

VIRTUES AND CHARACTER STRENGTHS OF KAZ AND NINA'S CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL *SIX OF CROWS*

¹Muhamad Bahtiar Reza, ²Dwi Nitisari

^{1,2}English Department, Faculty of Letters and Culture, Universitas Gunadarma

Jl. Margonda Raya No. 100, Depok 1642, Jawa Barat

¹bahtiar.reza223@gmail.com, ²dnitisari@gmail.com

Abstract

This research was aimed to find out and compare the virtues and character strengths of Kaz and Nina's characters in the novel Six of Crows. The researchers used Peterson and Seligman's theory of virtue and character strengths. This research used the qualitative method. In the analysis of the 285 data found in this research, the researchers found 161 data indicating Kaz's virtues and character strengths and 124 data indicating Nina's virtue and character strengths. Both characters possess all six virtues: wisdom and knowledge, courage, humanity, justice, temperance, and transcendence. The researchers found that Kaz and Nina possess twenty-one-character strengths. Kaz possesses all of the character strengths but love, citizenship, and gratitude, while Nina possesses all but fairness, leadership, and forgiveness and mercy. Based on the research findings, the researchers concluded that both Kaz and Nina possess all the virtues mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. Additionally, both characters possess the same number of character strengths which is twenty-one-character strengths, even though their character strengths are relatively different.

Keywords: Character, moral, strength, virtues

INTRODUCTION

According to Simonsen, literature refers all kind of written expressions that generally encompass multiple kinds of written works, such as novels, poetry, and drama (2017). The term *literature* itself was previously used to describe all kinds of written text before the term *aesthetic* was introduced in notions about literature as a form of fine art (Klarer, 2004). Literature as art is generally understood as entertainment that exists solely to be enjoyed. However, literature holds exceptional value in cultivating or culturing the readers (Rosentand, 2018). Literature helps us understand something from a completely different perspective and presents the world differently. In other words, it contains Author's knowledge that the

readers initially do not know about, as literature is essentially a human-made product written by its author. Literary work will always be influenced to a certain degree, notably by how its author is linked to the culture and society in which it operates. Authors in literature may hold their personal opinion regarding matters that will directly or indirectly affect or answer some question in life, morality, for instance. This is because Literature as a social creation mirrors the author's social situation (Wellek & Warren, 1956). An author expresses his experiences or opinions either intrinsically or extrinsically and voluntarily or involuntarily. Sometimes, authors may share their ideas and beliefs directly through their words, or the characters' actions and minds can represent them,

generally found in fiction-type literary works, namely, novels, short stories, etc. Although it is already stated that literary works, in general, may hold some value in introducing the reader to specific ideas/subjective opinions from the authors about some issues, especially morality, fiction is notably superior in doing this because of its narrative nature. The narrative plays a vital role in shaping and developing cultures.

Laksmi (2021) took her undergraduate research entitled "Characterization and Moral Values Analysis on Ella's Character in Cinderella Movie" At Gunadarma University. Her research's objective was to find out the characterization and moral values of Ella's character in the Cinderella movie. The method that was used in her research was the qualitative method. Laksmi used Linda and Eyre's theory of characterization and types of moral values. Her research showed that Ella's character has 9 types of moral values: honesty, courage, peaceability, loyalty and dependability, respect, love, unselfishness and sensitivity, kindness and friendliness, justice, and mercy.

The similarity between this research and the first previous research by Laksmi is the method they use, which is a qualitative method. This research also shares the same objective as the previous research, which is finding moral values. The differences between this research and the first previous research are located in the theory they use, the object of the research, and the research's

objectives. This research uses Peterson and Seligman's virtue and character strength theory and chooses the novel entitled *Six of Crows* as its research object. In contrast, the first previous research by Laksmi uses the theory of the characterization of moral values by Linda and Eyre and chooses the movie *Cinderella* as its research object. This research objective does not solely focus on identifying moral values within a character but also on finding the differences in moral values between two characters, Kaz and Nina's virtue and character strength.

In its broader terms, a narrative can be defined as a representation of an event or series of events (Pucket, 2016). The mentioned event can be called a plot, thus making a narrative a representation of plot or story discourse. A plot is said to be well-ordered and whole. It always starts with a beginning and ending, cause, and consequences. Many fictions develop a character-focused narrative where the author mostly talks about characters as the agents of the story. As the agent of the story, the plot usually revolves around the said character, making everything related to the consequences as a result of the character's actions. The narrative not only represents the plot but the character itself, as it shows how the character gradually changes in response to events and to the action of others hence, making it reliable to nurture someone about morality as we talk about the character's decision, motive, and the result of action through narrative (Currie, 2010: 190).

According to Abrams (2005), characters in literature are every person represented in a dramatic or narrative work. In drama, fiction, and short story, the term dramatic personae is also used to refer to characters. Characters are also known as the ones who perform actions in narrative work. Most of the time, characters are easily identified by the audience or the reader. Characters in literary work are the representation of real human beings living in their world. They possess the same quality as a real person, notably having particular moral, intellectual, and emotional attributes. Characters are sometimes easily judged, as the reader often describes one specific character with adjectives that fit with the said character, such as beautiful, kind, rough, rude, etc. A character can stay stable without a significant change from the start to the end of the work. This type of character that does not undergo any change is described as a flat character. Flat characters are given a set of personalities and will stay as it is. Round characters, on the other hand, are a type of character that will change as real humans do. Round characters are difficult to describe (Forster, 1985).

The term morality, mentioned several times throughout this writing, refers to a set of norms or rules that enable one to reach their goal (Pojman, 2005: 7). According to Wolff, morality is also referred to as a form of rules, which makes it somewhat restrictive in nature toward one's freedom, but it restricts

people from doing misdeed (2018, 1). For instance, we are told not to take others' belonging, hurt people, or lie. Morality exists in almost all religions, cultures, and societies, though a slight diversity may exist among the moralities encoded in each community. The variety of morality across individuals may be tied to one's personal choice, cultural background, or individual objective because even all moralities are always related to the rightness and wrongness of something. Something right for certain people may be seen as wrong by others. The assumption that morality is different for each person results in the occurrence of various moral principles, notably moral relativism, consequentialism, and utilitarianism. Moral relativism believes that there is no such thing as universally accepted moral principles, rather, moral principles are relative to culture or individual choice (Pojman, 2005: 49). Consequentialism believes that goodness or badness of an act is directly tied to the result or consequent the said act (Pojman, 2005: 112). Utilitarianism on the other hand, is a moral principle that believes the goodness or badness of an act is judged by the intention of the doer (Pojman, 2005: 112-113). Despite those diversities, most moral principles tend to answer moral questions about what someone ought to do as they believe that by doing what is right, they will achieve their destined goal, generally being in a state of a good life or satisfied.

Virtue ethics is one of the moral theories that does not answer the ethical

question about what we ought to do. Instead, it answers a question about what we ought to be. Unlike other moral theories that focus on the goodness or badness of an action, virtue ethics focuses on the character (agent) itself. (Pojman, 2005: 166). Virtue in Virtue Ethics theory is originally created from someone's habitual response to certain conditions or situations in life, often called *hexis*. Virtue then becomes the action-guiding of that person in the face of a similar condition. For example, those who used to act honestly will deliver a lost wallet they find to authorities. Finding a wallet is the situation and being honest is the trait that enables them to perform the desired action, delivering it to authorities. Of course, others who do not possess the required trait will respond to similar conditions differently. Aristotle's list of virtues explains how virtuous people will do when facing most situations in life, such as bravery will face danger without showing a sign of cowardliness. Unfortunately, many of those virtues are nameless, which can be referred to as *nameless virtues*. Listing all the nameless virtues from Aristotle's explanation has become the main objective of many virtue ethicists and moral theorists. Gottlieb (2009, 78-89) lists some virtues based on Aristotle's concept of virtue: Perseverance and endurance, shame and nemesis, faith and piety, hope and sympathy, charity and benevolence, asceticism, meekness, self-sacrifice, self-control, social virtue, humility, selfishness, and equity of Justice. According

to Gottlieb (2009), many virtue ethicists and moral theorists believe that Aristotle's virtue can be extended further to make a less-general list of virtues. Peterson and Seligman, members of the organization American psychology, try to make their own list of virtue. Peterson and Seligman's objective is to inquire about the idea that certain conditions enable specific virtues and strengths of character. Thus, it can help characterize the properties of settings that enable strengths and virtues.

They list six broad categories of virtue: wisdom, courage, humanity, justice, temperance, and transcendence. They also list 24-character strengths as a means to distinguish one virtue from another, namely virtue wisdom and knowledge can be achieved through character strengths creativity, Curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning, and Perspective (Peterson & Seligman, 2004). Although they acclaimed character strengths as *ubiquitously recognized and valued*, individuals will rarely, if ever, display all of them. Below are the virtues and character strengths according to Peterson and Seligman (2004).

Virtue of Wisdom and Knowledge

Wisdom and knowledge are a virtue that entails acquiring and using knowledge (p. 95). Virtue wisdom and knowledge include five character strengths: creativity (doing thing in unusual ways, creating a breakthrough or idea that are original), curiosity (exploring

and discovering new things, taking an interest in new knowledge), open-mindedness (evaluating an idea on multiple perspective, taking consideration of the consequence, and thinking rationally before making judgement), love of learning (having a passion in learning for the sake of self and others), and perspective (having an ability to see things in the bigger picture and having an experience in life to give a proper advice to others).

Virtue of Courage

Courage is a virtue that involves the exercise of will to accomplish goals in the face of opposition, external or internal (p. 199). Virtue courage includes four-character strengths: bravery (having an ability to do things in the face of dangers, threats, challenges, and difficulties), persistence (having a hardworker quality and not giving up), integrity (having the ability to stay true to oneself and present oneself genuinely/honestly to others without pretending/lying), and vitality (having the ability to take things in life with energy and excitement).

Virtue of Humanity

Humanity is a virtue that involves tending to and befriending others, whether it is humans, animals, or plants (p. 293). Virtue Humanity includes three-character strengths love (having strong feelings, commitments and attachment to others, including lovers, families, and friends), kindness (having compassion for others in general, being

generous and helping those in need), and, social intelligence (having an awareness of others' feelings and motives, as well as their status, to form a social relationship with people).

Virtue of Justice

Justice is a virtue that involves one's ability to contribute and actualize a good community life (p. 357). Virtue Justice includes three-character strengths: citizenship (fulfilling one's role and contributing to a community that one belongs to), fairness (having the ability to avoid bias caused by personal feelings in treating people, treating people equally), and leadership (having the ability to move and organize the community to finish the work and generally keeping the relationship within the group well-maintained).

Virtue of Temperance

Temperance is a virtue that protects one against excess, which they describe as excessive hatred, excessive arrogance, excessive short-term pleasure, and excessive emotion (p. 431). Virtue Temperance includes four-character strengths: forgiveness and mercy (having an understanding to those who have made a mistake, hurt, and wronged us as well as letting go of negative feelings such as frustration, disappointment and resentment caused by others), humility and modesty (having the ability to evaluate self-accomplishment accurately. Not bragging and seeing oneself more special than others),

prudence (having the ability take risk into consideration, making a proper preparation before doing things, and seeing the long-term consequences of an action), and self-regulation (having a quality that enables one to control their emotion, appetite and desire).

Virtue of Transcendence

Transcendence is a virtue that allows individuals to forge a connection to the larger universe and provide meaning and reason to their lives (p. 519). Virtue Transcendence includes five character strengths: appreciation of beauty and excellence (quality that enables one to see something positive from other things including environment, animal, people, man's creation), gratitude (having the quality that enables one to express thankfulness and recognize others' contribution to his life), hope (having the quality to expect everything that will come in the future positively, believing that a goal is achievable), humour (having an ability to recognize humorous side of others as well as the ability to bring happiness to others), and spirituality (believing and having a connection with sacred being, and understanding one's place and purpose in the universe).

Virtue ethics, as a non-duty-based principle, aims to produce an ideal human (virtuous character/agent) that can inspire others with their excellence, also called virtues. In the past, stories and epics about heroes or saints were commonly told to inspire children to behave nicely. These

stories did not tell how the children should do. They generally did not teach them what is good or bad. Instead, it motivated children to become like the characters in the stories: the heroes and saints. Virtue-based ethical studies work wonders, especially in literature, as literature is able to represent the character in a detailed way, thanks to its narrative nature.

Although this research is meant to fulfil our main objective, which is to find the virtues and character strengths of both Kaz and Nina characters and compare them. The researchers believe this research is worthy of attention as this research is expected to give the reader theoretical knowledge about Peterson and Seligman's theory of virtues and character strengths. This research is also meant to provide the reader with practical knowledge about applying this theory in research. This research will also give the reader general knowledge about what is literature, fiction, morals, value, and virtue, which the reader can use as a reference for their research.

METHODS

The researchers use a qualitative method. The qualitative method is often used to explore new topics or understand complex issues. (Hennink, Hutter & Bailey, 2020). This method is specifically helpful in explaining and understanding issues or describing processes or behaviors. The qualitative method covers various topics, such as people's behaviors, beliefs, and opinions

concerning specific issues in life. This method is also useful in understanding social phenomena and the cultural or economic context in which they happened. Qualitative research is framed or constructed by using words rather than numbers. It also deals with data that cannot be expressed numerically. Qualitative research presents its content with a descriptive method. With this method, the data and the results are not shown in a statistical form. Instead, it is presented in the form of a description or narrative (Stake, 2010: 15).

The researchers collected their data from the novel entitled *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo and published by Henry Holt and Co in 2015, with a total of 465 pages and six parts. The data in this research are collected from dialogue, monologue, and narration that indicates Kaz and Nina's virtues and character strengths in parts one to four and pages 10 to 274 of the novel. The researchers selected the novel *Six of Crows* because it features multiple characters, each with its background, traits, personality, and moral compass, that are varied enough to make it suitable for this research.

The researchers collect their data through several processes: skimming the novel to make sense of its main meaning. Looking at and identifying the virtue and character strengths of the respective characters, namely Kaz and Nina, from the novel's dialogue, monologue, and narration. Grouping all the data according to their

respective characters, types of virtue, and character strengths.

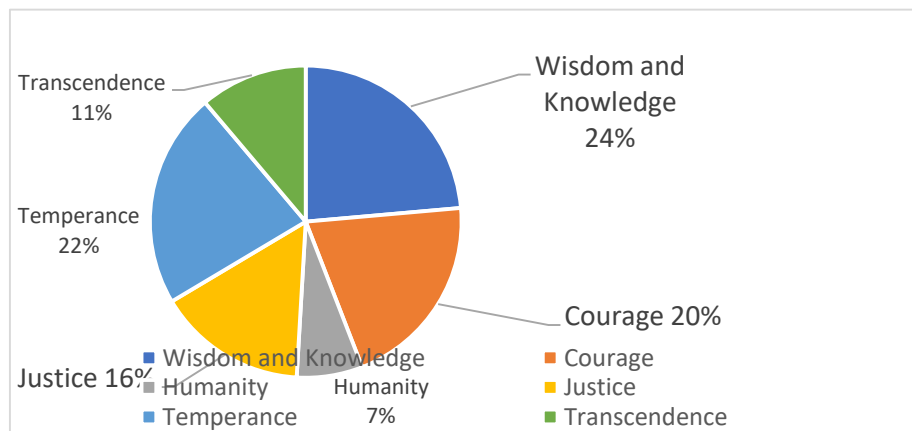
The data in this research are analysed through several processes: Reducing and simplifying the data collected from the dialogues, monologues, and narrations to make it simpler and stronger. Elaborating each of Kaz and Nina's virtue and character strength. Analysing and describing the difference between Kaz and Nina's structure of virtue and character strengths. Finally, drawing conclusions based on the analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research that has been conducted thoroughly, the researchers found 285 data, of which 161 data signify the character Kaz Brekker's virtues and character strengths and 124 data signify the character Nina Zenik's virtues and character strengths. Derived from the data, the researchers concluded that both characters possess all the virtues according to Peterson and Seligman's theory of virtues and character strengths. The researchers concluded that a data indicates a certain character strength is seen by what kind of an action both Kaz and Nina do. For example, the act of showing love verbally to other will be put into the character strength love, while act of giving an order to other can be put into the character strength leadership. In addition, the researchers also found that the character Kaz and Nina do not share the exact composition of character strengths, which will be explained as below.

Virtues of Kaz Brekker and Nina Zenik

Virtues of Kaz Brekker



Picture 1. Kaz Brekker's Virtues

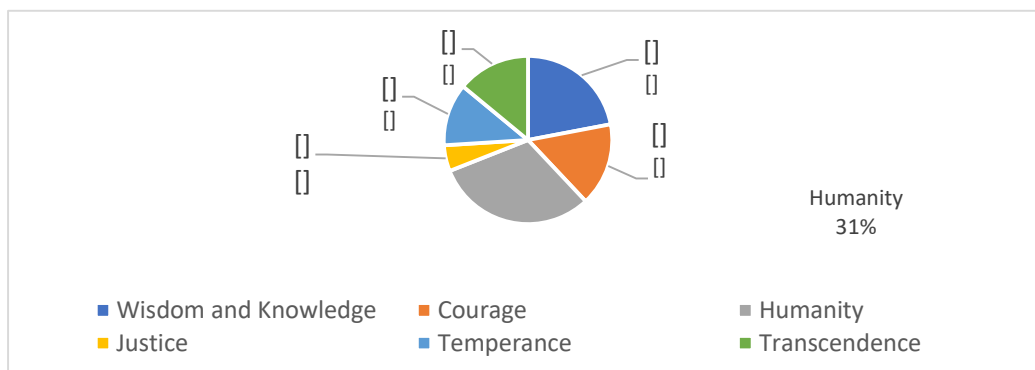
According to the finding of this research, it is revealed that Kaz Brekker possessed all of the six virtues, with 161 data found. The classification of the 161 data into the six virtues is presented in the picture 1.

According to the picture above, it can be determined that Kaz Brekker possesses all of the virtues mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. The virtues that Kaz Brekker possesses are the virtue wisdom and knowledge with a total of 38 data (24%), followed by the virtue temperance with 36

data (22%), virtue courage with 33 data (20%), virtue justice with 25 data (16%), virtue transcendence with 18 data

According to the finding of this research, it is revealed that Kaz Brekker possessed all of the six virtues, with 124 data found. The classification of the 124 data into the six virtues is presented in a picture (11%), and lastly virtue humanity with 11 data (7%). In addition, the researchers conclude that Kaz Brekker's most dominant virtue is wisdom and knowledge, and his most subservient virtue is humanity.

Virtues of Nina Zenik



Picture 2. Nina Zenik's virtues

According to the finding of this research, it is revealed that Kaz Brekker possessed all of the six virtues, with 124 data found. The classification of the 124 data into the six virtues is presented in a picture 2.

According to the picture above, it can be determined that Nina Zenik possesses all of the virtues mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. Nina Zenik's virtues are the virtue humanity with 39 data (31%), virtue wisdom and knowledge with 27 data (22%), virtue courage with 20 data (16%), virtue transcendence with 17 data (14%), virtue temperance with 15 data (12%), and virtue justice with 6 data (5%). Based on the data, the researchers also conclude that Nina's most dominant virtue is humanity and Nina's subservient virtue is justice.

Character strengths of Kaz and Nina

Character strengths of Kaz

According to the research, the researchers conclude that Kaz Brekker possesses twenty-one out of the twenty-four-character strengths mentioned by Peterson

and Seligman. Kaz's twenty-one-character strengths are presented in the table 1.

Based on the table above, the researchers found 161 data that indicate the presence of character strengths in Kaz Brekker's character. Additionally, the researchers infer that Kaz Brekker possesses twenty-one out of the twenty-four-character strengths mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. The twenty-one character strengths of Kaz Brekker are creativity with 4 data, curiosity with 9 data, open-mindedness with 12 data, love of learning with 3 data, perspective with 10 data, bravery with 11 data, persistence with 9 data, integrity with 4 data, vitality with 9 data, kindness with 6 data, social intelligence with 5 data, fairness with 4 data, leadership with 21 data, forgiveness and mercy with 5 data, humility and modesty with 4 data, prudence with 15 data, self-regulation with 12 data, appreciation of beauty and excellence with 9 data, hope with 4 data, humour with 3 data, and spirituality with 2 data. It is also worth mentioning that Kaz does not possess three-character strengths: love, citizenship, and gratitude.

Table 1. Kaz Brekker's list of Character Strengths

No	Name of Virtues	Character's Strengths	Total Data	Total Data
1	Wisdom and Knowledge	Creativity	4	38
		Curiosity	9	
		Open-mindedness	12	
		Love of Learning	3	
		Perspective	10	
2	Courage	Bravery	11	33
		Persistence	9	
		Integrity	4	
		Vitality	9	

3	Humanity	Kindness	6	11
		Social Intelligence	5	
4	Justice	Fairness	4	25
		Leadership	21	
5	Temperance	Forgiveness and Mercy	5	36
		Humility and Modesty	4	
		Prudence	15	
		Self-regulation	12	
6	Transcendence	Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence	9	18
		Hope	4	
		Humor	3	
		Spirituality	2	
Total Data Found in Kaz Brekker's character				161

Character strengths of Nina

According to the research, the researchers conclude that Nina Zenik possesses twenty-one out of the twenty-four-character strengths mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. Nina's twenty-one-character strengths are presented in the table 2.

Based on the table above, the researchers found 124 data that indicate the presence of character strengths in Nina Zenik's character. The researchers also infer that Nina Zenik possesses twenty-one out of the twenty-four-character strengths mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. The twenty-one character

strengths of Nina Zenik are creativity with 1 data, curiosity with 12 data, open-mindedness with 6 data, love of learning with 6 data, perspective with 2 data, bravery with 6 data, persistence with 3 data, integrity with 7 data, vitality with 4 data, love with 3 data, kindness with 33 data, social intelligence with 3 data, citizenship with 6 data, prudence with 1 data, self-regulation with 6 data, appreciation of beauty and excellence with 2 data, gratitude with 4 data, hope with 5 data, humor with 5 data, and spirituality with 1 data. Nina does not possess three character strengths: fairness, forgiveness and mercy, and leadership.

Table 2. Nina Zenik's list of Character Strengths

No	Name of Virtues	Character's Strengths	Total Data	Total Data
1	Wisdom and Knowledge	Creativity	1	27
		Curiosity	12	
		Open-mindedness	6	
		Love of Learning	6	
		Perspective	2	

2	Courage	Bravery	6	20
		Persistence	3	
		Integrity	7	
		Vitality	4	
3	Humanity	Love	3	39
		Kindness	33	
		Social Intelligence	3	
		Citizenship	6	
4	Justice		6	6
5	Temperance	Humility and Modesty	8	15
		Prudence	1	
		Self-regulation	6	
		Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence	2	
6	Transcendence			17
		Gratitude	4	
		Hope	5	
		Humor	5	
		Spirituality	1	
Total Data found in Nina Zenik's character				124

Virtues and Character Strengths of Kaz and Nina

Based on this research, the researchers found out that Kaz and Nina possess all of the virtues mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. However, each character's virtues and character strengths differ in amount and composition. For instance, Kaz Brekker's most visible virtue is wisdom and knowledge. On the other hand, Nina has humanity as her dominant virtue. The comparison of Kaz and Nina's virtue will be explained in the picture 3.

The picture 3 shows different graphs between Kaz and Nina's virtue. According to the picture, Kaz has more wisdom and knowledge than Nina, with 38 data for Kaz and 27 for Nina. For virtue courage, Kaz has more courage than Nina,

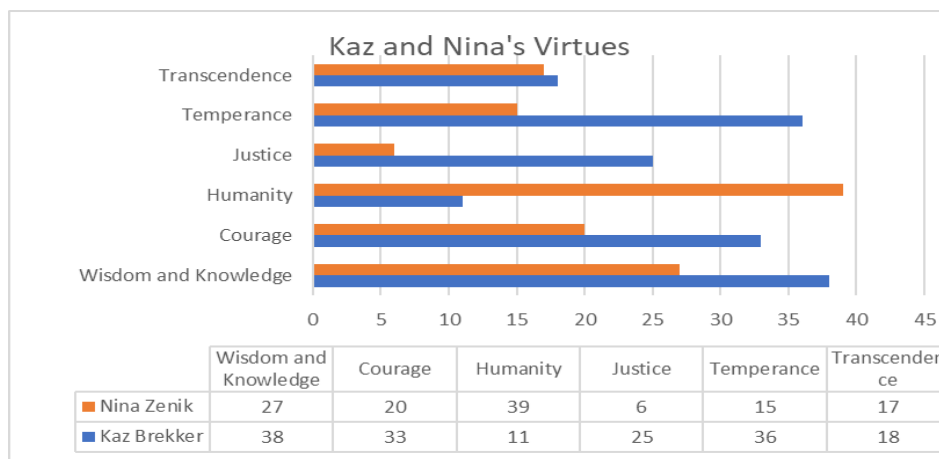
with 33 data for Kaz and 20 for Nina. For virtue humanity, Nina surprisingly has more humanity than Kaz, with 39 data for Nina and 11 for Kaz. For virtue justice, Kaz has more justice than Nina, with 25 data for Kaz and 6 for Nina. For virtue temperance, Kaz has more temperance than Nina, with 36 data for Kaz and 15 for Nina. Lastly, for virtue transcendence, Kaz has more transcendence than Nina, with 18 data for Kaz and 17 for Nina. Besides the virtues that both characters possess, the researchers also found that the character strengths of Kaz and Nina are relatively different, which will be shown in the table 3.

The table 3 shows the difference between Kaz and Nina's character strengths. According to the table, Kaz and Nina possess different amounts for each of their character

strengths. From the twenty-four character strengths mentioned by Peterson and Seligman. Both characters similarly possess twenty-one character strengths, though the character strengths that they possess and do not possess are somewhat different.

First of all, both characters possess all the character strengths that belong to the virtue wisdom and knowledge, namely creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning, and perspective. For the second virtue, both characters possess all the character strengths that belong to the virtue courage, namely, bravery, persistence, integrity, and vitality. For the third virtue, Nina possesses all the character strengths that belong to the virtue humanity, namely love, kindness, and social intelligence. At the same time, Kaz only has two of them: kindness and social intelligence. For the fourth virtue, Kaz

possesses two out of three-character strengths that belong to the virtue justice: fairness and leadership. In contrast, Nina possesses only one that Kaz does not possess: citizenship. For the fifth virtue, Kaz possesses all four-character strengths that belong to the virtue temperance: forgiveness and mercy, humility and modesty, prudence, and self-regulation. In contrast, Nina possesses only three-character strengths: humility and modesty, prudence, and self-regulation. For the last virtue, Kaz possesses four out of five-character strengths that belong to the virtue transcendence: appreciation of beauty and excellence, hope, humor, and spirituality. Contrary to Kaz, Nina possesses all of the character strengths in the virtue transcendence, which include appreciation of beauty and excellence, gratitude, hope, humor, and spirituality.



Picture 3. Kaz and Nina's virtues

Table 3. Comparison Kaz and Nina's character strengths

No	Character's Strengths	Data found from the character Kaz Brekker	Data found from the character Nina Zenik
1	Creativity	4	1
	Curiosity	9	12
	Open-mindedness	12	6
	Love of Learning	3	6
	Perspective	10	2
2	Bravery	11	6
	Persistence	9	3
	Integrity	4	7
	Vitality	9	4
3	Love	0	3
	Kindness	6	33
	Social Intelligence	5	3
4	Citizenship	0	6
	Fairness	4	0
	Leadership	21	0
5	Forgiveness and Mercy	5	0
	Humility and Modesty	4	8
	Prudence	15	1
	Self-regulation	12	6
6	Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence	9	2
	Gratitude	0	4
	Hope	4	5
	Humor	3	5
	Spirituality	2	1

The Analysis of Kaz and Nina's Virtues and Character Strengths

Virtues of Kaz Brekker Wisdom and Knowledge

Wisdom and knowledge are a virtue that entails acquiring and using information or knowledge to benefit oneself or others and achieve various things from short-term to long-term goals. Kaz Brekker is said to possess virtue wisdom and knowledge as he manifests the character strengths of the said

virtue: creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning, and perspective.

Courage

Courage is a virtue that entails someone's effort and attitude to strengthen their will and emotion in the face of physical or mental opposition, temptation, and limitation to achieve a goal. Kaz Brekker is said to possess virtue courage as he manifests the character strengths of the said virtue: bravery, persistence, integrity, and vitality.

Humanity

Humanity is a virtue that entails someone's positive traits that manifest in a caring relationship and perpetuating relationships with others, often called the ability to tend and befriend. The virtue humanity is mainly about a one-to-one relationship. Kaz Brekker is said to possess virtue humanity as he manifests some character strengths that belong to the virtue humanity, namely kindness, and social intelligence.

Justice

Justice is a virtue that entails positive traits related to one's ability to make an optimal interaction between an individual and their group or community, most likely benefiting not only the individual but also the group they belong to. Kaz is said to possess virtue justice as he manifests some character strengths in virtue justice, namely fairness, and leadership.

Temperance

Temperance is a virtue that entails positive traits related to one's ability to prevent or protect themselves from the damaging effect caused by excessive emotion, pleasure, etc. Kaz is said to possess virtue temperance as he manifests all character strengths in virtue temperance, namely forgiveness and mercy, humility and modesty, prudence, and self-regulation.

Transcendence

Virtue transcendence is a virtue that entails one's ability to forge a connection between themselves with their surroundings, such as others, nature, the universe, and even something more significant such as God. This connection then brings primarily positive feelings and emotions to them and others. Kaz is said to possess virtue transcendence as Kaz manifests most of the character strengths that belong to the said virtue, namely appreciation of beauty and excellence, hope, humour, and spirituality.

Virtues of Nina Zenik

Wisdom and Knowledge

Wisdom and knowledge are a virtue that entails acquiring and using information or knowledge to benefit oneself or others and achieve various things, from short-term to long-term goals. Nina is said to possess virtue wisdom and knowledge as she manifests the character strengths of the said virtue: creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning, and perspective.

Courage

Courage is a virtue that entails someone's effort and attitude to strengthen their will and emotion in the face of physical or mental opposition, temptation, and limitation to achieve their goal. Nina is said to possess virtue courage as she manifests the character strengths of the said virtue, namely bravery, persistence, integrity, and vitality.

Humanity

Humanity is a virtue that entails someone's positive traits that manifest in a caring relationship and perpetuating relationships with others, often called the ability to tend and befriend. The virtue humanity is mainly about a one-to-one relationship. Nina is said to possess virtue humanity as she manifests all character strengths that belong to the virtue humanity, namely love, kindness, and social intelligence.

Justice

Justice is a virtue that entails positive traits related to one's ability to make an optimal interaction between an individual and their group or community, most likely benefiting not only the individual but also the group they belong to. Nina is said to possess virtue justice as she manifests at least one character strength in virtue justice: citizenship.

Temperance

Temperance is a virtue that entails positive traits related to one's ability to prevent or protect themselves from the damaging effect caused by excessive emotion, pleasure, etc. Nina is said to possess virtue temperance as she manifests most character strengths in virtue temperance, namely humility and modesty, prudence, and self-regulation.

Transcendence

Virtue transcendence is a virtue that entails one's ability to forge a connection between themselves with their surroundings, such as others, nature, the universe, and even something more significant such as God. This connection then brings primarily positive feelings and emotions to them and others. Nina is said to possess virtue transcendence as she manifests all of the character strengths of the said virtue: appreciation of beauty and excellence, gratitude, hope, humour, and spirituality.

Character Strength of Kaz Brekker

Virtue Wisdom and Knowledge Creativity

Data Kaz Brekker

"Let's not speak of violence."

"I won't argue ethics with a stripling from the Barrel."

Kaz didn't really expect him to. He was just stalling for time as he tested the tightness of the cuffs around his wrists. (Six of Crows, 2015: 42)

While Kaz is tied up and guarded by Van Eck's bodyguard, he realizes sudden movement will most likely result in his death. Therefore, Kaz tries to engage in a conversation with him to stall for time. So that he can release his cuffs secretly and escape from the mansion. According to description of creativity, the act that Kaz do by stalling the time as he knows that he cannot escape in a regular manner (cutting the

cuffs directly and run away) is a proof of Kaz showing his character strength, creativity.

Curiosity

Data Kaz Brekker

Kaz didn't care who was responsible; the murder fascinated him because he couldn't figure out how it had been accomplished. (Six of Crows, 2015: 42)

While everyone else focuses on seeking the murderer of the ambassador. Kaz is genuinely amazed by the murder and wants to know how the murderer killed the ambassador. According to description of curiosity, Kaz's desire and interest in learning how the murderer performed their murder exemplifies Kaz's character strength curiosity.

Open-mindedness

Data Kaz Brekker

If even part of what Van Eck said was true, the idea of one of them dosed with jurda parem was a daunting proposition.

So the merchers had tried the drug on a Healer instead. But apparently things hadn't gone according to plan. (Six of Crows, 2015: 42)

Kaz initially does not believe Van Eck's words about the effect of *jurda parem*, a drug that can enhance Grisha's power. But he still believes in the possibility that *jurda parem* exists. According to the description of open-mindedness, Kaz who does not

immediately believe Van Eck's words yet thinks Van Eck might tell the truth (considering the possibility that Van Eck is either telling him the truth or lying to him), exemplifies Kaz's character strength open-mindedness.

Love of Learning

Data Kaz Brekker

There was little to do on the ship but study the layout of the Ice Court, listen to Matthias grumbling, and annoy Wylan, who could always be found laboring over his attempts to reconstruct the possible mechanisms of the ringwall gates. (Six of Crows, 2015: 42)

During their trip to the ice court, many of Kaz's crew spend their time resting or doing their own business. On the other hand, Kaz uses his free time to learn about the ice court's structure and make him familiar with it. According to description of love of learning, Kaz's enthusiasm for learning the ice court prison structure (which is considered a new knowledge for him) exemplifies Kaz's character strength love of learning.

Perspective

Data Kaz Brekker – Example no. 2

“One is theft, and the other is commerce.”

“When a man loses his money, he may have trouble telling them apart.” (Six of Crows, 2015: 41)

Kaz asks Van Eck to tell him the difference between them. Van Ecks tells Kaz that he is commerce and Kaz is a thief. Kaz then tells Van Eck that there is no difference between them if they are in the face of a desperate man. Anyone can be killed no matter how much money or reputation they have. According to the description of perspective, Kaz who gives Van Eck an advice (which is derived from his life experience) about how there is no difference between Kaz and him if they were to face a desperate man exemplifies Kaz's character strength perspective.

Virtue Humanity

Kindness

Data Kaz Brekker – Example no. 4

“How down?” It was a Barrel turn of phrase. *How badly do you want him hurt?*

“Shut eye.” *Knock him out, but don't actually hurt him.* (Six of Crows, 2015: 42)

Kaz and Nina are unable to rescue Mathias from his cell due to the guard. Nina then asks Kaz how she should use her power on guards. Kaz tells Nina to knock him out without hurting him. According to the definition of kindness, Kaz who shows his compassion toward the guard's well-being which resulted in him telling Nina not to hurt them, exemplifies Kaz's character strength kindness.

Social Intelligence

Data Kaz Brekker – Example no. 4

“Thirty million krugs,” Kaz said.

“We said twenty!” sputtered Van Eck.

“You said twenty. It's clear you're desperate.” Kaz glanced back in the direction of the boathouse, where a room full of men simply waited to die. “And now I see why.” (Six of Crows, 2015: 65)

Kaz can tell that the job Van Eck offers him is not easy. He can also tell how desperate he is by looking at how high the reward is. Thus, Kaz tries to use that information to increase his reward. According to the description of social intelligence, Kaz ability to perceive Van Eck's desperation to make him do what Van Eck wants, exemplifies Kaz's character strength social intelligence.

Character Strength of Nina Zenik

Virtue Wisdom and Knowledge Creativity

Data Nina Zenik – Example no. 1

Nina knew that if she simply sealed Inej's skin the way she'd done with Wylan, the girl would just continue to bleed internally, so she'd tried to stop the bleeding from the inside out. (Six of Crows, 2015: 156).

While she is treating Inej's wound, Nina realizes that regular treatment won't stop Inej's bleeding. Hence, she tries to use her grisha power. According to the description of creativity, Nina, who tries to fix Inej's

wound in a unusual manner after she realizes that a normal treatment is likely not going to work, exemplifies Nina's character strength creativity.

Curiosity

Data Nina Zenik

"Couldn't you have just asked him the time or something?" Nina said.

"And where did you get that uniform?" (Six of Crows, 2015: 90)

Kaz reveals that he is wearing a prison guard's uniform under his regular outfit. Nina already expects that Kaz will prepare something to enter the prison safely, but she still gets curious about how and where Kaz got his uniform. According to the description of curiosity, Nina, who asks how Kaz can get his hand on the prison guard's uniform (which is known as something that is hard to do for normal people), exemplifies Nina's character strength curiosity.

Open-mindedness

Data Nina

"But there's no way to know where it's most vulnerable," she replied.

"Unless you have some magical knowledge about which watchtowers and outposts are active. Besides, if we enter from Ravka, we have to contend with Ravkans and Fjerdans." (Six of Crows, 2015: 173)

Nina admits that knowing which most vulnerable side of the Ice Court is challenging. However, Nina believes that it is not completely impossible to do that, especially for someone with sufficient knowledge about the Ice Court. According to the description of open-mindedness, Nina, who considers that pinpointing the vulnerable side of the ice court is possible if they have a sufficient knowledge regarding that matters, exemplifies Nina's character strength open-mindedness.

Love of Learning

"I've never seen firepox up close," Nina said. She was only familiar with illustrations from books they'd used in their anatomy training at the Little Palace. (Six of Crows, 2015: 94)

Kaz tells Nina to make Muzzen look like he has a firepox, some kind of a skin disease originally carried by wolves and dogs. Although Nina has never seen a firepox up close, she admits that she knows it from her study at her place, implying that she learned about various diseases during her training. According to the description of love of learning, Nina, who learns about many diseases during her training to become Grisha, even a disease that she will likely not see for the rest of her life, exemplifies Nina's character strength love of learning.

Perspective

Data Nina Zenik

“We’re going to start looking conspicuous soon,” said Nina. “This isn’t the kind of place people like to linger.”

“Maybe they don’t have anyone to take to jail,” suggested Wylan.

“There’s always someone to take to jail,” (Six of Crows, 2015: 247)

Nina suggests her team leave the place early because the bar they are at is filled with suspicious and bad-looking people. Considering how infamous they are, Nina thinks that a problem bounds to happen when they are roaming around in such places. According to the description of perspective, Nina, who advises her team to avoid being around a dangerous place because it will likely cause a crime-related problem to them, exemplifies Nina's character strength perspective.

Virtue Humanity

Love

Data Nina Zenik

She knew that Kaz and the others were watching and that she was making an idiot of herself, but after so long he was finally here, in front of her, and so very broken. “Matthias,” she repeated.

Nina?” His voice was raw but as lovely as she remembered.

“Oh, Saints, Matthias,” she whispered. “Please wake up.” (Six of Crows, 2015: 95)

When she first meets with Mathias after a long time, she is surprised by seeing Mathias in a hurt state. She then shows how she cares about him when trying to wake him up. According to the description of love, Nina's affection toward Mathias (which is shown by how she talks to him) and how she deeply cares about him as she tries to wake him up, exemplifies Nina's character strength love.

Kindness

Data Nina Zenik – Example no. 2

“This is disgusting.” Kaz shrugged.

“Only disgusting thing about it is that I didn’t think of it first.”

“These men aren’t slaves, Kaz. They’re prisoners.” (Six of Crows, 2015: 85)

Nina and Kaz watch over people fighting inside the arena. Kaz tells her that if they win, they will be granted freedom. Nina, who hears that, feels sick and tells Kaz they are not a slave but a prisoner. According to the description of kindness, Nina's act of showing her compassion toward the prisoners who fight inside the arena, and telling Kaz that prisoners are not slaves exemplify Nina's character strength kindness.

Social Intelligence

Data Nina Zenik

Now he looked like what he truly was: a killer. His bare torso seemed hewn from steel, and though she knew it wasn't possible, he seemed bigger, as if the very structure of his body had changed. (Six of Crows, 2015: 87)

Nina meets with Mathias after a long time, and just from the very first sight, she can tell that Mathias is apparently more dangerous and stronger than his former self. According to the description of social intelligence, Nina's ability to tell that Mathias is stronger and more dangerous just by looking from his appearance (meaning she needs to handle him a little more careful from she used to handle him), exemplifies Nina's character strength social intelligence.

Comparison of Kaz and Nina's Virtues and Character Strengths

The novel *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo is a novel that features six characters, and each of them is distinct from one the others, including the character Kaz Brekker and Nina Zenik. Most people will see characters in literature solely based on their role, such as one is a protagonist, and another is an antagonist. However, there is a more in-depth way to differentiate between two characters, for instance, by looking at their virtues and character strengths. According to the data analysis, it is clear that both Kaz and Nina possess the same number of virtues and character strengths according to Peterson and

Seligman's theory, which are six virtues and twenty-one-character strengths.

Kaz Brekker is a character that has wisdom and knowledge as his primary virtue and humanity as his weakest virtue. It means that Kaz is the type of character that will primarily use his knowledge to solve his problem, and he appears to be less kind than other characters because of his lack of virtue of humanity. However, Kaz can still show his kindness, despite being limited to his closest person and only to a certain degree. Kaz appears to possess character strengths leadership the most compared to his other character strengths, making him a seemingly reliable and responsible leader.

Nina Zenik is a character that has humanity as her main virtue. Unlike Kaz, who only shows his kindness to his closest person, generally his crew. Nina is seen to show her kindness to basically anyone ranging from her friend, her clients, and even Mathias, her former enemy. The least strong virtue of Nina is justice, which means that Nina is not likely a character that can act as a leader or act in a fair manner, as it is seen that Nina is a former Ravkan soldier. In addition, she will do anything for his people, as portrayed by her betraying Mathias and Kaz. Nina appears to possess kindness as her dominant character strength. In accordance with what the researchers have stated, showing her kindness to anyone, helping to patch up the wound of others, and being caring are what Nina typically does.

The previous study by Laksmi (2021) focused on revealing moral values in Ella's character in Cinderella movies which is quite familiar to this research as both researches are a moral-related study. However, the researchers believe that the study by Laksmi is too general which motivates researchers to use different and more specific theory. In addition, Ella's character from Cinderella movie is a more well-known character. She seems to be quite simplistic in nature and generally kind which is known as a *goody two-shoes character* (a character that is only kind, honest, and completely unable to perform any kind of wrongful act). This research, however, takes two characters with completely different nature and behaviour with Nina as a generally kind (but still considered more realistic compared to Ella's character) and Kaz as a generally bad, and has Gray morality. The finding of this research proven that the similar study can be improved to make it specific and meaningful. This finding of research is also proven that even a generally evil characters can possess virtues that good characters usually possess.

CONCLUSION

Derived from the result of the research, the researchers conclude that the characters Kaz Brekker and Nina Zenik from the novel entitled *Six of Crows*, possess all the virtues and twenty-one-character strengths out of twenty-four-character strengths mentioned by Peterson and Seligman in their theory of

virtue ethic and character strengths. And contrary to the fact that they both similarly possess twenty-one-character strengths, their character strengths are slightly different. The conclusion will be further explained in the following parts below.

According to the 285 data collected, the researchers found 161 data that signify Kaz's virtues and character strengths, and the rest 124 data signify Nina's virtues and character strengths. *Kaz Brekker's virtues are wisdom and knowledge with a total of 38 data (24%), virtue courage with 33 data (20%), virtue humanity with 11 data (7%), virtue justice with 25 data (16%), virtue temperance with 36 data (22%), and virtue transcendence with 18 data (11%). Meanwhile, Nina Zenik's virtues are wisdom and knowledge with a total of 27 data (22%), virtue courage with 20 data (16%), virtue humanity with 39 data (31%), virtue justice with 6 data (5%), virtue temperance with 15 data (12%), and virtue transcendence with 17 data (14%).*

The researchers concluded that from 161 data found, the character Kaz Brekker possesses twenty-one-character strengths. *Kaz's character strengths are creativity with 4 data, curiosity with 9 data, open-mindedness with 12 data, love of learning with 3 data, perspective with 10 data, bravery with 11 data, persistence with 9 data, integrity with 4 data, vitality with 9 data, kindness with 6 data, social intelligence with 5 data, fairness with 4 data, leadership with 21 data, forgiveness and mercy with 5 data, humility*

and modesty with 4 data, prudence with 15 data, self-regulation with 12 data, appreciation of beauty and excellence with 9 data, hope with 4 data, humor with 3 data, and spirituality with 2 data. On the other hand, from 124 data found, the researchers found that the character Nina Zenik possesses twenty-one-character strengths. *Nina Zenik character strengths are creativity with 1 data, curiosity with 12 data, open-mindedness with 6 data, love of learning with 6 data, perspective with 2 data, bravery with 6 data, persistence with 3 data, integrity with 7 data, vitality with 4 data, love with 3 data, kindness with 33 data, social intelligence with 3 data, citizenship with 6 data, prudence with 1 data, self-regulation with 6 data, appreciation of beauty and excellence with 2 data, gratitude with 4 data, hope with 5 data, humor with 5 data, and spirituality with 1 data.*

From this point, it is revealed that Kaz and Nina possess the same number of virtues and character strengths, albeit with some differences. First of all, Kaz and Nina have a difference in their virtues. Kaz has wisdom and knowledge as his most dominant virtue and humanity as his weakest virtue. In contrast, Nina has humanity as her strongest virtue and justice as her weakest virtue. Kaz and Nina also differ in their strongest and weakest character strengths and what character strengths they lack. Kaz's strongest character strength is leadership, while his weakest is spirituality. Conversely, Nina has kindness as her strongest character strength

and creativity, prudence, and spirituality as her weakest. Kaz does not possess the character strengths love, citizenship, and gratitude. Compared to Kaz, Nina does not possess the character strengths of fairness, leadership, forgiveness, and mercy.

With the completion of this research, the researchers prove that moral study in literary work is highly possible, which in this case, is a virtue and character strength in novel characters. But the study of virtue and character strength is not exclusively used to analyse novel characters only. Thus, the researchers suggest that another researcher can try to explore a less fictional character, such as a person in a biography, autobiography or even memoir. The study of virtue and character strengths can also be applied in social research.

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