



**CHANGE OF STUDENTS CHARACTERS PERSONALITY IN
“FREEDOM WRITERS” MOVIE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF
CHARACTER EDUCATION.**

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze changes in student personality, in the freedom writers movie on its implementation to character education in accordance with the values mentioned in Indonesian 2013 Curriculum (K-13). The research method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method, namely by describing the results of facts or data obtained from data sources with refers to the theory of character education by Lickona (1991), supported by the theory Maslow's Humanistic Personality. The results of data analysis show that the student's personality has changed. These changes are influenced by several factors, namely environmental conditions and society, such as the fulfillment of love and acceptance from others. In Early in the film, it is discovered that Eva is a tough and aggressive woman who often preferred lying to telling the truth and became an overall student with respect and understanding. But throughout the story, he morphs became a Students who is respectful and understanding as a whole. There is some of the character education values contained in Freedom writers as follows mentioned in the 2013 curriculum as follows: honest, caring and confident interact with family, friends, and teachers, teamwork, hard work, democratic, curiosity, appreciating achievement, friendship and caring. for social and peace was found. However, some values of character education that is religious, tolerance, discipline, creative, responsible, interest in reading, nationalism, patriotism and concern for the environment are not found.

Keywords: *Personality, Freedom Writers, Character Education, 2013 Indonesian Curriculum.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is one of imaginative work that features a good value, contains of interesting events with various conflicts that are appeared. In the other side, the tendency of literary works is on the author's concept in twiddling with the psychology or emotions of reader by presenting a surprising in it.

Greil Marcus and Werner Sollor (2009) states that literary meaning is basically not only what is written but what is expressed, spoken, and what is created, in whatever form. And Also, as long as one work is a form of someone's creativity and it is valued as a work of art, it may be claimed as literary work (Nuriadi, 2016: 8).

Adi (2008, 2011) said that any creative literary work, including films, serves as an expression of people's awareness and therefore, as product of culture (Nuriadi 2016: 8). With regard to this matter, Adi (2011:4) once viewed that work of visual art, especially film to become a new genre in literature so called "popular fiction" (in Nuriadi 2016: 8).

Since movie is popular fiction that contains the creativity from every aspect such as characters, dialogues, the scenes, the backgrounds and etc. Castle (2007) says that literature

should be viewed as a creative work...furthermore, due to being creative, the form of literary works are then not only covering those fictional, imaginative, beautiful, and written works, but more than those forms. (Nuriadi, 2016: 8).

In this thesis the writer using one of the literary work that is a movie. in Hornby (2006: 950) movie is a collection of moving images recorded with sound that tell a story. To make a movie it needs to be recorded by a camera and through some editing part until it can be release in a public. Due to the advance of technology development, movie can be watched anywhere, not only through television or cinema but we can access movie with our mobile phone.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2015: 29) there are some elements that build up a story like intrinsic and extrinsic element, one among the intrinsic elements is character because this thesis focus on personality changing of the students. Character is one thing that plays a very important element in a literary work. In literary works, characters are created by the author to convey ideas, thoughts and views about something that is happening in the world. Character has the facility to dominate the entire story because it builds up the story. There are events that experienced by the characters within the story. These event makes the personality of the students is change.

Human as a social being have a various personality as each individual characteristics. Personality can be form since early by educating and teaching a value to children. Personality also can be form by the effect of environment where the child live. As the time goes on, personality can change in apart or a whole.

In school, teacher plays important job in shaping the personality of students. How teacher treat the students, teach the students and also teacher gesture have an impact to students personality. Like the saying "if we want to be respected we must respect". In education, "when you want to form students with personality, educators must have personality".

In order to maintain a good student personality and change the personality of students who are not good, the Indonesian Ministry of Education made the 2013 curriculum or abbreviated as K-13. Main focus of the curriculum 13 is character education. It can be seen clearly on the main competence that contain religious attitudes and social attitudes in all subjects for students.

"All the content of the lesson leads to a good religious attitude and social attitude. These attitudes do not just turn religiosity and social into knowledge, "said the Director of Secondary Education Teacher Development at the Ministry of Cultural Education, Anas M. Adam. He also added that religious and social attitudes are not as discursive knowledge but become practical knowledge and the role of the teacher in determining the success of national character education in schools is very important.

Character education is a system of instilling personality values in families and schools which includes aspects of knowledge, awareness or will and action to realize the values, towards God, self, fellow human beings and the surrounding environment.

Character education as a whole is not only aimed at creating the younger generation into smart and good individuals, but also making them people who take good actions for changes in their own lives, which in their time will contribute to changes in the social structure of society to be humane and fair.

Based on the description above, the researcher will conduct research on a film entitled *Freedom Writers* by Richard Lagravanese. Researcher took this study to be research because the *Freedom Writers* movie is very interesting which is taken from a true story. The success of this movie in teaching character education, it moved the researcher to find out how personal change in the movie could be taken and implemented by students, of course related to applicable curriculum in Indonesia (K-13).

This movie tells the story of students of Erin Gruwell and her in Long Beach at Willson High School, America. It tells how she unite the differences between the students which was originally divided into racial groups, Ranging from black, Hispanic, to Asian races. They are problem children who are often exposed to violence, drugs, gang members and children from broken home families. It also tells how she change the students personality. change the perspective of these students about education and about live. By teaching something interesting to them and giving them opportunity to invite informant related to one of the events that they interested at. Regarding this, the title of the research is *Change of Students Characters Personality in "Freedom Writers" Movie Towards Implementation of Character Education*

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In conducting the research, the researcher must be considers in the concepts of research design. Those concepts should he appropriate with the object that is concerned about. In this research, the writer will research *Freedom Writers* movie. The writer will use qualitative method in analyzing the movie. According to Saebani, (2008: 2-4) Qualitative research was a methode that did not use statistical and numeral formulas in determining decisions and inferences, but used the logic and theoretical reasoning with the reality that has been captured without any attempt to generalize. This research is qualitative research because the form of data are words, sentences and text and not in statistical or numerical form. Scenes, literary works, and text are the sources of the data in literature, and words, sentences, and text are the formal data analyzed.(Ratna, 2008:46-47).

In this study, two sources will be used to obtain the data. The primary data are Dialogues, scripts, and all pictures of film entitled *Freedom Writers* movie will be primary data of this research and secondary data are Any books and website that related to the film, for instance, the review of the film on the internet, analysis of the film on the internet, and any books that are related to the film will be the secondary data of this research..

The writer will use documentation method to collecting data. Arikunto (2006: 231) stated that documentary research is gathering the information about factor or things such as written data like notes, books, paper, magazine, agenda and etc. This method attempts to identify sources of information in the form of documents related to research. It is designed to directly extract data from books or other documents such as, e-journal, e- articles, e-books, books, websites, and previous study studies as the additional references. Besides, documenting method is the main method, where the activities related to documenting data gathering technique, watching and finally processing the source of the research. However, if the writer does not find the applicable theories from books and film, the writer will use internet sources to find supportive theories and to find a review about *Freedom Writers*

movies that can be related to the subject matter being analyze. Thus, The method is Note Taking, Recording, Paraphrasing

The writer will employ the descriptive method for data analysis to give brief description about personality change which implement the character education. According to Ratna, (2012: 53), The goal of descriptive analysis is to describe the facts, which are then analyzed, described, and explained. The following steps will be used to analyze the data in this study: 1. Choosing the related scenes. 2. Quoting some dialogues or statements from the scene, the questions will be explained in the discussion of the analysis. 3. Explaining personality and personality change of students. 4. Describing the personality change in implication to character education. 5. Elaborating the personality change in implication to character education. 6. Concluding the discusion result

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the personality changes of students in the Freedom Writers movie based on Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, it was found that Eva a 14 year old latino Student has personality changed. She was a tough and aggressive woman who often preferred lying to telling the truth and became an overall student with respect and understanding. Eva had an underdeveloped conscience and needed growth. She gradually improved as the movie went on, becoming a better person as a whole, with numerous choices made to get her to have a fully developed conscience by the end of the movie. Here, this study would like to present and discuss several things related to the personality change of Eva.

Based on the Lickona's theory, there were 8 values from the K-13 values mentioned i.e. honest, friendly, care and being confident to interact with families, friends, and teacher, teamwork, hardwork, democratics, respect for achievement, care for social and peace of love were found from Eva throughout Freedom Writers. However, the another moral values, such as religious, curiosity, tolerance, reading interest, discipline, creative, responsibility, nationalism, patriotism, and environmental care were not found.

1. The Change of Students Personality

1) Physiological Needs

Eva is a 14 year old strong and sensitive Latina girl. She can support and fulfill his daily physiological needs. Eva physiological need which refers to the needs such as: food, water, oxygen, and sleep was already fulfilled. The image below will show the fulfilment of Eva physiological needs for food and water



Image 1

Image 2

The image above shows a scene of eva going to kitchen to get a food and drink in refrigerator

Based on the image above, it is known that Eva can easily get any food. Not only his needs for the staple food, but also any snacks she wants. To get it, Eva only needs to go to kitchen and take the food she want from food shelf on image 1 and refrigerator on image 2.

2) Safety Needs

At the beginning of the movie shown a riot, pillaging, gang violance, racial tension and war.

EVA: In Long Beach, it all comes down to what you look like. If you're Latino or Asian or black, you could get blasted any time you walk out your door. We fight each other for territory. We kill each other over race, pride and respect. We fight for what is ours. They think they're winning by jumping me now, but soon they're all going down. War has been declared.



Image 3

Image 4

The image above shows a scene of Eva and her friend from the Latin race was walking then the Asian race came over used a car and then chased Eva and her friends. Friend Eva took a gun out of her pocket, she started shooting people of the Asian race who also have guns, they shooting each other. Eva ran to dodge, but she encounters a gang of black races and Eva gets beat up by them.

The data above shows Eva self-conscious and fear of other gangs and racial member. The fact that other gangs and racial member fight each other for territory make her feel uneasy and unsafe. However, even though she has full uneasy and unsafe feeling, she has not had desire to surrender, he always tried to be optimistic to deal with it. She neglect her fear. As time goes by, Eva is finally able to adapt and fulfill his safety needs. It can be seen from the data below.

EVA: Shit! They can't do that! They don't have the right! Ms. G. this is our kick-it spot. Everybody's cool with everybody. Everybody knows everybody. This is the only place where we really get to be ourselves. There's no place like this out there for us.

She feels comfortable enough with herself and her friend it can be proved by Eva say “There's no place like this out there for us”.

3) Belongingness and Love Needs

There is unity in the need for love and belonging. The satisfaction of feeling of love will be caused of the feeling of belongingness. From the beginning of the story, The love that Eva needs had not been fulfilled. That can be seen from the data below



Image 5

The picture above tells that the police came to Eva's house and her father was arrested though innocent. Since then Eva has taken revenge by becoming a gang member.

EVA: They took my father for retaliation. He was innocent, but they took him because he was respected by my people. They called my people a gang because we fight for our America.

Eva's father was arrested that make Eva become a gang member to revenge for her father. The love that Eva needs had been fulfilled from his entire Class member. That can be seen from the data below

EVA: Shit! They can't do that! They don't have the right! Ms. G. this is our kick-it spot. Everybody's cool with everybody. Everybody knows everybody. This is the only place where we really get to be ourselves. There's no place like this out there for us.

Lately, all that has slowly changed. As time goes on, the other Students in the school start to get sick of the war, and they start to accept her as a part of them. “Everybody's cool with everybody. Everybody knows everybody. This is the only place where we really get to be ourselves”

4) Esteem Needs

At the beginning of the story, it can be seen that Eva has not been fulfill his esteem yet, since she did not get and give respect to other. It can be proved in data below.

Eva : You don't know nothing! You don't know the pain we feel. You don't know what we got to do. You got no respect for how we living. You got us in here, teaching us this grammar shit, and then we got to go out there again. And

what are you telling me about that, huh? What are you doing in here that makes a goddamn difference to my life?

As time goes on, though, their classmates start to get sick of the war and racism. They start respect each other. Eva was happy with what she has achieved, especially with what she has been through within his friends so far. That is how she fulfill her esteem need. It can be see from data below.

MARCUS: No! That don't fly, Ma!

ERIN: Look, first of all. I'm not anyone's mother in here, okay?

ANDRE: No, it doesn't mean mother.

EVA: It's a sign of respect for you.

5) Self-Actualization Needs

From the very beginning of Freedom Writers, it was known that Eva has not fully accepted his-own-self as he is. This clearly shows that Eva has not fully reached his fulfillment of self-actualization. Since it was known that self-actualization is the desire of the individual to be a person based on his desires and potential.

EVA: In America, a girl can be crowned a princess for her beauty and her grace. But an Aztec princess is chosen for her blood ...to fight for her people, as Papi and his father fought against those who say we are less than they are, who say we are not equal in beauty and in blessings.

From the data above, Eva has not respect herself and able to accept his fate with all deficiencies and weaknesses yet. After Ms. Gruwell gave Eva the opportunity to visit the Holocaust Museum, Eva's fully developed conscience became apparent. The museum was a great place for Eva and her classmates to bond because it had displays about civil rights and current violations of human rights. Eva came to the realization that racial rivalry should not prevent them from having relationships and connections after meeting Jewish Holocaust survivors and learning about their experiences . She start to accept others her fate, stopped making fun or ignoring them, and developed into an overall student with respect and understanding after this realization.

2. Implication Towards Character Education

The character education value in the Freedom Writers movie are shown in many scenes, dialogues between characters, and the responses of the characters in responding to something. As a film, of course, there is dialogue like in direct conversation in general, so it's easier to watch over and over again.

As the focus of this research is the personality change of students in freedom writers movie in accordance with character education of K-13 based on the character education theory revealed by Thomas Lickona. According to Lickona as cited in Mawardi (2014:272), There are some important personality traits that must be instilled in students, as follows along with the analysis of students personality change throughtout Freedom writes movie:

1) Honesty

From the image below it can be seen that Eva testified that the shooting was carried out by her own friend. Even though it was her friend, Eva

chose to be honest because Erin had taught that honesty is very important for everyone.



Image 6

The image is Eva's testimony in court.

2) Compassion

Compassion is often thought of as sensitivity, the emotional side of suffering. Compassion motivates people to do whatever it takes to relieve the physical, mental, or emotional pain of others or themselves. Eva's compassion to her father can be seen on the image below. Eva visits her father who is in prison and brought him a book about gangs for his father to read.



Image 7

The image is Eva visits her father who is in prison and brought him a book about gangs for his father to read.

3) Courage

Courage is choosing the right thing and following your conscience in the face of adversity, instead of the crowd. Eva proved it in the court by telling the truth. It takes courage to tell the truth.



Image 8

The image is Eva's courage to tell the truth in court.

4) Kindness

Kindness is going out of your way to do something nice for someone. Eva's kindness is shown when she tells the truth in court which helps innocent people not to be punished for crimes that she didn't commit.



Image 9

The image is Eva's kindness by telling the truth in the court that helps innocent people not to be punished for crimes that she didn't commit.

5) Self-control

Self-control is the cognitive process necessary to regulate human behavior and respond appropriately. Eva manages to control herself which she usually doesn't when things don't go the way she wants it can be proved by image below.



Image 10

The image show Eva being able to control herself when Mrs. Gruwel can't teach anymore by not getting angry and just sighing

6) Cooperation

The image is a donation event to collect money for calling Miep Gies (Holocaust victim) they are all very enthusiastic and working together and cooperation to raise funds.



Image 11

The image is a donation event made to raise money for calling Miep Gies, they are all very enthusiastic and working together and cooperation to raise funds

7) Hardwork

In the screening of the film, values are found that can be taken and applied to the message. When the figures want to bring witnesses from the holocaust. The figures try to find funds to bring in these witnesses by holding bazaars or festivals so that the results of these efforts can be used to bring in historical witnesses. In addition to holding a festival, the student leaders sacrificed what they had to meet the target to bring these witnesses. It shows their hardwork to achieve their goal.



Image 12

The image is students holding bazaars and festival to find funds to bring witnesses from the holocaust.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis throughout the movie Using Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to Analyze Student Personality through physiological need, esteem need, safety need, love and belongingness need, self-actualization need, the personality of Eva found are She was a tough and aggressive woman who often preferred lying to telling the truth. The personality change became an overall respectful and understanding student. Then personality change happened in safety need, esteem need, love and belongingness, and in self-actualization need and no change found in physiological needs, the personality of Eva that cause by those things are made Eva became respectful and understanding student.

There were some of personalities can be implemented by Indonesian students in accordance with character education's pillar in the applicable curriculum, K-13: Honest, Compassion, Courage, Kindness, Self-control, Cooperation and Hard Work.

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