

## Moral Value Analysis in Khaleb Hosseini's Novel A Thousand Splendid Sun

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### ABSTRACT

This research purpose is to describe the moral values in A Thousand Splendid Sun novel by Khaleb Hosseini. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with A thousand Splendid Suns novel by Khaleb Hosseini as the data source. The data procurement procedure is carried out by determining the analysis unit, determining the recording sample or recording the data. In the Thousand Splendid Suns novel, three types of moral values are found in accordance with Nurgyantoro's theory. These types of moral values produce positive and negative attitudes. There are nine positive attitudes, namely; self-confidence, willingness to sacrifice, self-acceptance, gratitude, calm, giving sincerely, obedient to worship, surrender to God, and sincerity. There are also three negative moral attitudes, namely; hatred, self-doubt and doubt of faith. These attitudes were shown by the two main characters in the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns. Novel author described these attitudes directly and indirectly in the form of text and dialogue. The moral values conveyed by this novel can be used as reference material for character learning in schools and society so that the impression of positive character and culture can continue to be preserved in society.

**Keyword:** Extrinsic Element, Moral Value, Novel

### INTRODUCTION

Literally, the novel comes from the Italian novella, which means a story or piece of news (Warsiman, 2017). A novel is a literary work in the form of prose, with a word count of no less than fifty thousand words (Millingan, 1984:7). Novels are in the form of narratives that contain fictional or imaginary stories and have a structure

consisting of a storyline, characters and events arranged chronologically.

In Indonesian history, novels appeared at the end of the 20th century. Novels at that time had themes of national movements, for example Armin Pane's *Bellenggu* which was published in 1940. The novel *Bellenggu* brought changes to previous works which were in the form of tales and

fairy tales. At the end of the 20th century and entering the 21st century, novels experienced rapid development. After the collapse of the Soeharto regime, freedom of opinion emerged in Indonesia. This influenced the creativity of writers in this era. In its development, the novel has two terms, namely romance and novel. Many views question the difference between romance and novel. Some people think that novels and romance come from two different languages. Roman comes from French, romance, while novel comes from English (Warsiman, 2017). There are also those who believe that romance tells a character from birth to death, while novels only tell part of the character's life (Warsiman, 2017). In Indonesia, the term Roman appears in works published by Balai Pustaka, for example Siti Nurbaya, Salah Asuhan and Sengsara Brings Enjoyment. These romances include romances from the Balai Pustaka period. After the Balai Pustaka period, there was a period of new poets. In this period, the word romance was still used, as in the screen works *Terkembang* and *Belenggu*. Even in the 1945 period, it was still popular to use the term romance, for example the book entitled *Romance in the Growth Period of Modern Indonesian Literature* by Aning Retnaningsih. Use of the term popular novel in 1950. Writers Ahmad Tohari, YB Mangunwijaya, Muchtar Lubis. etc. uses the term novel in his work.

The use of the terms romance and novel often confuses readers. In this study, researchers used the term novel because:

1. Novels come from English. This is in accordance with the official formation of the term.
2. Roman is used for works before 1950, while this research uses the

data source of Khaleb Hosseini's work published in 2007.

The novel as a prose literary work has two important elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic elements are elements that directly build a novel (Apri Kartikasari & Edi Suprpto, 2018). These elements consist of theme, plot, character, setting, point of view, setting, style and tone of the story (Warsiman, 2017:135-144). Meanwhile, extrinsic elements are elements outside the literary work. Even though they are outside the literary work, these elements help build the organism of a literary work or can also be said to influence the work (Apri Kartikasari & Edi Suprpto, 2018). Extrinsic elements relate to the author's view of life and beliefs regarding truth values. This is related to morals which are teachings about behavior, ethics and norms that are portrayed by novel characters and can then be applied by readers in everyday life (Kenny, 1966: 89).

Even though it is an extrinsic element, moral values are important to analyze. Nurgyantoro in the theory of Fiction studies (1998:169) states that one of the authors' goals in writing novels is to offer a model of life that they idealize. In the novel there is an application of moral values from the attitudes and behavior of the characters. The author hopes that readers can take lessons in the form of moral messages from the moral values conveyed in the story. This is based on a consideration, namely that the moral message conveyed through a fictional story produces a different effect from a non-fiction story. Readers certainly have an interest in reading and exploring fictional stories because authors are able to create interesting characters and storylines that amaze readers.

Beside that, works of fiction contain universal noble human values which in the sense are believed to be true by people all over the world. Moral values are not only national or individual. It likes Khaleb Hossein's novel entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. It published in 2007. It tells the story of two women, Mariyam and Laila with all the conflicts that they had to face as an illegitimate child, a honeyed wife and an environment with a strong patriarchal culture. Of course, to survive well, their behavior contains moral values that can be learned. This research will answer two questions about the moral values conveyed by *A thousand Splendid Suns* novel. The two questions are:

1. What types of moral values are found in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Sun*?
2. How does the author convey moral values in the novel?

In *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel, there are thirteen characters. In this research, the researcher only describes the moral values that is contained in the characters of Mariam and Laila. Because these two characters are the main characters in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel. Khaleb Hosseine, as a novel autho focuses on these two characters in his novel.

## METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative method. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel by Khaleb Hosseini is the source of data in this research. The data procurement process is carried out in three steps, namely; determining the unit of analysis, determining the sample and recording/recording data (Warsiman, 2017).

In determining the unit of analysis, the researcher read *A Thousand Splendid Suns* Novel by Khaleb Hosseni repeatedly. After that, sort the readings into the smallest units in the data card. Then, the researcher determined the data sample by sorting the data cards into three types of moral value categories, namely moral values which express the relationship between humans and themselves, moral values which express the relationship between humans and each other and the natural environment, moral values which express the relationship between man and God. The next step is data recording/logging. In this stage, the researcher noted the relationship between the types of moral values that produced positive and negative attitudes from the two characters in this novel, namely; Mariam and Laila.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

According to Nurgiyantoro, the types of moral values in novels are divided into three types, namely; *the first*, human relations with humans themselves. *Second*, human relationships with other humans in the social sphere, including their relationship with the natural environment and *the third* is relationship between humans and God. (Nurgiyantoro, ; ). Nurgiyantoro also explained that the author describes this relationship directly in the text and dialogue and also indirectly or implicitly. The following is an explanation of each type of moral value found in novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaleb Hosseini.

1. The Relationship between human and themselves  
Researchers found five moral values related to the relationship between humans and themselves in

the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The explanation is as follows:

- a. The moral values contained in the relationship between humans and themselves are first established in the character Mariam and herself. Mariam is the main character in this novel. There were two contrasting relationships within Mariam due to the different treatment of her parents. Nana, Mariam's mother was a single parent. She raised Mariam alone because Mariam was an illegitimate child resulting from Nana's relationship with her employer, Jalil. On page 4 of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel, Mariam, as an illegitimate child, felt that she was not accepted or loved by anyone. This of course results in negative moral values, namely self-distrust. The novelist stated this directly in the following quote:

*“Later, when she was older, Mariam did understand. it the way Nana uttered the word not so much saying it as spitting it at her that made Mariam feel the full sting of it. She understood then what Nana meant, that a harami was an unwanted thing; that she, Mariam, was an illegitimate person who would never have legitimate claim to the things other people had, things such as love, family, home, acceptance.”*

- b. Second, it relates to the treatment given by Jalil to Mariam which is different from that given by Nana. Jalil,

Mariam's father, treats Mariam very sweetly so that she didn't feel like she is an illegitimate child. She felt loved and accepted. Of course, this created a positive attitude, namely self-confidence because she was loved and accepted. Kahleb Hosseini described what Mariam feel directly in the text. The novelist described this attitude on pages 5-6. The following is a quote related to these moral values:

*“The truth was that around Jalil, Mariam did not feel at all like a harami. For an hour or two every Thursday, when Jalil came to see her, all smiles and gifts and endearments, Mariam felt deserving of all the beauty and bounty that life had to give. And, for this Mariam loved Jalil.”*

- c. Third, Mariam's relationship with herself when Mariam was an adult. After he faced various kinds of problems and challenges in life. She felt that the sacrifice made for Laila and her family was the best thing in her life. She made a sacrifice as proof of her love for Laila. Mariam did this sincerely so it shows two positive attitudes at once, namely; willing to sacrifice and sincerity. The novelist explained this moral value indirectly. These moral values are found in the text on page 396, which reads:

*“Mariam wished for so much in those final moments. yet as she closed her eyes, it was not*

*regret any longer but a sensation of abundant peace that washed over her. She thought of her entry into this word, the harami child of a lowly villager, an unintended thing, a pitiable, a regrettable accident. A weed. And yet she was leaving the world as a woman who had loved and been loved back. She was leaving it as a friend, a companion, a guardian. A mother. A person of consequence at last. No. It was not so bad, Mariam thought, that she should die this way. Not so bad. This was a legitimate end to a life of illegitimate beginnings.”*

- d. Fourth, the relationship between human moral values and oneself is also established between Laila, the main female character in this novel. When Laila met her first love Tariq and married him. Laila felt happy, safe and loved. She was grateful to have a better life after facing many problems and challenges. This relationship produced a positive attitude, namely; self-acceptance and gratitude for what she has. The novelist explained this directly in the text on page 403. The following quotation:

*“ That night it was blessing enough to be beside him. It was blessing enough to know that he was here, to feel the warmth of his next to her, to lie with him, their heads touching, his right hand laced in her left.”*

- e. Fifth, when Laila was close to Tariq who the man she loved, she felt comfortable, safe and calm even though they were in unpleasant circumstances. But Tariq's loving attitude brought good moral values to Laila. Laila had a calm and safe attitude when she was with Tariq. The novelist directly explained this on page 411. The explanation is as follows:

*“Laila and Tariq make love in silence, with controlled, muted passion, fully clothed beneath the blanket as a precaution against interruptions by the children. They are forever wary of the rustling sheets, creaking bed springs. But for Laila, being with Tariq is worth weathering these apprehensions. When they make love, Laila feels anchored, she feels sheltered.*

2. Relationships between humans and each other and the environment  
Regarding moral values related to the relationship between humans and each other and the environment, researchers found six moral values. Here's the explanation:

- a. The first is about the relationship between Mariam and Laila as the wives of Rasheed, a shoe businessman in the Kabul area. They started their relationship full of bad prejudices. Mariam, as the older wife, had a bad opinion of the younger wife, Laila. Trivial things like missing spoons. Mariam's bad prejudice causes quarrels and hatred in the hearts of Laila and Mariam. This bad relationship created a negative

attitude, namely hatred. The novelist indirectly stated these moral values in the text on pages 247-248. The quote is as follows:

*“ I’m saying...” Laila said, trying to maintain control. Usually, she could will herself to absorb Mariam’s derision and finger-pointing. But her ankles had swollen, head hurt, and the heartburn was vicious that day.” I am saying that maybe you’ve misplaced it.”*

*“Misplaced it?” Mariam pulled a drawer. The spatulas and knives inside it clanked. “ How long have you been here, a few months? I’ve lived in this house for nineteen years, dokhtar jo. I have kept that spoon in this drawer since you were shitting you diapers.”*

*“Still,” Laila said, on the brink now, teeth clenched, “It’s possible you hid it somewhere and forgot.”*

*“And it’s possible you hid it somewhere, to aggravate me.”*

*“You’re a sad, miserable woman,” Laiola said. Mariam flinched, then recovered, pursed her lips. And you’re whore. A whore and a dozd. Athieving whore, that’s what you are !”*

*Then there was shouting. Pots though not hurled. They’d called each other names, names that made Laila blush now. they had’nt spoken since. Laila was still shoked at how easily she’d come unhinged, but, the truth was*

*part of her liked it, had liked how it felt to scream at Mariam, to curse at her to have a target at which to focus all her simmering anger, her grief.”*

- b. Second, as time goes by, Mariam and Laila's relationship improves. The beginning of their good relationship was when Laila was pregnant with her first child. Mariam began to sympathize with him so he paid more attention. Mariam gives baby clothes to Laila's child. Mariam's attitude also creates sympathy in Laila's heart. Because of Mariam's sincere gift, the feud between Mariam and Laila began to subside. Mariam and Laila started to greet each other and chat. This positive relationship produced an attitude of sincere giving that brings peace. The novelist stated this moral value indirectly in the text and dialogue on pages 263 and 266. The following quotation is:

Page 263

*Two days later, Laila woke up in the morning and found a tack of baby clothes, neatly folded, outside her bedroom door. There was a twirl dress with little pink fishes sewn around the bodice, a blue floral wool dress with matching socks and mittens, yellow pajamas with carrot polka dots, and green cotton pants with a dotted ruffle on the cuff.”*

*Laila sat in a corner and draped her knees with the hem of her dress. “Thank you,” she said.”*

Page 266

*“Chinese say it’s better to be deprived of food for three than tea for one.”*

*Mariam gave a half smile. “it’s a good saying.”*

*“It is.”*

*“But I can’t stay long.”*

*“One cup.”*

*They sat on folding chairs outside and ate halwa with their fingers from a common bowl. They had a second cup, and when Laila asked her if she wanted a third Mariam said she did. As gunfire cracked in the hills, they watched the clouds slide over the moon and the last of the season’s fireflies charting bright yellow arcs in the dark. And when Aziza woke up crying and Rasheed yelled for Laila to come up and shut her up, a look passed between Laila and Mariam. An unguarded, knowing look. And in this fleeting, wordless exchange with Mariam, Laila knew that were not enemies any longer.”*

- c. Third, Mariam and Laila's relationship was getting better. They grew closer to the point that Mariam considered Laila as her daughter and Laila's children as Mariam's grandchildren. When Laila was treated badly by Rasheed, Mariam always defended her. One day Rasheed was very angry with Laila because Laila met her boyfriend Tariq. Rasheed beats Laila severely. Of course this made Mariam angry. Mariam's anger towards Rasheed leads to Rasheed's

death. Mariam kills Rasheed to protect Laila. After she kills Rasheed, Mariam asked Laila that she might leave her so that Laila could live happily with Tariq and her children. Mariam sacrificed for the happiness of Laila and her family. This relationship results in a positive attitude, namely being willing to sacrifice for the happiness of others. The novelist described these moral values indirectly in text and dialogue on pages 383-384. Here's the quote:

*“ Laila crawled to her and again put her head on Mariam’s lap. She remembered all the afternoons they’d spent together, braiding each other’s hair, Mariam listening patiently to her random thoughts and ordinary stories with an air of gratitude, with the expression of a person to whom a unique and coveted privilege had been extended.*

*“It is fair ,” Mariam said . “I’ve killed our husband. I’ve deprived your son of his father. It isn’t right that I run. I can’t. Even if they never catch us , I ‘ll never ...” her lips trembled. “I’ll never escape your son’s grief. How do I ever bring myself to look at him, Laila jo?”*

*Mariam twiddled a strand of Laila’s hair, untaled a stubborn curl.*

*“ For me, it’s ends here. there’s nothing more I want. Everything I’d ever wished for as a little girl you’ve already given me. You and your children have made me so very happy.*

*It's all right, Laila jo. This is all right. Don't be sad."*

- d. In this moral value there is also a relationship between humans and their environment. It was said that after getting married, Mariam followed Rasheed, her husband, to Kabul. In this place, Mariam was new to fasting and Ramadan. The novelist describes Kabul in 1974 as a calm and beautiful city during Ramadan. This supports people to carry out fasting properly. This relationship between humans and the environment produced an attitude of devotion to worship. The novelist directly explained this moral value in the text on page 84. The following quotation is:

*"Ramadan came in the fall that year, 1974. for the first time in her life , Mariam saw how the sighting of the new crescent moon could transform an entire city, alter its rhythm and mood. She noticed a drowsy hush over taking Kabul. Traffic became languid, scant, even quiet. Shops emptied. Restaurants turned off their lights, closed their doors. Mariam saw no smokers on the streets, no cups of tea steaming from window ledges. And at ifta, when the sun dipped in the west and the cannon fired from the Shir Darwaza mountai, the city broke its fast, first time in her fifteen years the sweetness of sharing in a communal experience."*

- e. Fifth, moral values relating to the relationship between humans and the environment, in this case, the relationship between Laila and her environment. Laila grew up in a good and educated family, but the environment around her was not like that. There was a ceasefire everywhere which made Laila feel uncomfortable, afraid and hated. This relationship gives rise to negative attitudes, namely hatred. The novelist stated this moral value indirectly in the text on page 185. The following quotation is:

*" At night, Laila lay in bed and watch the sudden white flashes reflected in her window. She listened to the rattling of automatic gunfire and counted the rockets whining overhead as the house shook flakes of plaster rained down on her from the ceiling. some nights, when the light of rocket fire was so bright a person could read a book by it, sleep never came. And, if I did, Laila's dreams were suffused with fire and detached limbs and the moaning of the wounded.*

*Morning brought no relief. The muezzin's call for namaz rang out, and the Mujahideen set down their guns, faced west, and prayed. Then the rugs were folded, the guns loaded, and the mountains fired on Kabul, and Kabul fired back at the mountains, as Laila and the rest of the city watched as helpless as old santiago watching the*

*sharks take bites out his prize fish."*

- f. Sixth, moral values related to Laila's relationship with her environment. After marrying Tariq, Laila lived in Murree. Even though it was only temporary, life in Muree was much better than Kabul. In this place there was no ceasefire, so it created a feeling of security, calm and Laila is grateful for this better life. The relationship between Laila and her environment produced a positive attitude, namely gratitude. The novelist described this moral value on page 414. The following quotation is:

*For Laila, life in Murree is one of comfort and tranquillity. The work is not cumbersome, and, on their days off, she and Tariq take the children to ride the chairlift to Patriata hill, or go to Pindi Point, where, on a clear day, you can see as far as Islamabad and downtown Rawalpindi. There, they spread a blanket on the grass and eat meatball sandwiches with cucumbers and drink cold ginger ale.*

*It is a good life, Laila tells herself, a life to be thankful for. It is, in fact, precisely the sort of life she used to dream for herself in her darkest days with Rasheed. Everyday, Laila reminds herself of this."*

3. The relationship between humans and God

In this third type of moral, the relationship between humans and

God, there are four moral values contained in A Thousand Splendid Suns novel. These four moral values described Mariam's relationship with God. The explanation is as follows:

- a. *s* were strong. However, when Mariam's biological mother, Nana, committed suicide because Mariam fled after her father, Jalil, Mariam was very disappointed and devastated. This affects Mariam's relationship with God. He doubted God's plan for his life. This relationship produced a negative attitude, namely doubting faith. The novelist described this moral attitude directly in the text on page 42. The following quotation:

*" But remember my girl, what Koran says, 'Blessed is He in Whose hand is the kingdom, and He Who has power over all things, Who created death and life that He may try you,' The koran speaks the truth, my girl. Behind every trial and every sorrow that He makes us shoulder, God has a reason."*

*But Mariam could not hear comfort in God's words. Not that day. Not then."*

- b. Second, as time went by, Mariam's condition improved so that her faith began to recover. When she became Rasheed's wife. She carried out his obligation to worship. From this obedience in carrying out her worship, Mariam had an attitude

of faith in God. The novelist described this moral attitude on page 66. The following quotation is:

*“ The first few days, Mariam hardly left her room. She was awakened every dawn for prayer by distant cry of azan ,... ”*

- c. Third, when Mariam was pregnant with her first child, she found happiness. This increased her faith in God. She believed that God has a good plan for his life so she surrendered her life to God and asked for good luck to come to her life. This relationship produces a positive attitude, namely surrendering to God. The novelist indirectly expressed this moral value on page 95. The following quotation is:

*“When Mariam thought of this baby, her heart swelled inside of her. It swelled and swelled until all the loss, all the grief, all the loneliness and self-abasement of her life washed away. This was why God had brought her here, all the way across the country. She knew this now. She remembered a verse from Koran that Mullah Faizullah had taught her: And Allah is the East and the West, therefore wherever you turn there is Allah's purpose... She laid down her prayer rug and did namaz. When she was done, she cupped her hands before her face and asked God not to let all this good fortune slip away from her.”*

- d. Fourth, at the end of the story before Mariam surrendered herself to be beheaded. She remembered again the greatness of God in her life. God, who was all-forgiving, reminded Mariam to forgive all the sins of those who have hurt her and to make sacrifices sincerely. This relationship produced a positive attitude, namely sincerity. This attitude was also Mariam's highest need as a human being. Mariam's sincere attitude was proof of her self-actualization as the highest human need (Siti Muzaroh, 2019). The novelist explained this moral value indirectly on page 396. The following quotation is:

*“Mariam's final thought were a few words from the Koran, which she muttered under her breath.*

*He has created the heavens and the earth with the truth; He makes the night cover the day and makes the day overtake the night, and He has made the sun and the moon subservient; each one runs on to an assigned term; now surely He is the Mighty, the Great Forgiver.”*

## CONCLUSION

Moral values are an element of extrinsic in the novel. Even though it is an element outside the novel, moral values are considered important because they help build the story in the novel. Moral values relate to the message that will be conveyed to readers from the story in the novel. This can be a good and useful

reflection for the reader's life. In *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel by Khaleb Hosseini, there are three types of moral values, namely, moral values related to human relationships with themselves, human relationships with others and the environment and human relationships with God. From this type of moral value there are positive and negative moral attitudes.

There are nine positive moral attitudes, namely self-confidence, willingness to sacrifice, self-acceptance, gratitude, calm, giving sincerely, obedience to worship, surrender to God, and sincerity. There are also three negative moral attitudes, namely; hatred, self-doubt and doubt of faith. These attitudes are demonstrated by the two main characters in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel. The novelist described these attitudes directly and indirectly in the form of text and dialogue. Through the moral message conveyed by the novelist, it is hoped that readers can learn about religious moral values, character and

cultural politeness. Then, apply these values in social life. For this reason, the moral values contained in literary works or specifically novels can also be used for character building learning at various levels of education.

In addition, the researcher give recommendation to the future research that the next reseacher can be used other scientific diciplines to examine Khaleb Hosseini 's Novel *A thousand Splendid Sun* such as sociological and psychological approach . Therefore, the reseach not only about the element of the novel but also the other scientific diciplines that related with the novel. In addition, the reseacher give recommendation to the future research that the next reseacher can be used other scientific diciplines to examine Khaleb Hosseini 's Novel *A thousand Splendid Sun* such as sociological and psychological approach . Therefore, the reseach not only about the element of the novel but also the other scientific diciplines that related with the novel.

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