

MORAL VALUES IN ROALD DAHL'S NOVEL *DANNY, THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD*

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Abstract

The research, aiming to analyze the forms of moral values in *Danny, the Champion of the World* novel, is supported by respective theory proposed by Schwartz and Boehnke. The writers use descriptive qualitative method to identify and analyze moral values of the characters in the novel. Moral is related to the differences between right or wrong behaviors to be adjusted to standard manners in social life. Value is a core of social standard held by an individual or a group. Moral values are defined as guidelines that assist a person to decide something to be right or wrong. The moral values which are analyzed in this study are honesty, responsibility, modesty, and bravery. Honesty means one explains how a situation really happens. Responsibility is an obligation of an individual to perform the duty or task assigned. Modesty is quality of not being too proud or confident about oneself or one's abilities. Bravery is having the courage to stand out in any situation based on the principle of truth. The results show that the major characters in the novel show their moral values in the whole course of the plot.

Keywords: bravery; honesty; modesty; moral values; responsibility

1. Introduction

Danny, The Champion of the World is one of British popular children's novels written by Roald Dahl (1975). He was born in Cardiff, Wales and became a novelist, screenwriter, and wartime fighter pilot. This novel was inspired by Dahl's childhood in the Buckinghamshire countryside and many real places in this area showed up in the novel with different names. Dahl wrote an adult short story called '*Champion of the World*' reprinted with another short story collection entitled *Kiss* (1960). A few years later, he decided to make his seventh children's novel based on one of his previous adult short stories '*Champion of the World*' called '*Danny, The Champion of the World*' (1975) and he dedicated this novel to his whole family: Dahl's ex-wife, Patricia Neal, his daughter Tessa, Ophelia and Lucy, and his son Theo.

'*Danny, The Champion of the World*' is about two main characters; Danny, a 6-year-old kid with no sibling, and his father, William, who works as a mechanic. They live in an old small caravan in the South of England. The relationship between Danny and his father is very close and they like to spend their time together building their own toys. His father, William, is known as a good storyteller and he always tells a wonderful

bedtime story for his son every night. Despite their financial problems, Danny and his father always have a good time together.

There is a man called Mr. Victor Hazell, a rich person who owns a huge brewery and his property is all around the area where Danny and his father live. One day, Mr Hazell stops at the Gas Station operated by Danny and his father. He asks Danny to refuel the gas in his car but threatens Danny with a gun while telling Danny not to make his car dirty while refueling the gas. Danny's father sees the incident and quickly tells Mr. Hazell to go away without refueling his gas.

In the next 2 years, Danny finds out that his father is an enthusiastic hunter, like his grandpa. Danny and his father then come to know that Mr. Hazell's annual pheasant hunting is about to begin, so they decide to take revenge on Mr. Hazell and humiliate him by hunting all the pheasants in the forest before Mr. Hazell's pheasant hunting begins. Since Danny and his father are not using any gun to hunt, they choose to use the sleeping pills from Doc. Spencer and put them into the raisins to make all the pheasants feel sleepy so Danny and his father could easily take all the pheasants.

From the explanation above, there are several moral values such as honesty, responsibility, modesty, and bravery to be implemented in our daily life. Moral values are values that exist in human traits which can be used to define how good or bad we are as humans in social life. These moral values can push people to act or do something useful or as a root of motivation. It also can be said that moral values tend to rule and restrict our actions in social life.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Novel

Etymologically, the word 'novel' comes from Latin *novellus*, which means new. Novels are said to be new, because they appear after poetry and drama. Meanwhile, a novel is a narrative that is long and often raises the story of human life built from intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The story of life is fictitious, but rational. The rational nature of the novel can be seen from the ability of the author to describe every life event in detail. The readers will get life lessons that can be used as guidelines and self inspection. In addition, a novel is even able to reveal historical events to provide new insights for readers.

Semi (1988: 36) states that a novel is a type of literary work in the form of narrative, characterized by actions and reactions among characters, especially between the antagonist and the protagonist. An antagonist and a protagonist are always present in the novel. There are various issues (conflicts) that cause tension and curiosity for the readers while attending to the course of the story.

Meanwhile, Teeuw (1984: 67) indicates that a novel is one type of the prose variety, which is basically a form of long story. Novels contain at least 40,000 words and are more complex than short stories, and not limited by structural limitations and metrical plays or rhyme. The novel is a prose genre that features story elements and is more complete. It has extensive media. In addition, the novel also presents social problems.

Based on the explanations of the experts above, it can be concluded that a novel is one of the important works in a literary work because without a novel, a literary work does not have a good work to read, because each character and story in the novel always has a tendency to be in different levels of importance. In other words, the story and the role of each character in each novel is not the same.

2.2 Moral Values

Moral is related to the differences between right or wrong behaviors adjusted to the standard manners of social life. Value is a core of social standard held by the an individual or a group. The main point of moral values is an ethic about beliefs, characters, and actions of each person (Schwartz & Boehnke, 2004: 230). Moral values are universal truths which man holds to be good and important; they are the ethical principles from which he struggles to attain the goal in life. They are ideals which transcend in all time and space Adisusilo (1990: 57). Gazalba (1981: 512) states that morals are compatible with good and fair ideas. He concludes that moral is an act that is generally accepted by certain social or environmental entities.

Nurgiyantoro (2015: 441) describes that the type of moral teaching itself can cover problems that can be said to be unlimited. It covers all issues of human life including man's relationship with the natural environment as well as God

Therefore, Widjaja (1985: 154) says that moral is the teaching of good actions Lubis (2009: 12) then states that moral development is not a process of setting various rules and good qualities, but a process that requires changes in cognitive structure. Moral grows gradually from a simple level to the peak of maturity.

Wiyatmi (2006: 112) says value is something that is valuable, a quality and is useful for humans. Value is something that is attractive to us, something we are looking for, and something that is fun. Value has a good connotation (Bertens, 2000: 139). Value is something high, valuable, important and useful for humans. In addition, value is a belief that comes from a person's value system to direct the person concerned in a good way (Djahiri, 1985: 20).

Ursery (2002: 2) indicates that moral values are people's beliefs about what is important in life. An individual's morals may derive from society or religion. When moral values come from society, changes in law systems might happen.

Based on Daroeso's concepts (1986: 22), understanding moral values can be done in three ways:

1. Moral, as a human behavior, based on self-awareness bound by a necessity to achieve kindness according to the values and norms implemented in social environment.
2. Moral as a set of ideas about the behavior of living with certain basic principles held by a group of humans in a certain environment.
3. Moral as a teaching of good behavior based on a certain view of life or religion.

2.2.1 Honesty

The definition of honesty is a decision that someone has in expressing his feelings, words and actions based on reality and not manipulated to get self-interest. Honesty is one of the principles that must be held by everyone. In social interactions, honesty will bring peace and happiness (Kesuma, 2012: 16). Honesty is a behavior making someone trusted in words, actions, and work. Honesty is a moral character that has positive and noble traits (Mustari, 2011: 13).

Then, according to Kesuma (2012: 17), the characteristics of honesty are:

1. If he is determined to do something, his determination is true and beneficial.
2. If he says, he is not lying.
3. There is a similarity between what his heart says and what he does.

2.2.2 Responsibility

Widagdhho (1999: 154) states that responsibility is human awareness of their intentional or unintentional behavior or actions. Responsibility also means action as a form of awareness of their obligations. Responsibility is closely related to obligation. An obligation is something that is imposed on someone. Obligations are in contrast to rights, and may not refer to rights. So responsibility in this case is the responsibility of duty. In addition, Mustari (2011: 21) says that responsibility is the attitude and behavior of a person to carry out his duties and obligations to himself, society, environment, state and God. Mustari (2011: 25) says that the characteristics of responsibility are:

1. Choosing a straight path.
2. Always advancing oneself.
3. Maintaining self-respect.
4. Always being vigilant.
5. Having a commitment to duty.
6. Performing tasks to the best standard.
7. Recognizing all one's actions.
8. Keeping promises.
9. Daring to take risks with one's actions and words.

2.2.3 Modesty

Modesty is a respectful and civilized attitude in speech, and manners in accordance with local customs and culture (Oetomo (2012: 20). Meanwhile, Ujingsih (2010: 3) says that the manifestation of polite behavior is to respect others through communication using language that does not belittle or demean others. Then, Wijaya (2014: 1199) also states that the characteristics of modesty can be assessed by:

1. Not easily being suspicious of others.
2. Not showing off.
3. Not being arrogant.
4. Being honest.
5. Being helpful.

2.2.4 Bravery

According to Webster (1981: 269), bravery is facing something involving possible unfortunate or disastrous consequences or endurance (like hardship) using self-control and mastery of tears and often with a particular objective in view. Bravery arises from mastery of fear and intelligence. Kasron (2017: 111) states that bravery is a major component of the emergence of the power of anger in someone, because someone's anger is a truly real form, but the combination of the two makes the strength of the spirit that keeps a person subject to an educated mind in order to take actions to be carried out. Then, according to Greenberg (2012: 15), characteristics of bravery are:

1. Feeling fear yet choosing to act.
2. Following one's heart.
3. Persevering in the face of adversity.
4. Standing up for what is right.
5. Expanding one's horizons

2.3 Effect

Effect is a change, reaction, or impression that is caused by something or the result of something. Rahman (2018: 4) states that the effect of the moral values for human is to protect them from disintegration and preserve civilization from loss. Without moral values, nations do not rise despite no matter how much knowledge and prosperity they reach. Knowledge and morals are related to each other.

3. Research Method

Research technique is one of the most essential factors for collecting and analyzing data in a scientific study. The research technique consists of a systematic way of how a study is conducted to indicate to the readers what research design is used. The research design in this study is done by descriptive qualitative method.

This is in line with Creswell (2013: 3) who says that research designs are the specific procedures involved in the research process: data collection, data analysis, and report writing. In addition, a research design is an activity that requires a researcher to determine the design based on the object of research.

To analyze the data that in the novel, the writers use a descriptive qualitative method, exploring and understanding the meaning the social phenomena, in this case, matters concerned with moral values. The process of research starts with tabulated data inclined to the object and discussion of the research. All the data are then analyzed to reach the final conclusions.

4. Discussion

4.1 Honesty

Honesty is a trait that requires a match between the words spoken and the actions taken by someone. It means that someone can be said to be honest if he says something that is in accordance with the truth and accompanied by appropriate actions. It can be seen in the following data:

‘I have decided something,’ he said. ‘I am going to let you in on the deepest darkest secret of my whole life.’

I was sitting up in my bunk watching my father.

‘You asked me where I had been,’ he said. ‘The truth is I was up in Hazell’s Wood.’ (Dahl, 1975: 32).

Danny asks his father where he is when Danny falls asleep, and then Danny’s father tells Danny the truth that he is going to Mr.Hazell’s jungle to try to poach the pheasants. The quotation shows us about the honesty of the character in this novel.

Another inspector turned up and took a sample of petrol from one of our underground storage tanks. My father explained to me they were checking up to see if we were mixing some of our second-grade petrol in with the first-grade stuff, which is an old dodge practised by crooked filling-station owners. Of course we were not doing this ... (Dahl, 1975: 45).

Danny’s father tells him Danny that the police are checking their petrol station because the police think that they mix the first grade petrol with some second grade one to maximize the profit. But the police are wrong because Danny and his father are honest men.

‘What will you tell him, Dad? I mean about how it happened?’
‘I’ll tell him the truth,’ my father said. ‘Doc Spencer is my friend’
(Dahl, 1975: 68).

Danny asks his father about what he says when he meets Doc Spencer, and then Danny’s father answers his son’s question by telling him that he says the truth to Doc Spencer about what has happened to him. This shows us that Danny’s father is an honest person.

‘You may be permitted to cheat and lie and swindle in your own homes,’ he went on, ‘but I will not put up with it here!’ (Dahl, 1975: 97).

Captain Lancaster warns the students in his class not to cheat while he is in charge of the class. This shows us that Captain Lancaster teaches his students about how to be honest.

4.2 Responsibility

Responsibility is a human awareness of intentional or unintentional behavior or action. This is about understanding of responsibility and being responsible means acting as an embodiment of awareness of responsibility.

When I was four months old, my mother died suddenly and my father was left to look after me all by himself. I had no brothers or sisters. So all through my boyhood, from the age of four months onward, there were just the two of us, my father and me (Dahl, 1975: 11).

Danny tells us how responsible his father has been for taking care of him since Danny is just four months old. This shows us the act of being responsible of Danny’s father to his son.

While I was still a baby, my father washed me and fed me and changed my nappies and did all the millions of other things a mother normally does for her child (Dahl, 1975: 12).

Danny states that his father has done all the house chores and worked in their Garage-Petrol Station since Danny’s mother passes away. But Danny’s father does that sincerely as a form of responsibility and love for his only son, so that Danny does not feel a lack of love from his father.

My school was in the nearest village, two miles away. We didn’t have a car of our own. We couldn’t afford one. But the walk took only half an hour and I didn’t mind that in the least. My father came with me. He insisted on coming. And when school ended at four in the afternoon, he was always there waiting to walk me home (Dahl, 1975: 23).

Danny’s father always accompanies Danny to school by walking and he always picks up his son everyday. This is one of the examples of his father’s responsibility.

‘You can fly the kite all by yourself any time you like,’ my father said.
‘But you must never fly the fire-balloon unless I’m with you. It’s

extremely dangerous.’ ‘All right,’ I said. ‘Promise me you’ll never try to fly it alone, Danny’ ‘I promise,’ I said (Dahl, 1975: 27).

It can be seen how responsible Danny’s father to his son is by prohibiting Danny to fly the fire-ballon alone, because it is very dangerous and it can cause a problem to Danny if he plays it alone.

‘What do you want to inspect our caravan for?’ my father asked.

‘To see if it’s a fit place for humans to live in,’ the man said. ‘We don’t allow people to live in dirty broken-down shacks these days.’ My father showed him the inside of the caravan which was spotlessly clean as always and as cosy as could be, and in the end the man had to admit there was nothing wrong with it. (Dahl, 1975: 27)

Danny’s father shows the inspector the inside of their caravan to show them that the caravan is clean enough for a person to live inside it. This is one of the acts that shows us how responsible Danny’s father is to make their caravan always clean, so he and his son can live inside it safe and healthy.

‘You mean you actually drove here in the Baby Austin?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘You’re crazy,’ he said. ‘You’re absolutely plumb crazy’ ‘It wasn’t difficult,’ I said. ‘You could have been killed,’ he said. ‘If anything had hit you in that little thing, you’d have been smashed to smithereens.’ (Dahl, 1975: 63)

Danny’s father feels worry after knowing that his son is driven to the Baby Austin to the forest because eventhough Danny knows how to drive, Danny is still a seven year old boy who should not be allowed to drive a car. This shows us how responsible Danny’s father is to his son by worrying his son driving a car to pick him up in the forest.

With my father’s hand on the wheel I had no fear of hitting the hedge or anything else, so I pressed down hard on the accelerator. The speedometer needle crept up to forty (Dahl, 1975: 63).

Though he is being injured, Danny’s father is still trying to help his son driving the car by controlling the steer so Danny can drive the car without fear. This shows us that Danny’s father is responsible to his son by helping Danny to make sure that his son drives the car safely.

I must have gone to sleep after that because the next thing I heard was Doc Spencer’s voice saying to my father, ‘Well, my goodness me, William, what on earth have you been up to?’

I opened my eyes and saw the doctor bending down over my father, who was still lying on the floor of the workshop (Dahl, 1975: 69)

Danny wakes up when he hears Doc Spencer speak to his father about how the injury happens, and then he sees Doc Spencer checking his father. This shows us how responsible Doc Spencer is by taking care his patients in their home.

I stood outside the workshop with Doc Spencer and watched the big white thing drive out of the filling-station. ‘Do you need any help?’ Doc Spencer said. ‘I’m fine, thank you.’ ‘Go to bed, then, and get a

good sleep.' 'Yes, I will.' 'Call me if you need anything' 'Yes.' The marvellous little doctor got into his car and drove away down the road in the same direction as the ambulance (Dahl, 1975: 75).

It can be seen how responsible Doc Spencer is to Danny while Danny's father is being hospitalized for a leg injury. This shows us the act of Doc Spencer being responsible even though he has no obligation to take care of Danny.

The doctor opened the car door but he didn't get in. He looked at me very sternly and said, 'When did you last have something to eat, Danny?' 'Something to eat?' I said. 'Oh... well... I had... er...' Suddenly I realized how long it had been. I hadn't eaten anything since I had had supper with my father the night before. That was nearly twenty-four hours ago. Doc Spencer reached into the car and came out with something huge and round wrapped up in greaseproof paper. 'My wife asked me to give you this,' he said. 'I think you'll like it. She's a terrific cook' (Dahl, 1975: 76).

Danny realizes that he has not eaten since the night before. After knowing about it, Doc Spencer gives Danny the food which has been cooked by his wife. This shows us how responsible Doc Spencer is to Danny by giving him some food to make sure Danny gets enough food to eat when Danny's father is still in the hospital.

The next morning, a Monday, my father was up at six o'clock. 'I feel great,' he said. He started hobbling round the caravan to test his leg. 'It hardly hurts at all!' he cried. 'I can walk you to school!' (Dahl, 1975: 77).

Despite the leg injury that he has since the incident in Mr. Hazell's forest, Danny's father still insists on accompanying Danny to school by walking. This shows us how responsible Danny's father is to his son by still willing to take Danny to school by himself and he does not want the injury to prevent him doing it.

At about ten-thirty, he climbed out of his bunk and put the kettle on. 'What's the matter, Dad?' 'Nothing,' he said. 'Shall we have a midnight feast?' 'Yes, let's do that.' He lit the lamp in the ceiling and opened a tin of tuna and made a delicious sandwich for each of us. Also hot chocolate for me, and tea for him. Then we started talking about the pheasants and about Hazell's Wood all over again (Dahl, 1975: 105).

Danny asks his father whether they can have some mini late night dinner, then his father says yes to Danny's request and prepares some food and drink for them. This shows us that how responsible Danny's father is to his son by serving his son some food and drink.

'Oh, I know you're closed,' the woman called out through her window. 'But couldn't you please let me have a few gallons? I'm just about empty' She was a good-looking woman with dark hair. 'Give it to her,' my father said. 'But be quick.' (Dahl, 1975: 105).

This shows us how responsible Danny and his father are to their customer. They serve the customer even though the petrol station is closed due to their plan to poach in Mr. Hazell's forest.

4.3 Modesty

A modest life is not always in poverty, but it is about feeling satisfied, grateful, avoiding being excessive. To be modest, we can also share happiness with others, for example, by helping other people.

We lived in an old gipsy caravan behind a filling-station. My father owned the filling-station and the caravan and a small field behind, but that was about all he owned in the world. It was a very small filling-station on a small country road surrounded by fields and woody hills (Dahl, 1975: 12).

Danny informs us that he and his father are living their life as modest people by living in an old caravan station with a small field with a Petrol Station on a small country road.

I was helping my father to fit new brake linings to the rear wheel of a big Ford (Dahl, 1975: 22).

Danny helps his father by doing the work as a co-mechanic in their garage. From what Danny does, it is seen that he has a modest attitude as characterized by Wijaya (2014: 1199).

The world I lived in consisted only of the filling station, the workshop, the caravan, the school, and of course the woods and fields and streams in the countryside around. But I was never bored. It was impossible to be bored in my father's company (Dahl, 1975: 23).

Danny informs us despite modesty in his life, Danny always feels grateful because of the presence of his father in his life. This is one of the acts of modesty shown by the character in this novel.

I helped him to hop over to the car, and after a bit of a struggle he managed to get in. His left leg was doubled up underneath his right leg and the whole thing must have been agony for him. I got into the driver's seat beside him (Dahl, 1975: 67).

Danny helps his injured father to get into the car. From what Danny does it is seen that he has a modest attitude as characterized by Wijaya (2014: 1199).

My father once told me that Doc Spencer had been looking after the people of our district for nearly forty-five years.

He was over seventy now and could have retired long ago, but he didn't want to retire and his patients didn't want him to either (Dahl, 1975: 70).

Danny's father tells Danny that Doc Spencer does not want to retire, because he still wants to take care of his patients and he is adored by his patients.

4.4 Bravery

Bravery is an act of a person that is usually used to fight fears such as injustice, forms of oppression and things that one thinks appropriate to fight. Bravery usually comes when someone is under pressure and is required to make a decision regardless of the pain. It can be seen in the following data:

‘Were you frightened, Dad?’ ‘No,’ my father said. ‘It was thrilling to see him, and a little eerie, but I wasn’t frightened. Go to sleep now. Good-night.’(Dahl, 1975: 21).

Danny’s father tells Danny about what he feels during his experience when he sees the BFG. Danny’s father does not feel scared at all. This shows us that Danny’s father is brave enough when he sees something unusual in his life.

I looked again at the clock. He had left the caravan at six, which meant he had been gone over eight hours! It took me two seconds to decide what I should do (Dahl, 1975: 50).

Danny worries his father because he is still not back home at the promised time from the forest, so immediately Danny bravely decides to search for his father himself in Mr Hazell’s forest.

At that point a wild and marvellous idea came to me.

Why shouldn’t I go in the Baby Austin? I really did know how to drive. My father had always allowed me to move the cars around when they came in for repair. He let me drive them into the workshop and back them out again afterwards (Dahl, 1975: 50).

Danny bravely wants to drive Baby Austin to pick up his father from Mr. Hazell’s forest. Danny is brave enough to drive the car because he has already tried to do it before his father’s supervision.

“Next time you threaten someone with a good hiding I suggest you pick on a person your own size,” my father said. “Like me, for instance.” Mr Hazell still did not move. “Now go away, please,” my father said. “We do not wish to serve you.” He took the key from my hand and tossed it through the window. The Rolls-Royce drove away fast in a cloud of dust (Dahl, 1975: 44).

Mr. Hazell threatens Danny but Danny’s father is brave enough to stand up for his son from the grumpy Mr. Hazell. From what Danny’s father does it is seen that the father has a brave attitude, as characterized by Greenberg (2012: 15).

I switched on the torch. A brilliant beam of light reached out ahead of me like a long white arm. That was better. Now at any rate I could see where I was going. The keepers would also see. But I didn’t care about the keepers any more. The only person I cared about was my father. I wanted him back (Dahl, 1975: 59).

Danny begins his adventure in Mr. Hazell’s forest to find his father; Danny turns on the torch to lighten up his way through the forest. He does not care whether the guard will see him or not. This shows us Danny’s bravery to face everything dangerous when rescuing his father.

I sat very still in my bunk, watching my father as he put each capsule back into the bottle. I could hardly believe what was happening, that we were really going to do it, that he and I alone were going to try to swipe practically the entire flock of Mr Victor Hazell's prize pheasants. Just thinking about it sent little shivers of electricity running all over my skin (Dahl, 1975: 87).

Danny and his father are planning to hunt down all of the Mr.Hazell's pheasants by using the sleeping pills. This shows us how brave Danny and his father are by arranging a plan to wipe out almost all of the pheasants in the forest.

'When Mum was here, Dad, did you go out very often at night or was it only now and then?' 'You mean poaching?' 'Yes.' 'Often,' he said. 'At least twice a week.' 'Didn't she mind?' 'Mind? Of course she didn't mind. She came with me.'
(Dahl, 1975: 103).

Danny asks his father about how mom feels when Danny's father is poaching the pheasant in Mr. Hazell's forest. Surprisingly Danny's father tells Danny the bravery of his mom. She comes along with her husband to the forest to poach Mr.Hazell's pheasant.

Then all at once, I saw the keeper turn away his head to inspect the wood behind him. My father saw it too. Quick as a flash, he pulled the bag of raisins out of his pocket and tipped the whole lot into the palm of his right hand. 'Dad!' I whispered. 'Don't!' But with a great sweep of the arm he flung the entire handful way over the bushes into the clearing (Dahl, 1975: 103).

Danny's father throws the whole raisins when the guard faces the other directions. This action requires a will to be brave in any situation.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the moral values in Roal Dahl's novel *Danny the Champion of The World*, it can be concluded that:

1. There are several moral values that are found in this novel. They are honesty, responsibility, modesty, and bravery.
2. Moral values can make people feel grateful for what they have in their life and can provide a good lesson for life.
3. This novel is worth reading as it can be used a guidelines in life.
4. Moral values can make a person realize the mistakes that he has made because of his self-ego.

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