

THE LESSON LIFE OF SANTIAGO AS MAIN CHARACTER IN COELHO'S *THE ALCHEMIST*

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Abstract

This paper aims to elaborate the lessons life from Santiago as the main character in the novel *The Alchemist*, especially in the current milineal era where the presence of technology is very rapid. This condition requires young people to keep learning human values that technology does not thought it. Literary works as one of the ideas that produce cultural works reflect human values through characters in novel stories. This journal focuses on the study of the main characters using a dynamic literary approach. In analyzing the text data, the researchers used the qualitative descriptive method. The results of this study teach the reader several things, namely; First, the life is a struggle that must be resolved wholeheartedly. Second, everyone must learn from anything and anyone including animals because whatever happens in the universe is actually a teacher. Then the human must dare to fight for and be responsible for life by accepting all the consequences. Finally, each problem of life must be faced patiently.

Key words: Santiago, novel *The Alchemist*, main character

INTRODUCTION

Human is a perfect creature that is created by *Allah Subhahanu Wata'ala* than the others. Allah gives human intellect, thoughts and feelings. Through it, man is capable to create many works that are useful to themselves and others. One of these works is literature which has many benefits to reader's life because the literary works are reflection of the life at one period. Therefore, literary works are called as the result of social product that have many benefits to the life. there are several reasons why literary works can be seen as the social products that are equivalent to cultural, political and social studies issues. These are said by Wellek and Warren (1949: 89) as stated below:

a. Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary device as symbolism and meter are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature "imitates" "life"; and "life" is in large measure a

social reality, even though the nature world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary "imitation".

- b. The poets himself is a member of society, possessed of specific social status, he receives some degree of social recognition and reward; he addresses an audience, however hypothetical. Indeed, literature has usually arisen in close connection with particular social institutions; and in primitive society we may even be unable to distinguish poetry from ritual, magic, work, or play.
- c. Literature has usually arisen in close connection with particular social institutions, and literature has also social "function" or "use" which cannot purely individual.

The Alchemist novel tells Santiago's dream to find the treasure. He dreams come into his sleep for two times. It leads him into a new world that he had never thought of before. He should learn to listened his heart and take sense of his journey. In his ways to find out the answer of his dreams, Santiago met the supporting

character who thought him the lesson of the life for instance; The crystal merchant and the alchemist. Sand has passed through the valley in search of treasure that is present in his dreams. At the end of the trip after he had got Pyramid and dig for treasure, his wealth was robbed after he spent a lot of stories. Santiago finally realizes that the treasure has been acquired by pious women, who maintain the sanctity of his household just for future leaders. This can be seen through the end of the sentence in the novel *The Alchemist* because he knew where his treasure was (Coelho, 2006:163).

Dynamic structuralism is an approach that does not focus solely on the intrinsic elements, but pay attention to the extrinsic elements. The points of dynamic structuralism approach are; The first is autonomous, is not pointing beyond itself; The second is informational, that convey thoughts, feelings, ideas. Both properties are related. Thus, as a structure, literary work is always dynamic. Dynamics readers are equipped by convention which always changing, and the reader as the *homo significans*, creatures and create a sign reading (Culler, 1975: 130 in Jabrohim, 2014: 86).

To apply the dynamic approach for finding the lesson life, the researcher need to need to know the character as intrinsic elements first before they going to know the external element. Therefore, they need to know the meaning of the character. Characters are actors in the story. They experienced the events in the story. Character consists of the protagonist and antagonist. Character affects all intrinsic elements of fiction, especially novels. The way of author shows how the character in story called characterization.

Character is the review of the role, importance or function character in fiction can be divided into the central character or protagonist (the central character, the main character) and figures subordinate or additional figures (peripheral character). The criterion is used to determine the frequency of occurrence of the central character is not the character in the story, but the intensity of his involvement in the

events that build the story. The central figure (and additional figures) consists of the protagonist and the antagonist.

According to Panuti-Sudjiman (in Sugihastuti, 2010:53), the protagonist is the character who holds the leadership role in the story. Sugishastuti explains that the determination of protagonist was based on the following criteria"s:

- a. The highest character in the intensity of his/her involvement in the events that build the story. Time used to tell about the protagonist more than the time that is used to tell the other figures.
- b. Protagonist in touch with all the characters in the story, while the other characters are not interconnected.
- c. Protagonist is the center of the spotlight in the story.

Moral is favorable or unfavorable about human's behavior. In the Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, dictionary of Oxford University Press, Moral (adj) is 1. It concerning principle of right and wrong: standards 2. Following the standards of behavior considered acceptable and right by most people. In other hand, moral (noun) is 1) principle or standards of good behavior.

From some understandings above, the writer concludes that the moral is human actions are in accordance with the values prevailing in the society. These values include the values of religious, social and cultural. As for those who adhere to the moral values of so-called moral man. For more details, we can see a more complex moral sense by Veugelers below:

Moral values are values that express ideas about the good life. There is constant debate about which values constitute the good life. Aristotle introduced the idea in his *Nicomachean Ethics*, and there is continuous debate in philosophy and social science about which values are important, and about what exactly is meant by a certain value. Based on their ideas about living together in society, Rawls and Kohlberg advocated the value of justice. Gilligan

and Noddings criticized the cognitive emphasis in justice, and stressed the affective side of living together and argued for the value of „care“. From a multicultural perspective, Banks espoused the value of „diversity“ - the appreciation of difference. Moral values are quite abstract but become meaningful in concrete practices and narratives. Stressing the same abstract moral value can still result in different concrete interpretations of the value and in distinct practices. Moral values should therefore be studied in their context (2008: 1).

METHOD

The method was using in this research is descriptive qualitative method. The researchers conducted the data by close reading the novel *The Alchemist* to analysis intrinsic element and the relationship to lesson life reflected in novel. Then they give the sign on the narration about this relation. In additional the researchers read the moral theory to get lesson life and other supporting data from journal and article related this study. In analyzing data the researchers used dictionary to find out the difficult word.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Coelho wrote many characters in *The Alchemist* which is divided in the main character and the supporting. The researchers only focus on Santiago's character and the moral of his ways to touch his dream. Santiago's characters teach lesson life as described below:

Santiago as the Warrior Figure

The novel tell Santiago character who have a very strong ambition to achieve his dream. At the beginning of the story, Santiago's parents did not want him to leave his village. Besides that, his father would Santaigo to become a priest. However, Santiago's determination to realize his dream blinded him to find ways to become travelers and shepherd. He was very gently stated his good intentions to his father despite being rejected as in the following quote:

Data 1: One afternoon, on a visit to his family, he had summoned up the courage to tell his father that he didn't want to become a priest. That he want to travel. "People from all over the world have passed through the village, son", said his father. "They come in search of new things, but when they leave they are basically the same people they were when they arrived. They climb the mountain to see the castle, and they wind up thinking that the past was better than what we have now. They have blond hair, or dark skin, but basically they're the same as the people who live right here". "But I'd like to see the castle in the towns where they live", the boy explained. "Those people, when they see our land, say that they would like to live here forever", his father continued. "Well, I'd like to see the land, and see how they live" said his son. "The people who came here have a lot of money to spend, so they can afford to travel", his father said. "Among us, the only ones who travel are the shepherds". "Well, then I'll be a shepherd!" His father said no more. The next day, he gave his son a pouch that held three ancient Spanish gold coins (Coelho, 2006:8-9).

Santiago has a strong desire to realize his dream because he knew that one of the things that make life interesting is the possibility to realize a dream comes true.

Data 2: It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting, he thought, as he looked again at the position of the sun, and hurried his pace (Coelho, 2006:11).

Santiago is studying from everything

He is a child who is always studying every experience that he had passed. However it is a bad experience. For Santiago life is a journey to achieve the goals. God will give a lot of trials to bring someone up. Santiago's assumed that there will always be goodness in every bitter journey of life and Santiago will

always be grateful and utilize what God has given him. This can be seen when Santiago loses money because a thief has been tricked:

Data 3: He opened his pouch to see what was left of his possessions; maybe there was a bit left of the sandwich he had eaten on the ship. But all he found was the heavy book, his jacket, and the two stones the old man had given him (Coelho, 2006: 39).

Santiago more cautious after his money was stolen by a youth Arabic in market at the morning. He saves all his stones. Then, he contemplated by the expressions of owner of the bar. Santiago realizes that the owner of the bar trying to tell him not trust that man. We can see the quotation below:

Data 4: As he looked at the stones, he felt relieved for some reason. He had exchanged six sheep for two precious stones that had been taken from a gold breastplate. He could sell the stones and buy a return ticket. But this time I'll be smarter, the boy thought, removing them from the pouch so he could put them in his pocket. This was a port town, and the only truthful thing his friend had told him was that port towns are full of thieves. Now he understood why the owner of the bar had been so upset: he was trying to tell him not to trust that man. I'm like everyone else—I see the world in terms of what I would like to see happen, not what actually does (Coelho, 2006: 40).

Santiago studies his experience while he helping seller's candy pitched his tent in a market. Santiago realizes that there must be a language that doesn't depend on words. This reflected on the narration below:

Data 5: When the stall was assembled, the candy seller offered the boy the first sweet he had made for the day. The boy thanked him, ate it, and

went on his way. When he had gone only a short distance, he realized that, while they were erecting the stall, one of them had spoken Arabic and the other Spanish. And they had understood each other perfectly well. There must be a language that doesn't depend on words, the boy thought. I've already had that experience with my sheep, and now it's happening with people. He was learning a lot of new things. Some of them were things that he had already experienced, and weren't really new, but that he had never perceived before. And he hadn't perceived them because he had become accustomed to them. He realized: If I can learn to understand this language without words, I can learn to understand the world. Relaxed and unhurried, he resolved that he would walk through the narrow streets of Tangier. Only in that way would he be able to read the omens. He knew it would require a lot of patience, but shepherds know all about patience. Once again he saw that, in that strange land, he was applying the same lessons he had learned with his sheep. "All things are one," the old man had said (Coelho, 2006: 72).

He made the universe and its contents as the valuable lesson. Santiago thought that the lecture not only the human but also anything that made him know the meaning of the life, touched his heart and led him to find his destiny. This is reflected through the following narrative:

Data 5: 'I've learned things from the sheep, and I've learned things from crystal, he thought. I can learn something from the desert, too. It seems old and wise (Coelho, 2006:73).

Santiago is a young man who dared to risk his life in any way.

Santiago is a character who is very

fight to face his life. Besides that Santiago's attitude who dared to get the risks of life was also very valuable for the reader to be made a life lesson. The reader can see his conversation with the Crystal Merchant below:

Data 6: "I'd like to build a display case for the crystal," the boy said to the merchant. "We could place it outside, and attract those people who pass at the bottom of the hill." "I've never had one before," the merchant answered. People will pass by and bump into it, and pieces will be broken (Coelho, 2006: 52).

In addition to the quotation above, we can also see the events where Santiago to give up no matter what happens with his sheep when he took them in fields. Here's an excerpt:

"Well, when I took my sheep through the fields some of them might have died if we had come upon a snake. But that's the way life is with sheep and with shepherds" (Coelho, 2006: 52).

He decided to search some treasures. His heart is very fear, but Santiago understands that making first decisions is a major risk. So, he believes that his fear will dampen his spirit to take some treasures. He realizes that when a man has taken something, they must fight it. His confidence makes him to continue his journey. Below is an excerpt:

He still had some doubts about the decision he had made. But he was able to understand one thing: making a decision was only the beginning of things. When someone makes a decision, he is really diving into a strong current that will carry him to places he had never dreamed of when he first made the decision (Coelho, 2006: 68).

Santiago is very patient in dealing with any problem of his life

We can see since Santiago loses his money, parting with the Cristal Merchant and sheep that have long accompanied him in search of treasure.

He left without saying good-bye to the crystal merchant. He didn't want to cry with the other people there. He was going to miss the place and all the good things he had learned. He was more confident in himself, though, and felt as though he could conquer the world (Coelho, 2006: 63).

CONCLUSION

Character learning, especially for millineal generation, is needed in today's technological era. It is undeniable that technology cannot replace the role of literary work in teaching human values. This can be obtained by studying of characters in the novel. *The Alchemist* novel through Santiago as the main character teaches readers various life lessons namely; First, life is a struggle that must be resolved wholeheartedly. Second, everyone must learn from anything and anyone including animals, because whatever happens in the universe is actually a teacher. Then as humans we must dare to fight for and be responsible for life by accepting all the consequences. Finally, each problem of life must be faced patiently.

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