

MORAL VALUES OF CLAY JENSEN IN “13 REASONS WHY” NOVEL BY JAY ASHER

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ABSTRACT

The research attempts to find out the characteristics of moral value based on one of the main characters. This research used descriptive qualitative method. The writer also used other information which related to the research problems. The writer used Bertens moral values theory that stated four characteristics such as responsibility, pure heart, obligation and formality to find out the moral values in novel “13 Reasons Why.” After analyzing the data, the writer found some types of moral values such as, responsibility, pure heart, obligation, and formality.

Keywords: Moral Values, Main character, 13 Reasons Why, Clay Jensen

INTRODUCTION

Moral value is something valuable that related with the attitude, behavior and manners. According to Bertens (2000: 142), loyalty is moral value, but it must be applied with other, humanity value for general, for example, love of husband and wife. A key to understanding morality is to be specific about definition of good (or bad) and right (or wrong). Moral values are the standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's behavior and choices. Individual's morals may derive from society and government, religion, or self. So, based on the theories above the writer concludes that moral value is happening in every social construct in humanity.

Character is a figure that appeared in drama and novel. In order to know characterizations a character, we can use character analysis. Character analysis can be the qualitative data or quantitative data. The writer was interested in 13 Reasons Why which is a novel written by Jay Asher, because one of main character is named Clay Jensen, a boy who got a recording tape from his friend, Hannah Baker who committed suicide after suffering a series of demoralizing circumstances brought on by select individuals at her school. The reason

why the writer chooses moral value is because most of people do not know that every action related to the moral value which is a manner and the idea of what is right or wrong that follow right and accepted standards of behavior in their own good characters.

Based on the explanation above, so the writer is interested in analyzing the moral value in this novel, particularly from the main character named Clay Jensen. The reason why is because nowadays, bullying case is becoming trends in the society and school life, so the writer wants to show the effect of bullying. He is the one who wanted to reveal the truth behind the story of his friend's bizarre death and becoming more curious after Hannah Baker's sudden death after Hannah Baker sent him a recording tape. Another reason is because there was not any research which talks about moral values from *13 Reasons Why* novel.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses the qualitative approach. Qualitative approach research is type of research for understanding the social or human issues from their lived experiences, behavior, emotions, social

movements, not by statistical procedures. Qualitative is a way of knowing in which a writer gathers, organizes, and interprets information obtained from human using his or her eyes and ears as filters. Strauss and Corbin (1998:11) stated that qualitative research is types of research that produces findings not arrived at by statistical procedures or others.

The design used in the research is descriptive. Descriptive method describes phenomena about the information of current status. This statement is agreeable with Parse's (2001) explanation about a phenomenon to find out someone's life. Descriptive method is also used to observe what kind of moral value that appeared on the character Clay Jensen in "13 Reason Why" novel.

Source of Data

The source data is the novel by Jay Asher entitled "13 Reasons Why". "13 Reasons Why" is an American novel that released in October 2007. "13 Reasons Why" is a novel about a young high school student who got bullied and lead up to her suicide. She told the thirteen reasons why in an audio diary which is sent to a friend two weeks after her death.

The story began with a young high school student named Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his patch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah's voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of the reasons why and he will find out the reason, if he listens to the tape. After Clay listens to the tape, he discovers something that changes his life forever.

Technique of Collecting Data

Data collection method used in this research is observation. Observation in data

collection method is a systematic way by reading or observing someone in their natural behavior.

The writer uses the observation method because the writer only observes the type of moral values that implied in the character Clay Jensen in a novel "13 Reasons Why" through dialogues. The writer as a complete observer, because there is no straight interaction between the character and the writer on this research.

There are some steps to find out the moral value that appears in Clay Jensen on "13 Reasons Why" novel:

- a. Reading the text in the "13 Reasons Why" novel.
- b. Re-reading the text in the "13 Reasons Why" novel and paying attention to every sentences to find out the moral values.
- c. Identifying text which contains moral values related to the character of Clay Jensen.
- d. Classifying the data from "13 Reasons Why" novel based on the theory that the writer use.

Technique of Analyzing Data

Data analysis procedure that the writer should do are:

- a. Classifying the items to be analyzed whether there are in the text or not. Moreover, the writer also diminishes data that is not relevant to the purpose of the research.
- b. Understanding the data naturally by relying on the appropriate theory.
- c. Giving a conclusion based on the theory and the data that the writer got from the "13 Reasons Why" novel.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of Moral Values

Based on Bertens (2000) theory, there are 4 characteristics of moral value. The writer identified 44 data from the dialogue that show about the characteristics of moral value in *13 Reasons Why*. The 4 characteristics of moral value as follows:

Responsibility

Moral value is related with human personality, but beside moral value we also automatically can say other values. Moral value makes people wrong or not, because he/she has responsibility. Moral value just can be real in action wholly if it became responsibility of the involved person. (Bertens, 2000).

1. I called the police, using my phone, and told the man I would continue trying to reach his wife. But he told me I needed to tell her. She needed to know that he was okay. (p.42-43)

It is the moment when Clay Jensen was walking down the street then evidence a car crash while the man was seeking a help for someone to call his wife. So, Clay Jensen has the responsibility to try to call the man's wife. "**I would continue trying to reach his wife**" means that Clay Jensen intended to call the man's wife to report that her husband got car crashed in that night. Clay Jensen called the man's wife after he called the police to report the car crashed.

2. ...because I was there for you. We were talking. You could have said anything. I would have listened to absolutely anything.(p. 212)

Clay Jensen takes the responsibility to listen the story of his friend named Hannah Baker who committed suicide. Because Hannah Baker was trying to end up her life by committing a suicide. "**You could have said anything. I would have listened to absolutely anything.**" means that Clay Jensen stated that he would listen to every single story from Hannah Baker.

Pure Heart

All values need to make it real. Because it has persuasive power, it should be practice. For example, aesthetic value, it

should be practiced, play music composition or others. After that the result of it, painting want to be showed, and music want to be listened. To make moral value to be real, it can be appealed from pure heart. One of special characteristics of moral values is this value will effect voice of pure heart to accuse us if oppose moral value and praise us if make moral value. (Bertens, 2000)

1. I caught Alex to keep him from falling. I asked if he was okay, but he just ignored me... (p. 46)

When Clay's friend named Alex Standall was being shoved by someone into him then he was trying to catch him and ask him whether he was okay or not. Alex Standall is one of Hannah Baker's best friend in school. "**I caught Alex to keep from falling. I asked if he was okay.**" means that Clay Jensen is showing his respectful to Alex Standall by catch Alex Standall so that Alex Standall would not fall. Also, Clay Jensen is showing his kindheartedness by asking Alex Standall about his condition.

2. I'm just doing what she asked. That's not obsession. It's respect. I'm living out her last requests. (p. 97)

It is the time when Hannah Baker told Clay Jensen to searching for Tyler's house. Clay was doing that thing because Hannah Baker was one of his friends and Clay was trying to help her. "**I'm just doing what she asked. That's not obsession. It's respect.**" means that Clay Jensen is willing to find the truth of what Hannah said about Tyler that he was a stalker and took a picture of Hannah Baker. Clay Jensen is showing his respectful to Hannah Baker for doing that.

Obligation

Moral value obligates us absolutely and it can't be compromised. Other values need to be real and admitted, for example, aesthetic value. Educative and cultural

person will admit and enjoying aesthetic value. (Bertens, 2000)

1. I should've hit him with the rock when I had the chance. (p. 131)

Clay Jensen became furious when he found out which the next tape about someone named Marcus Cooley. Marcus Cooley had interest with Hannah Baker and made a bet to get her. When Clay Jensen listened what Hannah Baker said, he became angry. "**I should've hit him with the rock when I had the chance.**" means that Clay Jensen wanted to hit Marcus Cooley with the rock after hearing the truth about what Marcus just did to Hannah.

2. I've never hit anything or anyone before, and already, just tonight, I've wanted to hit Marcus with that rock. (p. 142)

Clay Jensen wanted to hit Marcus because he was angry of what Marcus did to Hannah Baker. Marcus Cooley is the head of student board in the school and he is one of Hannah Baker's secret admirers at the school. "**I've wanted to hit Marcus with that rock.**" means that Clay Jensen was really angry after hearing the Marcus' part on the tape and found out what he just actually did to Hannah Baker in the café on that night.

3. Later on Angela and I made out on her porch. I just couldn't get enough of those lips. (p. 53)

This is when Clay Jensen visited one of his friend's house and ended up playing spin-the-bottle. When the bottle's spin landed on Angela and Clay Jensen, then he pressed Angela's lips slowly. Clay Jensen was being honest because he was being attracted by Angela's lips. "**I just couldn't get enough of those lips.**" means that Angela's lip is attracted and Clay Jensen was being honest after he tasted Angela's lips.

Formality

Moral value is not stand-alone without other value. Although moral value is top value that we must appreciate, but it is not at the top without other values. Moral value does not separate with other value. Moral values are nothing without other value. It is form of formality. (Bertens, 2000: 143-147).

1. I hate this. I don't want to find out how everyone fits together anymore. (p. 143)

Clay Jensen did not want involve in any cases about Hannah Baker, because he thought that it was confusing to know the same circle again and again. "**I don't want to find out how everyone fits together anymore.**" means that Clay Jensen did not want to find out about what happened with others after he listened to several recording tape of Hannah Baker.

2. I squeeze my eyes tight, trying hard to remember that day as clearly as possible. (p. 57)

Clay Jensen tried to remember the day when Hannah Baker was absence from the class after hearing the rumors about herself. "**I squeeze my eyes tight, trying hard to remember that day as clearly as possible.**" means that Clay Jensen persevere to remember what Hannah Baker did and where he was when the rumor about Hannah Baker was spreading out into the entire of school.

3. Because my name does not belong with theirs. I should not be on this list I'm sure of it. I did nothing wrong! (p. 41)

Clay Jensen was not really close with those people whom Hannah Baker mentioned on the list. Clay Jensen believed that he did a good thing when Hannah Baker was still alive. "**I should not be on this list, I'm sure of it**" means that Clay

Jensen is being so confident about what he did when he was being Hannah's friend, so Clay Jensen thought that his name should not be on the list in the Hannah's suicidal recording tape.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

"*13 Reasons Why*" is an American psychological novel that released in October 2007. The author of this novel is Jay Asher. This novel tells the reader about a difficult life from a high school student named Hannah Baker because of being bullied by her friends from school.

From the analysis data, the writer found 44 data about characteristics of moral values that implied in "*13 Reasons Why*" through Clay Jensen's point of view. Here are the result of the analysis such as, responsibilities; there are 6 data, pure heart; there are 7 data, obligation; there are 13 data, and formality; there are 18 data.

Suggestion

The writer found that there are still many things to discuss based on the topics. However, this research is important to do because the writer wants the reader know about moral value and how to imply in the society. Therefore, the writer suggests for other researchers or readers to be more careful for choosing their data, because it will decide whether the data will be meaningful for them or not. It would be better if the data is something that attracts the writer interests. The writer suggests for the next researcher to improve their research with different source data, theory and problem of study.

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