said to be a human being with moral behavior.

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Journal of Language and Literature

p-ISSN 2502-5473 | e-ISSN 2808-0106- |

Vol. 8 Nomor 2 September 2022

<http://e-journal.uniflor.ac.id/index.php/lantern/index> |
lanternsasing@gmail.uniflor.ac.id



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