



Journal of Linguistic and Literature Studies
Vol. 1 No.2

Analysis of Intrinsic Elements, Psychological Approach, and Character Value through the Novel “A Monster Calls”

I Wayan Eca Aryatama
iwayanecaaryatama09@gmail.com
Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the Intrinsic Elements, Psychological Approach, and Character Values in the novel entitled “A Monster Calls” by Patrick Ness using psychological analysis and its association with character values. This research uses library research method. The data in this study were analyzed using qualitative or descriptive methods. Data collected from the main source directly. The results of this study indicate that there are several components contained in the intrinsic and psychological elements associated with the main character in this novel, namely the main character, setting, plot, and point of view. There are three types of character values that can be analyzed, namely religious, honest, and hard-working.

Keywords: Psychological; Character; Value

INTRODUCTION

Character education is strongly supported by the government, seen from the many cases that occur among young people. One of the efforts that can be done to instill character education is through literature learning in schools. Schools need to provide quality reading materials, one example of which is novels that contain character values. There are several things being done to guide students in the millennial era like today by integrating these methods through technology, such as reading poetry, reading novels and reading elements of moral values contained in literary works working on the Internet (Lestari & Mahardika, 2019).

Literature is written work that can provide as humans or develop ideas of human expression that can be enjoyed by the next generation. Massari and Sidek (2014), stated that literature is a human expression that can refer to be enjoyed and developed again, the expression can be conveyed through language media, both verbally and in writing. In the literature can be used in providing about the study of life and the activities carried out therein. According to Klarer (1999), states that in literature have concepts that can provide innovation to its readers. The concept is like works that are imaginative, creative, and fictional. Thus literary work can be interpreted as a medium that can be used to express the feelings of the author, the thoughts of the author, and experiences that have been experienced by a writer himself. They provide very innovative ideas to retell. In literary works can also provide stories

about the life of the author, culture, and behavior of a person. And literary works can be implemented in the form of literary works such as poetry, drama and novels.

Novels are works created by humans in developing their ideas and expressing the work they have made. In the form of stories that are made very creative and provide narrative stories to readers. According to The Shorter Oxford Dictionary as quoted in Choeda (2019), which states that the novel is a type of prose or narrative story that has a plot development in the story. In other words it is explained that the novel is a type of literary work that gives imaginative ideas as a result of writers in pouring their ideas into creative expression. The story of the novel also gives moral value to the reader and provides motivations for lessons in life, and also in the story of the novel most writers tell about their life stories in the form of writing that is very inspiring.

A Monster Calls is one of the literary works in the form of novels written by Patrick Ness. The novel tells the story of a 13-year-old boy named Conor who struggles to receive cancer that is very difficult to cure. One day a monster came up to Conor at night to tell the three stories it had received, and Conor had to tell his story to that monster. The point of view used in this novel is the point of view of people who can be proven in the use of "he", "that", and me ". Here is an example in the quote "For what? Ask Conor ". In addition, in this story, the narrator also uses a perspective that knows the narrator's almighty to understand all the stories of each character that the narrator will interpret. That can be proven in the fragments of the monsters' tales.

According to Master (2011), Patrick Ness born in America and has lived in England since 1999 is the author of the novel "*A Monster Calls*" which continues the idea of the first writer who died, a writer named Siobhan Dowd. He died of cancer which is very difficult to cure and in 2007 he breathed his last. He was asked to develop his fifth novel and write himself and then the result is the novel *A Monster Calls* published in 2011 in his story told "a child named Conor who was 13 years old who made peace with his mother's struggle against cancer". Patrick Ness said he could not turn other people's ideas into books, then he wanted to continue the story because it contained interesting ideas in the story and he felt something he had never experienced while writing a book.

In understanding a novel in depth, the reader must also understand the sub novel, understand the message, lessons, moral values, and other aspects of the novel. Reading novels for some people is a very pleasant thing, thus deeply understanding a novel will give us benefits such as moral values that we can use as motivation for life. To understand the novel's story in depth, of course it is very important to do an analysis of the novel, so that we can understand how the elements contained in the novel. In analyzing a novel, there are several literary approaches that can be used in analyzing a novel, namely the social psychological approach. According to (Wellek and Warren (1963: 81) in Yarova (2019), social psychological approach is a method of approach that has a perception used for classification in the psychoanalysis of a work. A search related to the author with the language they use.

METHOD

Data is collected from primary sources directly. The focus of this research is on the psychological analysis of the main character in the novel entitled *A MONSTER CALLS* and its relationship with character values. Psychological analysis of the data becomes easier because we know all the stories and what happened in the stories. Literature research was carried out as the method of this research. Several techniques are applied because the data is primary written data. First, the researcher reads the novel intensively. To understand the storyline and recognize the temperament, habits, and behavior of the main characters requires a comprehensive reading. After that, the selected data is then highlighted to facilitate the analysis step. The data in this study were analyzed using qualitative or descriptive methods. Qualitative methods are methods used to describe or explain the object of research in more detail. Important data that has been collected is identified by highlighting related sentences.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The theme of the novel *A Monster Calls*

The theme of the novel *A Monster Calls* is about a very miserable life that only gives one glance of happiness in one's life. If in life will not always feel happy, of course there is a time that will make us sad and very down to the presence of that time. Everyone will be sad when left by someone who is very loved, especially those who have given birth to us into this world. In life we must be prepared to accept everything that will happen, both good and bad events.

1. How the Intrinsic Elements (Major Characters, Setting, Plot, and Point of View) Support the Theme

a. Major Characters

In the novel *A Monster Calls*, there are several main characters, such as Conor O'Malley, The Monster, Conor's Mum, Harry, Conor grandma's. These characters have an important role for the story.

The first is Conor, who is one of the most important characters in the story, because in the story is told about his life that continues to face problems repeatedly. Conor in the story is also included in the round character because he continues to grow from beginning to end. At the end of the story, his mother leaves Conor forever. The role of Conor is very important in the story to be the main character who is always present in every story, this Conor was chosen as the main character who is very influential in the story. Conor is a thirteen-year-old teenager living with his mother, and his mother has cancer that is very difficult to cure. Thus, because his mother suffered from illness, Conor became very attending to prepare his own breakfast before going to school and doing his mother's job to clean the house. Conor has a kind grandmother to him who often helps to care for his ailing mother.

The second is The Monster, this character is mentioned in the title of the story. At the beginning of the story the monster meets Conor at his home after night, then to develop the story Monster will tell three stories to Conor. In the story leads to history or leads to the death of his mother. Then the Monster will help Conor to defend the "truth" and one day Conor will accept the reality that is very painful because it will be left by the Mother. Monsters keep trying

to help Conor under any circumstances and always do their best for Conor, therefore Monsters can be considered as Protagonists and Antagonists which have a big impact on the story line.

Third is Conor O'Malley's mother, Conor O'Malley's mother who is also the main character and develops until the end of the story because in the novel tells the story of Mother and child from the beginning to the end of the story. In the story of the novel *A Monster Calls* in the character Conor's Mom is a person who has cancer that is very difficult to cure. He used to have a husband but left her to remarry another woman to America, so Conor's mother lived alone with her child. At the end of the story, Conor's Mom died of her illness, which made her child sad.

The fourth was Conor's schoolmate Harry, who often bothered him. In the character Harry makes the story more interesting and real and because of his cruelty makes the reader become emotional for Harry because it often disturbs Conor. Harry is a bad boy and blonde, he really likes football, in this story line, Harry acts as a fully antagonistic character. At school even though they are in class groups but they continue to be hostile never get along at all, and are hostile to each other. Harry always annoys Conor at school because he doesn't like Conor, and in the end, Harry is hit by Conor because of the help of a monster until Harry goes to the hospital.

The fifth character who really had a big impact on the storyline was Conor's grandmother who lived with Conor after her mother left her. Grandma Conor is one of the main characters in the story *A Monster Calls*, which always appears from the beginning of the story until the end of the story, she often helps her children and grandchildren when her mother is still sick. But Conor's grandmother was sad because of what Conor had done, which destroyed her grandma's house and favorite items. His grandmother really liked Conor and would always look after Conor.

b. Setting

Setting is where the story takes place and when the story takes place (Rosaria, 2004). In this analysis we will discuss very influential places in the story, namely Conor's house, Conor's grandmother's house, and Conor's school.

The first contribution place is Conor O'Malley's house, this place is the most widely used in the storyline. At home Conor lives with his mother who has cancer, and his father dies, they go to America because they are divorced. Many things that Conor did at home with his mother, such as making food, sleeping, and making Conor's school work. One day there was an unexpected event at Conor's house, on the night after midnight the monster came to his house to meet Conor to his room to tell Conor's story three. This place is a very important place because Conor is also the main character in the story.

The second contribution site is the home of Conor's grandmother, this place also contributed a lot to the story. At the beginning of the story, Conor is invited to live with his grandmother but he refuses because he wants to be with his mother and while caring for her mother who has cancer. The events that occurred at his home at that time Conor destroyed his grandmother's house, and there were some of his grandmother's favorite items that were destroyed by Conor. But finally Conor wanted to live with his grandmother because his mother was in the hospital.

The third contribution place is Conor's school, this place is one of the most contributing places because Conor is a thirteen year old student. Many events occur at school, such as Conor being bothered by his friends named Harry, Anton, and Sully who really hate Conor. Because he was often treated that way with his friends at school, Conor was sad because no one cared about him. An incident occurred when in the school canteen, Harry and his friends came to disturb Conor, but at that moment the monster came to give Conor strength to fight Harry. So Harry was taken to the hospital by his teacher.

The fourth place of contribution is in the cemetery, where this happened when Conor told the monster's last story. In this grave there is a very large Yew tree and the monster comes from that tree. In this place one morning Conor was found by his grandmother under a Yew tree, because Conor had been missing since the night when his grandmother was confused to search because it would invite her to meet her mother at the hospital. After the incident at the grave of Conor became a strong child, and one day Conor must be able to accept the very sad reality coming to him. The fifth contribution place is the hospital, in this place is very important and very contributing. This place is very influential in the story, even this place is very often used in the story. This place is a place where Ms. Conor was treated for cancer. In this place at the end of the story Conor was abandoned by his mother because of his illness, this place also brought an atmosphere of sadness for Conor and his mother over his mother's departure. Conor must live alone because his father has left him for America. At a young age, Conor had to face a life without parents.

c. Plot

At the beginning of the story of the novel entitled *A Monster Calls*, the first thing introduced by the writer and narrator is the first is the introduction to the character mentioned in the title of the story "The Monster". In the first chapter of the story, Conor is encountered by the monster for the first time at night at 12.07 after midnight. The monster tells Conor that the monster will tell three stories to Conor, then Conor must tell the monster to the story. In the next chapter, in the second story the author tells the characterization of each main character like Conor O'Malley who is very independent and diligent, he often prepares his own breakfast before leaving school, since his mother has cancer. Thirteen-year-old Conor and his mother have cancer that is very difficult to cure. The next chapter is told Conor is often bothered by his school friends named Harry and his friends. Conor's grandmother also becomes the main character in the story who helps Conor's mother who has cancer and will treat Conor. The monster came back to tell Conor's story and take it to another world.

d. Point of View

This novel the perspective used is the perspective of a third person and an omniscient point of view. In this novel the writer changes the point of view in the story used from the beginning of the story to the end of the story. The third person's perspective is the perspective used by the narrator to explain and tell the story in the novel *a monster calls*. In the perspective of a third person, readers will find it easier to discuss if to analyze this novel. In this novel, the perspective of the third person used is like him, he, that, or someone's name, this makes the reader will be more happy to read stories in novel *a monster calls*. Next is the point of view that influences the main character in the novel is an omniscient point of view, in this point of

view it is very different where later on the storyline that can be understood by the reader to change changes in the characterization of the main characters in the novel. From an omniscient point of view that means "omni" which has the meaning of everything whereas "scientist" which has the meaning of omniscience or knowledge. In this novel does not affect the character characterization of the novel. The parents used in the novel are limited viewpoints adopted in the novel and influence changes to make it easier for the main characters in the story.

The main character in the novel is named Conor O'Malley who accepts teenagers who were invited to thirteen years living together. Because this disease can cause breakfast alone while still asleep. In explaining this story, the narrator explains and uses the perspective of the third person adopted in the story of the novel which describes the main character who is given the title Conor when he provides money before leaving for school, while still asleep. At that moment, Conor was called, "ma'am?" asked Conor, moved into the kitchen while he knew he would not be there ". At that time it was in the kitchen, while still sleeping in his room. Sacrificing, and that made Conor a strong child. Viewing angle, can, change the influence, Conor O'Malley is the main character in the story. If so, it is a disease that causes cancer that is very difficult to cure. Thus, Conor is very sad to be afraid of destruction forever, while reading the story "i do not want him to leave! "i didn't let her go!" Conor shouted, his voice cracking. "she fell!", "please let me go!" Conor yelled, trying to back away (pp. 125). This is what released the omniscient point of view, Conor finally gave up his mother to leave forever and could not meet again.

2. Character Value Analysis

It discussed the components of character value obtained in the main character of "A Monster Calls" novel, as follow:

a. Religious

Not only that that happened at that time, the monster often came to Conor at 12:07 past midnight, the monster came from a very large Yew tree. The monster came to tell Conor three stories at exactly 12:07. These monsters make Conor brave and often give Conor strength to fight his friends who often bother him. The next incident which occurred at 12:07 pm Conor's mother died was a very sad time for Conor, because his mother left him forever. Conor was very sad, but the monster gave Conor the strength to be able to accept the departure of his mother who had cancer.

b. Honest

That morning, said, "There," he said to anyone, and spoke while he waited. Then he nodded to himself and said, "Breakfast." From there, Conor shows that he is a boy who chooses thirteen years of independence, because he can take care of himself before there is a mother in the kitchen, he is ready to provide breakfast for him. This makes the reader feel touched in the story of the novel as if to thank a boy named Conor O'Malley. As stated in the novel, "he finished his cereal and toast, drank his last juice, then washed the dishes and put them in the dishwasher, he emptied the trash can altogether - didn't like it that way - and carried the bag to the trash can in front of the house, because he had travelled, he collected the recycling and put it out too, then he received many sheets in the washing machine he would hang out in the compilation line he returned from school ". With this agreement, a discussion about the

character shown directly that Conor is a very diligent and independent child, and also Conor is a good child and devoted to parents, when traveling, he strongly agreed and embraced support with all his strength.

c. Hard-working

When Conor in the morning is preparing breakfast before going to school, because his mother has cancer that is very difficult to cure. Every morning Conor must prepare his own breakfast. Thus, the things done by Conor readers have been admired by Conor who has good qualities, is very diligent and very fond of his mother. In his role Conor became a young man who would be admired by his readers, because he had a soul that was lacking and had a very high sense of compassion. How was seen when he lost his mother, Conor O'Malley was very sad and could not meet with his mother forever.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that the theme of the novel *A Monster Calls* is supported by intrinsic elements in the story, such as Major Characters, Settings, Plots, and Point of View. All elements are closely related to each other. In terms of the main characters there are five main characters who have very important roles in stories such as Conor O'Malley, The Monster, Conor's Mum, Harry, Conor Grandma's. The five characters give a very important impression on the interrelated storyline. In setting the place in the story of this novel there are some very important places that are very influential on the story, namely Conor's house, Conor's grandmother's house, and Conor's school. These three places often occur in the story, especially in Conor's house which is told a lot like Monsters that come to Conor at night. Then at Conor's grandmother's house when Conor rages and destroys the items in her grandmother's house, and at Conor's school when Harry interferes with her friends. Then is the point of view used in this novel. In this novel, using a third-person perspective is the perspective used by the narrator to explain and tell stories in a novel called a monster. In the perspective of a third person, readers will more easily discuss if analyzing this novel. In the psychological approach that is used to analyze the themes in the story that are related to the psychological main character in the story, Conor is very sad because he was left by his mother who was suffering from cancer.

REFERENCES

- Aras, G. (2015). Personality and Individual Differences : Literature in Psychology- Psychology in Literature. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 185, 250–257. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.03.452>
- Choeda. (2019). The Origin and Development of English Novel: A Descriptive Literature Review. *International Journal of English, Literature, and Social Science*, 4 (4), 1099 – 1104. <https://dx.doi.org/10.22161/ijels.4429>
- Devilito, R., & Wardani, N. E. (2016). Psychological Analysis of Novel *Kerumunan Terakhir* by Okky Madasari, The Value of Character Education, and Teaching Materials of Indonesian College in University. *Proceeding The 2nd International Conference On Teacher Training and Education*, 2(1), 677–684.

- Kimber, G. (2016). The novella: Between the novel and the story. *The Cambridge History of the English Short Story*, 530–546. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316711712.032>
- Klarer, M. (1999). *An Introduction to Literary Studies*. London: Routledge.
- Kwatsha, L. L. (2007). A psychoanalytical interpretation of the characters in A.C. Jordan's novel *Ingqumbo yeminyanya*. *Literator*, 28(3), 75–89. <https://doi.org/10.4102/lit.v28i3.169>
- Lapandja, F. K. D., Usman, S., & Muhsin. (2016). A Study of Main Character and Plot in Ahmad Fuadi's "Negeri 5 Menara". *E-Journal of English Language Teaching Society*, 4 (1), 1 –13. <http://jurnal.untad.ac.id/jurnal/index.php/ELTS/article/view/5993>
- Lestari, R. D., & Mahardika, R. Y. (2019). Character Education Value Analysis in Collection of Students. ... of Language Education ..., 2(3), 89–96. Retrieved from <https://journal.ikipsiliwangi.ac.id/index.php/jler/article/view/3535>
- Massari, N., & Sidek, H. M. (2014). *Introduction to Literature*. Malaysia: USIM Puplicher.
- Rosaria, L. (2004). a Study of Plot , Character , and Setting To Convey the Theme As Seen Hemingway ' S the Garden of Eden English Letters Study Programme Department of English Letters Faculty of English Letters.
- Sisakht, I. N. (2012). Analysis of Narrative and Importance of Point of View in Novels. *International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR)*, 3(7), 181–184. <https://www.ijsr.net/archive/v3i7/MDIwMTQ3NTc=.pdf>
- Stein, N. L. (1982). The definition of a story. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 6(5–6), 487–507. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-2166\(82\)90022-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/0378-2166(82)90022-4)
- Wiebe, J. M. (1990). Identifying subjective characters in narrative. *Uspensky* 1973, 401–406. <https://doi.org/10.3115/997939.998008>
- www.bbc.com. (2011, 6 August). Patrick Ness: Why I wrote *A Monster Calls*. Diakses pada 8 Juli 2020, dari <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-14308543>
- Yarova, A. (2019). "I Am the Eternal Green Man": Holistic Ecology in Reading Patrick Ness's *A Monster Calls*. *Children's Literature in Education*, (0123456789). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10583-019-09388-3>