

MORAL VALUE REFLECTED IN *PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF*(2005) BY RICK RIORDAN: AN EXISTENTIALISM PERSPECTIVE



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of Requirement
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department**

by:

ELTANIN RIDHO SAMODRA

A320160016

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**

2021

APPROVAL

MORAL VALUE REFLECTED IN *PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF*(2005) BY RICK RIORDAN : AN
EXISTENTIALISM PERSPECTIVE

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

by:

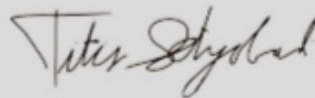
ELTANIN RIDHO SAMODRA

A320160016

Approved to be Examined by the Consultant
School of Teacher Training and Education Faculty
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

Surakarta, 21st June 2021

Approved by Consultant



Titis Setyabudi, S.S., M.A

NIDN. 0609127502

ACCEPTANCE

MORAL VALUE REFLECTED IN *PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS:
THE LIGHTNING THIEF* (2005) BY RICK RIORDAN: AN
EXISTENTIALISM PERSPECTIVE

By:

ELTANIN RIDHO SAMODRA

A320160016

Accepted and Approved by the Board Examiners
English Department
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
on 21st June 2021

Team of Examiner:

1. Titis Setyabudi, S.S., M.A

(Head of Examiner)

()

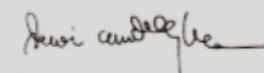
2. Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum

(Member I of Examiner)

()

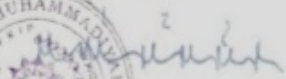
3. Dr.Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M.Ed

(Member II of Examiner)

()

Dean,




Dr. Harun Joko Prayitno, M.Hum

NIP. 19550428 199303 1 001

TESTIMONY

I testify that in this publication article there is no plagiarism of previous literary works which been raised to obtain bachelor degree of certain university, nor there are opinions or masterpieces which have been written or published by others, except those in which the writing is referred to the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography.

Hence later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will fully be responsible.

Surakarta, 21 June 2021

The Researcher



Eltanin Ridho Samodra

A320160016

MORAL VALUE REFLECTED IN *PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF*(2005) BY RICK RIORDAN: AN EXISTENTIALISM PERSPECTIVE

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui nilai-nilai moral yang tercermin dalam novel *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* karya Rick Riordan. dan untuk mengetahui bagaimana karakter tersebut mempertahankan eksistensinya dalam novel *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* karya Rick Riordan. Objek penelitian ini adalah menganalisis nilai-nilai moral dalam novel dan analisisnya dilakukan melalui metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data untuk analisis ini diambil dari peristiwa dan dialog yang terdapat dalam novel. Pertama-tama, peneliti akan membaca novel untuk memahami tentang apa ceritanya. Kemudian dengan mengutip beberapa kalimat dan percakapan dari novel tersebut, diambil data dan dilakukan analisis. Kedua, berdasarkan novel tersebut diceritakan bahwa tokoh dalam novel tersebut adalah Percy Jackson, Annabeth Chase dan Grover.

Keywords: Moral values, Percy Jackson, existentialism

Abstract

This research aims to find out the moral values reflected in *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* novel and to find out how does the character defend his existence on *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief Novel* by Rick Riordan. The object of this study is to analyze the moral values in the novel and the analysis is done through a descriptive qualitative method. The data for this analysis are taken from events and dialogues found in the novel. First of all, the researcher will read the novel to understand what the story is about. And then, by quoting several sentences and conversations from the novel, data are taken and the analysis is conducted. Secondly, based on the novel tells that the character in the novel, who are Percy Jackson, Annabeth Chase and Grover.

Keywords: Moral values, Percy Jackson, existentialism

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature In teaching and learning activities, we often hear the term literature. the human creature create a language to show expression and also to reveal the beauty to the lover of itself or the reader turn into a word that called Literature (Kurniawan, 2012). That is the reason that makes the literary work become an

deeply enjoyable stuff from the value and aesthetic side. The beauty of literary work can be seen from how the author drawing and build a fantastic story of human life, nature, adventure or from great diction the writer choose to fill the empty space of the literature (Kurniawan, 2012).

In this study, the researcher describes the previous studies based on the relevant previous research. There are three researches as follows: Muris (2013) in her thesis *The Existentialism In Sarah Winman's Novel "When God Was A Rabbit*. Her thesis evaluated the aspect of existentialism revealed in sarah wimman's novel "When God Was a Rabbit". Muris tried to analyze the aspect of existentialism in this novel, where this thesis has the purpose to evaluating the aspects of existentialism found in the novel "When God Was A Rabbit" by Sarah Winman. Tan (2007) in his thesis "Existentialism And Samuel Beckett's Two Plays: Endgame And Happy Days". His thesis evaluated about existentialism in Samuel Beckett's plays "Endgame and Happy Days. Tan tried to analyze characterization, setting and use of language in this plays, where this thesis his found tendency to employ some existentialist concepts such as despair, anxiety and thrownness on the way to authenticity.

The Lightning Thief is an American fantasy-adventure novel based on Greek mythology, the first young adult novel written by Rick Riordan in the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series. The manuscript was sold in an auction to Miramax Books, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children and thus Disney Publishing (succeeded by the Disney Hyperion imprint). The novel charts the adventures of modern-day twelve-year-old Percy Jackson as he discovers he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and the Greek god Poseidon. Percy and his friends Annabeth Chase and Grover Underwood go on a quest to find Zeus's stolen lightning bolt and prevent a war between the gods Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades.

This research primarily aims to find out What are the moral value reflected in *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* Novel and therefore How Existentialism affected main character in his life described using existentialism perspective as well. The researcher raise the issue of moral value because moral

value is important element that everyone need to learn when reading a novel. Then, the existentialism approach is the most suitable approach to conduct and find out the problem statements of this research. The function of this research is to point out that literary works may be used to reflect the author's personal experiences in life.

2. METHOD

This study was a descriptive qualitative research. The object of this research is *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief Novel* by Rick Riordan. published on June 2005 by Hyperion Book in United States. While the data was collected by the form of words, sentences from the character behaviour, conversations between characters, and the story of the novel. The data source is the novel *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief Novel* by Rick Riordan..

The researcher the step below in conducting the research, as follows: (a) reading *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief Novel* by Rick Riordan several times cautiously, (b) looking for information to the object of the study such as journal and article through the internet, (c) selecting the important data by underlining and highlighting the sentences which support the issue and theory of the study, (d) noting all secondary and primary data (e) identifying the problem and finding data, (f) making a conclusion and suggestion.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Findings

1. Moral Values

Here the researcher wants to analyse the Moral Values In *Percy Jackson And The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*(2005) By Rick Riordan. The researcher found some moral values in this novel that are presented by characters in the novel. The results are as follow :

a. Friendliness

The quote below shows the value of friendliness in the novel *Percy Jackson And The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*. The situation is when Grover was sitting by the fountain, a museum map tented over his head. Nancy Bobofit was still standing there, soaked from her swim in the fountain, grumbling to her ugly friends.

When she saw , she said, "I hope Mrs. Kerr whipped your butt." I said, "Who?" . "Our teacher. Duh!" I blinked. We had no teacher named Mrs. Kerr. I asked Nancy what she was talking about. She just rolled her eyes and turned away. I asked Grover where Mrs. Dodds was. He said, "Who?" But he paused first, and he wouldn't look at me, so I thought he was messing with me. "Not funny, man," I told him. "This is serious." (p.179)

From the text, Percy Jackson is making joke of they Teacher named Mrs. Kerr and Mrs. Dodds. This showed that Percy Jackson is having a good conversation with his friend named Grover, apart from he had a dyslexia and ADHD.

b. Bravery

Bravery is important in life because we need bravery to face our fears and overcome the obstacles in our life. Bravery is doing something that is difficult but correct and is the best choice for long time. It concludes that bravery in the movie is important and good for people to learn how to be brave on their life.

"We have to get out of here," Annabeth said. Together, we dragged Grover to his hooves and started back up the tunnel. My legs wouldn't move fast enough. My backpack weighed me down. The voice got louder and angrier behind us, and we broke into a run (p.319)

The text above shows the bravery from Annabeth, Percy and Groover. The story made them feel hollow, and guilty too. A girl had sacrificed herself to save her friends. She had faced a whole army of monsters. Next to that, Percy's victory over the Minotaur didn't seem like much. Percy wondered, if percy acted differently,

c. Respect the Parents

Modesty is also important, but respect is not only in terms of attitude and said words that occur due to hard training. True respect is seriously concerned about the feelings of others. According to the quote above, teaching the principles of respecting others are interesting but not easy. The situation below shows how we can learn from the novel.

"Your mother is a queen among women," Poseidon said wistfully. "I had not met such a mortal woman in a thousand years. Still ... I am sorry you were born, child. I have brought you a hero's fate, and a hero's fate is never happy. It is never anything but tragic." I tried not to feel hurt. Here was my own dad, telling me he was sorry I'd been born. "I don't mind, Father."

From the text, Percy or his dad call him "Perseus" is telling a sorry for not in there where Percy needs him. He admits that he makes a mistake by giving birth to Percy and now Percy has a hero fate which is not a happy thing. In the end, Percy and his father (Poseidon) had a good relation again.

d. Don't Judge people

Judging people is to express a bad opinion of someone's behavior because you think that you are better than them.

I tried to see what she was reading, but I couldn't make out the title. I thought my dyslexia was acting up. Then I realized the title wasn't even English. The letters looked Greek to me. I mean, literally Greek. There were pictures of temples and statues and different kinds of columns, like those in an architecture book.

Out of all the cabins, eleven looked the most like a regular old summer camp cabin, with the emphasis on old. The threshold was worn down, the brown paint peeling. Over the doorway was one of those doctor's symbols, a winged pole with two snakes wrapped around it. What did they call it... ? A caduceus

From the text, Percy had a dyslexia, but he can translate the Greek language to English, so he can understand a Greek letters. This is

because he is son of Poseidon which is a God from Greek Mythological.

2. The Way Moral Values Are Refected in The Novel

a. Existentialism Perspective

There are five basics themes of existentialism that the existentialist appropriates each in his or her own way. Based on the findings as presented in previous section, it can be seen that there are sixteen data that contain characteristics of existentialism, which can be catagorized as subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti materialism, and humanity. (Thomas Flynn 2006:8).

a) Subjectivity

Sartre claims that subjectivity does not degrade human beings on the contrary, it gives man dignity for two reason. One is that subjectivity is uniquely owned by human. The other is that, if man makes himself what he thinks he ought to be. Subjectivity is judgment based on individual personal impressions and feelings and opinion rather than external facts. The researcher found the data of subjectivity as follow:

Chiron winced. "I'm afraid that was Grover's second chance, Percy. The council was not anxious to give him another, either, after what happened the first time, five years ago. Olympus knows, I advised him to wait longer before trying again. He's still so small for his age... ." (p.81)

"Quite," Chiron agreed. "At any rate, Grover is a late bloomer, even by satyr standards, and not yet very accom-plished at woodland magic. Alas, he was anxious to pursue his dream. Perhaps now he will find some other career... ." (p.82)

The quocation above shows that Chiron judge Grover had the second chance, chiron said that he is still small for his age to persue his dream. In this case, we can clearly see individual personal

impressions and feelings and opinion rather of Chiron to Grover than external facts he had.

b) Conscious being in the world

Conscious being in the world is the state of being able to use senses and mental power to understand what is happening in the world.

"So if the gods fight," I said, "will things line up the way they did with the Trojan War? Will it be Athena versus Poseidon?" She put her head against the backpack Ares had given us, and closed her eyes. "I don't know what my mom will do. I just know I'll fight next to you." "Why?" "Because you're my friend, Seaweed Brain. Any more stupid questions?"(p.260)

The text above show situation when Annabeth being conscious about what is happening. He was very curious and asked Percy and Grover many things. He wondered if there was still a role between gods, he thought that he would remain with his friends no matter what happened in the future. even if he didn't know it could threaten his life.

c) Contingency

Contingency is the effective experience of human being in actual world. Indeed, the existence of human being is not an observation but contingency; which is the effective experience in the world. The passage below show the contingency in the novel.

"You didn't order the theft," I guessed. "Someone else sent a hero to steal the two items. Then, when Zeus sent you to hunt him down, you caught the thief. But you didn't turn him over to Zeus. Something convinced you to let him go. You kept the items until another hero could come along and complete the delivery. That thing in the pit is ordering you around."(p.337)

The situation above shows that this happens when Zeus' sword has been stolen by someone and Zeus accuses the son of Poseidon, Percy is the thief. Zeus tried to find his sword before the meeting of the gods so as not to make war between the gods happen. This will be very terrible for all creatures on earth.

d) Anti-materialism

Anti-Materialism is the doctrine which refuses the judgment based on materialistic values, only. Materialism regards human being as the result of materialistic process, that body, soul, passion and life of man represent the material.

I ran to the nearest newspaper stand and read the year first. Thank the gods, it was the same year it had been when we went in. Then I noticed the date: June twentieth. We had been in the Lotus Casino for five days. We had only one day left until the summer solstice. One day to complete our quest. (p.275)

The quotation above explain the situation when anti-materialism happens in the novel. This happened when Annabeth, Percy and Grover went to the casino to gamble. They were trapped there for 5 days until they finally regained consciousness and then went to return Zeus's sword. here the anti-materialism really stands out as they choose to stop gambling and continue their journey instead of staying at the casino longer and getting lots of money and fun.

e) Humanity

Humanity is dealing with condition of human being in the life. It concerns the values of lives which determine the existence of human being in the world.

"I was supposed to escort Thalia to camp," he said, snif-fling. "Only Thalia. I had strict orders from Chiron: don't do anything that would slow down the rescue. We knew Hades was after her, see,

but I couldn't just leave Luke and Annabeth by themselves. I thought ... I thought I could lead all three of them to safety. It was my fault the Kindly Ones caught up with us. I froze. I got scared on the way back to camp and took some wrong turns. If I'd just been a little quicker ..." (p.257)

"Look, do you want her turning more innocent people into statues?" She pointed to a pair of statue lovers, a man and a woman (p.189)

The human side is shown in the novel when Medusa turns an innocent person into a statue, it moves Percy, Annabeth and Grover's hearts. they then did a little trick and then cut the medusa's head off of its body. then use the head as a weapon.

3.2 Discussions

Based on the analysis above, it can be seen that there are some moral values found in the novel as follows: first, friendliness. The value of friendliness can be seen when The situation is when Grover was sitting by the fountain, a museum map tented over his head. Nancy Bobofit was still standing there, soaked from her swim in the fountain, grumbling to her ugly friends. The second moralvalue found in the novel is bravery. Bravery is important in life because we need bravery to face our fears and overcome the obstacles in our life. Bravery is doing something that is difficult but correct and is the best choice for long time. third moral value was happen when Percy or his dad calls him "Perseus" is telling a sorry for not in there where Percy needs him. He admits that he makes a mistake by giving birth Percy and now Percy has hero fate which are not a happy things. At the end Percy and his father (Poseidon) had a good relation again.It has been respect the parents value. And the last one is Don't judge other people value. Percy is knowing had a dyslexia, but he can translate the Greek language to English, so he can understand a Greek letters. This is because he is son of Poseidon which is a God from Greek Mythological.

Second finding is the way moral values are refected in the novel, which can be catagorized as subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti materialism, and humanity. The first is subjectivity, the subjectivity. In this novel

subjectivity happen when chiron judge Grover had the second chance, chiron said that he is still small for his age to persue his dream. Second, is the conscious being in the world. situation when Annabeth being conscious about what is happening. He was very curious and asked Percy and Grove many things. He wondered if there was still a role between gods, he thought that he would remain with his friends no matter what happened in the future. even if he didn't know it could threaten his life. Third is contingency, this happens when When Zeus' sword has been stolen by someone and Zeus accuses the son of Poseidon, Percy is the thief. zeus tried to find his sword before the meeting of the gods so as not to make war between the gods happen. This will be very terrible for all creatures on earth. Fourth is Anti-materialism. Materialism regards human being as the result of materialistic process, that body, soul, passion and life of man represent the material. This happened when Annabeth, Percy and Grover went to the casino to gamble. They were trapped there for 5 days until they finally regained consciousness and then went to return Zeus's sword. here the anti-materialism really stands out as they choose to stop gambling and continue their journey instead of staying at the casino longer and getting lots of money and fun. The last is humanity. The human side is shown in the novel when Medusa turns an innocent person into a statue, it moves Percy, Annabeth and Grove's hearts. they then did a little trick and then cut the medusa's head off of its body. then use the head as a weapon.

4. CLOSING

Based on the analyzes in the previous chapter, the researcher draws the conclusions as follows. First, based on the problem statement of the study, the researcher concludes that the moral values found in the novel as follows friendliness, bravery, respect the parents, and don't judge people. The way moral values are reflected in the novel can seen by existentialism perspective which can be catagorized as subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, and humanity. Second, based the second problem the researcher concludes that the way moral values is delineated in the novel through elements of the novel as follows character and characterizations, plot, and settings.

REFERENCE

- Althof, W., & Berkowitz*, M. W. (2006). *Moral education and character education: Their relationship and roles in citizenship education. Journal of moral education*, 35(4), 495-518.
- Dastmard1, F., Razmjoo2, T., & Vali, S. (2012). *The relationship between psychology and literature.*
- Fitriani, R. (2017). *An Analysis Of Moral Values In Novel" Oliver Twist" By Charles Dickens* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Pasir Pengaraian).
- Kurniawan, H. (2012). *Teori, metode, dan aplikasi sosiologi sastra.* 2011–2013.
- Muris, M. (2013). *The Existentialism in Sarah Winman's Novel" When God Was a Rabbit"* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar).
- Nordmeyer, H. W. (1949). An existentialist approach to literature. *The Modern Language Journal*, 33(8), 583-593.
- Puspitasari, F. B., & Setyabudi, titis. (2017). *The Motivation To Chase A Dream Of Main Character In The Novel The Alchemist By Paulo Coelho (1988): Individual Psychology Analysis - UMS ETD-db.*
<http://eprints.ums.ac.id/54474/>
- Quine, W. V. (1978). On the nature of moral values. In *Values and Morals* (pp. 37-45). Springer, Dordrecht.
- Sari, S. (2019). *An Analysis of Moral Values in "Gulliver's Travel" Novel* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Raden Intan Lampung).
- Warnock, M. (1996). Moral values. *Values in education and education in values*, 45-53.
- Wirahadi, U. (2008). *The existentialism studies on Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe's freedom of life* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim).

Wellek, Rene. Warren, Austin. "Theory of Literature." New York: Harcourt:
Brace and World, Inc, 1977.