

A SHORT STORY IN ENGLISH FOR CHILDREN WRITTEN BY HARUN YAHYA: EXPLORING THE EDUCATIONAL VALUES

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Abstract : The existence of literary work gives much information about the meaning of life. Reading literary work aims to comprehend messages and essential values relating to social life, religiosity, tradition, social status, personality, and society's psychology. In tune with that, this study aims to analyze educational values in a short English story for children by Harun Yahya. This study was qualitative design. The method of the study was the descriptive analysis. The technique of collecting data was library research. The technique of data analysis was content analysis. The data analysis done was organizing and familiarizing, coding and reducing, and interpreting and representing. The three data findings of the education values from a short story in English for children by Harun Yahya were Religious values (RV) in the short story message that belong to the perfection of Allah's creation. Those reflected that awareness of walking on of life needs a way through understanding religious values, Psychology values (PV) contain the motivation to study science and Social value (SV) contains a lesson about making good relationships among fellows. Social value reflected that there is peace and safety in society's environment and awareness in holding willingness.

Keyword : *A Short Story, Educational Values*

INTRODUCTION

Literature deals with written or spoken works of artistic and intellectual value that use language to express ideas, emotions, stories, and insights. It encompasses a wide range of forms, including novels, poetry, plays, short stories, essays, and more. Literature often reflects the cultural, historical, and societal contexts in which it is created, offering readers a window into different perspectives, experiences, and worlds (Hasyim & Syarifuddin, 2019). A short story is a brief work of fiction that typically focuses on a single character, event, or theme. It's a concise narrative that aims to tell a complete story in limited space, often within a few thousand words. Short stories can be found in various literary forms, including magazines,

anthologies, online platforms, and dedicated collections (Alsahafi, 2019). Thus, a short story is a form of literary work that is characterized by its brevity and focus on a single, self-contained narrative. Despite its concise length, a well-crafted short story can be a powerful and impactful piece of literature that engages readers and conveys significant themes, emotions, and insights (Hidayat, 2016). Short stories often explore a particular moment, event, or character, and they aim to deliver a complete story arc within a limited word count.

Short stories often explore and convey a variety of values, morals, and ethical principles. These values can be woven into the narrative to create depth, engage readers emotionally, and provoke thought.

Different short stories may emphasize different values, depending on their themes, characters, and messages. Values are fundamental beliefs or principles that guide individuals' attitudes, behaviors, and decisions. They reflect what is considered important, worthwhile, and meaningful in life. Values shape a person's character, influence their interactions with others, and contribute to their sense of purpose and identity. Values can vary widely among individuals, cultures, and societies, but they often serve as a foundation for ethical and moral choices (AlJazrawi & AlJazrawi, 2019). On the other hand, short stories can be powerful tools for conveying educational values and lessons. They can engage readers, provoke critical thinking, and provide opportunities for discussions on various topics (Nugraha et al., 2017). Besides, short stories provide a concise and engaging way to convey educational messages and values. They can be used in educational settings to promote critical thinking, cultural understanding, and discussions on various important topics. Whether through classroom discussions, writing assignments, or independent reading, short stories offer a versatile and effective tool for imparting educational values to learners of all ages.

The current study believes that educational values are the core principles and beliefs that guide the goals, methods, and practices within an educational system. These values influence how educators teach, how students learn, and how educational institutions operate. The result of embracing and promoting certain educational values can have a significant impact on students, teachers, and society as a whole (Irshad & Ahmed, 2015). Ultimately, the result of educational values extends beyond academic achievement; it shapes the character, mindset, and future contributions of individuals. The emphasis on particular values can impact societal norms, policy decisions, and the overall

direction of a community or nation (Ng et al., 2014). Educational institutions play a crucial role in cultivating and transmitting these values, which in turn can have a profound influence on the betterment of individuals and society as a whole (Oktoma & Mardiyono, 2013). Besides, in a world where education is a cornerstone of personal and societal development, educational values are a critical concern. This problem reflects the disconnect between the intended values of education and the actual practices and outcomes within educational systems.

The short story "Stories for Thinking Children" describes activities and phenomena explained in detail to help the readers understand their values. Educational values are often considered fundamental values in a society due to their critical role in shaping individuals, fostering personal growth, and advancing the collective well-being of communities. Therefore, in English for Thinking Children written by Harun Yahya, the story points out to human about the meaning of life and how to live to be better by taking care of the relationship between humans and god (Allah). Besides, every literary work reflects religious, psychological, and social issues. Greatly, appreciated worldwide, these works have been instrumental in helping many people return their faith in Allah, and many others, to gain a deeper insight into their faith. Harun Yahya stories appeal to all kinds of readers, regardless of age, race, or nationality concerning one objective to broaden the reader's perspective by encouraging him or her to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of Allah and his unity, and to live by the values prescribed for them.

In the short story, the writer gives a critical analysis of educational values going through with a medium for readers and for all literary works lovers to get much more information about the meaning of life and to stimulate learners' curiosity

to learn values through reading literary work. Therefore, the short story English for Thinking Children written by Harun Yahya was exactly to be presented because the short story entertains the readers and contains a lot of values that can be practiced in life.

RESEARCH METHOD

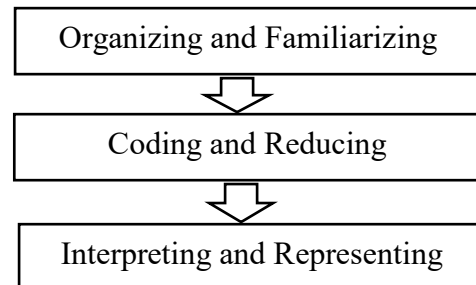
The study used qualitative design which qualitative research refers to the meaning, concept, definition, characteristic, metaphor, symbol, and description of a thing (Leonard Bickman & Debra J. Rog, 2009). Besides, the method applied descriptive analysis. Descriptive analysis is a research method used to summarize, organize, and present data in a clear and meaningful way (Kemp et al., 2018). It aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the characteristics, patterns, and trends within a dataset without making inferences or drawing conclusions beyond what the data itself reveals. Descriptive analysis is often the first step in the research process and serves as a foundation for further exploration and interpretation. The method tended to give an analysis of the quality of the literary work.

The setting of the study conducted was for three months. The setting of the study helps readers and writers understand where and when the study occurred, which is important for interpreting the findings and understanding the broader implications. The subject of the study was the short story written by Harun Yahya.

The data collection used the library research. Library research, also known as library-based research or desk research, refers to the process of gathering information, data, and knowledge from various sources available in libraries (Roknuzzaman & Umemoto, 2009). It is a foundational research method that involves utilizing library resources to gather and analyze information to answer research questions, explore topics, and develop a deeper understanding of subjects. Then,

the data analyzed was in three stages namely organizing and familiarizing, coding and reducing, and interpreting and representing.

Donald demonstrated the scheme of data analysis below (Ary et al., 2019).



FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Referring to the discussion of the short story analysis, here some other findings such as religious values, psychological values, and social values.

1. Religious Values (RV)

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَتَّخِذُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنْدَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ وَلَوْ يَرَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِذْ يُرُونَ الْعَذَابَ أَنَّ الْقُوَّةَ لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعَذَابِ ﴿٥٦﴾

The writer found the important things from religious values. Religious values are deeply ingrained principles and beliefs that guide the moral and ethical behavior of individuals and communities within the context of their faith. These values are often derived from religious texts, teachings, and traditions (Rezky et al., 2020). Here are the findings related to religious values namely the perfection of Allah's creation.

The perfection of Allah's creation is a fundamental belief in many monotheistic religions, particularly in Islam. It refers to the idea that Allah (God) has created the universe and everything in it with flawless design, wisdom, and purpose. This belief underlines the idea that everything in existence, whether seen or unseen, reflects the supreme attributes of the Creator (Malik, 2021). Allah (God) is considered

the Creator of everything, including

هُوَ الْحَيُّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٥١﴾

human beings. The creation of human beings holds significant importance in Islamic theology and is often viewed as a demonstration of Allah's wisdom, power, and mercy (Khalil, 2016). The creation of human beings is a central theme in Islamic teachings, reflecting the deep connection between humanity and its Creator (Hope & Jones, 2014). It underlines the concept of gratitude to Allah for the gift of life, the importance of ethical conduct, and the need to fulfill one's purpose by living in accordance with Allah's guidance. The creation of humans is described in the Quran, the holy book of Islam, as well as in the Hadith (sayings and actions) of the Prophet Muhammad (M. Ali, 2020). The Quran explained in some surah as follows (A. Y. Ali, 2022):

“He is the Ever-Living. There is no god ‘worthy of worship’ except Him. So call upon Him with sincere devotion, ‘saying,’ ‘All praise is for Allah—Lord of all worlds.’” (Surah Al-Ghafir, 65)

“Still there are some who take others as Allah’s equal—they love them as they should love Allah—but the ‘true’ believers love Allah even more. If only the wrongdoers could see the ‘horrible’ punishment ‘awaiting them’, they would certainly realize that all power belongs to Allah and that Allah is indeed severe in punishment.” (Surah Al-Baqarah, 165)

“who choose disbelievers as allies instead of the believers. Do they seek honour and power through that company? Surely all honour and power belongs to Allah.” (Surah An-Nisa, 139)

الَّذِينَ يَتَّخِذُونَ الْكَافِرِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِنْ دُونِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَلَيْسَ عِنْدَهُمُ الْعِزَّةُ فَإِنَّ الْعِزَّةَ لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا ﴿٥٢﴾

“It is Allah Who created you in a state of weakness, then developed ‘your’ weakness into strength, then developed ‘your’ strength into weakness and old age.1 He

creates whatever He wills. For He is the All-Knowing, Most Capable..” (Surah Ar-

فَاطِرُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ أَزْوَاجًا يَذُرُّكُمْ فِيهَا لَيْسَ كَيْدِيهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّيِّعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿٥٣﴾

Rum, 54)

“He is ‘the Originator of the heavens and

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى ﴿٨﴾

the earth. He has made for you spouses from among yourselves, and ‘made’ mates for cattle ‘as well’—multiplying you ‘both’. There is nothing like Him, for He ‘alone’ is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing..” (Surah As-Shuraa, 11)

“Allah—there is no god ‘worthy of worship’ except Him. He has the Most Beautiful Names..” (Surah Taha, 8).”

Based on these verses, essentially all of the beauty and perfection in the universe belongs to god. Perfection and beauty exist other than Allah is a symbol of perfection and beauty and loans. To reinforce the earlier mention, the Quran describes it another way: the beauty and perfection deposited on the creatures in nature are limited and interminable. The perfection of Allah’s creation was extracted as follows:

Theme: Ahmad and the Happy Duck

How do the ducks know that they have to change direction all the time to escape predators, Grandpa? “he asked.

His grandfather told him: “Just as Allah has given special qualities to other animals; he gave this one to cute ducks so that they can protect themselves. Allah creates what he wills. There is a verse about this in the Quran: Allah created every animal from water. Some of them go on their bellies, some of them on two legs, and some on four. Allah creates whatever he wills. Allah has power over all things.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ ضَعْفٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْ بَعْضٍ ضَعْفٍ قُوَّةً ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْ بَعْضٍ قُوَّةً ضَعْفًا وَشَيْبَةً يَخْلُقُ

مَا يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْقَدِيرُ ﴿٥٤﴾

“(Annur, 45)”

“Come on Ahmad, “he said: Dinner is almost ready. We’d better make our way back home.”

“ok, grandpa. I’ll tell you what I learned about ducks on the way!”

“Really?” asked his grandfather. “Now where did you learn all this from?” Ahmad winked at the ducks in the water and said goodbye.

Ahmad took his grandfather’s hand and left the ducks behind. They walked home together talking about Allah’s perfect creation and giving thanks for it. (p.26-31/RV01)

The author explains the perfection of Allah’s creation from the special qualities of animals. The case was the duck giving the perfection to protect themselves from the other, and Allah has given the special qualities of his form. The statement was as follows;

His grandpa told him: “Just as Allah has given special qualities to other animals; he gave this one to cute ducks so that they can protect themselves.

The following expression was cited in the Qur’an;

Allah created every animal from water. Some of them go on their bellies, some of them on two legs, and some on four. Allah creates whatever he wills. Allah has power over all things.” (An-Nur, 45)

Furthermore, it is important to note that religious values can vary widely among different faith traditions and even among individual practitioners within the same tradition. These values can shape personal behavior, community dynamics, and societal norms. Understanding religious values can contribute to interfaith dialogue, cultural sensitivity, and a deeper appreciation of diverse worldviews.

2. Psychological Value (PV)

Referring to psychological values in the short story written by Harun Yahya, psychological values refer to principles,

qualities, or beliefs that have a positive impact on an individual's mental and emotional well-being. These values guide how we think, feel, and interact with ourselves and others. Meanwhile, psychological values emerged in some extracts of the story. Each part of the theme of the short story emerges to motivate them to study science.

The magnitude of studying science is the most dominant thing in the wide world. The author gives explanations in the short story “Kareem and Grandpa Hasan” as follows:

Theme: Kareem and Grandpa Hasan

Kareem was amazed that plants could breathe by this special chemical process called photosynthesis. “so, how did this process take place?” he wondered. While he was thinking about this, his grandfather continued his story: “Using the soil, water, air, and the sun, unconscious plant cells take a certain amount of minerals and water from the soil and produce food for human beings. With the energy they take from the sun, they break down these materials and later bring them back together to produce food. This is just an outline of the process, but at every stage, you can see that there is a conscious and intelligent plan. It is clear that the purpose of this amazing system operating in plants is to provide a source of life designed for the benefit of human beings.” (p.38-41/PV02)

The theme of the short story “Kareem and Grandpa Hasan” describes how the plant photosynthesis process is like human beings needing food and water to live, and the sun to get vitamins. The extract of the theme “Kareem and Grandpa Hasan” was part of Psychological Values. These psychological values underline the overarching theme of the story the transformative power of science and the human capacity to explore, learn, and contribute to the world through

curiosity and determination (Asdar et al., 2021). A recent study found that these psychological values collectively contribute to the story's theme of the transformative power of science and the human capacity for exploration and growth (Adamczyk, 2017).

Furthermore, the exploration of psychological values within the context of short story like the theme: Kareem and Grandpa Hasan reveals their profound impact on personal development, resilience, and the pursuit of knowledge. These values are not just abstract concepts; they are the building blocks of a fulfilling and meaningful life. The short story highlights that the journey toward self-empowerment and personal growth is marked by perseverance and continuous learning. These psychological values are not isolated traits but a cohesive tapestry that shapes her character and fuels her success.

Ultimately, the interplay of these psychological values weaves a narrative that resonates with readers, inspiring them to embrace curiosity, resilience, determination, and more. Through Harun Yahya's Short story, we come to understand that by fostering these values within ourselves, we can embark on journeys of discovery, empowerment, and transformation that not only enrich our lives but also contribute positively to the world around us.

3. Social Values (SV)

Analysis of Social are principles, beliefs, and ideals that guide individuals and societies in their interactions and behaviors. They shape how people perceive themselves, others, and the world around them. Analyzing social values involves examining their impact on society, relationships, and collective norms. Here is an analysis of social values (Eripuddin & Rahayu, 2020):

- a. Cultural Diversity: Social values often reflect the diversity of cultures within a society. Analyzing these values can reveal the acceptance and respect for different backgrounds, languages, and traditions.
- b. Equality and Justice: Social values related to equality and justice reflect the society's stance on fairness and human rights. Analyzing these values can shed light on issues of discrimination, inclusivity, and social equity.
- c. Family and Community: Values around family and community indicate the importance placed on interpersonal relationships. Examining these values can reveal the level of social cohesion, support systems, and communal bonds within a society.
- d. Education and Learning: Social values related to education signify the emphasis on knowledge and personal growth. Analyzing these values can provide insights into a society's investment in intellectual development and lifelong learning.
- e. Work Ethic: Values concerning work ethic reflect attitudes toward productivity and contribution to society. Analyzing these values can reveal cultural norms around employment, ambition, and the balance between work and personal life.
- f. Freedom and Individuality: Social values tied to freedom and individuality showcase the level of autonomy individuals have within a society. Examining these values can reveal the extent to which personal choices are respected.
- g. Environmental Awareness: Values related to the environment highlight the society's concern for ecological sustainability. Analyzing these values can indicate attitudes toward conservation, resource management, and climate change.

- h. Health and Well-Being: Social values surrounding health reflect the importance placed on physical and mental well-being. Examining these values can provide insights into healthcare accessibility, attitudes toward mental health, and preventive measures.
- i. Social Responsibility: Values of social responsibility reveal the commitment of individuals to the welfare of the broader community. Analyzing these values can show the extent to which people prioritize contributing to the common good.
- j. Ethics and Integrity: Values tied to ethics and integrity reflect the moral compass of a society. Examining these values can reveal attitudes toward honesty, accountability, and ethical decision-making.
- k. Technology and Innovation: Social values concerning technology and innovation indicate the society's approach to progress and change. Analyzing these values can shed light on the adoption of new technologies and their impact on daily life.
- l. Humanitarianism: Values related to humanitarianism demonstrate the level of empathy and compassion within a society. Examining these values can reveal attitudes toward charitable actions, social justice, and aiding vulnerable populations.

The short story theme “It is important to follow the good word” describes a lot of phenomena that happen in human life either good or bad actions. Good relation is one of good action as a group society. Social values keep good relationships among peers taken from expression. Good relationship among fellow is very necessary to keep the harmony of life good relation is also given by the author following the expression of the short story theming “It is important to follow good word” as follow:

Theme: It is important to follow the good word

Uncle Hanif then said: “Come on boys! We all want to feel good lead a secure life and find friendship and happiness where we can. But it’s not enough to desire these things. And we can’t wait for someone else to give them to us. Feeling good in a safe environment and making good friendships require special effort and self-sacrifice. If everyone insisted on having only what they wanted and thought of themselves rather than giving in to others, there would only be unhappiness and arguments among us. But believers who fear Allah behave differently; they are patient, forgiving, and don’t insist on having their own way. Even when someone wrongs them, they don’t take offense; they put the well-being of others before their own wishes and do the best they can not to upset those around them. This is a characteristic of the superior moral behavior that Allah has commanded his servant to practice.”

Ana asked: “Ok, uncle Hanif. If a bully comes up to us and uses bad words, what should we do then?”

Uncle Hanif answered: “Of course, we must act as Allah has commanded. Allah tells us how in the Quran:

A good action and a bad action are not the same. Repel the bad with something better and, if there is enmity between you and someone else, he will be like a bosom friend. (Fussilat:34)

Our prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, also advises Muslims to treat good to others in a hadith as follows:

Whoever wishes to be delivered from the fire and enter the garden should die with faith in Allah and the last day and should treat the people as he wishes to be treated by them. (p.70-83/SV03)

The author describes a good relationship among them. A good relationship is one characterized by mutual respect, effective communication, trust,

understanding, and support between two or more individuals. Whether it is a romantic partnership, a friendship, a family relationship, or even a professional connection, certain key elements contribute to a healthy and positive relationship. Remember that no relationship is perfect, and challenges will arise from time to time. What distinguishes a good relationship is the commitment to working through these challenges together, learning and growing from them, and continuously nurturing the connection. It is important to communicate openly about the state of the relationship and be willing to adapt and evolve as circumstances change. Here are some statement of the good relationship.

“Feeling good in a safe environment and making good friendships require special effort and self-sacrifice”.

The statement refers to special effort and self-sacrifice for the others so that they form a safe environment. Self-sacrifice in a relationship involves putting the needs, well-being, and happiness of the other person ahead of your own. While selflessness can be a noble trait and can demonstrate your care and dedication to someone, it is important to approach self-sacrifice with a balanced perspective (Larasati & Irmawati, 2022).

The other statement of a good relationship, the Quran reveals.

“A good action and bad action are not the same. Repel the bad with something better and, if there is enmity between you and someone else, he will be like a bosom friend. (Fussilat:34)

The hadith of prophet Muhammad PBUH said *“Whoever wishes to be delivered from the fire and enter the garden should die with faith in Allah and the last day and should treat the people as he wishes to be treated by them.”*

The author gave a message through some statements about keeping a good relationship among fellows. Remember

that building and maintaining a good relationship among fellows requires effort from all parties involved. Consistency, sincerity, and a willingness to invest time and energy into the relationship contribute to its strength and longevity. Therefore, analyzing social values provides a deeper understanding of societal dynamics, norms, and the collective mindset. These values shape interactions, influence policies, and contribute to the overall cultural landscape. By studying these values, researchers, policymakers, and individuals can better comprehend the underlying forces that drive social behaviors and attitudes.

CONCLUSION

The short story in English for Thinking

بَيَّأُهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَانْفَسُوا يَنْسُخِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ انشُرُوا فَانشُرُوا يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿٥٥﴾

Children written by Harun Yahya encompasses three educational values namely religious values, psychological values, and social values. Religious values reflected the message that the creation of human beings belongs to Allah. Allah created the universe including humans, and animals, all unliving things on the planet and the world that Allah created them in perfection. Those reflected that awareness of walking on life that human beings should worship god (Allah). Psychological values describe the importance of seeking knowledge and giving the motivation to study science. The obligation of humans is to seek knowledge that The Quran reveals as follows:

O believers! When you are told to make room in gatherings, then do so. Allah will make room for you in His grace. And if you are told to rise, then do so. Allah will elevate those of you who are faithful, and raise those gifted with knowledge in rank. And Allah is All-Aware of what you do (Al-Mujadalah, 11).

Meanwhile, social values describe a good relationship among fellows. It

reflected that a good relationship explains peace and safety in society's environment and awareness.

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