

MORAL VALUES IN FREDERICK DOUGLASS' NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE (1845)

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is to reveal the moral values in Frederick Douglass' Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave (1845). It is done to show the types of moral values that exist in the novel. This research is qualitative research since the data gathered are in the form of words rather than numbers. In analyse the data; the writers employ a mimetic approach, an approach that examine literary works according to the social environment, which distinguishes facts in literary works from concrete data in the real world. The study only focused no moral values in Frederick Douglass. Based on the results of the discussion show that there are eight kinds of moral values such as Living life full of Steadfastness, A good Cooperativeness to achieve a goals, Bravery to take a risk, Sympathetic with others, Stick firmly to Trustworthiness, Thankfulness for the things that are owned in Life, Be kind to everyone and Have Limitless Love and Affection.

Keywords: *Frederick, Moral Values, Qualitative, Mimetic Approach*

INTRODUCTION

There are several meanings of literature, but basically literature consists of aspects of human life. Literature is the expression of thoughts, and expressions of human feelings in the form of written or oral works in imaginative forms based on what is experienced and seen in their life experiences. Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have

thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language (Hudson, 1965). Literature is not just a document of facts. It is not just the collection of real life. A literary work has affective nature a significant power to touch the deepest sense than can produce perfect consciousness (Wuntu, 2016). Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination. Literature reflects human experiences and pictures a certain phenomenon in a society (Rorintulus, 2018).

Moreover, (Wellek & Warren, 1956) also state that "Literature represent life; and life is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world their inner or subject world of individual has also been objects of literary imitation"

Studying the history of American literature is an effort to find out the historical struggles that shaped America as a nation. Maru says, a literary text provides learners with real-world experiences, the relationship between society and the people in which the target language is spoken, even if it is fictional (Maru, 2014)

The slavery period in the United States is always associated with black people. Slavery in America has an important role in developing and even advancing the United States. At that time, one of the triggers for the development of the United States was slavery. The slave owner treats slaves inhumanely for the benefit of white people.

Historically, there were some slaves taken and kidnapped from Africa and taken to new land, America. After arriving at the new land, African slaves were sued and forced by their slave owners to work too much in agriculture. The case of Frederick Douglass, the leader of the abolitionist, is an example of an inhuman treatment of white people against African slaves.

In Peoria Speech, October 16, 1854 Abraham Lincoln says that slavery is "founded in the selfishness of man's nature opposition to it is his love of justice. These principles are an eternal antagonism; and when brought into collision so fiercely, as slavery extension brings them, shocks and throes and convulsions must ceaselessly follow"(Lincoln Speeches, 1854)

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave (1845) tells about the problem of humanity, the savagery of slavery, which is sometimes faced by humans in everyday life. Slavery describes various conditions in which one person subdues another person, usually with physical coercion and the use of certain properties, both legal and customary.

The writer is interested in analyse moral values that lies in morals like this life is a struggle. Douglass is brave in terms of taking risks, escaping from slavery, removing slavery in all forms and aspects, increasing morally and intellectually and even teaching slaves how to read. After escaping from slavery, he showed his

dedication to help other slaves with the same struggle as him. Because humans are created equally and worthy of happiness and freedom.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This research employs a qualitative method, which is descriptive. Because it describes the facts and then analyse with words not numbers. As stated (Bogdan & Biklen, n.d.) "Qualitative research is descriptive". Qualitative method is a method that utilizes all means of interpretation in descriptive form. This study uses descriptive research because the data collected and analyzed in the form of words and sentences or descriptions of an object or social phoneme into a narrative. This means that the data collected is in the form of words or pictures, not numbers.

Data Collection

To get more information, the writers use two categories of sources. Primary and secondary data, the sources of information from the Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave (1845) is the main source or primary data, and the source of books, articles/journals, dictionaries and internet search related to this research is considered secondary data. As sated (Griffith, 2011) Two forms of evidence are significant for essays on literature: evidence for primary sources are the works of literature itself, and evidence for secondary sources are facts or opinion outside the work itself.

Data Analysis

The mimetic method is used as the foundation of the analysis. According to (Abrams, 2012) "Mimetic criticism views literary works as imitation, or reflections or representations of the world and human life, and the main criterion applied to a work is the "truth" of its representation of the subject matter it represents, or must be represented".

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Living life full of Steadfastness

Steadfastness constant effort achieve something (Hornby, 1974)

The writer found the steadfastness value in "A narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" novel. This value found in the novel was:

"A want of information concerning my own was a source of unhappiness to me even during childhood. The white children could tell their ages. I could not tell why I ought to be deprived of the same privilege. I was not allowed to make any inquiries of my master concerning it. He deemed all such inquiries on the part of a slave improper and impertinent, and evidence of a restless spirit" (Douglass, I. 15)

From quotation above, the writer found out there was steadfastness value, Douglass is steadfast enough to face challenges and even struggles in life when he has to lose his privileges during childhood, he also does not have accurate knowledge of his age, it can be seen in this statement "The white children tell their ages. I could not tell why I ought to be deprived of the same privilege". The writer thinks that it is the steadfastness that Douglass has.

"I do not recollect of ever seeing my mother by the light of day. She was with me in the night. She would lie down with me, and get me to sleep, but long before I waked she was gone. Very little communication ever took place between us." (Douglass, I. 16)

From quotation above, the writer found out there was steadfastness value, Douglass is very steadfast when he only meets his mother only at night when he is going to sleep, but when he wakes up in the morning, his mother has gone to work, so very few time to communicate with beloved mother. It can be seen in this statement "She was with me in the night. She would lie down with me, and get me to sleep, but long before I waked she was gone. Very little communication ever took place between us". The writer thinks that it is the steadfastness that Douglass has.

"Death soon ended what little we could have while she lived, and with it her hardships and suffering. She died when I was about seven years old, on one of my master's farms, near Lee's Mill. I was not allowed to be present during her illness, at her death, or burial. She was gone long before I knew anything about it. Never having enjoyed, to any considerable extent, her soothing presence, her tender and watchful care, I received the tidings of her death with much the same emotions I should have probably felt at the death of a stranger." (Douglass, I. 17)

From quotation above, the writer found out there was steadfastness value, Douglass was very steadfast when he was seven years old, but death had come to his mother. The steadfastness of Douglass was even severely tested when at the time of his mother's death and burial, he was not allowed to attend. It can be seen

in this statement "She died when I was about seven years old, on one of my master's farms, near Lee's Mill. I was not allowed to be present during her illness, at her death, or burial." The writer thinks that it is the steadfastness that Douglass has.

"I had lived with him nine months, during which time he had given me a number of severe whippings, all to no good purpose." (Douglass, IX. 64)

From the quotation above, human have to be patient in living life. The writer found the steadfastness value, Douglass patiently faced trials when he had to always receive lashes from his master, Master Thomas. For about 9 months. It can be seen when he said in statement: "I had lived with him nine months, during which time he had given me a number of severe whippings, all to no good purpose." The writer thinks that it is the steadfastness that Douglass has.

A good Cooperativeness to achieve a goal

Cooperativeness involves the fact of doing something together or working together toward shared aims.

The writer found the cooperativeness value in "A narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" novel. This value found in the novel was:

"The most of my leisure time I spent in helping Master Daniel Lloyd in finding his birds, after he had shot them. My connection with Master Daniel was of some advantage to me. He became quite attached to me, and was a sort of protector of me. He would not allow the older boys to impose upon me, and would divide his cakes with me." (Douglass, V. 37)

From quotation above, the writer found out there was cooperativeness value, Douglass helps Master Daniel Lloyd who needs people to find his birds, after he shoots them. It can be seen in this statement: "The most of my leisure time I spent in helping Master Daniel Lloyd in finding his birds, after he had shot them". The writer think that is the cooperativeness between Douglass and Master Daniel Lloyd.

"I spent the time in washing, not so much because I wished to, but because Mrs. Lucretia had told me I must get all the dead skin off my feet and knees before I could go to Baltimore; for the people in Baltimore were very cleanly, and would laugh at me if I looked dirty. Besides, she was going to give me a pair of trousers, which I should not put on unless I got all the dirt off me." (Dauglass, V. 38)

From quotation above, the writer found out there was cooperativeness value, Dauglass desire to have trousers was indeed extraordinary, so he seriously does what Mrs. Lucretia tells him, that he must clean all the dirt on him before he goes to Baltimore. This can be seen in this statement: "Besides, he will give me trousers,

which I am not allowed to wear unless I clean all the dirt off me." The writer thinks that it is the cooperativeness between Douglass and Mrs. Lucretia.

Bravery to take a risk

The writer found the bravery value in "A narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" novel. This value found in the novel was:

"From this time I was most narrowly watched. If I was in a separate room any considerable length of time, I was sure to be suspected of having a book, and was at once called to give an account of myself. All this, however, was too late. The first step had been taken. Mistress, in teaching me the alphabet, had given me the *inch*, and no precaution could prevent me from taking the *ell*." (Douglass, VII. 47)

From the quotation above, the writer found out there was a bravery value, Douglass was brave enough to take his first steps to self-study when his master forbade him to study. It can be seen in the statement: "however, was too late. The first step had been taken. Mistress, in teaching me the alphabet, had given me the *inch*, and no precaution could prevent me from taking the *ell*." The writer thinks that it is a bravery that Douglass has.

"The plan which I adopted, and the one by which I was most successful, was that of making friends of all the little white boys whom I met in the street. As many of these as I could, I converted into teachers. With their kindly aid, obtained at different times and in different places, I finally succeeded in learning to read." (Douglass, VII. 47)

From quotation above, the writer found out there was a bravery value, Douglass was brave enough to befriend all the white boys he met on the street. It was with this ploy that Douglass finally managed to read. It can be seen in the statement: "The plan which I adopted, and the one by which I was most successful, was that of making friends of all the little white boys whom I met in the street. As many of these as I could," The writer think that is the other bravery that Douglass has.

Sympathetic with others

Sympathy is feeling of affection for someone.

The writer found the sympathetic value in "A narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" novel. This value found in the novel was:

"I used also to carry bread with me, enough of which was always in the house, and to which I was always welcome; for I was much better off in this regard than many of the poor white children in our neighborhood. This bread

I used to bestow upon the hungry little urchins, who, in return, would give me that more valuable bread of knowledge." (Douglass, VII. 47-48)

From the quotation above, the writer found out there was a sympathetic value, Douglass shows his sympathy for the poor white children who are starving. This can be seen in the statement: "for I was much better off in this regard than many of the poor white children in our neighborhood. This bread I used to bestow upon the hungry little urchins," the writer thinks this is the sympathy that Douglass has.

"I am strongly tempted to give the names of two or three of those little boys, as a testimonial of the gratitude and affection I bear them; but prudence forbids;—not that it would injure me, but it might embarrass them; for it is almost an unpardonable offence to teach slaves to read in this Christian country." (Douglass, VII.48)

From the quotation above, the writer found out there was a sympathetic value, Douglass is interested in naming the little children as a sign of his gratitude to them for helping him learn to read. This can be seen in the statement: "I am strongly tempted to give the names of two or three of those little boys, as a testimonial of the gratitude and affection I bear them;" the writer thinks this is the sympathy that Douglass has.

Stick firmly to Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is that the action that we can rely on to be good, honest, etc.

"Though conscious of the difficulty of learning without a teacher, I set out with high hope, and a fixed purpose, at whatever cost of trouble, to learn how to read." (Douglass, VI. 43-44)

From the quotation above, the writer found trustworthiness value, Douglass has high expectations. He believes that even though it is difficult to study without a teacher he does not give up because he has high hopes for learning to read. It can be seen in the statement: "Though conscious of the difficulty of learning without a teacher, I set out with high hope, and a fixed purpose," the writer thinks this is the trustworthiness that Douglass has.

Thankfulness for the things that are owned in life

Thankfulness is feeling happy or grateful for something

"Thanks to a kind Providence, I fell to the portion of Mrs. Lucretia, and was sent immediately back to Baltimore, to live again in the family of Master Hugh. Their joy at my return equalled their sorrow at my departure. It was a glad day to me. I had escaped a worse than lion's jaws." (Douglass, VIII. 55)

From the statement above, the writer found thankfulness value, Douglass expresses his thankfulness when at the time of the distribution of the new master, he fell into the part of Mrs. Lucretia. It can be seen in the statement: "Thanks to a kind Providence, I fell to the portion of Mrs. Lucretia." the writer thinks this is other thankfulness that Douglass has.

Be kind to everyone

Kind hearted is the quality of being kind.

From the novel, the writer found the kind hearted value in "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" novel. This value found in the novel was:

"I used also to carry bread with me, enough of which was always in the house, and to which I was always welcome; for I was much better off in this regard than many of the poor white children in our neighborhood. This bread I used to bestow upon the hungry little urchins, who, in return, would give me that more valuable bread of knowledge."

(Douglass, VII.47- 48)

From the quotation above, the writer found kind hearted value, Douglass has a very noble heart, he brought enough bread to give to destitute children. It can be seen when he says in this statement: "This bread I used to bestow upon the hungry little urchins," the writer think this is the kind hearted that Douglass has.

Have Limitless Love and Affection

Love is a strong feeling or deep affection for somebody or something. Affection is the emotional state of liking or loving somebody or something (Hornby, 1974)

"I had at one time over forty scholars, and those of the right sort, ardently desiring to learn. They were of all ages, though mostly men and women. I look back to those Sundays with an amount of pleasure not to be expressed. They were great days to my soul. The work of instructing my dear fellow-slaves was the sweetest engagement with which I was ever blessed. We loved each other, and to leave them at the close of the Sabbath was a severe cross indeed." (Douglass, X. 84)

From the quotation above, the writer found out the love and affection value, Douglass' affection for his fellow slaves is so much, he reveals that teaching his fellow slaves is the sweetest engagement with which he feels blessed, even they love each other. It can be seen when he said in this statement: "The work of instructing my dear fellow-slaves was the sweetest engagement with which I was ever blessed. We loved each other," the writer thinks this is love and affection that Douglass has for his fellow slaves.

"I had a number of warm-hearted friends in Baltimore,—friends that I loved almost as I did my life,—and the thought of being separated from them forever was painful beyond expression." (Douglass, XI. 104)

From the quotation above, the writer found out the love and affection value, Douglass expresses deep feelings of affection for his friends for fear of facing separation. It can be seen when he said in this statement: "and the thought of being separated from them forever was painful beyond expression." the writer thinks this is love and affection that Douglass has for his friends.

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