



International Journal of Languages and Culture

Publisher's Home Page: <https://www.svedbergopen.com/>



Literary Article

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The Characterization of the Father in Andrea Hirata's Ayah Novel and its Use for Understanding Family Character Values

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Article Info

Volume 1, Issue 4, December 2021

Received : 05 October 2021

Accepted : 28 November 2021

Published : 05 December 2021

doi: [10.51483/IJLC.1.4.2021.22-26](https://doi.org/10.51483/IJLC.1.4.2021.22-26)

Abstract

Although it is a literary work, the novel conveys reality. The way the reality is conveyed in the novel can be described in two perspectives: the point of view of the reader and the writer. Father's novel is interesting to study because this novel is one of the few novels that tell about fathers. This research is limited to reviewing the content of the text, without conducting interviews with the authors. This research was conducted using content analysis method. Sources of data obtained from the novel Ayah by Andrea Hirata in the form of words, sentences, and phrases that represent the character of the father figure. Based on the description above, this research can be called a descriptive qualitative research. The characterization of the father figure will be associated with character values in the family.

Keywords: Novel Family Father Characterization

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1. Background

Family is the first place to get education. Before going to school or playing with peers, children first get to know their family. The most important figure in the family is the father. Apart from being the head of the family, the father is also an educator, role model, and a source of love for his children.

The importance of a father figure in parenting sometimes goes unnoticed. The culture in the environment makes the men, in this case the fathers, tend to experience collective silence and difficulty expressing their feelings to the child. This is evidenced by the lack of novels about fathers. Indonesian novels that tell stories about fathers include Andrea Hirata's father, Tereliye's "Ayahku Bukan Pembohong" (My Father is Not A Liar), Kirana Kejora's "Ayah Menyayangi Tanpa Akhir" (Father Endless Love), Ayah, A Story from Buya Hamka, and Adhitya Mulya's "Sabtu Bersama Bapak" (Saturday With Father). In terms of quantity, there are far fewer Indonesian novels about fathers than novels about mothers, siblings, or about love.

Andrea Hirata's (2015) novel Ayah is one of the few. Uniquely, this novel is written by a man and describes the relationship between father and son from two perspectives: the father's point of view and the son's point of view. This is the background of the researcher's interest in studying the novel Ayah by Andrea Hirata.

Based on the description above, two research questions can be drawn, namely:

1. How is the characterization of the father figure in Andrea Hirata's Father Novel?

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2. How is the relationship between the characterization of the father in Andrea Hirata's novel *Ayah* and the value of the character in the family?

The limitation of this research is the study of the text. The researcher only examines the content of the text without involving interviews with the author. The research method used is content analysis.

The data source comes from the text of the novel *Ayah* by Andrea Hirata. The data obtained are in the form of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs that represent the characterization of the father figure. This research is descriptive qualitative research with literature review method.

There are similar studies that have been conducted, including:

1. Damayanti (2016) examines the characterization of the characters in the novel *Der Furst Spricht* by Jan Peter Bremer.
2. Hakim (2018) examines the representation of fatherhood in Andrea Hirata's Novel *Ayah* by using Sara Mills' discourse analysis method. The research is carried out from the point of view of the writer and the reader.
3. Andrianto (2018) examines the characters in Dewi Lestari's Novel *Supernova* and relates them to learning Indonesian in high school.
4. Prastika (2016) examines the characterization of the character Elena in the novel *Ich Spur Mich Nicht* by Jana Frey.

2. Theoretical Foundation

According to Nurgiyantoro (2012), the novel is an imagination of the author's appreciation of the situation in society. There are times when a novel portrays reality. The building elements of the novel include plot, setting, character/character, conflict, theme, and mandate. These elements complement each other and cannot stand alone.

Without the presence of characters, a literary work will not be of interest to readers. Abrams in Nurgiyantoro (2012) suggests that characters are people who are shown in narrative or drama works. The reader interprets the character as having certain moral qualities and tendencies.

There are three divisions of character types, namely:

1. Protagonist character

This is the main character in a narrative or drama work. The protagonist plays an important role in the story. This character is moved by the author to try to achieve a goal in a story.

2. Antagonist character

The function of the antagonist character is to present conflict. It will prevent the protagonist from achieving his goal.

3. Tritagonist character

This character plays a supporting role. He can be on the side of the protagonist or vice versa. The protagonist/antagonist character aims to help the protagonist/antagonist character.

The depiction of the characters can be done through:

- A. Through dialogue
- B. Through the scene
- C. Through the view of the character in a problem
- D. Through the views of other characters

The stronger the character, the stronger the storyline. A good author will make the characters as alive and real as possible through strong physical and psychological depictions. In addition, the strength of the character is influenced by how determined he is to achieve the goal. A strong character must have a purpose.

3. Discussion

The novel *Ayah* by Andrea Hirata tells the story of Sabari, a father who is separated from his adopted son, Amiru alias Zorro. The story line in this novel is a mixed plot because there is a change in time between Sabari in the present and the past. As mentioned above, Amiru is not Sabari's biological child. He is the son of Marlana, Sabari's wife who never loved him and often changed partners. Sabari still loves Zorro as a child even though it is not his flesh and blood. Sabari was

very lost when Zorro separated from him. This is evidenced in the quote:

If there is a broken kite

landed in the yard of his house, he picked it up. He collected the strings of the broken kites, connected them together until they were long, he wrote on a piece of paper:

Zorro, come home, Daddy is waiting for you. Pinned paper

it's on a kite. Kites raised high with

the long rope, then after the rope was stretched out, with

he accidentally decided the kite. Imagine a kite

The breakup will land on Sumatra, where Zorro is found.

This is from Sabari, please help for information where my son Zorro and the women Marlina binti Markoni. Loss, no clear where. Marlina my X wife, Zorro no my X son, he is my son always, to be continue, forever.

These two quotes show that Sabari really loves Zorro. A father's love that transcends blood ties.

The name Sabari means patient. His character is patiently waiting for his love with Marlina, 11 years apart, patiently waiting for the birth of Zorro who is clearly not his child, patiently caring for Zorro, the boy who calls him 'Father', and patiently waiting for Zorro to return after eight years apart.

Although he did not study parenting formally, Sabari had made preparations before Zorro's birth. One of them is a matter of naming. It is indicated in the quote:

If the child is a boy, he already has a choice of names: Tabahi, Tekuni, Obedience, or Honesty. Tried speedy those names.

"Honestly, who threw Dad's bike into the?
in the well?"

"Me, Dad."

"Oh, there's no point in giving you the name Honest, Boi." be patient
looking left and right, just in case someone saw him talking to himself.

"Tabahi, do you feel bad about not going to class?"

"No, Father."

"Oh, I'm so amazed at your steadfastness, Boi."

If it's a girl, Sabari is sure with one

name only: Pack. He wants his son to be diligent in packing.

The hardworking and compassionate character is shown in the quote:

Perhaps, the feeling that is impossible to describe in words is the feeling of people waiting for the birth of a child. Sabari

ambushed by a strange feeling of pleasure while building the house

the little girl while waiting for Lena to give birth. That happy feeling then manifests in a more diligent form

work, appreciate and love more in anything. Therefore, he was re-elected as an exemplary factory employee. There was thunderous applause when Markoni, for the second time, earned him a medal.

In this novel, it is shown the transformation of a man when he becomes a father. The author of the novel refers to him as the hidden father. This transformation can be seen in the following quote:

Sabari trembled because he saw the baby he found someone who had been hiding inside him. That person is the father.

Sabari who was originally just a grown man, single, then married after marrying Marlina. When the child is born, he transforms into a father. He found a father figure in him.

Sabari's patience as a single parent is reflected in the quote:

Sabari is both father and mother to Zorro, full time. He fed Zorro and drank him milk. He stayed up all night when the child was sick. She had had moments of panic when the little one had a fever. She took him to the health center like a mother would. He knows about toddler nutrition, vaccines, and medicine for children. In fact, she often told other mothers about it. Message

The quote reflects if Sabari is able to become a single parent. He became both father and mother because Marlana ran away from home after giving birth to Zorro. This shows that Sabari played a very important role in the upbringing of Zorro when he was very young. Sabari also proved his awareness and calling to become a full-time father by resigning from the factory where he worked. Here's the quote:

Like a person taking care of a baby, he must always be near his child, 24 h. Therefore, with a heavy heart, he wrote a letter.

Awareness of being a full-time father is very rare. Most fathers still think that their role is to make a living, not take care of the children. Sabari has a different opinion. He did not hesitate to stop working to take care of Zorro. Instead, she opens a shop at home and raises livestock so that she can freely take care of her children.

Apart from having different thoughts, Sabari is also a great storyteller. This is shown in the quote:

Zorro loves to hear stories and Sabari loves to tell stories. Sabari tells his favorite story, Cinta in the Time of the Cholera Plague by considering himself as Florentino Ariza. Zorro was lulled by stories from a faraway land, South America. In one of these lullabies, Sabari accidentally mentions food. Zoro is happy. Maybe the name of the food sounds funny to him. The next day, Sabari colluded with the parking attendant in front of the Bundo Kandung Restaurant. In the evening he told about the adventures of a pop chicken warrior while flapping his hands and crowing. Zorro laughed until his eyes filled with tears.

Sabari's creativity in storytelling is shown by his initiative to create stories with the names of foods as characters. This is worthy of an example for fathers to diligently put their children to sleep with stories. The task of putting to bed and telling stories to children is not only for a mother, but also for a father.

The last trait is unyielding. This is stated in the quote:

"A father will not give up on his child."

The dialogue was spoken by Sabari when he followed the running race. In order to surprise Zorro who is going home, Sabari joins a marathon race. He was determined to keep running to the finish line even though the race had been over for a long time and the winner had been determined. Sabari just wants to prove that he doesn't give up and can keep running to the finish line.

Based on the description above, the character values that fathers in the family can emulate through the novel include:

1. The value of affection, can be seen from the figure of Sabari as a loving father
2. The value of patience
3. Hard work value
4. Value of passion and never give up
5. The value of creativity in storytelling
6. The value of love without blood ties

4. Conclusion

Father's novel deserves to be read by fathers. It contains values that can be emulated by fathers from various backgrounds. Suggestions for further research is to link Andrea Hirata's *Ayah Novel* with family literacy education materials. This novel can be used as material for preparing parenting training materials or educating children.

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Cite this article as: Latifah Maurinta Wigati (2021). The Characterization of the Father in Andrea Hirata's *Ayah* Novel and its Use for Understanding Family Character Values. *International Journal of Languages and Culture*. 1(4), 22-26. doi:10.51483/IJLC.1.4.2021.22-26.