

HEROISM IN JACK LONDON'S THE CALL OF THE WILD

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Abstract : The purpose of this study is to examine the values of heroism in the novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London. This study aims to describe the heroism values contained in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London with an objective approach. To analyze the data, the researcher used qualitative methods, because the data were collected in the form of words. Data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The main source is the novel itself entitled *The Call of the Wild*. Secondary sources are books, articles, internet, and other literary works. In this research, there are six elements of the values of heroism they are: 1) Strength, 2) Bravery, 3) Integrity, 4) Saving Others, 5) Willing to Sacrifice, and 6) Selfless.

Keywords : *Values, Heroism, Novels, Objective Approach.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the stored documents or thoughts of a person. According to Suma (2017), literature is the imagination of a person that contains messages, teachings, meanings and imaginative images of life in human behavior which are expressed verbally and in writing. According to Maru 2011 in Pongoh, E. Oroh, E., and Mamentu, C, (2021), literature is formed because of the encouragement of certain phenomena and the environment close to the author, which stimulates the writer to express conditions, situations, and feelings. Literature leads us to understand on the values of life with the various aspects in it. This means that is literature is an expression of one's sense and mind being presented creatively in a work so that the person enjoying a literature will come along to feel the same way.

From definition above, novel is one of the literary works in which there is the result of a person's work of imagination. According to Khusna (2018), novel is a structured literary work. Novels consist of basic descriptions such as theme, setting, characters, plot, narration, etc. All the

features combine to form a structured novel world. The novel has intrinsic, extrinsic elements as well as structures within it that make it easier for the reader to place himself as well as understand and follow the storyline. According to Komanaung, G. Liando, N. V., and Lolowang, "novel is a narrative prose that includes a story of human being" (2021).

The novel entitled *The Call of the Wild* written by Jack London is a short adventure novel with its main character being Buck, the dog of St. Bernard. The novel was published in 1903 and set in the background of Yukon, Canada, during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush. In the Novel is told Buck's journey with a herd of sled-drawing dogs on a long journey towards Yukon, Canada. In the long journey the sled team group gained a variety of experiences even lessons for hard conditioned survival.

The novel provides an interesting message and exemplary life values such as heroism values reflected in the characters in the novel. The research makes one of Jack London's novels as the object of a review, namely the novel

entitled *The Call of the Wild*. Because in the novel there are values of life, one of which is heroism values that we can learn so that lessons can be taken and applied in social life in society.

There are several reasons researchers chose the title “Heroism in Jack London’s *The Call of the Wild*” namely: First, the Novel tells the story of the life of a dog in the middle of a human. Pain, betrayal, compassion and protecting each other so thickly in the novel. Second, the novel teaches us that because of money, human can be blind and become selfish. Third, The Novel *The call of the Wild* is a well-known work and has been filmed. The novel is no less interesting to research because it has such powerful power of imagination and taste in it.

RESEARCH METHOD

In conducting this research, the authors use qualitative research according to the views of Bodgan and Biklen (1982). Qualitative studies are data collected or generated in the form of words, not numbers or pictures. Therefore the data and references in this study are not in the form of numbers, pictures or diagrams but the results of this research will be carried out and formulated in the form of words, the presentation and preparation of this research data is in descriptive form. The data is collected from the novel by Jack London entitled *The Call of the Wild*.

In data collection, the authors classify into two categories, namely primary sources and secondary sources. The primary source is the literary work itself, namely the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London, and the secondary sources are books, journals, internet, literary works and information related to research and supporting research. In analyzing the data, the authors use an objective approach according to Abrams (1953). “Objective orientation, which on principle regards the work of art isolation

from all these external points of reference, analyzes it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being.”

Based on the above statement, the authors take the conclusion that an objective approach that is an approach focusing solely on literary work itself without seeing and including external aspects as a reference to literary work. That is, the focus of this research is only on the literary works themselves. This presentation focuses on declaring research goals aimed at creating descriptively all data on heroism in Jack London's novel *The Call of the Wild* by citing some data related to heroic value. There are some procedures in data analysis, they are:

1. The authors read the novel first to understand the existence of the story and see the heroic values in the novel *The Call of the Wild*.
2. The authors record and identify the data obtained based on the classification of the problems to be discussed
3. The authors arrange the data into several parts based on the classification.
4. The authors develop the data to get the final result.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter are two parts, the first is the finding and the second is the discussion. In the findings section, the authors present all the data that have been found in *The Call of the Wild* novel, then the authors discuss the values of heroism from the data obtained from the findings seen from the dog characters, namely: Buck, Joe, Billee, Dave, Sol-leks, (Team sled) and Curly. The human characters

are: John Thornton, Francois, and Perrault.

Heroism Values

According to Franco et al., 2011; Allison et al., 2017 in Allison and Green, (2020) that heroes defined by most contemporary researchers are as behaviors are done voluntarily involving risk, requiring sacrifice, and performed in the absence of advantages to oneself but making gains for others.

It can be interpreted that the values of heroism is the noble values that exist in humans with the aim of doing the best in the service of humanity. Everyone can also be called a hero if they have the criteria as a hero.

There are several elements that build up the values of heroism according to Kinsella, Ritchie, and Igou (2016) namely; Strength, Bravery, Integrity, Saving Others, Willing to Sacrifice, and Selfless.

Strength

According to Chotimah, strength is believing in oneself and in the ability to carry out actions in accordance with the contents of one's strength objectively. Researchers apply the value of strength in accordance with the understanding that has been put forward by Chotimah. The following is an analysis of strength value data contained in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London:

The Strength of Buck

Buck is a big dog kept by Mr. Miller. Buck has a large and strong physique among other pets, this is what makes Buck a special pet for Mr. Miller.

"Between the terriers he walked with swagger, and Toots and Ysabel he completely ignored him, for he was king, - king of all things creeping, crawling, flying in Judge Miller's place, including humans." (London, 2019: page 9)

In the quote above, there is an element of strength that builds the value of heroism. The strength depicted in Buck's character is evident in the sentence when he becomes the stronger and more powerful of the other animals owned by his master, Mr. Miller. Buck is a big and strong dog and is entrusted to take care of the children from Mr. Miller.

The Strength of Sled Dog Team

Sled dog team demonstrates their abilities at the task at hand. Demonstrating might, strength and fighting incompetence on the way to Skaguay. The strength of the sled dog team left Francois and Perrault in awe of the team's achievements.

"Every muscle, every fiber, every cell, tired, died of exhaustion. And there's a reason for that. In less than five months they had traveled twenty-five hundred miles, for the last eighteen hundred they had except a five-day break. " (London, 2019: page 73).

In the quote above there is an element of strength described by the sled dog team, namely Buck and his team. The power possessed by sled dogs surprised Francois and Perrault. That with the last of their strength they reached Skaguay. Although very tired and exhausted, the Team proved their strength by pulling the sled as in the quote "In less than five months they had traveled twenty-five hundred miles".

Bravery

According to Suma (2017), bravery is the act of confronting something without fear. It is one of the hallmarks of the criteria of the hero. Bravery to fight crime is usually caused by a person to rebuke wrongful deeds according to the prevailing norm. Putro (2018) says it is an analysis of data on the value of courage

contained in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London:

The Bravery of Buck

Buck and John Thornton live in the camp. From time to time Buck went out and away from the camp to hunt for his own food. In the forest Buck watches his prey, a large black bear whose physical appearance is very different from Buck, but Buck's courage makes him keep an eye on his prey.

"He killed a big black bear, was blinded by mosquitoes while fishing, and raged in the forest helplessly and horribly." (London, 2019: page 126)

In the quote above there is an element of bravery described by Buck's character. By the time, Buck is out playing further from Thornton's camp, Buck begins hunting for his own food in the wild. Buck's bravery can be seen from the quote above where Buck kills a big black bear. Buck is very brave to prey on animals that are much larger than his body. The fight with the black bear is also a tough fight but Buck can kill and prey with great bravery and strength.

The Bravery of Joe

Joe and Billee are dogs who were added to the sled team by Perrault. On a journey Spitz who is the lead dog acts arrogant and annoys other weak dogs including Billee. Joe tries to defend Billee bravely against Spitz who is the leader of the sled.

"But no matter how Spitz spun around, Joe turned on his heels to face him, mane furrowed, ears outstretched, lips writhing and snarling, jaw clenched as fast as he could snap, and his eyes gleaming—aggressive incarnations of fear." (London, 2019: page 26)

In the quote above, there is an element of bravery described by the character Joe, a dog added by Perrault in the afternoon.

That afternoon two dogs were added, namely Billee and Joe, Billee was a friendly dog which is why Spitz was always bothered by the team's lead dog.

Joe's bravery makes Spitz stop bothering him. Joe dares to face the ruthless Spitz. Joe always had the nerve to retaliate until Spitz stopped and left him alone.

Integrity

Integrity is an act of behaving respectably, even when no one is looking. Integrity demonstrates the consistency between speech and belief reflected in everyday deeds. Integrity can mean sticking to principles and commitments, being faithful in every word and in living principles (Zamp, 2017). The following is an analysis of the integrity value data contained in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London:

The Integrity of Curly

The friendly dog Curly was added on the way to the Yukon. But the incident happened to Curly. Curly tried to show her integrity but Curly is a victim for the good behavior shown.

"Curly was the victim. They were camped near the log store, where she, in her friendly way, made advances to a husky dog the size of a full-grown wolf, though not half so large as she." (London, 2019: page 24)

In the quote above there is an element of integrity. Curly is a polite and friendly female dog, trying to show a commendable demeanor but the environment makes Curly a victim of fierce huskies fighting. Despite being the victim of a commendable act, Curly showed his integrity with friendly treatment.

The Integrity of Billee

On a cold, snowy night, Buck had a hard time finding a warm and cozy place. Buck walked over and found Billee in a

nice warm hole. Billee shows a good attitude towards Buck and invites him.

“A whiff of warm air ascended to his nostrils, an there, curled up under the snow in a snug ball, lay Billee. He whined placatingly, squirmed and wriggled to show his good will and intentions, and even ventured, as a bribe for peace, to lick Buck’s face with his warm wet tongue.” (London, 2019: page 29)

In the quote above there is an element of integrity. Billee is a kind and friendly dog. When Buck with a cold night looks for a place to sleep, Buck finds Billee sleeping comfortably and warmly. Billee's act of integrity with good intentions immediately licked Buck's face with warmth and concern. Billee's actions led Buck to a good night's sleep.

The Integrity of Dave

On the way to the Yukon, one of the dogs named Dave experienced physical weakness. Dave is indeed a strong and loyal dog, but his physique at that time did not allow him to continue his journey. Dave chose to die at his job and still showed his integrity.

“Also, they held it a mercy, since Dave was to die anyway, that he should die in the traces, heart-easy and content.” (London: 2019: page 70)

In the quote above there is an element of integrity. Dave is a loyal dog. Faithful to his responsibilities and work even though his physical weakness led him to death. Dave insisted that for the rest of his life he would pull a sled and be ready to die for the job.

Saving Others

Saving others is a voluntary act with the aim of providing comfort and security. according to Kinsella, Ritchie, and Igou (2016) Hero is protecting others from

threats to the perception of the meaning or purpose of one's life.

The following is an analysis of the Saving Others value data contained in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London:

The Saving from Francois

Francois saves Curly from multiple Husky attacks. With a bold action jump in the midst of a ferocious husky attack with an axe.

“Francois, swinging the axe, got into the dog mess. Three men with the club helped him spread it.” (London, 2019: page 24)

The quote above contains an element of Saving Others. The friendly dog Curly was circled by several huskies ready to pounce on Curly. Francois, with good intentions, gets into the dog mess to save Curly from the husky's ferocity.

The Saving from Jhon Thornton

John Thornton was at his camp when Charles, Hal, and Mercedes passed in front of the camp. Thornton saw that the dog that pulled the sled, Buck, was already in a lot of pain and suffering from Charles and Hal's treatment. Buck almost died being treated by them. Thornton angrily fights them and saves Buck.

“If you attack that dog again, I'll kill you,” he finally managed to say in a choked voice. “(London, 2019: page 93)

“This man has saved his life, which is something; But, furthermore, he is the ideal master.” (London, 2019: page 97)

The quote above contains an element of Saving Others. Charles, Hal, and Mercedes are bad employers for Buck and the sled team. Buck was so exhausted, hungry, and so full of lashes that he couldn't stand up anymore. On the occasion Hal was about to whip Buck,

John Thornton saved Buck by threatening to kill Hal if he whipped Buck again.

Willing to Sacrifice

According to Halbertal (2013), in Sawira, Suhadi, and Manugeran, sacrifice is the ability to protect other people and for their happiness. This action will not be conveyed if you think selfishly. There is nothing wrong with thinking selflessly, because sacrifice is a mortal choice and action. The heart that drives one to sacrifice guides. This is why sacrifice is so important.

According to Tumoka D. C., Wuntu C. N., Maru M. G (2021), sacrifice is an act of kindness that is done to make others feel happy, or it can be said that this action is to limit oneself to providing opportunities for others and not be an obstacle to the happiness of others. Willing to Sacrifice is an action that helps others without expecting anything in return and willing to give something they have sincerely. The following is an analysis of the Willing to Sacrifice value data contained in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London:

The Sacrification of Sled Dog Team

"Thirty days since leaving Dawson, the Salt Water Mail, with Buck and friends out front, arrived at Skaguay. They're in bad shape, worn and worn. One hundred and forty pounds buck has shrunk to a hundred and fifteen. Sol-leks limping -limping, and Dub suffered a slashing shoulder blade. They all walk a lot." (London, 2019: page 72)

The quote above contains elements of Willing to Sacrifice. Thirty days of walking train teams finally arrived at Skaguay. The sled dogs were so tired they couldn't stand up because of the pain in their legs. They are great dogs and strong they are willing to sacrifice even though they know they will die. Sacrifice for the

sake of their duty and the wishes of their master.

Selfless

Selflessness is pride in yourself to see others happy and feel cared for. Do good to others without asking for anything in return. According to Zamp (2017), the most valuable thing is to do good for others and not be selfish. Success in life is about showing integrity. Take care of yourself as well as others. The following is an analysis of the Selfless value data contained in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London:

The Selfless of Perrault

Perrault is a hard worker who works for the government on the task of delivering mail. Perrault demonstrates his attitude of integrity for the benefit and happiness of others.

"Nothing scares him. It's because nothing scares him that he's been chosen for the government booster..." (London, 2019: page 43)

The quote above has an element of selflessness. Perrault with a big heart accepts an assignment from the government to become a courier. With all the risks even the lives of dogs and humans are threatened. However, Perrault is not afraid and continues to carry out the duties of the Government with a sense of responsibility and respect.

CONCLUSION

This study focuses on the value of heroism in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. Based on the elements of heroic values proposed by Kinsella, Ritchie, and Igou. This research is based on the results of data interpretation and analysis using an objective approach. The researchers find the value of heroism in the novel *The Call of the Wild* by looking from the dog characters, namely: Buck, Joe, Billee, Dave, Sol-leks, Dave (Team sled) and Curly. The human characters

are: John Thornton, Francois, and Perrault,

Based on the results of the analysis and conclusions made on the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London, it is suggested that research from the other side of the novel *The Call of the Wild* should be conducted. For example, using a review of literary anthropology, semiotics and other reviews related to literary works. The goal is to enrich insight for future researchers on novels that can build souls. The researchers hope that through this thesis the reader can find out the types of heroism and the reasons for heroism in social life as shown in literary works. Lastly, the researchers suggests for students majoring in English Literature to analyze other aspects of heroism so that others can know the specific aspects of heroism that can be emulated in society.

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