

Moral Analysis in the Novel Laskar Pelangi by Andrea Hirata

Wafiq Azizah¹, Syamsu Tang², Andi Asrifan³, Sam Hermansyah⁴, Syahrir L⁵ Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidenreng Rappang

Corresponding Author: Wafiq Azizah wafiq.azizah@gmail.com

ARTICLEINFO

Keywords: : Moral Massege, LP Novel, Reading in Detail

Received: 03, August Revised: 18, August Accepted: 25, September

0

©2024 Azizah, Tang, Asrifan, Hermansyah, L: This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Atribusi 4.0 Internasional.

ABSTRACT

Moral message in Laskar Pelangi Novel by Andrea Hirata. Thesis, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education. English Education. Based on the background of the problem, a novel is one of the literary works that can be written scientifically in which it describes various events experienced by the actors, the actors in a novel are a creative process of the author. The technique used in this research is documentation technique by collecting data through written sources. Based on the results of analyzing the data collected, the researcher found and showed that the Novel Laskar Pelangi by Andrea Hirata contains moral messages that can be used as life lessons on how to struggle in studying even though it is full of obstacles and all limitations.

INTRODUCTION

Literature plays a pivotal role in portraying the values, struggles, and experiences of humanity. Throughout history, literary works have served as a mirror reflecting the intricacies of human life, including its triumphs and challenges. Novels, as a form of literature, not only entertain but also educate readers by providing insights into different cultures, perspectives, and moral lessons. One such novel that has had a significant impact on Indonesian literature and society is Laskar Pelangi by Andrea Hirata. Set in a rural village on the island of Belitong, this novel vividly captures the essence of Indonesian life, especially the challenges faced by children from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of education. Andrea Hirata's Laskar Pelangi is an exemplary work of fiction that provides both inspiration and reflection. It is a story of hope, perseverance, and the unrelenting spirit of ten children who defy all odds to continue their education. The novel showcases the rich cultural and social life of a community struggling with poverty while still valuing education and moral principles. The struggles of these children, guided by dedicated teachers, provide readers with deep moral insights into the values of hard work, friendship, integrity, and responsibility. These moral lessons are not just confined to the characters in the novel but resonate with readers, making them reflect on their own lives and society.

The main focus of Laskar Pelangi revolves around the importance of education and how it acts as a vehicle for change. The novel highlights the sacrifices made by teachers like Bu Muslimah and Pak Harfan, who dedicate their lives to educating students in a school with limited resources. Their commitment to instilling both academic knowledge and moral integrity in their students forms the backbone of the novel's moral message. In many ways, the novel acts as a critique of the social inequalities that exist in rural Indonesia, emphasizing that education is the key to overcoming these barriers. Despite the many challenges posed by economic and social limitations, the children of Laskar Pelangi remain steadfast in their desire to learn and grow. What sets Laskar Pelangi apart from other novels is its ability to deliver strong moral messages through its characters and plot. Each of the main characters embodies different values and lessons that are important for personal development. For instance, Lintang, one of the central characters, represents the value of perseverance. His daily journey of 80 kilometers just to attend school, despite the dangers he faces along the way, is a testament to his dedication to education. On the other hand, Mahar, another student, teaches readers the importance of creativity and staying true to oneself. Together, these characters reflect different aspects of moral integrity that can serve as life lessons for readers.

Moreover, the novel delves into the relationship between individuals and society. The characters' struggles are not just personal but are also a reflection of the societal challenges in rural Indonesia. The novel emphasizes the importance of community and collective effort in overcoming adversity. It illustrates how a supportive community can be instrumental in helping individuals achieve their goals. In this sense, Laskar Pelangi transcends the

boundaries of a simple narrative and becomes a social commentary on the role of community in personal and educational development. The moral messages found in Laskar Pelangi are particularly relevant in today's world, where social inequalities and access to education remain critical issues. The novel serves as a reminder that education should not only be a means of intellectual growth but also a tool for moral and ethical development. The lessons of perseverance, responsibility, and dedication found in the novel are universal and can be applied to various aspects of life. Readers are encouraged to reflect on their own values and actions, questioning how they can contribute to the betterment of society. In this study, the focus will be on analyzing the moral messages presented in Laskar Pelangi and how they can be used as life lessons for readers. By examining the actions and decisions of the characters, we can gain a deeper understanding of the moral framework Andrea Hirata presents in his work. The goal is to explore how the moral lessons in the novel can inspire individuals to lead more meaningful lives, especially in terms of their responsibility toward themselves and their community. Therefore, this research is significant as it not only contributes to the academic study of literature but also offers practical insights into how literature can shape moral behavior. The study of moral messages in Laskar Pelangi can provide valuable guidance for educators, students, and readers in general, emphasizing the importance of ethical conduct, perseverance, and dedication in the face of adversity.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A novel is a long prose narrative that deals with fictional characters and events, typically depicting real-life human experiences. According to Wiyatmi (2012), novels present historical stories or sequences of events that are intricately woven together, and they serve as a medium for exploring different facets of life, human emotions, and social realities. As Abrams (2005) defines, novels are extended narratives written in prose, which often focus on the development of characters and their interactions within a particular setting. These literary works offer readers a window into different worlds, providing insights into cultural, moral, and social values. The Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) defines a novel as a long prose work that portrays a person's life experiences in their surrounding environment, highlighting the characters' attributes and behaviors (2017). Novels are distinct from other forms of prose, such as short stories or novellas, due to their extensive length and ability to delve deeper into character development and plot intricacies. Nugriyantoro (2005) adds that a novel is a literary work that offers realistic portrayals of life and contains significant psychological depth. Through this realism, novels allow readers to engage with the characters' inner thoughts and external challenges.

Novels have been categorized into several genres, including romance, mystery, science fiction, historical fiction, and inspirational stories. Each genre offers different insights into human behavior and society. In the case of Laskar Pelangi, the novel can be categorized as a social and inspirational novel, as it reflects the struggles of children from underprivileged backgrounds,

addressing themes of education, morality, and community.P.S. Natawijaya (1979) identifies several principles that novels must adhere to in order to provide meaningful and engaging narratives. First, a novel must present a story grounded in the daily realities of life, representing social and moral dilemmas. The characters should be realistic and possess distinctive qualities that drive the plot forward. The novel must follow a clear structure, including an introductory period, the development of conflict, a climax, and a resolution, all of which contribute to the readers' understanding of the characters and their growth.

Mochtar Lubis (in Yunus, 1985) categorizes novels into five main types: adventure, psychological, detective, social, and collective novels. Each type serves a different purpose in exploring human experiences. For example, an adventure novel focuses on the protagonist's journey, often filled with obstacles, while a psychological novel delves into the internal conflicts and mental states of the characters. A social novel, such as Laskar Pelangi, examines broader societal issues through the experiences of its characters, making it a powerful tool for addressing topics such as poverty, education, and moral development. The concept of moral messages in literature refers to the values and ethical principles conveyed through the actions, decisions, and experiences of the characters. According to Widyaja (1997), moral messages are the instructions or advice embedded in a story, intended to guide readers toward certain behaviors or attitudes. In novels, these messages are often conveyed implicitly, through the characters' growth and interactions, rather than through direct statements. The moral lessons found in literature can influence readers' understanding of right and wrong, shaping their perspectives on social and ethical issues. Andrea Hirata's Laskar Pelangi offers a wealth of moral messages, focusing on themes such as perseverance, integrity, friendship, and responsibility. The characters' struggles to overcome societal and personal challenges serve as a reflection of broader moral and ethical issues, encouraging readers to reflect on their own values. Hirata emphasizes the importance of education, not just as a means of intellectual growth, but as a tool for moral development. Through the experiences of the children and their teachers, the novel teaches valuable lessons about the importance of hard work, selflessness, and resilience in the face of adversity. Several studies have examined the moral messages in Indonesian novels, including Laskar Pelangi. One such study by Sitti Alfiah (2015) focused on the analysis of moral messages in Hujan, a novel by Tere Live. Alfiah's research highlights how moral values, particularly those relating to friendship and perseverance, are conveyed through the characters' experiences. Using a descriptive approach, Alfiah demonstrates how the novel promotes positive behaviors and ethical decision-making among its readers. This study is relevant to the current research as it shares a similar focus on how moral values in literature can serve as educational tools.

Albernus Baene (2016) also explored moral messages in Indonesian novels, specifically in Surga untuk Ibuku by Riri Ansar. Baene's research classified the moral messages into three categories: human relationships with themselves, with others, and with God. The study used a qualitative approach to analyze the text and found that the novel promotes values such as loyalty,

friendship, and devotion to one's parents. This categorization of moral messages will be useful for this research, as Laskar Pelangi also addresses moral lessons across different aspects of human life, including personal integrity, social responsibility, and religious faith. Additionally, Siti Aminah (2016) conducted a discourse analysis of Laskar Pelangi, focusing on its social cognition and social context. Aminah's study employed Van Dijk's discourse analysis theory to explore how the novel reflects the societal conditions of Indonesia and the moral lessons that emerge from the characters' interactions. By analyzing the novel's social context, Aminah revealed how Laskar Pelangi promotes values of resilience, community support, and the importance of education. This research offers a theoretical foundation for understanding how moral messages are intertwined with the socio-cultural realities depicted in literature. This research is grounded in the theoretical framework that moral messages in literature serve as both educational and ethical guides. Through an analysis of the characters, their struggles, and the social context in Laskar Pelangi, this study will uncover the underlying moral principles that Andrea Hirata seeks to convey. These moral messages, which include perseverance, integrity, and responsibility, will be examined to understand how they can inspire readers to reflect on their own values and behaviors. The framework will draw upon previous research findings to categorize these messages and explore their broader implications for Indonesian society.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative research design, focusing on the content analysis of Laskar Pelangi by Andrea Hirata. Qualitative research is ideal for exploring complex phenomena and understanding human behavior, emotions, and social interactions. In this case, the focus is on identifying and analyzing the moral messages conveyed through the novel. By utilizing a descriptive qualitative approach, the research aims to interpret the underlying meanings behind the actions, dialogues, and decisions of the characters, as well as the broader social context in which the story unfolds. The objective of the research is to uncover the moral messages within the novel and analyze how these messages contribute to the educational and ethical dimensions of the text. The qualitative method allows for in-depth exploration of the novel's themes, without the constraints of numerical data, making it possible to capture the subtleties of the moral lessons conveyed by the author. Through this approach, the study will provide a comprehensive analysis of the novel's content, offering insights into its moral and ethical implications. The primary data source for this study is the novel Laskar Pelangi by Andrea Hirata, published by PT Bentang Pustaka in 2015, with a total of 529 pages. The novel is a social and inspirational story that reflects the struggles of children from a small rural village in Belitong, Indonesia. The characters' experiences and the moral lessons they learn will be the focus of the analysis.

Secondary data sources include relevant literature, such as previous studies on moral messages in Indonesian novels, articles on educational and ethical themes in literature, and theoretical works on literary analysis and moral philosophy. These secondary sources will provide the necessary theoretical framework and context for understanding the novel's moral messages in relation to broader societal issues. In this qualitative research, the primary instrument is the researcher. The researcher is responsible for collecting, interpreting, and analyzing the data. Acting as the key instrument, the researcher reads, identifies, and categorizes the moral messages found in the novel. This process involves examining the characters, their interactions, and the moral lessons conveyed through the plot, dialogues, and narrative structure. The researcher uses coding techniques to categorize the data, identifying themes and patterns related to the moral messages presented in the novel. By engaging in this process, the researcher is able to extract meaningful insights and interpret the significance of these moral lessons in both the context of the story and the broader cultural and societal framework.

The data collection process involves a detailed reading of Laskar Pelangi and the identification of passages that reflect moral messages. The researcher will document relevant excerpts from the novel, focusing on instances where the characters demonstrate or discuss moral principles such as perseverance, integrity, responsibility, and community values.

The following steps will be taken in the data collection process:

- 1. Reading and Annotating the Novel: The researcher will thoroughly read the novel to identify sections where moral messages are evident. These may include character dialogues, actions, and reflective passages that emphasize ethical and moral behavior.
- 2. Categorizing Moral Themes: After identifying relevant excerpts, the researcher will categorize these excerpts based on specific moral themes, such as responsibility, honesty, or perseverance.
- 3. Documenting Relevant Data: Each excerpt will be documented and paired with an analysis that explains its significance to the overall moral message of the novel.

In addition to primary data from the novel, the researcher will also review secondary sources such as journal articles and previous research to provide context and support for the analysis. The data analysis will be conducted using a content analysis approach. Content analysis is a research technique that allows the researcher to systematically examine the content of communication (in this case, the novel) to interpret and categorize recurring themes and patterns. This method is ideal for analyzing the moral messages in Laskar Pelangi, as it enables the researcher to identify and analyze key moral values embedded in the text.

The following steps will guide the data analysis:

- 1. Identifying Key Moral Messages: The researcher will analyze the text to identify key moral messages. This includes examining the actions and decisions of the characters, as well as the broader societal and cultural messages conveyed through the narrative.
- 2. Coding and Categorizing: Once the moral messages are identified, the researcher will code and categorize the data into themes such as perseverance, integrity, responsibility, and leadership. Each category will

- be supported with direct excerpts from the text, illustrating how these moral lessons are presented in the novel.
- 3. Interpreting the Findings: The researcher will interpret the moral messages in relation to the overall plot and character development, as well as in the context of Indonesian society and educational values. The interpretation will highlight the significance of these moral messages in promoting ethical behavior and societal progress.

To ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of the research, several strategies will be employed:

- 1. Triangulation: The use of multiple data sources, including primary data from the novel and secondary data from academic literature, will help to provide a well-rounded analysis of the moral messages in Laskar Pelangi.
- 2. Peer Debriefing: Engaging in discussions with colleagues or mentors familiar with literary analysis will help to validate the interpretations and ensure that the findings are credible and unbiased.
- 3. Member Checking: The researcher may seek feedback from literary experts or peers to confirm the accuracy of the data interpretation and the conclusions drawn from the analysis.

This research is confined to analyzing the moral messages found in Andrea Hirata's novel Laskar Pelangi. It focuses on the key characters in the novel and the moral values they exemplify throughout the story. The analysis is restricted to the content of the novel and does not include a comparative analysis with other works. The research emphasizes the educational and moral lessons presented in the novel and their relevance to Indonesian society, particularly in the context of education, perseverance, and social responsibility.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of Laskar Pelangi reveals several key moral messages that resonate throughout the novel. These moral lessons are conveyed through the actions and decisions of the characters, their interactions with one another, and the challenges they face. The main moral themes identified in the novel include perseverance, integrity, responsibility, the power of education, religious values, and the importance of community. Each of these themes contributes to the overall message of the novel, which is the transformative power of education and moral character in overcoming adversity. One of the most prominent moral messages in Laskar Pelangi is the theme of perseverance. The children, especially Lintang, demonstrate extraordinary dedication to their education despite the harsh realities they face, including poverty and geographical challenges. Lintang's daily journey of 80 kilometers to attend school, risking encounters with wild animals and natural obstacles, embodies the spirit of perseverance. His refusal to give up, even when circumstances seem insurmountable, serves as an inspiration for readers. The message is clear: perseverance is essential in achieving one's goals, no matter how difficult the path may seem. An excerpt from the novel that highlights this theme is Lintang's determination to continue his education despite the long distance and dangers he faces: "I couldn't pass. A crocodile the size of a coconut tree

wouldn't move, blocking the middle of the road. But more than halfway through the trip, I didn't want to go home because of this stupid crocodile; there was no skipping in my dictionary." (Hirata, 2015: 87-88). This quote exemplifies the tenacity and determination of Lintang, showing that physical challenges are not enough to deter someone with a strong will to learn.

The theme of integrity is closely tied to the characters of Pak Harfan and Bu Muslimah, the teachers in the novel who not only educate their students academically but also instill in them the importance of moral integrity. These teachers lead by example, demonstrating that integrity is about staying true to one's values even in difficult situations. Pak Harfan's commitment to the school and its students, despite the lack of financial reward or recognition, teaches the students the importance of sincerity and moral responsibility. A key moment that highlights this theme is Pak Harfan's speech to his students: "Mr. Harfan gave us our first lesson in determination, perseverance, and a strong desire to achieve our goals. He was able to convince us that life can be so happy in limitations if it is interpreted with sincerity to sacrifice for others." (Hirata, 2015: 24). This passage underscores the idea that true happiness comes from selflessness and integrity, not material wealth. The novel consistently emphasizes the transformative power of education, not just in terms of intellectual development but also moral and ethical growth. The students of Laskar Pelangi are motivated to learn despite the many obstacles they face because they understand that education is the key to a better future. The moral message here is that education has the power to change lives and uplift entire communities.

Andrea Hirata portrays education as a means of social mobility, but also as a moral responsibility. The struggles of the students and their teachers reflect the broader societal challenges of access to education in rural Indonesia. Bu Muslimah's tireless dedication to her students, despite the poor conditions of the school, illustrates the moral obligation educators have in shaping future generations. Religious values play a significant role in shaping the moral compass of the characters. The novel incorporates Islamic teachings that guide the students in their daily lives, influencing their behaviors and decisions. For example, the characters are often reminded to act with sincerity, avoid lying, and stay away from practices that are against Islamic teachings, such as superstition and shamanism. One of the most notable examples is the advice given to Mahar when he seeks out mystical help to improve his grades: "Inilah pesan Tuk Bayan Tula untuk kalian berdua: 'Kalau ingin lulus ujian, buka buku, belajar.'" (Hirata, 2015: 424). This message from a spiritual figure reinforces the idea that success comes from hard work and dedication, not from relying on superstition or shortcuts.

The novel also highlights the importance of community, friendship, and solidarity. The members of Laskar Pelangi share a deep bond, supporting one another through their struggles and triumphs. Their friendship, based on mutual respect and shared experiences, is a key factor in their ability to persevere. The moral message here is that personal success is often intertwined with the support of one's community. Ikal's reflection on his friendships and the

influence of his teachers underscores this message: "I was really determined to get the scholarship because it was my ticket to leave my downtrodden life behind. Even more than that, I felt indebted to Lintang, A Ling, Pak Harfan, Bu Mus, Laskar Pelangi, and the Muhammadiyah school." (Hirata, 2015: 460). This passage shows the lasting impact of friendship and community on an individual's life choices and successes.

The findings from this study indicate that Laskar Pelangi is rich in moral messages that are relevant not only to its Indonesian audience but also to readers worldwide. The novel serves as a powerful tool for conveying ethical principles, such as perseverance, integrity, and responsibility, through relatable characters and situations. These moral messages are particularly significant in the context of education, where they offer valuable lessons for both students and educators. The theme of perseverance resonates deeply in the Indonesian context, where many rural communities face significant challenges in accessing quality education. By depicting the struggles of the children in Laskar Pelangi, Andrea Hirata encourages readers to recognize the value of education and the importance of resilience in overcoming obstacles. The novel's portrayal of integrity and responsibility, especially through the characters of Pak Harfan and Bu Muslimah, also provides a model for ethical behavior in both personal and professional life.

Furthermore, the novel's integration of religious values offers a unique perspective on how faith and ethics intersect in daily life. By rejecting superstition and promoting hard work and sincerity, Laskar Pelangi reinforces the importance of aligning one's actions with moral and religious principles. This message is particularly relevant in a society where traditional beliefs often coexist with modern educational and social systems.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and discussions of this research, several key conclusions can be drawn regarding the moral messages conveyed in Laskar Pelangi by Andrea Hirata. One of the most prominent moral messages in Laskar Pelangi is the theme of perseverance. The characters, particularly the children in the novel, demonstrate remarkable determination to pursue their education despite the many obstacles they face. The story shows that perseverance is essential in achieving success, both in education and in life. The novel encourages readers to stay committed to their goals, even in the face of adversity, reflecting the broader societal value of resilience in the pursuit of a better future. The novel emphasizes the importance of integrity and moral responsibility, particularly through the characters of Pak Harfan and Bu Muslimah, who embody the principles of selflessness, dedication, and ethical conduct. Their role as teachers not only involves imparting academic knowledge but also guiding their students to become morally upright individuals. The message conveyed is that integrity and responsibility are crucial for personal and societal development, and that true leadership comes from a place of sincerity and moral courage. Laskar Pelangi highlights the transformative power of education. The novel demonstrates that education is

not merely a pathway to personal success, but also a means to uplift entire communities. Through the characters' struggles and victories, the novel conveys that education is essential for breaking the cycle of poverty and for creating opportunities for social mobility. The moral lesson here is that education is a tool for both intellectual and moral growth, and it plays a fundamental role in shaping a more just and equitable society.

Religious values are interwoven throughout the novel, providing a foundation for the characters' moral behavior. The rejection of superstitious beliefs and the emphasis on hard work and honesty reflect the novel's alignment with Islamic teachings, promoting ethical behavior as a way of life. The characters' adherence to religious values serves as a guide for readers, illustrating the importance of aligning one's actions with ethical and spiritual principles in order to lead a meaningful and morally sound life. The theme of community and friendship is central to the moral framework of Laskar Pelangi. The bonds between the members of Laskar Pelangi are a testament to the strength that comes from solidarity and mutual support. The novel highlights that personal achievements are often made possible through the help and encouragement of others. This message emphasizes the importance of fostering strong, supportive relationships and contributing to the collective well-being of one's community.

For educators, this novel serves as a powerful tool to inspire students to value education and practice perseverance. It is suggested that teachers use Laskar Pelangi to instill the values of hard work, integrity, and responsibility in their students. Laskar Pelangi provides valuable lessons on the importance of education and resilience. Students should take these moral lessons to heart, applying them in their personal journeys toward success and personal growth.it is recommended to explore a comparative analysis of moral messages in Laskar Pelangi with other literary works, especially those from different cultural contexts, to understand the universal application of these values.

FURTHER STUDY

This research still has limitations so further research needs to be done on the topic "Moral Analysis in the Novel Laskar Pelangi by Andrea Hirata."

REFERENCES

Abrams, M. H. (2005). A Glossary of Literary Terms (8th ed.). Thomson

Wadsworth.

Alfiah, Sitti. (2015). Analysis of Moral Messages in Tere Liye's Rain Novel.

[Unpublished undergraduate thesis]. Universitas Negeri Makassar.

Amin, Ahmad. (1995). Etika: Ilmu Akhlak. Jakarta: Bulan Bintang.

- Baene, Albernus. (2016). Analysis of Moral Messages in the Novel Surga Untuk

 Ibuku by Riri Ansar. [Unpublished undergraduate thesis]. Universitas

 Flores.
- Bungin, Burhan. (2007). Penelitian Kualitatif: Komunikasi, Ekonomi, Kebijakan Publik, dan Ilmu Sosial Lainnya. Jakarta: Kencana Prenada Media Group.
- Darajat, Zakiyah. (1993). Peranan Agama Islam Dalam Kesehatan Mental.

 Jakarta: Haji Masagung.
- DepDikNas. (1998). Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.
- Effendy, Onang Uchana. (1997). Ilmu Komunikasi Teori dan Praktek. Bandung:

 PT. Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Hirata, Andrea. (2015). Laskar Pelangi. Yogyakarta: PT Bentang Pustaka.
- Nata, Abuddin. (2003). Akhlak Tasawuf. Jakarta: Raya Grafindo Persada.
- Nugriyantoro, Burhan. (2005). Teori Pengkajian Fiksi. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.
- Sugiyono. (2018). Metode Penelitian Pendidikan (Pendekatan Kuantitatif, Kualitatif dan R&D). Bandung: Alfabeta.
- Suparman, P. Natawijaya. (1979). Bimbingan untuk Cakap Menulis. Jakarta:

 Gunung Mulia.

Wiyatmi. (2012). Analisis Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan dalam Novel Negeri 5 Menara Karya A. Fuadi. [Unpublished undergraduate thesis]. Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta.

Yunus, Umar. (1985). Dari Peristiwa ke Imajinasi. Jakarta: PT Gramedia.