

**MORAL QUALITIES OF POPPY MOORE'S
CHARACTER IN *WILD CHILD* MOVIE**

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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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MORAL QUALITIES OF POPPY MOORE CHARACTER IN *WILD CHILD* MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

Movie is not only sequence of picture with audio sound track, but also promotes norm and philosophy of life. Movie is part of popular culture with widest distribution. *Wild Child* movie is a movie about teenager with romantic comedy genre. It tells about Poppy more as wild child. Poppy Moore tries to reach her passion to get the life purpose through her acts. Her acts can be as guidance in considering bad or good acts in moral perspective. This research has two problem statements, what are moral qualities of Poppy Moore's character in *Wild Child* movie and the effect of Poppy's act in *Wild Child*. This research applied moral and philosophical approach and movie theory about moral. The method used in this research is qualitative method. The finding of this research reveals that there are five bad moral qualities of Poppy Moore's character in *Wild Child* movie, they are disrespect, disobedience, arrogant, and dishonest. And there are two good moral qualities of Poppy Moore's character based on *Wild Child* movie that are loyalty and responsibility. Moreover the writer also finds the effect of Poppy Moore's act upon the acts that she has done.

Key words: *Wild Child*, *Moral Approach*, *philosophical approach*, *individual moral and social moral*.

MORAL QUALITIES OF POPPY MOORE CHARACTER

HAS SEEN IN *WILD CHILD* MOVIE

Oleh: Wiwit Mitha Sumartina

ABSTRAK

Film tidak hanya berupa rentetan gambar dengan iringan soundtrack, tapi juga merupakan alat untuk mempromosikan moral dan filsafat hidup. Film adalah bagian dari budaya populer dengan distribusi yang luas. *Wild Child* adalah film yang menceritakan tentang remaja dengan genre romantic komedi. , Poppy Moore mencoba untuk mendapatkan tujuan hidup yang baik melalui tindakannya. Tindakan nya dapat sebagai pedoman dalam mempertimbangkan tindakan buruk atau baik dalam perspective moral. Penelitian ini memiliki dua rumusan masalah yaitu apa saja moral dalam karakter Poppy more dan apa saja akibatnya. Penelitian ini menerapkan pendekatan moral dan filsafat dan teori fil tentang moral. metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kualitatif. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa ada lima sifat buruk Poppy dalam film *Wild Child*. Itu adalah, tidak hormat, tidak patuh, sombong, dan tidak jujur. Ada dua sifat baik Poppy yaitu loyalitas dan bertaanggung jawab. Selain itu penulis menemukan juga efek tindakan Poppy Moore pada perbuatan yang dia lakukan.

Kata Kunci: *Wild Child*, *Pendekatan Moral*, *pendekatan filsafat*, *moral individu dan moral sosial*

MOTTO

“Respect for ourselves guides our morals; respect for others

guides our manners”

By: Laurence Sterne



DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper for:

My beloved Mama and Papa

My sister and brother

My big family

and

My great teacher and lectures

English Department of UIN Sunan Kalijaga

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is a product of human creativity in form of written or oral work (Wellek and Warren, 1993: 11). Therefore; it is the reflection of the human's expression and the means to communicate through a language sign especially delivering ideas, feelings, and concepts. This reminds that literary work helps people understand about human sentiments, human interests, and human problems. That condition makes literatures has a high position in a society. As stated by More that literature becomes an important source of moral guidance and spiritual inspiration (1989: 3). Indeed, a good literature mostly consists of the didactic purpose.

Further, literary work is not only classified as novel, poetry, and drama. The new media based on the development of technology namely moving pictures or movie and it is imitated in literary work. Basically, movie has the same intrinsic elements of drama, but, but it is recorded. The widest distribution of movie turns it into the popular culture. Strinati states that popular culture itself is seen as a diverse work and a varied set of genre, text, images and representation that can be found across arrange of different media" (1995:35). Movie is part of images representation.

Relating to this research, the writer uses the movie as the data because the movie does not only present the picture supported an audio-visual effect, but also consist messages and moral values based on the socio culture of the movie. Those

additional elements of the movie are helpful to analyze the data effectively because the audiences have a direct access to see the audio-visual of the movie deeply.

Then, movies are classified into some genres such as comedy, romantic comedy, drama, epic, fantasy, horror and suspense, musicals, science fiction, and western, action, war, gangster, biopic, documentaries, and parodies (Tison and Margaret, 2014: 197). Based on those genres, the writer prefers a romantic comedy. The romantic comedy follows a fairly consistent formula as the protagonist fall in love, encounter obstacles and then over come in marriage or at least (Tison and Margaret, 2013: 198). The conventional characters of romantic comedy are divided into two groups there are the lover and their helpers versus obstacle figures (2013: 198).

This is one of an interesting genre because it does not only sweep away the deep feeling, but also make it enjoy with the comedy. Recently, there are some romantic comedies are produced and one of interesting romantic comedies is *Wild Child* movie. *Wild Child* movie is romantic comedy written by Lucy Dhal and directed by Nick Moore. This movie tells about a teenager girl named Poppy Moore. She lives in Malibu, California with her family, but her mother was death when she was 11 years old in the car accident, then she becomes a naughty girl after all. One day, she tries to ruin the relationship of her father's girl friend. Unfortunately, her father knows and he gets very angry with her. Thus, her father sends her to Boarding School in England. There, Poppy finds herself increasingly isolated as a result of her disrespectful and thoughtless behavior.

Specifically, the writer chooses this movie than others because this movie raises general issues about moral problems among teenagers. Besides, this movie presents a view about the differences of moral standard between two cultures; England and America. Consequently, this different culture impacts in how people look at morality. Moreover, the writer focuses on analyzing the main character, she is Poppy Moore. One of the important reasons is that the main character is has different culture with her friends, but the main character finally accept new culture successfully. In this movie, Poppy is described as a beautiful American girl but she is arrogant, selfish and disrespectful girl.

At the time of her dormitory, she has to share her room with other English girls and it makes her realize that she has to turn her characterization into something beneficial to others. Poppy Moore character here gives motivation to other people to be a good person. Poppy tries to change her life and her bad attitude, then she finds that people begin to respect her. Based on the describing of Poppy's characterization at glance, this depicts that its possibility could happen in reality including of moral side which becomes the study of this research. This moral side concerns with good and bad moral. According to Oxford Learner's Pocket, moral concerns with principles of right and wrong, good and bad behavior (1991:269).

The writer of this research is student of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga. The main core of this university is integrating Islamic studies with science, either exact or social science. Thus, science is not only for science, but also science is for humanity and religion. Religious understanding and science

is interconnected and integrated as basic and spirit of this research. Thus it is relevant for writer to integrate moral and philosophical approach with Islamic studies.

Related to human behavior, Islamic studies mentions some verses according to *Quran* and *Hadis* which deals with how people should behave. Quran examines that about good and bad moral, as cited in surah Al-Ahzab (21):

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله أسوة حسنة لمن كان يرجو الله واليوم الآخر وذكر الله كثيرا

“Indeed in the messenger of Allah (Muhammad SAW) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allah and the last Day, and remembers Allah much”. (Ar Rahman, 420: 2014).

In different sentences, this verse teaches humans that all people are equal, but they are different because of the moral. This is exemplified by Prophet Muhammad that Allah chooses him because of his moral. In addition, Suyuti mentions that the aim of Islam is to guide people in order to reach the appropriate moral like Prophet Muhammad who gets an award in his era as a leader with good guidance. (420: 2014)

Since the data deals with the moral value and the writer intends to analyze the moral side of the main character in *Wild Child* movie. This research applies moral approach. Moral approach discusses the relation between literary work and moral a prevailed norm in society. To complete this research, the writer also uses film theory to support the analysis.

1.2 Problem statements

Based on the issue above, this research focuses on the main character, Poppy Moore in *Wild Child* movie. This study concerns on moral qualities as reflected by Poppy. Then, the problem statements relating to this research are:

1. What are the moral qualities of Poppy Moore' character in *Wild Child* movie?
2. What are the effects of Poppy Moore's act in *Wild Child* movie?

1.3 Objectives of Study

1. To identify the moral qualities of Poppy Moore's character in *Wild Child* movie.
2. To describe the effect of Poppy Moore's act in *Wild Child* movie.

1.4 Significances of Study

The aim of this research is to develop the science of literature and culture, either theoretically or practically. Theoretically, this research is aimed to be useful references in order to understand the content of the movie and how the moral theory is applied in the research. In addition, it gives contribution to explore the character in the Movie whether as the new storage of knowledge or some people, at least, may be significant:

Practically this research expected to be useful for

1. English literature students; this research helps them in understanding moral quality and how it is applied. It guides them to deliver their own opinion about the moral standard based on their own idea.
2. Researchers; this research can be one of sources for them in doing

research with similar object. This research can be explored deeper with different theory.

3. Lecturers; this research can be a reference topic for their students in analyzing movie based on moral quality approach.

4. Common students; this research is expected to be a useful reference for other students from other majors. Hopefully this research will be a good research for them in analyzing moral quality.

1.5 Literature Review

After searching some relating topic about the subject, the writer finds that some graduating papers and journals discuss about *Wild Child* movie. However, none of those discussion analyze about the moral of *Wild Child* movie. Mostly, some of papers analyze about the other aspects of this movie.

The first work is a graduating paper of State Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim, Kusmiati (2011). It is entitled "Speech Acts Used by the Main Character in "Wild Child" Movie. In this Paper, the writer attempts to investigate the phenomena of speech acts used by the main character and to investigate descriptive knowledge how speech acts are used by main character in "*Wild Child*" movie. Meanwhile, the theory used by Kusmiati to analyze her paper is speech act theory proposed by Austin namely: locutionary acts, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. The result, Kusmiati concludes that mostly speech acts used by the main character in '*Wild Child*' movie are expositive illocutionary acts, such as reminding, stating, protesting, and etc. Then, it is followed by excercitives, behavitives, and commissives. The Verdictive illocutionary act is not

found in this research because the main character never has judgment about hearer's action.

The second work is a graduating paper written by Marvina, Udayana University. It is entitled "Women's Language in *Wild Child* Movie". She analyzes about the language features uttered by women and the function of the language. The purpose of this study is to identify the language features applied by women and to find out the functions of language used by women in the movie *Wild Child*. The theory used by the writer is Lakoff theory (1975) about language. She concludes that there are six language features in the movie such as hedges or fillers, tag questions, empty adjective, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, and emphatic stress.

The last is a journal by Ratih Kusuma Wardan, Surabaya State University, entitled "Politeness Strategies of Female Teenager in *Wild Child* Movie". she analyzes about how politeness strategy constructed by Poppy Moore and the reason why she uses those strategies. The purpose of this study is to find out the way female teenager (Poppy Moore) constructs politeness strategies while communicating with her female friends in the movie. The theory used by the writer is Brown and Levinson's theory about politeness strategies. She concludes that Poppy constructs politeness strategies applying bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness and off-record. Bald on record used before and after her personality changed are to achieve her female friends' attention and to make her friends do what she wants directly. Positive politeness is produced to create a solidarity to her friends and to maintain that solidarity and intimacy.

Poppy also minimizes the FTA that she uses to respect her friends' negative face by applying negative politeness.

The previous researches above show that the writer finds the differences and the similarities of this research. The similarity of this research is object which focuses on the main character Poppy Moore while the different is the subject. The writer of this paper uses literary theory, as the opposite those previous researches use the linguistic theory. However, in this research the writer focuses on the main character's behavior that shows her good and bad moral in construct this life.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

1.6.1 Philosophical Approach

Horace said that literature should be 'delightful and instructive'. Delightful means literature as a medium to engage the readers out from the cave to see reality as they are, and instructive means literature as instructive tool to build good moral (as cited in More, 1989: 4). That statement mentions that the literary work is not only functioned as the medium to share the experiences or to treat a phenomenon but also as a guidance to enlighten society. This is also argued by Abram. He defines that literary work which contains moral instruction called as didactic literature. He explains that:

"Didactic, which means "intended to give instruction," is applied to works of literature that are designed to expound a branch of knowledge, or else to embody, in imaginative or fictional form, a moral, religious, or philosophical doctrine or theme" (Abram, 1999 : 65).

Hogan said that philosophical approach in literature is aimed to teach morality and to promote philosophical issues. Thus, literary work is not only presented stories in literary work, but also must exhibit moralism and utilitarianism (Hogan, 2000: 01). In addition, philosophical approach is a master of all branch of literary criticism, it focuses on moral and ethics and tells the reader as what is good for them as 'the great instrument of moral good' (More, 1989: 9). In different sentences, the tasks of researcher using philosophical approach are to identify the themes and to research the evidence for that theme. Continuously, it is to analyze character and relationship in moral, immorality, tone, symbol, plot structure and moral implication of the events.

1.6.1 Moral Approach

Regarding to moral quality, morality has two principal meanings. First, morality refers to personal or the cultural values. Second, the codes of the conducts or the social mores that distinguishes between right and wrong in the society. Describing morality in this view does not claim about what right or wrong objectively is, but it only refers to what is considered right or wrong based on the society. Basically, determining an action whether right or wrong depends on the advantages and the disadvantages. Yet, it is possible that some moral beliefs are based on prejudice, ignorance or even hatred, this sense of term is also addressed by descriptive ethics (as cited in Rohyani 2013 : 5)

Nurgiyantoro states that moral value in literary work viewed as message. It is a reflection view of the author's life, his or her views about values is wished to be conveyed to the readers (1998:321). This statement argues that the authors do

not only produce a good literary work for entertaining and etc but also guide the society into the understanding of a better life. In the movie data, the author messages are usually presented on the chronological story. As it is stated by Djojuroto that the moral elements conveyed in a work is joined with plot of the story and moral elements certainly focus on human life even the essence of literature is to describe humans as natural as possible (2006:15).

This indicates that the elements that exist in literary work are describing the human life concept to socialize with others. This concerns on an appropriate and an inappropriate of people behavior. Through the appropriate behavior which is seen the characters, it is possible to empower the reader's moral to be much better, in fact good literary works will invite the readers to see these works as their reflection of life because it discusses about the moralities aspects to be the main topic. Moral that is showed in human's actions referencing to right and wrong are called a moral quality. This moral quality is a basic nature of moral that depends on the action (Poespoprojo, 1999:122). This concept argues that an understanding the human's action, it can be revealed their good quality and their bad quality.

Another expert discussing moral quality is Titus (1954:198). He divides two basic standards of right conduct. The first standard is that an action is right if it leads to physical, intellectual, and spiritual development or to a harmonious personal more and a social life, an action is wrong if it ruins the individual or the society, and a right action is right if the action justify socially.

The second standard of the right choice is the selection of the greater or greatest value; the wrong choice is the selection of some lesser value. While some

choices in life are those between what is definitely good and what is definitely evil.

1.6.2 Movie Theory

Kowalsky in his book entitled *Moral Theory at the Movie; an Introduction to Ethic* explains that how the dialog and image portrayed in the sequence picture of the movie captured in how the film engaged and illuminated profound questions regarding the human condition (2012:1). At preface of the theory, the author mentions about the case in the *Thank You for smoking* movie. This movie is chosen because the Nick Taylor as the vice president of academy of Tobacco studies appears in the news paper and magazine daily about the impact of smoking. Yet cigarette sale is still rose. This movie shows up about smoking and cigarette as the industrial phenomena. Everybody knows that cigarette is killing, but they are not aware about what they really do, because they never think it. To think and to do are different manner. The effective manner to analyze movie which promotes moral problems is using philosophical approach.

Moral theory at the movie is critical ways to comprehend the movie in moral view. Movie is not only presented as 'bad art' but also as image which has philosophical reason (Kowalsky, 2012: 60). Indeed in his investigation about movie, Strinati also argues that mass media such as movie have big influence in society in conveying the idea about cultural issue and phenomenon, including moral, ethic and human relation (1995: 70).

As capturing a social life condition, the moral in the movie also divides into two categories: an individual moral or a social moral. The individual moral is

based on decision made by individual such as honesty, loyalty and responsible while the social moral is based on the law or rules which control individual behavior (More, 1989: 8).

1.7 Method of Research

1.7.1 Type of research

The research of this paper uses qualitative method. Qualitative method is a method for analyzing and interpreting the data on phenomena that are not easily reduced to number (Carter and Thomas, 1996: 31). This method also can be described as the method of gathering data, in which the writer does not do any field observations or field interviews to collect the data, but only gather the data from some referential books, website, and other data sources.

1.7.2 Data sources

The main data sources of this research are taken from pictures and dialogues that illustrate moralities in *Wild Child* movie written by Lucy Dhal and directed by Nick Moore. This movie was released in the United Kingdom on August 15, 2008. Then, the supporting data is taken from some journals, the scripts, and any other written works relating to this topic.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

In order for collecting the data, there are several steps that the writer has done. The first one is watching the *Wild Child* movie. The second step understands it deeply. The third is that the writer compares the movie with the

script in order to mark the important acts and dialogues. The fourth is selecting the content of the data from the movie dealing with the problem stated. The fifth is classifying the required data to answer the problems of the study.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

In analyzing the data, there are several steps that the writer has done. The first step is analyzing the collected data. The second step is categorizing the data in accordance with the statement of the study in the term of typing. The third step is relating to the data to the topic analysis. The fourth step is interpreting the data that have been categorized the moral quality of Poppy Moore in *Wild Child* movie. The fifth step is presenting the all data from the result of analysis. In addition, the last step is making conclusion of the analysis.

1.8 Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter describes this general information of the research, including the background of study, scope of study, problem statement, objective of study, significances of study, prior research, theoretical approach, data analysis, and thesis organization. The second chapter explains the intrinsic elements of the movie: *Wild Child*. The next chapter is the analysis that contains the data analysis; and the last one is the conclusion of the research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

After doing analysis about moral qualities of Poppy Moore character depicted in *Wild Child* movie, it can be concluded that moral aspects found in *Wild Child* movie shows that the main character is a round characters. It implies that she has a bad quality and a good quality in the action. The bad sides of moral on Poppy Moore's character are disrespect, disobedience, arrogance and dishonesty while the good sides of morality on Poppy Moore character are loyalty and responsibility. Here, moral qualities of Poppy Moore character can be seen in her acts. Poppy Moore character consists of some effects relating to the bad quality and the good quality in this movie. This analysis finds that her good morality comes from the things she has learned. This movie shows that a character can change her attitude to be good and bad if she has strong willingness to change her attitude.

4.2 Suggestion

This research is expected to be useful for the readers. This research is also expected to be an appropriate reference. The researcher of this study realizes that this research needs any supporting detail in the analysis, but the writer expect to the readers and other researchers to improve this research.

For the other researchers, this movie consists of a good movie in moral lesson. However, it is possible that it can be analyzed from different perspective; it can be seen also from different context of moral value, and such as moral value

according to Islamic thoughts. Thus the writer of this research has expectation for this research to be improved.



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