

**MORRIE SCHWARTZ'S PERSPECTIVES
ON AMERICAN VALUES IN MITCH ALBOM'S
*TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE***

THESIS

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**Presented to
Universitas Brawijaya
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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ABSTRACT

Tiani, Kartika Daris. 2014. **Morrie Schwartz's Perspectives on American Values in Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie***. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Dyah Eko Hapsari; Co-supervisor: Melania Shinta Harendika

Keywords: American values, perspectives, individualism, materialism, and activity and work

Values are abstract concepts used by the society as the orientation in lifestyle, think, act, and so on. In connecting with literary works, they are on which values as intrinsic aspects rely on. That is because literary works are seen as the mirror of the social condition, including values. Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie* is one of the literary works which contains American values, especially from Morrie's point of view as the main character. Those values that appear in the novel are used as the object of the study. In other words, this study discusses American values from Morrie Schwartz's perspectives. Through Morrie Schwartz's idea about American values, this study is wished to give the new yet useful point of view related to the values of life.

Sociological approach to literature is used in this study because *Tuesdays with Morrie* is based on true story which contains real descriptions of American culture and social condition, especially the values.

The result of the study reveals that Morrie Schwartz had his own perspectives toward American values. Most of his concern was about the importance of human relation above all values. Those perspectives were delivered through Morrie Schwartz's opinions, criticisms, and suggestions. From this study, it is revealed that Morrie Schwartz had the idea of *intimate individualism*, a state of being free to express oneself yet fully consider about relating to others. He also had a thought that material possessions was not the key to happiness, but love within human relationship was. Family and marriage were believed to be the spheres to decrease individualism and materialism. To Morrie Schwartz, growing old was not the limitation for people to be actively productive.

Finally, it is suggested to the next researcher to conduct a study about Morrie Schwartz's effort in gaining life satisfaction by using socio-psychological approach because his efforts (thoughts, feelings, and actions) to reach the goal were so much related to the society.

ABSTRAK

Tiani, Kartika Daris. 2014. **Sudut Pandang Morrie Schwartz terhadap Nilai-Nilai Masyarakat Amerika dalam *Tuesday with Morrie* Karya Mitch Albom.** Program Studi Bahasa Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Dyah Eko Hapsari (II) Melania Shinta Harendika

Kata kunci: Nilai-nilai masyarakat Amerika, sudut pandang, individualisme, materialisme, aktivitas dan kerja

Nilai adalah suatu konsep abstrak yang digunakan oleh masyarakat sebagai orientasi dalam gaya hidup, berfikir, bereaksi, dan lain-lain. Di dalam hubungannya dengan karya sastra, nilai merupakan suatu aspek yang terkandung di dalamnya sebagaimana karya sastra merupakan cerminan dari keadaan sosial, termasuk nilai-nilai sosial, di suatu masyarakat. *Tuesdays with Morrie* karya Mitch Albom adalah salah satu karya sastra yang di dalamnya banyak mengupas tentang nilai-nilai masyarakat Amerika Serikat (individualisme, materialisme, dan aktivitas dan kerja), khususnya dari sudut pandang tokoh utamanya yaitu Morrie Schwartz. Nilai-nilai masyarakat Amerika tersebut digunakan oleh penulis sebagai objek penelitian. Dengan kata lain, penelitian ini membahas tentang nilai-nilai masyarakat Amerika dari sudut pandang Morrie Schwartz. Melalui ide-ide Morrie Schwartz tentang nilai-nilai kehidupan, penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberi wawasan baru yang bermanfaat mengenai nilai-nilai kehidupan.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan sosiologis terhadap karya sastra karena *Tuesdays with Morrie* merupakan novel yang diangkat dari kisah nyata, sehingga di dalamnya terdapat suatu gambaran yang nyata mengenai kondisi sosial masyarakat serta budaya Amerika, terutama nilai-nilai kehidupan.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Morrie Schwartz mempunyai pandangan tersendiri terhadap nilai-nilai masyarakat Amerika yang difokuskan pada pentingnya hubungan antar sesama manusia. Pandangan tersebut disampaikan Morrie Schwartz dalam bentuk opini, kritik maupun saran.

Dari penelitian ini, dapat disimpulkan bahwa Morrie Schwartz mempunyai pemikiran tentang *intimate individualism*, yaitu kebebasan individu untuk mengekspresikan diri tetapi tetap mementingkan hubungan antar manusia. Menurutnya, harta benda bukan merupakan kunci utama kebahagiaan, melainkan cinta di dalam hubungan manusia. Keluarga dan pernikahan adalah wadah yang dapat mengurangi individualisme dan materialisme. Morrie Schwartz percaya bahwa bertambahnya usia bukan merupakan hambatan bagi seseorang untuk tetap produktif.

Akhirnya, disarankan kepada peneliti selanjutnya untuk menganalisa usaha-usaha Morrie Schwartz untuk meraih kepuasan dalam hidup dengan menggunakan pendekatan sosio-psikologis karena usaha-usaha tersebut (pikiran, perasaan, dan tindakan) sangat berkaitan dengan kondisi sosial masyarakat Amerika pada saat itu.

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