

## MORAL VALUES AS SEEN IN *THE NOTEBOOK* NOVEL BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

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### Abstract

In this thesis, the writer discusses a novel by , entitled *The Notebook*. It is aimed to identify the moral values in narration in this novel. This thesis focuses on the whole of the story and characters. The data obtained through exploring some dialogue, narrations, and events in the novel are correlated with the factors of the moral values.

Structural approach is used to identify the problem. The theory applied by the writer in this research is the scheme of actantial structure and moral values. The writer implemented the scheme of actantial model to know the actants, setting, plot, and events. This idea is based on the theory of A.J Greimas. Moral values according to Hornby contains eleven kinds of moral values, there are bravery, humbleness, honesty, steadfastness, sympathetic to others, cooperativeness, thankfulness, kind-hearted, trustworthiness, sincerity, and love and affection.

As the result, the writer found the moral values can be found in all the genre of the story. Moral values not only can be found in the motivational story but also in the romantic story like in *The Notebook* novel. Moral values did not have standardization to judge, but it is based on the perspective of the people viewed the situation that happens.

**Key words:** The Notebook novel, actantial structure, moral value.

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### INTRODUCTION

Human is a social beings, it means human needs the otherhuman in their lives (Wantoro et al., 2021). Human cannot live alone because social beings cannot live without other people. However, many people said they can live without other people, but essentially human needs other human to their live.(Putri & Ghazali, 2021),(Adiyanto & Febrianto, 2020),(Febrian & Vinahapsari, 2020) Therefore human must have good behavior and attitudes to make good relationship to other people. Every people must have good relationship to other people to make easy for their communication.

Every people must have good communication to each other. Every people must have good moral, good attitude, and good behavior to make the society has good judgments to us. Human has their own mind and think, it means every human can have different opinion even though with same object, but different with in environment, the society has same thinking about judging person. For example when people have no manner to older person, the society will judge that person has a bad moral.(Kementerian Pertanian RI, 2019)

Moral is a word that derives from Latin “mos” (Moris) means custom, habitual, values, and role of life . Moral is a principle or right and wrong action or good and bad character of human. It means bad or good characteristics of human it is called as moral. According to Smart “The word value has two different meanings. It sometimes expresses the utility of some particular objects, and sometimes the power of purchasing other goods which the

possession of that object conveys .” According to (Febrian & Fadly, 2021b) states “Most often the word value refers to a moral value, a judgment of somebody’s behavior according to whether or not it corresponds to certain moral rules.” This novel tells a love story of Allie Hamilton, daughter of a wealthy family who was spending the summer holidays in North Carolina. Noah Calhoun, hometown guy who worked at sawmill, he is intelligent and poetic. Noah fell in love with Allie in first sight at the night market. During the holidays, Allie missed the wonderful days together with Noah, do things that totally new for them. Both of them felt as if they'd known each other for a long time. Unfortunately, Noah and Allie are separated by Anne, Allie's mother, who strongly disagrees of the relationship. Anne dislikes Noah, because she thinks Noah unworthy and too poor for her daughter. Allie parents decided to immediately return to Charlestown. (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020), (Sedyastuti et al., 2021).

Departure of Allie brought along a part of Noah and the whole rest of the summer. Noah despair and regret not had time hold or deliver departure of Allie; it was their last meeting closed with arguments. Noah wrote to Allie for 365 days, every day. Even though he wasn't get a reply. Noah and Allie never know that the letter never got to Allie and Allie never known that Noah ever send her letters, because Anne never told Allie that Noah send her a letters. But a few years later, when Allie wants to married with Lon her fiancé, she look the newspaper and see the picture of a house that the house itself it her dreams house. After that, Allie goes to that house to clarify that the house itself it like what her dreams. After she see that house, she amazed that the house itself very same with what she dreams. In that house she very shocked, because she see Noah in that house and Noah is the owner of that house, and in there Noah and Allie clarify all the misunderstanding that happened when their separated. And after that Allie decided to leave Lon and decided to gather with Noah. They are together forever until they die together also.

The writer is interested in analysis this novel because the writer believes this novel has moral values, because every novel has moral values that the author conveys indirectly in the novel. The writer also wants to make a different with the others writers, because the writer uses the different genres or themes in the novel (Liu et al., 2020), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020). The writer is interested in analyze the novel that has a romance genre, because the writer wants to prove that the moral values not only can be found in the motivated novel but also in all genres or themes of the novel and one of the genre is romance. The writer wants to make a something new to analyze moral values in the romance novel. The moral value is useful for people to improve their morality. Nicholas Sparks implicitly conveys moral values to readers. With this reason as a basis, the writer intends to reveal the moral values in the novel *The Notebook*. The moral values conveyed to the readers through the characters in the novel will be useful to be realized in real life at the present time (Febrian & Fadly, 2021b).

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Previous Studies

There are several researches which have been conducted before related to the subject matters of this research. The first is Susumu Onodera (2010) a student of Hirosaki University, Japan. Entitle “*Greimas's Actantial Model and the Cinderella Story: The Simplest Way for the Structural Analysis of Narratives*” (Alita et al., 2021). The purpose of

this study is focused on analyzing the actantial structure or model in the Cinderella Story. In Onodera thesis, the researcher gives the reader the simplest way how to analyzed narratives structure by using the actantial model, because the actantial model can give the reader or the writer easy to analyzed the work or the literary work by using Actantial model by AJ Greimas. This research has contribution to the writer, that it has same theory that Onodera used, it can make the writer more understand about how to implied Actant structure in analyze novel.

Second researchis conducted by NinikIspriyani (2008) a student of UIN Malang, in her thesis entitled "*Social Problems and Moral Values in Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen*". The purpose of this study is to find out the social problems presented in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and to reveal the moral values in *Pride and Prejudice* novel. Ninik uses the structural approach to analyze this thesis. Two major subjects are found: Social Problems and Moral Values. The first concerns women's position, a gap between the upper and lower classes, and matchmaking. In *Pride and Prejudice* novel women are portrayed as being weak.(Gazali & Yusmaita, 2018),(Febrian & Fadly, 2021b)

They have no economic independent. A gap of the upper and the lower classes can be seen trough the social manner of the upper class toward the lower classes. The second concern the facts that one should not judge a person by appearance, one cannot force another, pride of someone can cause prejudice of someone else, and it is not easy to understand one character. And the conclusion of analysis the moral values are: experience is a good teacher, and the fact one should love and give affection to one's siblings that marriage by sex, beauty and youth instead of morality, love and intelligence result in unhappiness. (Febrian & Fadly, 2021a),(Rido, 2011),(Pustika, 2021),The contribution of this research is helpful the writer about how to use structural approach and how to find out the moral values in the novel, even though the object is different but one problem that is find out moral values and approach is same(Permatasari & Anggarini, 2020).

### **Structural Approach**

Structural approach also called as the intrinsic approach, which is oriented approach to literature as a self-contained universe detached from the external world outside the text(Alita et al., 2021). The analysis directed to the text itself as a unity composed of 10 parts intertwined and analysis is performed based on the intrinsic parameters correspond to the existence of the internal elements (Priandika, 2021). Conceivably structuralism, literature is a world that created by the author is the first arrangement of the interrelationships between elements of mutually determine (van Eijck, Michiel; Hsu, Pei-Ling; Roth, 2009). According (Mittal & Patidar, 2019),(Wahyudin & Sukyadi, 2015), structuralism approach can be seen as the one of approaches (research) literature that emphasizes the study of the relationship between the elements of builder's work which is concerned.

### **The Scheme of Actant Model**

In structuralism, there are many several theories and experts that discuss and all of the theories almost same each others, but for implication is different. The writers use the structuralism theory by AlgirdasJulienGreimas. AJ Greimas is the creator of the theory of

actant and an improvement theory of Vladimir Propp who is also an expert of structuralism of literary. In theory actants stated that the term 'actant' in the conception of Greimas, the meaning is the doer. The doer cannot be generalized as a character. Therefore, the understanding of actant is not the same as the understanding of the characters (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020),(Amelia, 2021). Actants theory was developed by A.J. Greimas, is a model approach to the plot. Theoretical model of A.J. Greimas used to investigate the actions are considered a central characters in the story, following an obsession and motivation, which represent the main events in the plot. Keep in mind that this theory was discovered by A. J. Greimas around the 1960s, is called theory of structural actants model. Actant model is a tool that theoretically could be used to analyze the several of real action and thematic, but specifically for that is in literary texts or images. In other words, the actant scheme remains concerned with flow as the most important energy that drives the story to be telling, with the most important episodes consisting of starters, complications and settlement (Maskar, 2020).

### **Moral Values**

Moral is the teaching of bad and good doings of the morals, manners, obligations, etc. .The word moral always refers to the good and bad of human beings. Moral attitude also called as morality, that is the attitude of a person's heart is revealed in outward action(Sedyastuti et al., 2021). Morality is the attitude and good action are truly selfless and only morality that can be valued in morally.Moral is always related to a person's socialization process, withoutmorals humanwill not be able to do well socialization process (Adam et al., 2020).

Moral certainly is a basic characteristics that should Humanhave and should have instilled a formal education because moral is absolute value in the life of society as a whole. Moral itself assessed by a local culture, because morality is related to the behavior or actions of someone in interaction between each other, so if someone act or behave corresponding to the values in a society and be accepted in the environment it shall be considered to have good morals. If a person act or behave arbitrarily incompatible with the norms that exist in societies so that person will be judgedhave bad moral.(Gunawan D, 2020)said moral values are diverse, including loyalty, virtue, honor, truth, respect, friendliness, integrity, fairness, cooperation, tasks, etc.

Moral values shape who we are as human and our actions. Moral helps to keep societies to live up to a certain standard. Without moral values, there would be anarchy, chaos, and rampant. The word "moral" has a meaning which concerns principles of right or wrong behaviors. Moral values in literature it means the principles of right or wrong behaviors which are worthwhile and important in literary work to be conveyed to the readers to improve their morality in life. In a novel, moral values can be seen through an implication. It is because moral values usually can only convey implicitly. The moral values are implied through the characters in the novel. Good moral values are usually conveyed through the protagonist characters. In converse, bad moral values are conveyed through the antagonist characters, the antagonist characters also can give the good moral values if the readers can think positively(Lina & Setiyanto, 2021), (Permatasari, n.d.).

### **METHOD**

#### **Data Collection Technique**

The researcher finds out the novel as the data source and reads repeatedly the novel as the data source. By doing this activity, the researcher will understand the novel. The researcher identifies the data according to the aspect of this research; it is identification of the actantial structure and moral values found in the novel. The researcher categorizes and re-check the data whether it is related to the topic or not and making sure it is correct.

### **Data Analyzing Technique**

Identifying and classifying the actantial structure in *The Notebook* novel. Interpreting the data, which have been identified and classified by trying to determine the related data with every problem that contains indicators to determine the actantial structures and moral values in *Nicholas Sparks The Notebook* that become the problem of the research

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the research problem, the writer used the scheme of actantial model by Greimas theory. The writer believes that the scheme of actantial model is the tools to find the moral values in *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks. The data are taken from the narration and dialogue to find specific problem and conflict occurred. By identifying the problem, it can be clue to find out the moral values. Actantial structure has 6 actants there are Subject, Object, Sender, Receiver, Helper, and Opponent.

Based on the actantial model above, the writer will explain about the placement of each actant. Referring to the table above, the subject is Noah. It explains Noah as the subject because Noah wants Allie got her memory. Noah hopes that Allie will remember who she is. In accordance, the character of Noah is the subject in the novel *The Notebook*. As can be seen in the quotation below:

*There is always a moment right before I begin to read the story when my mind churns, and I wonder, will it happen today? I don't know, for I never know beforehand and deep down it really doesn't matter.*

*It's the possibility that keeps me going. And though you may call me a dreamer or a fool. I believe that anything is possible. (Sparks. 1996:6)*

### **Moral Values**

Based on the research problem, the writer will describes the eleven moral values that exist in *The Notebook* novel by using theory of Hornby and correlate with six actantial models by A.J Greimas. Previously, the writer analyzes the scheme of actantial of this novel to find out the moral values, and after that the writer find the correlation between actantial and moral values by correlate with six actant and the definition of moral values itself. Moral values has 11 moral values there are, Bravery, Humbleness, Honesty, Steadfastness, Sympathetic to others, Cooperativeness, Thankfulness, Kind- hearted, Trustworthiness, Sincerity, and last Love and Affection.

### **Bravery**

The first moral values in Hornby theory is Bravery. Bravery is the ability for someone to stand up in every situation, especially in difficult or bad situation. The bravery never doubtful in facing every condition because they are has power to keep their strength. And also the bravery can confront every situation and the result that will be happened in the future, the bravery never care about what will happen in the future, they are just keep what

they are think right. Bravery always appears in Subject and Helper in actantial structure, because if we see the definition of Subject and Helper there has the correlation between that actants and bravery. A subject is someone who has the effort to get the object and helper who someone who can take the risk to help someone, both of the actants has same characteristics that is bravery to take the risk. In *The Notebook* novel, we can see the quotation below

*There is always a moment right before I begin to read the story when my mind churns, and I wonder, will it happen today? I don't know, for I never know beforehand and deep down it really doesn't matter. It's the possibility that keeps me going. And though you may call me a dreamer or a fool. I believe that anything is possible.(Sparks. 1996:6)*

On the quotation above, we can see that Noah is a people who brave can take the risk, even though he never know what will happen in the future, but he did not care about that, he just thinks he must brave to take the risk that will came later if he still in that choice.

### **Trustworthiness**

Trustworthiness is the action that we can rely on to is good, honest, sincere, etc. It is like something or someone that we can believe. Sender and subject have this characteristic, because sender believes that subject can realize what their wants. Like the quotation below, it is clear that love is make someone can concede to their love.

*"If you're happy, Allie, and you love him. I won't try to stop you from going back to him. But if there's a part of you that isn't sure, then don't do it. This isn't the kind of thing you go into halfway."Her answer came almost too quickly. "I'm making the right decision. Noah."(Sparks. 1996:56)*

This quotation explains that Noah try to believe Allie of her decision. Noah give suggest to Allie, if Allie happy and love Lon, Noah will let Allie with Lon, but if Allie not sure about her decision, Noah suggest Allie to do not do that. Allie said that she making the right decision and Noah believe that Allie can trustworthiness and let Allie go to Lon.

### **CONCLUSION**

The writer has analyzed and explained the moral values in *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks based on theory of Hornby by firstly analyzed the scheme of actantial structure by A.J Greimas. The scheme of actantial model of Greimas was applied in this analysis to find out the plot and the characters act in the whole of the story. After analyzing the scheme of actantial model, the writer knows deeply about the whole of the story, the writer finds out the moral values that exist in *The Notebook* novel. This analysis uses the data from the narration and dialogue that might show the actantial structure and moral values. (Adam et al., 2020),(Rido et al., 2017)The writer analyzes the whole of the story and all the characters inside *The Notebook* novel. By conducting actantial model analysis, the writer finds that the subject of the story is Noah Calhoun, as the object of the story is miracles. Meanwhile, as the sender of the story is love, the receiver is Allie, and the helper is the notebook. While the last point as the opponent is Alzheimer. From six actants, all of actants can be found in *The Notebook* novel(Alita et al., 2019),(Alita et al., 2021),(Ambarwari et al., 2020).

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