

AN ANALYSIS OF MORAL VALUES IN TERE LIYE'S NOVEL *TANAH PARA BANDIT*

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the moral values in Tere Liye's novel *Tanah Para Bandit* based on Bertens's theory, which encompasses responsibility, conscience, and duty. This study employs a qualitative approach using a descriptive method. The data source for this study is the novel *Tanah Para Bandit* by Tere Liye, published by Sabak Grip in 2023. The research data consists of narrative excerpts and dialogues containing moral values relevant to the study's focus. Data collection was conducted through reading and note-taking, while data analysis utilized an interactive analysis model comprising data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Data validity was ensured through careful observation and theoretical triangulation. The results revealed 33 instances of moral values, consisting of 13 instances of responsibility, 11 instances of conscience, and 9 instances of duty. Moral values related to responsibility emerged as the most dominant aspect, as demonstrated by the characters' attitudes in fulfilling their duties, upholding their commitments, and taking responsibility for every decision made. Values of conscience were reflected through the characters' inner struggles, empathy, and moral awareness in facing various issues, while values of duty were manifested through the performance of tasks, the upholding of justice, and commitment to the responsibilities entrusted to them. The results of this study indicate that the novel *Tanah Para Bandit* not only presents an engaging story but also contains relevant moral values that serve as a medium for character education and can be used as a reference in literature education and research on moral values in Indonesian literary works.

Keywords: moral values, novel, *Tanah Para Bandit*, Tere Liye, Bertens

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan nilai moral dalam novel *Tanah Para Bandit* karya Tere Liye berdasarkan teori Bertens yang meliputi tanggung jawab, hati nurani, dan kewajiban. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Sumber data penelitian berupa novel *Tanah Para Bandit* karya Tere Liye yang diterbitkan oleh Sabak Grip pada tahun 2023. Data penelitian berupa kutipan narasi maupun dialog yang mengandung nilai moral sesuai dengan fokus penelitian. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui teknik baca dan catat, sedangkan teknik analisis data menggunakan model analisis interaktif yang meliputi reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan simpulan. Keabsahan data dilakukan melalui ketekunan pengamatan dan triangulasi teori. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ditemukan 33 data nilai moral yang terdiri atas 13 data tanggung jawab, 11 data hati nurani, dan 9 data kewajiban. Nilai moral yang berkaitan dengan tanggung jawab menjadi aspek yang paling dominan, yang ditunjukkan melalui sikap tokoh dalam menjalankan amanah, mempertahankan komitmen, dan bertanggung jawab atas setiap keputusan yang diambil. Nilai hati nurani tercermin melalui pergulatan batin tokoh, empati, dan kesadaran moral dalam menghadapi berbagai persoalan, sedangkan nilai kewajiban diwujudkan melalui pelaksanaan tugas, penegakan keadilan, dan komitmen terhadap amanah yang diemban. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa novel *Tanah Para Bandit* tidak hanya menyajikan cerita yang menarik, tetapi juga mengandung nilai-nilai moral yang relevan sebagai media pendidikan karakter serta dapat dijadikan salah satu referensi dalam pembelajaran sastra dan penelitian mengenai nilai moral dalam karya sastra Indonesia.

Kata kunci: nilai moral, novel, *Tanah Para Bandit*, Tere Liye, Bertens

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INTRODUCTION

The moral decline among Indonesia's youth remains a serious concern for various groups, including academics, education practitioners, and government. Phenomena such as a decline in a sense of responsibility, low social awareness, an increase in deviant behavior, and the prevalence of actions that violate social norms indicate that character development has not yet been fully optimized. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) for 2023 indicates that the number of Indonesian youth reached 64.16 million, or approximately 23.18% of Indonesia's total population. This figure underscores that the moral quality of the younger generation plays a strategic role in determining the quality of the nation's social life in the future.

Moral issues among the younger generation are influenced by various interrelated factors. Kurniawan et al. (2023) explain that moral decline cannot be understood through a single factor but rather results from an accumulation of factors, including weak character education within the family, suboptimal moral guidance in schools, the influence of social circles, and the overwhelming flow of digital information that does not always contain positive values. These conditions call for various alternative character education media that are not only oriented toward cognitive aspects but are also capable of addressing the affective and emotional aspects of the individual. In this context, literary works hold great potential as a medium for the internalization of moral values.

Literature is a representation of life that not only provides entertainment but also embodies the values, norms, and worldviews that evolve within society. Wellek and Warren (2016) state that literary works are reflections of life that address various human issues. Through the characters, conflicts, and events crafted by the author, readers gain the opportunity to understand diverse life experiences and the values underpinning them. In line with this, Semi (2012) emphasizes that literary works contain moral messages that can serve as guidelines for life. Therefore, literature is viewed as capable of serving as an effective means of moral education because the process of conveying its values occurs indirectly through the reader's aesthetic experience.

Among the various literary genres, the novel is a form of literature with a great capacity to convey moral values. Novels present a more complex portrayal of human life through the development of characters, conflicts, social settings, and various interrelated events. According to Nurgiyantoro (2010), moral values in novels are related to teachings about right and wrong conveyed through the behavior of the characters. Readers not only follow the plot but also observe how characters make decisions, face consequences, and apply moral principles in their lives. Thus, novels can serve as a medium for character education relevant to the needs of modern society.

One contemporary Indonesian novel worth examining from a moral perspective is **Tanah Para Bandit** by Tere Liye. Published in 2023, this novel tells the story of the protagonist Padma's struggle against various forms of injustice, corruption, the abuse of power, and the oppression of vulnerable social groups. Amid complex conflicts, Padma is portrayed as a character who remains steadfast in her moral principles despite facing various risks. This character makes **Tanah Para Bandit** not only compelling from a narrative perspective but also rich in moral values relevant to the current social reality of Indonesian society.

Studies on moral values in Indonesian literature have been conducted extensively. Pramusuari and Rahayu (2022) identified the values of sincerity, perseverance, and social concern in Andrea Hirata's novel **Guru Aini**. Nopendra and Rahayu (2022) identified the values of responsibility and resilience in Asma Nadia's novel **Bidadari Berbisik**. Research by Ananda and Anggraini (2023) on Tere Liye's novel **Sagaras** revealed moral values related to human relationships with oneself, fellow human beings, and God. Meanwhile, Olina and Rahayu (2023) identified the values of responsibility, conscience, and duty in the novel **Si Anak Savana** using Bertens' theory. Other studies conducted by Pandiangan, and Shomary (2024) also indicate that Tere Liye's works contain strong moral educational values relevant to the character development of readers.

Although studies on moral values in Tere Liye's works continue to evolve, research on the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** remains relatively limited. Putri (2024) focused her study on aspects of criminality in the novel, while Hasibuan and Zulfikarni (2024) examined various social issues represented in the story. The study conducted by Rahma, Pramujiono, and Indayani (2024) did address moral values in the novel **Tanah Para Bandit**, but its focus did not specifically use Bertens' theory as the primary analytical framework and still combined it with educational aspects. Thus, a study that specifically examines moral values based on Bertens's three main indicators—responsibility, conscience, and duty—in the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** has not yet been comprehensively conducted.

Bertens (2007) explains that moral values have three main characteristics: they relate to responsibility, conscience, and duty. Responsibility indicates an individual's willingness to accept the consequences of their actions. Conscience functions as an inner awareness that guides humans in determining the right course of action. Duty, meanwhile, is a moral demand that must be fulfilled because it is inherent in humans as ethical beings. These three aspects appear dominant in the journey of the character Padma; thus, Bertens's theory is considered relevant as a foundation for analysis to uncover the moral values contained in the novel.

Based on the above discussion, there is a research gap that needs to be addressed: no study has yet specifically and systematically analyzed the moral values in Tere Liye's novel **Tanah Para Bandit** using Bertens's theory, with a focus on the aspects of responsibility, conscience, and duty. Therefore, this study aims to describe, analyze, and interpret the moral values related to responsibility, conscience, and duty in Tere Liye's novel **Tanah Para Bandit**. This study is expected to contribute to the development of Indonesian literary studies, particularly in the field of literary ethics, while also enriching the use of literary works as a medium for character education for the younger generation.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Moral values are an essential element in literary works because they contain teachings about right and wrong that can serve as guidelines in life. Through moral values, authors convey various life lessons embodied through the attitudes, behaviors, and conflicts experienced by the characters in the story. Therefore, literary works serve not only as a means of entertainment but also as an educational medium capable of shaping character and providing inner experiences to readers. According to Bertens (2007), morality is a set of teachings about right and wrong that serves as the foundation for an individual's actions and decision-making in accordance with the norms prevailing in society.

In literary works, moral values are reflected through the actions and behaviors of characters as they face various life challenges. Bertens (2007) explains that moral values have three main characteristics: they relate to responsibility, conscience, and duty. Responsibility indicates a person's willingness to accept the consequences of their actions; conscience is the inner awareness that guides a person in determining the right course of action; and duty is a moral obligation that must be fulfilled as a form of adherence to ethical values. These three aspects form the basis for analyzing a character's behavior, thereby revealing the moral message the author intends to convey to the reader.

Research on moral values in literary works has been extensively conducted. Pramusuari and Rahayu (2022) explain that moral values in novels serve as a medium for character development because they provide examples through the characters' attitudes in facing various life challenges. In line with this, Olina and Rahayu (2023) found that moral values, based on Bertens's theory, are often manifested through the characters' attitudes of responsibility, conscience, and duty, enabling readers to understand the importance of these values in daily life. These research findings indicate that Bertens's theory remains relevant as a foundation for analyzing moral values in literary works.

As a form of literary work, the novel has the ability to depict the reality of human life in greater depth through a series of interconnected events, characters, and conflicts. According to

Nurgiyantoro (2010), a novel is a work of fictional prose that presents human life in a complex manner, thereby conveying various life values to readers. Research by Ananda and Anggraini (2023) shows that Tere Liye's novels contain various moral values related to human relationships with oneself, others, and God. Furthermore, Pandiangan and Shomary (2024) explain that moral values in novels not only serve as life lessons but also function as a means of character education that can be applied in daily life.

Based on this discussion, this study employs Bertens' (2007) theory of moral values as the analytical framework, as it identifies moral values through three main aspects: responsibility, conscience, and duty. This theory was selected because it aligns with the study's objective, which is to systematically and thoroughly describe the moral values present in Tere Liye's novel **Tanah Para Bandit**.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach using a descriptive method through *content* analysis to uncover the moral values in Tere Liye's novel **Tanah Para Bandit**. A qualitative approach was chosen because the research is oriented toward interpreting phenomena represented through literary texts, while content analysis is used to systematically identify, organize, and interpret units of meaning related to moral values. The analytical framework is based on Bertens' concept of moral values, which includes responsibility, conscience, and duty as the main categories in the data coding process.

The data source for this study is the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** by Tere Liye, published by PT Sabak Grip Nusantara in 2023. The research data consists of linguistic units—including words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, narratives, and paragraphs—that represent the characters' actions, attitudes, or utterances containing moral values in accordance with the analytical categories. Units of analysis were determined based on the emergence of meanings that indicate the characters' moral behavior, not merely based on the frequency of data occurrence.

Data collection was conducted using the documentation technique, involving the following stages: intensive and repeated reading of the text; identifying quotations relevant to the research focus; coding each data point based on moral value categories; and grouping the data into an analysis matrix. The coding process was conducted consistently using conceptual indicators derived from Bertens' theory, ensuring that each quotation was analyzed based on its alignment with the characteristics of responsibility, conscience, or duty.

Data analysis was conducted interactively through four stages. The first stage was data reduction, which involved selecting relevant excerpts and eliminating data unrelated to the research focus. The second stage was categorization, which involved grouping data based on the three dimensions of moral values in Bertens' theory. The third stage is interpretation, which involves interpreting the meaning of each quote by considering the narrative context, relationships between characters, the plot, and the setting of the events to gain a comprehensive understanding of the representation of moral values in the novel. The final stage is drawing conclusions through a synthesis of all findings to identify patterns of dominance, forms of representation, and the function of moral values in constructing the overall story.

Data validity is ensured through meticulous observation, semantic validity, and adequacy of references. Meticulous observation is carried out by repeatedly reading the entire text to ensure that interpretations do not deviate from the story's context. Semantic validity is applied by examining the consistency of the relationship between the meaning of quotations and the narrative context so that the resulting interpretation aligns with the use of language in the novel. Meanwhile, the adequacy of references is ensured through the use of Bertens's moral theory as the primary framework, enriched with relevant ethical theories and literary criticism, so that the interpretation of the data has an adequate conceptual foundation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to describe the moral values in Tere Liye's novel **Tanah Para Bandit** based on Bertens's (2007) theory, which encompasses responsibility, conscience, and duty. The results of the analysis show that 33 data points were identified, consisting of 13 data points related to the moral value of responsibility, 11 related to conscience, and 9 related to duty.

Table 1. Summary of Research Results

No	Moral Value Aspect	Number of Data Points
1	Responsibility	13
2	Conscience	11
3	Duty	9
Total		33

Based on Table 1, the most dominant moral value is responsibility with 13 data points, followed by conscience with 11 data points, and duty with 9 data points.

Moral Values Related to Responsibility

The aspect of responsibility is the most frequently found in the novel. This value is demonstrated through the characters' actions in carrying out their duties, fulfilling their trust, and taking responsibility for every decision they make.

The first example is shown in the following excerpt.

"Run faster, Padma!" Abu Syik pointed at the shadow of the stick. I nodded. I had already made eight trips back and forth carrying the bucket to the river. (Liye, 2023, p. 34)

This quote illustrates Abu Syik's sense of responsibility as an educator. The training he provided on an ongoing basis was not merely physical exercise, but a manifestation of Abu Syik's dedication to preparing Padma for the responsibilities she would shoulder in the future. Therefore, this example is categorized as the moral value of responsibility because it demonstrates the character's awareness in fulfilling his role as a mentor.

The second piece of evidence is shown in the following quote.

"All the training you've gone through has been carefully prepared, Padma...." (Liye, 2023, p. 126)

This quote shows that the entire training process given to Padma has been thoroughly designed. Abu Syik's statement indicates that he is responsible for the educational process provided, so that Padma's abilities are the result of conscious and planned guidance.

The third piece of evidence is shown in the following quote.

"Tonight.... I'm sorry.... Continue your life's journey.... Be Padma...." (Liye, 2023, p. 130)

This data indicates that after Abu Syik's death, Padma received the mandate to continue the mission that had been passed down to her. Padma's willingness to carry on this struggle demonstrates a sense of responsibility toward the mandate she received, so this data falls under the aspect of responsibility.

Moral Values Related to Conscience

Moral values related to conscience are revealed through various internal conflicts experienced by the characters when facing difficult situations. Conscience is demonstrated through doubt, regret, empathy, and reflection on one's actions.

The first piece of data is shown in the following excerpt.

"Who should die from the poison in the bottle?... With a whirlwind of thousands of questions, I finally reached the end of the path." (Liye, 2023, p. 58)

This excerpt shows that Padma experienced an inner struggle before carrying out her first mission. The various questions that arose indicate that the character was still weighing the rightness or wrongness of the action she was about to take, so this evidence falls under the aspect of conscience.

The second piece of evidence is shown in the following quote.

"I don't know how many times I had to pause for a moment, urging my feet to keep moving, urging my hands to stay steady...." (Liye, 2023, p. 60)

This excerpt reveals an internal conflict within Padma as she carries out her duties. The doubts that arise show that her actions conflict with her inner voice. Therefore, this data is categorized as a moral value related to conscience.

The third piece of data is shown in the following quote.

"In this country, sacrificing the common people seems to be all too easy...." (Liye, 2023, p. 268)

This quote reveals Padma's inner sensitivity to the injustices faced by the underprivileged. This statement reflects the character's empathy and concern for social conditions, thus falling under the aspect of conscience.

Moral Values Related to Duty

Moral values related to duty are demonstrated through the character's awareness in carrying out tasks considered moral obligations in order to achieve a greater goal.

The first example is shown in the following quote.

"You are the last descendant, the only one left. You have inherited a very important duty." (Liye, 2023, p. 23)

This quote shows that Padma has a duty to continue the struggle passed down by Abu Syik. This trust forms the basis for the moral duty that the main character must fulfill.

The second piece of evidence is shown in the following quote.

"Starting today, you won't just learn to run.... you'll also learn to master weapons.... and your mission." (Liye, 2023, p. 47)

This quote shows that all the training provided is intended to prepare Padma to carry out the mission that is her duty. Thus, this data indicates an awareness of the need to fulfill the assigned task.

The third piece of data is shown in the following excerpt.

"We won't be raiding the marijuana fields.... This mission is simple: intercept the marijuana. Destroy it all." (Liye, 2023, p. 101)

This quote indicates that the characters are fulfilling their duty to eradicate drug trafficking as a form of the fight against crime. The execution of this mission is a fulfillment of the moral obligation that serves as the primary goal of Abu Syik and Padma's struggle.

Based on the analysis of Tere Liye's novel **Tanah Para Bandit**, it was found that the moral values contained in the novel are dominated by the aspect of responsibility, with 13 instances, followed by the aspect of conscience with 11 instances, and the aspect of duty with 9 instances. The dominance of the aspect of responsibility indicates that the author primarily portrays characters who are conscious of fulfilling their duties, completing tasks, and taking responsibility for every decision made when facing various life conflicts. Meanwhile, the aspect of

conscience is depicted through the characters' inner struggles when faced with difficult choices, empathy for the suffering of others, and the awareness to evaluate actions based on humanitarian values. The aspect of duty is manifested through the characters' attitudes in carrying out tasks and responsibilities that have become their moral obligations without prioritizing personal interests. These three aspects are interrelated in shaping the characters, developing the plot, and conveying a moral message to the readers. Thus, the research findings indicate that the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** not only presents a story of adventure and conflict but also contains various moral values reflected through the characters' actions, attitudes, and decisions. These findings serve as the basis for further discussion of the relationship between the identified moral values and Bertens's (2007) theory, as well as previous research findings, in the discussion section.

Discussion of Findings

The research results show that Tere Liye's novel **Tanah Para Bandit** contains moral values encompassing the aspects of responsibility, conscience, and duty, as outlined by Bertens (2007). These three aspects were identified through the characters' actions, words, and thought processes as they faced various conflicts in the story. Based on the analysis, the aspect of responsibility emerged as the most dominant moral value with 13 instances, followed by conscience with 11 instances, and duty with 9 instances. The dominance of the aspect of responsibility indicates that the author primarily builds the characters through concrete actions in fulfilling their duties, upholding their commitments, and accepting the consequences of every decision made. This finding demonstrates that the moral values in the novel are not conveyed directly but are developed through the characters' growth and the conflicts they experience, allowing readers to understand the moral message more deeply.

The aspect of responsibility was the most frequently identified theme in this study. Responsibility is demonstrated through the characters' earnestness in fulfilling their roles, carrying out assigned tasks, and remaining true to their commitments despite facing various challenges. The character Abu Syik is portrayed as a figure who bears a great responsibility in educating Padma so that she can continue the struggle he has pioneered. The training Padma received from a young age was intended not only to improve her physical abilities but also to build her mental resilience, discipline, and readiness to face a life full of risks. On the other hand, the character of Padma also demonstrates responsibility through her willingness to accept the mission entrusted to her by Abu Syik and her efforts to complete every mission that is part of his struggle. The sense of responsibility displayed by both characters shows that a mission is not merely a task to be completed, but rather a form of moral commitment born of personal conviction.

This finding aligns with Bertens's (2007) view, which explains that responsibility is a person's willingness to account for all actions taken because those actions result from conscious choices. In Bertens's view, a person is considered responsible if they are able to accept the consequences of their decisions without evading the results of their actions. This concept is clearly evident in the characters of Abu Syik and Padma, who continue to carry out their duties even while facing threats, suffering, and even the loss of their loved ones. This demonstrates that responsibility in the novel is portrayed as a form of moral consciousness, not as a result of coercion from others.

The results of this study also reinforce the findings of Pramusuari and Rahayu (2022), who state that the value of responsibility is one of the most dominant moral values in literary works because it forms the basis for character development. That study explains that responsible characters are able to set an example for readers through their discipline, consistency, and courage in facing the consequences of every decision they make. This similarity indicates that the value of responsibility is a crucial element that authors frequently utilize as a medium for conveying character education to readers. However, this study differs from previous research because responsibility in the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** is not only related to responsibility toward

oneself but also toward society and the struggle against crime, which forms the core of the story. Thus, responsibility in this novel has a broader scope as it relates to humanistic values and the common good.

The second aspect identified in this study is conscience. The results show that conscience is manifested through the inner conflicts experienced by characters before making decisions, the emergence of empathy for others' suffering, and the presence of doubt when choosing what is considered the right course of action. The character Padma is not portrayed as someone who is always certain about every decision she makes. Instead, the author presents various internal struggles that demonstrate that every action carries moral consequences that must be considered. These internal struggles play a crucial role in Padma's character development because they show that courage is not merely measured by the ability to face an enemy but also by the ability to exercise self-control and listen to one's inner voice before acting.

According to Bertens (2007), conscience is an inner awareness that enables a person to distinguish between right and wrong actions. Conscience serves as the foundation for a person's judgment regarding actions to be taken, ensuring that decisions are based not only on logical considerations but also on moral ones. This concept is evident in the character of Padma, who always considers the impact of every mission she undertakes. When witnessing the suffering of the community caused by the power of drug lords, Padma does not merely view the issue as a mission but also as a humanitarian issue that must be resolved. Thus, the character's actions are not solely driven by personal desire but arise from a moral awareness of the social conditions she faces.

This finding aligns with the research by Olina and Rahayu (2023), which states that a conscience is a crucial element in character development because it reflects a process of self-reflection before a character makes a decision. Their study found that characters with a conscience tend to consider the consequences of their actions—both for themselves and for others. This similarity indicates that inner conflict plays a vital role in conveying moral messages to readers. However, this study indicates that the inner conflict in the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** is not merely a part of character development but also serves as a means for the author to critique various social issues, such as the abuse of power, injustice, and the suffering of the community caused by drug trafficking. Therefore, conscience in this novel carries a broader meaning as it relates to concern for human values.

The third aspect identified is duty. Based on the research findings, duty is demonstrated through the characters' awareness of fulfilling their mandate, adhering to the principles of their struggle, and completing the tasks that have become their responsibility. The duty depicted in the novel does not appear as a form of compulsion but arises from the characters' awareness of the goals they seek to achieve. Padma understands that the struggle she is waging is a mandate that must be carried forward, so every action she takes is always oriented toward fulfilling the mission bequeathed by Abu Syik. This demonstrates that duty in the novel is constructed as a form of devotion to the values of goodness and justice.

According to Bertens (2007), duty is a moral obligation that a person must fulfill as a consequence of the values they hold. Duty does not always stem from formal rules but can arise from an individual's awareness to do what is considered right. This perspective aligns with Padma's character, who continues her struggle despite facing various threats. Her willingness to carry out this mandate demonstrates that duty is understood as a form of moral responsibility that cannot be ignored.

The findings of this study support the results of research by Pandiangan and Shomary (2024), which explain that the value of duty in Tere Liye's novels is embodied through characters who continue to carry out their duties for the common good. This study confirms that duty is one of the moral values capable of shaping a character's personality, thereby providing readers with an example of the importance of upholding commitments in life. Nevertheless, this study indicates

that the concept of duty in the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** possesses more complex characteristics, as it relates not only to the fulfillment of duties but also to sacrifice, loyalty to one's mandate, and the courage to uphold principles even in the face of significant risks.

Overall, the research findings indicate that the three aspects of moral values according to Bertens (2007)—namely, responsibility, conscience, and duty—are interrelated in shaping the characters and conveying moral messages to readers. The prominence of the aspect of responsibility indicates that Tere Liye places greater emphasis on the importance of commitment, trust, and courage in facing life's various challenges. Meanwhile, the aspect of conscience demonstrates that every action must be based on moral considerations, while the aspect of duty underscores the importance of fulfilling one's trust with full awareness. These three values make the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** not only compelling in terms of its plot but also educational, as it teaches moral values relevant to society. Thus, this novel is worthy of being used as a study material in literature education, particularly for instilling character education through the appreciation of literary works.

CONCLUSION

The research results show that these three aspects are consistently found in the novel, with a total of 33 data points consisting of 13 data points on moral values related to responsibility, 11 data points on moral values related to conscience, and 9 data points on moral values related to duty. These findings indicate that moral values are a crucial element in shaping the characters, developing conflicts, and conveying the message the author intends to convey to the readers.

Moral values related to responsibility are the most dominant aspect. These values are reflected in the characters' attitudes toward fulfilling their duties, carrying out tasks, upholding commitments, and taking responsibility for every decision made. Meanwhile, values of conscience are evident through the characters' inner struggles when facing various problems, the emergence of empathy toward others' suffering, and the awareness to consider every action based on humanitarian values. The value of duty is embodied through the characters' awareness in fulfilling their responsibilities, upholding justice, and carrying out their duties as a form of moral responsibility toward themselves and society. These three aspects are interrelated in shaping the characters' personalities and reinforcing the moral message at the heart of the story, ensuring that the novel **Tanah Para Bandit** serves not only as a work of entertainment but also possesses educational value relevant to real life.

Based on these findings, Tere Liye's novel **Tanah Para Bandit** is worthy of being considered as an alternative study material in both literature education and character education because it contains moral values closely tied to real-life experiences. This study also demonstrates that Bertens' (2007) theory of moral values remains relevant for analyzing contemporary Indonesian literature, particularly in uncovering the representations of responsibility, conscience, and duty reflected through the characters and the story's conflicts. Therefore, future research is expected to further develop the study of moral values by employing different theoretical perspectives or conducting comparative studies of Tere Liye's works and other contemporary Indonesian novels, thereby enriching the body of literary research. In addition to contributing to the development of literary studies, the findings of this research are expected to serve as a reference for educators in utilizing literary works as a medium for instilling moral values and character education in both school and university settings.

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