

THE MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER SEBASTIAN WILDER PORTRAYED IN *LA LA LAND* MOVIE (2016)

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ABSTRACT

Literature and life is an artful way to sensitize on various complex issues and uses educative power that literatures have. The study is trying to consider the role of literature in moral education. The research problems of this study is what are the moral development of the main character, Sebastian Wilder portrayed in *La La Land* movie? The researcher includes six stages of Lawrence Kohlberg's Moral development theory which have three levels; pre-convention level, convention level and post-convention level. Each levels have two stages; stage one obedience and punishment orientation and stage two individualism and exchange for pre-convention level, stage three good interpersonal relationship and stage four maintaining the social order for convention level, and stage five social control and individual rights and stage six universal principles for post-convention level. Six stages of moral development theory can help the researcher analyzed how moral development on Sebastian Wilder is in *La La Land* movie by Damien Chazelle. In this study the researcher find six stages of Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development that portrayed the main character, Sebastian Wilder. The first stage, is when Sebastian thinks the advice from the big people that he should do is only just an advice. The second stage is he loves himself as he being alone and loving what he is doing on his own. In the third stage, he tries to make a real effort to get a good behavior to keep his relationship with his friends or his family always good. The fourth stage is he thinks that he must to organize the things from the social order to keep his life better. The fifth is when he gets a steady job and he must do everything with his new band. The sixth, he changed his future because he think that he must to be a successful person and get the popularity the same with the other musicians.

Keywords: moral development, main character, *La La Land* movie

ABSTRAK

Sastra dan kehidupan adalah sebuah seni untuk membuat kepekaan di berbagai macam permasalahan yang kompleks dan menggunakan kekuatan pendidikan yang terdapat dalam sastra. Penelitian ini mencoba untuk mempertimbangkan peran sastra dalam pendidikan moral. Permasalahan penelitian ini adalah; apa saja perkembangan moral yang ada pada pemeran utama, gambaran Sebastian Wilder pada film *La La Land*? Peneliti memasukkan enam tingkat pada Teori Perkembangan Moral oleh Lawrence Kohlberg, yang mana memiliki tiga level; *pre-convention level*, *convention level* dan *post-convention level*. Di setiap level memiliki dua tingkatan, yang mana teori tingkatan-tingkatan tersebut membantu peneliti menganalisa

bagaimana perkembangan moral pada Sebastian Wilder di film *La La Land* oleh Damien Chazelle di analisis. Pada penelitian ini peneliti mendapatkan enam tingkatan Teori Perkembangan Moral oleh Lawrence Kohlberge pada gambaran pemeran utama, Sebastian Wilder. Tingkatan pertama, saat Sebastian berpikir bahwa nasihat dari orang-orang penting yang seharusnya dia lakukan itu hanyalah sebuah nasihat yang tidak harus dilakukan. Tingkatan kedua adalah bagaimana dia merasa nyaman akan kesendiriannya dan menyukai apa yang dia lakukan untuk dirinya sendiri. Pada tingkatan ketiga, dia mencoba untuk membuat sebuah usaha yang nyata untuk mendapatkan perilaku yang benar dan baik agar dapat menjaga hubungan antar teman dan keluarga. Tingkatan keempat, dia memikirkan untuk lebih mengatur kehidupan sosialnya menjadi lebih baik. Tingkatan kelima saat dia mendapatkan kerja tetap dan melakukan semua hal untuk band baru yang sedang dijalaninya. Tingkatan keenam, dia mengubah masa depannya karena dia berpikir bahwa dia seharusnya menjadi orang yang sukses dan mendapatkan popularitas yang setara dengan musisi pada umumnya.

Kata Kunci: perkembangan moral, tokoh utama, film *La La Land*

A. INTRODUCTION

According to Wellek and Warren, the term literature is the limit of the art, that is to imaginative literature (11). Within the history of imaginative literature, limitation to the great books make in comprehensible to the continuity of literature tradition. In history and philosophy, it actually introduces an excessively aesthetic point of view. By enjoying the literary works or conducting a research in literature will bring us to have broader knowledge as we have deeper understanding and insights about human problem. As life's experience growled in our morality through problems, epistemologically moral concerned with what and how about right and wrong, justice and injustice, vice and virtue (McCord, 1).

The researcher want to prove that how is moral development of Sebastian Wilder happens because he is the main character in the movie that brings a moral value in the story, through his attitude regarding to his perspective of his life, relationship and career. Therefore, the researcher will discuss the main character, Sebastian Wilder, in *La La Land* movie by using Lawrence Kohlberg's six stages of moral development theory as an analysis regarding to rational maturity mind of an individualist.

B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. Definition of Literature

Literary works deal with the human condition and experience in the same way. It means that literature is an expression about human experiences that contains their personalities, emotion, and beliefs bound up in their works. Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty, it is the written record of human's spirit of thoughts, emotions, aspirations, and history of human soul (Long, 8).

2. Kinds of Literary Work

There are five main literary genre in literature based on *The Five Main Genres of Literature* by Haley Drucker (2014) that explained below:

- a. Poetry is nearly always written in stanzas and lines, creating a unique look on the page.
- b. Prose is the type of literature which read often in any novel or short story. It divided into a large number of other sub-genres; such as novellas, biographies and memoirs,

- other are based on the subject matter; like romances, fantasies and mysteries.
- c. Drama is usually called plays, any text meant to be performed rather than read can be considered as it.
 - d. Non-fiction is to tell a story (hence the autobiography), but most of the time the purpose is to pass on information and educated the readers about certain facts, ideas, and/or issues.
 - e. Media is the newest type of literature that has been defined as a distinct genre is the today; such as movies, websites, commercials, billboards and radio programs.

3. Lawrence Kohlberg's Moral Development Theory (1971)

Kohlberg demonstrated through studies that people progressed in their moral reasoning (i.e., in their bases for ethical behavior) through a series of stages. There were six identifiable stages which could be more generally classified into three levels (Yahaya, 1). Moral Development by Lawrence Kohlberg (1971) is divided into three:

a. Preconvention Level

This level is divided into two stages; stage one and stage two. On this subsequent assuming that powerful authorities hand down a fixed set of rules which he or she must unquestioningly obey (Crain, 120).

b. Convention Level

This level is divided into two stages, stage three and stage four. Believing that people should live up to the expectations of the family and community and behave in good ways. Good behavior means having good motives and interpersonal feelings such as love, empathy, trust, and concern for others (Crain, 121).

c. Post-Convention Level

This level is divided into two stages, stage five and stage six. Begin to think about society in a very theoretical way, stepping back from their own society and considering the rights and values that a society ought to uphold (Crain, 122).

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

The researcher uses descriptive research which is originally discovered by observing, classifying, labeling and interpreting the data as it helps to develop the conceptual patterns of the study (Mills et. al, 2006).

Descriptive qualitative research method is an involving analysis that summarize method with an analytical description data analysis (Hancock et. al, 24). As it explains above, descriptive qualitative method is compatible with the study as the researcher defined the moral development that happened in the movie in which the story adapted from the real life situation of Sebastian Wilder's character.

2. Data and Data Source

The data source for this study is the movie script of *La La Land* movie. The data are the dialogues, actions, behaviors toward Sebastian Wilder as the main character in *La La Land's* movie who is the main object of this study. Then, the researcher analyzed Sebastian Wilder's moral development by using six stages of Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory.

3. Data Collection

The researcher uses three steps to collecting the data, as follows:

- a. The researcher watched the film of *La La Land* for a couple times.
- b. The researcher observed the main character actions and behaviors.
- c. The researcher took notes of moral development of Sebastian Wilder in the movie.

4. Data Analysis

According to Miles and Huberman, analysis can be defined as consisted by three steps of analyzing the data; data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification. The explanation as follow:

- a. Data reduction became the first step to do in analyzing the data. It refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting and transforming the data which is written up field note or transcript (10).
- b. Data display generally is an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing and action (11).
- c. Conclusion Drawing and Verification, final conclusion may not appear until data collection is over, depending on the size of the corpus of field notes ; coding storage and retrieval method (11).

5. Triangulation

The researcher used data triangulation and theoretical triangulation to validate the data of the study. First is data triangulation, which entails obtaining data from different times or under different discussions. It takes data from two or more different graduate level of conferences (Turner and Turner, 2).

The researcher used theoretical triangulation to find more broadly the findings of the study. There are two hypotheses that can be observed the analysis beyond obvious explanation; which are, first is Jean Piaget's theory of moral development that Kohlberg could use his developmental criterion to show why some forms of moral reasoning are likely to be preferred. Second is, Carol Gilligan, who is criticize Kohlberg impartiality conception of morality.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Pre-Conventional Level

He sees morality as something external to themselves as that the big people say he must do. Avoidance of punishment and unquestioning difference to power and values in his own right, evidence as the following manuscript:

Mia : ...he's great, he's going to open his own jazz club. It's going to be incredible.. (as she suddenly whispers) *well, he has to get the money together first*, and... (she seems having a little argue with her mother) he's figuring out... yeah, it's just been a little tricky lately.. (D10)

This scene is showing how much Sebastian loves jazz, he loves what he is doing on his own after hear Mia's conversation with her mother. Everything has changed after he listens and takes it all in the conversation between Mia and her mother. He thinks again that it should do. He cannot stay in that situation. If he stay in that situation, he cannot have a steady job as Mia's mother wants. Sebastian looks around him and see several parts of his home was not feasible. He should thinking about future to make his life better. Sebastian's behavior has disobedient, it show that after Sebastian hear the conversation between Mia and

her mother, suddenly Sebastian changed his dream to get a steady job, not open a jazz club. So that he get the punishment for himself because of his individualism.

2. Conventional Level

Reasoning works best in two-person relationships with family or close friends, where one can make a real effort to get to know the other's feelings and needs and try to help. As the following manuscript:

Sebastian : Why don't you want to do it anymore?
Mia : Because it hurts a little bit too much.
Sebastian : *I told them you'd be there at five-thirty tomorrow. I'll swing by here before I drive back at eight. Either you'll be outside or you won't*
Mia : How did you find me?
Sebastian : The house across from the library. (D17)

In this scene shows that Sebastian wants to apologize to Mia after he forgets to watch Mia's play. Mia looks disappointed with him after her performance. But, Sebastian tries to make Mia believes with him and helps Mia for the next audition because Mia looks for Amy Brandt's audition tomorrow. Sebastian believes that she will pass the audition and she can do the best for the audition. Sebastian tries to have a good relationship with Mia after he makes a mistake.

3. Post Conventional Level

Right action tends to be defined in terms of general individual rights and standards that have been critically examined and agreed upon by the whole society. As the following manuscript:

Keith : You're good tonight, right?
Sebastian :tonight?
Keith : Seven. The photo shoot. Mojo
Sebastian : I thought it was next Thursday
Keith : No, it's tonight. Is that ok? (D16)

Sebastian looks very confused after hears the information from Keith about the photoshoot. Sebastian quiets and thinks about Mia's performance and he hopes that he can see it. But, Sebastian cannot do anything because that is an agreement for his job. He gets a steady job and he must do everything with his new band. However Sebastian confuses with his job now, he cannot come out and stops the contract. His behavior shows that he is doing the social control for his job with Keith.

E. CONCLUSION

According to research findings and discussions in the previous chapter, it could be concluded the problem of the study. There are six stages of moral development by Lawrence Kohlberg's theory of Pre-conventional, Conventional and Post-conventional levels. The first level is Pre-Conventional, there are stage one obedience and punishment orientation, when Sebastian hears the conversation between Mia and her mother as she is on her phone with her mother in the other room. He listens and takes it all in. then stage two are individualism and exchange, Sebastian focused on his self-interest as a jazz musician, he persuade people around him to love jazz. It is same as what he loves.

The second level is Conventional, there also two stages which are, stage three good interpersonal relationship, although he makes many mistakes to his friends and his family, he always tries to improve his behavior to be better. then stage four maintaining the social order, Sebastian thinks that he must to organize the things from the social order to keep his life better, as he enjoys the Keith with band.

The third is Post-Conventional level, there are stage five social control and individual rights, although Sebastian does not like this job, he should do that because of a steady job and his agreement with Keith about the job. Furthermore, he has signing the contract with Keith's band now. Then stage six universal principles, Sebastian dreamt, he will open his jazz club. Sebastian thinks that this job is his dream. He wants to be a big person the same as peoples wanted.

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