Social Values in Charles Dickens’s Novel “Oliver Twist”

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to acquire deep understanding about social values in the novels Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens. The type of research was qualitative by using content analysis method. The data collected through document study and data observation about social values in the novel. The result of this research revealed that social values found and described in the novel Oliver Twist were love values consist of love and affection, dedication, mutual help, kinship, concern, and loyalty. Responsible values consist of sense of acceptance and belonging, obligations and discipline. Harmony of life values consist of justice, tolerance, cooperation, and democracy. The values were found and described through generic structure of the novel by the text quotations. Those results led to implication that Indonesian literature educators can apply Charles Dickens novel Oliver Twist directly in the teaching process and motivate the students to analyze the novels.

INTRODUCTION

In this era of instant technology and information, the practical attitude of the majority of society resulted in the erosion of the noble values of the nation’s culture. Violent culture and social anarchism also exacerbate socio-cultural conditions of the nation. The values of local wisdom were polite, friendly, respectful, wise, and religious as if they were eroded and reduced by instant and modern lifestyle, which is called as social problems. Therefore, it becomes the researcher’s reason for conducting the research about the social values relating to literature aspect.

Social problems caused by the lack of recognition of the values of community life occur easily like social gap, social violence, and the lack of tolerance to others (Mimar Türkkahraman, 2013: 635). One solution to solve the problem is to provide effective literary learning about social values, because literature as a means of self-expression can be treated as one of the media or means of psychiatric education. Literature contains ethical and moral values relating to daily life including human problems. Literature does not only speak of itself, but it also deals with God, the universe, and society. Literature is able to reveal many things from various facts because it has many literary genres that can be used as a source of character formation.

The novel is a literary work in which many human problems are discussed as a description of the deeds or social life of the everyday society. The novel presented a much more realistic picture of social life (Faruk, 2016: 45-46). This is because the scope of the novel is very possible to describe the situation through events that are woven by the author through his characters.

Learning about social values is very important and be function as an example to see which is good and bad things. It is also a difficult challenge for educators today, to help learners to use their free time by doing activities that are useful for the development of self-learners to become a superior resource.

Learning appreciation novel have an important role in helping the younger generation to develop themselves further into a subtle personality. In line with that statement, the researcher encouraged that by studying and appreciating the literature, the learners will be able to achieve good results in the teaching of language and literature (Sumardi, 2012: 10). Thus, it can be concluded that through the appreciation of literature, the learners will learn the values of good and bad life then they will appreciate the stories in the literary works and make the values contained therein as an example and role model in the life of society.

The focus of the research is analyzing social values in Charles Dickens’s novel Oliver Twist through generic structure approach. From the focus, the researcher formulate the following research question is how the social values in
Charles Dickens novel reviewed through generic structure of the novel? Based on the research question, it had been known that the objective of this research was to get deeply meaning about the social values in Charles Dickens novel through generic structure approach. Those results led to implication that Indonesian literature educator can apply Charles Dickens novel Oliver Twist directly in the teaching process and motivate the students to analyze the novels.

LITERATURE REVIEW
This article concerned on the importance of assessing the social value in the novel is due to the appropriate function of literature to stimulate the reader to recognize, inspire, and analyze and formulate the values through the character in the novel. So, the values in literary works can be an example, motivation and made the personality and behavior of its readers more refined.

Novels are best known as fiction. It supported by Eagleton (1996:2) said that literature includes much factual writing, it also excludes quite a lot of fiction. Stanton (2007:8) also said that novels can show human experiences. Endraswara (2008:7-8) said that quality literary work is a literary work depicting the soul, the author’s thought, describes the author’s ability to organize the story, contains understandable language, to be able to describe the human mind. Bakthin and Patrnick in Hoffman (1988:230)said that novel is a type of fictional prose that does not have a single plot, characters and settings like those of a short story, but the novel has complex plots, characters, conflicts and character developments a fiction.

Kalven in Sutarjo (2012:56) said that value is an enduring preference for mode of conduct (e.g., honesty) or a state of existence (e.g., inner peace). Suyitno (1986:3) said that literature as a product of life contains social values, philosophy and religion derived from the revelation or who have forward a new concept. Literature not talks about personal life values, but also the values of human life in the total sense. Social values can be benchmarks, beliefs held by most members in a particular society about what is right, proper, noble, and good to practice. Wicaksono (2014:323) said that social values refer to individual relationships with other individuals in a society. How one should behave, how they solve problems, and deal with certain situations are also included in social values. It can be concluded that in a very diverse society the pattern, self-control is something that is very important to maintain the balance of society. In the same way, social values can be interpreted as the basis for society to formulate what is true and important, has its own characteristics, and plays an important role to encourage and direct individuals to act according to the norms that apply.

Social Values in The Novel
According to D.A. WilaHuky in Basrowi(2014:81) said that the characteristics of social values are: (1) Value is a community construction that is created through interaction among members of the community, (2) Social value is transmitted, (3) Values studied, (4) The value of satisfying human beings and taking part in the fulfillment of social needs, (5) Values are abstract assumptions in which there is social consensus about the relative prices of objects in society, (6) Values tend to relate to one another communally to form patterns and value systems in society, (7) Social value helps people determine priorities in their lives, (8) Social values almost always involve emotions, (9) Values can affect the development of individual personalities in society, (10) Cultural diversity with different forms and functions will produce the different value systems.

According to Zubaedi (2012:13) stated that the shapes of social values are: (a) Love Value is a genuine feeling present from the heart and contains a desire to give, to love and to be happy. Love values consist of love and affection, dedication, mutual help, kinship, concern, and loyalty, (b) Responsibility Values is one of the traits of our character which means that a person is able to respond for his actions, is able to take some duties and to face certain consequences of the actions that may occur. Responsible values consist of sense of acceptance and belonging, obligations and discipline. Harmony of life values consist of justice, tolerance, cooperation, and democracy, (c) Life Harmony Values is a human being as a social creature (homo socialist) because it always interacts with other humans in performing daily activities of life, in social life there must be norms that are mutually agreed in order to live in harmony, balanced and harmonious. Harmony of life values consist of justice, tolerance, cooperation, and democracy. By looking at the sub values contained in social values above it can be concluded that, social values are very important in social life if applied properly and correctly, and when associated with the deepening of a literary work can be a valuable learning about life, especially social life.
The novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens draws many parallels to the Victorian Era. Charles Dickens was one of the main writers to emerge from the Victorian Era. Dickens style and understanding of the period allow people to believe that he is “Victorians king of literature”. In *Oliver Twist*, young Oliver is an illustration of the harshness that is evident during the time. The treatment of adolescence, child labor, British Laws, and British society all are examples of the Victorian Era that Dickens makes reference in *Oliver Twist* even through the reality to the time, Oliver is still able to find happiness. In this story, Oliver and some of characters proved that even though they lived in a chaotic world, there were still connecting with the good, worthiness, and nobility happened around them.

Research on the Social Value in the Novel

Rr. Dwi Astuti did research to discusses the social value based on Prof. Dr. Notonegoro’s theory with three deepening of material value, vital value and spiritual value in the novel Gadis Pantai by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The conclusions of these three forms of social value have a very close relationship with the background of the coastal community life at that time. The social class gap at that time has been seen and greatly detrimental to the lower classes because they are always be oppressed by the upper classes.

Wahyu Saputra did research about types and functions of social value which reflection from novel Bukan Pasar Malam by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. The conclusions are helping, love, understanding, care, togetherness, and also the functions of moral value as level of social, motivation, guideline, and monitoring social person reflected in the novel.

Joan ST. Germain did research speaks of good and bad behavior in Charles Dickens’s novel Oliver Twist. Joan connects bad behavior with the background of time that Dickens always uses: darkness, night and death. According to him it is related to human behavior that tends to be in darkness. While starlight, the morning and the sun is the embodiment of the positive cycle.

Vladimir Trendafilov did research discusses the aesthetics in the narrative of several novels by Charles Dickens containing social values, be they economic, moral, communication or more precisely to have moral messages of good and evil, it further deepens the power of narration or storyline.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Social Values in Charles Dickens Novel “Oliver Twist”**

**Love value**

Love and affection

A feeling of love is an emotion of strong affection and personal interest. Love is a good trait that inherits a kindness, a feeling of compassion and affection. Social values of love and affection in the *Oliver Twist* described when Agnes (Oliver’s Mom) risking her life to give birth to her beloved son Oliver. The love value contained in the following quotation text:

> The pale face of a young woman was raised feebly from the pillow; and a faint voice imperfectly articulated the words, ‘Let me see the child and die.’
> (Dickens, 1992:4)

The text quote above depicts the longing of a mother’s heart who wants to see the newborn child as if to embrace him but the pain she feels makes her unable to, so she only wants to see her child one last time before she dies.

> ‘There is no pursuit more worthy of me, more worthy of the highest nature that exists, than the struggle to win such a heart as yours,’ said the young man, taking her hand.

The above quotation describes the value of love from a man named Harry Maylie. Harry has loved Rose Maylie his adopted sister for a long time but Rose always rejects him because she embarrassed of her bad past. Harry tried to convince her but still failed.

**Devotion**

The devotion in *Oliver Twist* was shown by Oliver when Rose was in severe pain. Oliver was asked by Mrs. Maylie to deliver a letter to the city market that was six in half miles away.

> Swiftly he ran across the fields, and down the little lanes which sometimes divided them, now almost hidden by the high corn on either side, and now emerging in an open field, where the mowers and haymakers were busy at their work; nor did he stop once, save now and the for a few seconds, to recover breath until he came, in a great heat, and covered with dust, on the little market-place of the market town. (Dickens, 1992:212)

From the above quotation it can be concluded that Oliver is very dedicated to the Maylie family, as he ran the distances, without complaining in order to deliver the letter on time.

The value of devotion can also be seen when Nancy refuses Mr. Brownlow’s offer to hand Fagin and Bill Sikes to arrest. It can be seen in the following quotation:

> ‘For one reason,’ rejoined the girl firmly--- ‘for one reason, that the lady knows and will stand by me in. I know
she will, for I have her promise; and for this other reason, besides, that, bad life as he has led, I have led a bad life too. There are many of us who have kept the same courses together, and I’ll not turn upon them, who might – any of them – have turned upon me, but didn’t, bad as they are.’ (Dickens, 1992:304-305)

From the quotation above it can be concluded that, Nancy is very devoted to her friends. Despite the nightmare they put her through since she was twelve-year old, but it will not change her decision to abandon them.

**Mutual help**

The value of mutual help in the novel *Oliver Twist* is illustrated when Oliver is helped by Mr. Brownlow after the trial of the burglar case. It can be seen in the following quotation:

Little Oliver Twist lay on his back on the pavement, with his shirt unbuttoned, and his temples bathed with water; his face a deadly white, and a cold tremble convulsing his whole frame.

‘Poor boy, poor boy!’ said Mr. Brownlow, bending over him.

‘Call a coach, somebody, pray, directly.’

A coach was obtained, and Oliver, having been carefully laid on one seat, the old gentleman got in and sat himself on the other. (Dickens, 1992:69)

From the quotation above it can be concluded that, despite being a victim of robbery, Mr. Brownlow has a great heart and wants to help Oliver, who he previously thought was a pickpocket.

The testimony of the bookstore owner frees Oliver from the punishment of 3 years in prison for allegedly stealing.

‘This,’ said the man: ‘I saw three boys – two others and the prisoner here – loitering on the opposite side of the way, when this gentleman was reading. The robbery was committed by another boy. I saw it done; and I saw this boy was perfectly amazed and stupefied by it.’ Having by this time recovered a little breath, the worthy book-stall keeper proceeded to relate, in a more coherent manner, the exact circumstances of the robbery. (Dickens, 1992:68)

This value is an example to the reader of our obligation to help others, the need to tell the truth, and be empathetic to love our fellow human beings.

**Kinship**

The familial values in *Oliver Twist* are illustrated in the following text.

The young lady would sit down to the piano, and play some pleasant air, or sing, in a low and gentle voice, some old song which it pleased her aunt to hear. There would be no candles lighted at such times as these; and Oliver would sit by one of the windows, listening to the sweet music, in a perfect rapture. (Dickens, 1992:208)

The value is very much reflected in the family atmosphere created in the Maylie family’s home. There is no visible social class distinction between the richer and the poorer in the treatment between Oliver and his employer. They are happy together with lots of love and sharing.

The value is also seen when Rose gives mental encouragement to Oliver, when he reminds his best friend Dick when they through the rough days in the workhouse. Oliver feels so sad and hopes that he will meet Dick again someday and share the happiness that he feels at that moment.

‘You will see him soon,’ replied Rose, gently taking his folded hands between her own. ‘You shall tell him how happy you are, and how rich you have grown, and that in all your happiness you have none so great as the coming back to make him happy too.’ (Dickens, 1992:340)

**Concern**

The concern value in *Oliver Twist* is described in the following quotation:

There was fresh groundsel, too, for Miss Maylie’s birds, with which Oliver, who had been studying the subject under the able tuition of the village clerk, would decorate the cages in the most approved taste. When the birds were made all spruce and smart for the day, there was usually some little commission of charity to execute in the village; or, failing that, there was rare cricket-playing sometimes on the green; or, failing that, there was always something to do in the garden, or about the plants. (Dickens, 1992:208-209)

From the quotation above it can concluded that, Oliver’s behavior is the realization of the value of the environment around him. Besides that Oliver’s concern for the animals is also to please Rose Maylie who is the owner of the environment. Rose feels so happy and gives compliments to Oliver because Oliver is a diligent boy and is always willing to try to become a better person.

Rose also showed great concern towards Nancy. She wants Nancy to get away from her bad past and change her life for the better. The way Rose pleased her is a manifestation of carrying values between each other beings.

‘Do not turn a deaf ear to the entreaties of one of your own sex; the first – the first, I do believe, whoever appealed to you in the voice of pity and compassion. Do hear my words, and let me save you yet for better things.’ (Dickens, 1992:265)

**Loyalty**

The loyalty value in the *Oliver Twist* is illustrated in the following quotation:

‘It is because I was your father’s oldest friend, young man,’ returned Mr. Brownlow; ‘it is because the hopes and wishes of young and happy years were bound up with him and that fair creature of his blood and kindred who rejoined her God in youth, and left me here a solitary, lonely man; it is because he knelt with me beside his only sister’s death-bed when he was yet a boy, (Dickens, 1992:323)

The friendship between Mr. Brownlow and Monk’s father Mr. Leeford is a sincere friendship. They go through hard times and happy times together as a form of the loyalty.
of friendship and fraternity. The power of friendships make Mr. Brownlow wants to change Monk’s attitude so he can have a better life. This value is a positive value that is essential and can be an example for the readers to apply to their own life.

Responsibility values

Sense of accepting and belonging

This value in Oliver Twist is illustrated in the following quotation:

Every morning he went to a white-headed old gentleman who lived near the little church, who taught him to read better, and to write; and spoke so kindly, and took such pains, that Oliver could never try enough to please him. (Dickens, 1992:208)

From the above quotation we can conclude that, the value sense of accepting and belonging is described when Oliver learns read and writing. The happiness that he accepted from the Maylie’s family gives Oliver the chance to change himself for the better.

Obligations

This value in Oliver Twist is illustrated in the following quotations:

‘Hush!’ said Mrs. Maylie, laying her hand on Oliver’s head. ‘You think like a child, poor boy! But you teach me my duty, notwithstanding. I had forgotten it for a moment, Oliver; but I hope I may be pardoned, for I am old, and have seen enough of illness and death to know the agony of separation from the objects of our love.’ (Dickens, 1992:211)

From the above quotation text it can be concluded that Oliver has unknowingly prompts Mrs. Maylie to realize the meaning of responsibility and the need to be strong to survive a tough life. Thus, the value of obligations and responsibilities are related to each other.

He was still more astonished to find that this firmness lasted, and that, under all the care and watching which ensued, Mrs. Maylie was ever ready and collected, performing all the duties which devolved upon her steadily, and, and to all external appearance, even cheerfully. But he was young, and did not know what strong minds are capable of under trying circumstances. (Dickens, 1992:211)

From the above quotation it can be concluded that the value of duty can be applied by Mrs. Maylie in her serving at Rose, although with a very sad heart and unable to see the suffering of Rose, Mrs. Maylie still carries out her obligations as a mother to her son.

Discipline

This value in Oliver Twist is illustrated in the following quotation:

Then he would walk with Mrs. Maylie and Rose, and hear them talk of books; or perhaps sit near them in some shady place, and listen whilst the young lady read, which he could have done until it grew too dark to see the letters. Then he had his own lessons for the next day to prepare, and at this he would work hard, in a little room which looked into the garden. (Dickens, 1992:208)

Oliver disciplined himself by abiding to a daily schedule. In addition to being responsible for accompanying Mrs. Maylie and Rose on a walk, Oliver also has a separate time to develop by learning and reading. In order for all things to go smoothly, Oliver strives to complete these tasks well so it can be argued that, what Oliver is doing is a form of disciplinary value.

The situation when Monks met with Oliver and Rose to tell all the real stories that had happened. The statements made by Monks must be accounted for and Mr. Brownlow strongly emphasizes this. Mr. Brownlow’s actions are a manifestation of the value of self-discipline.

This is painful task,’ said he, ‘but these declarations, which have been signed in London before many gentlemen, must be in substance repeated here. I would have spared you the degradation, but we must hear them from your own lips before we part, and you know why.’ (Dickens, 1992:208)

Thus, the value of discipline is closely related to the value of responsibility. The value of discipline in literature is one of the moral messages intended for the reader, that if we discipline ourselves first, then all the things we do or plan will run well.

Harmony of life values

Justice

The Value of Justice in Oliver Twist is included in the following quotation:

‘And left you and your mother each an annuity of eight hundred pounds. The bulk of his property he divided into two equal portions – one for Agnes Fleming, and the other for their child, if it should be born alive and ever come of age. (Dickens, 1992:342)

The above quote illustrates that prior to his death Mr. Leeford had prepared a will containing the division of his prophets to his family. In the letter, not only Monks and his mother got the inheritance, but also listed the name of Agnes Fleming, Oliver’s mother, and the baby of their relationship - Oliver. Thus it can be concluded that Mr. Leeford exercised justice by dividing his prophets between all his family, as well as his beloved Agnes and the baby which is the result of their love affair.

By the provisions of his father’s will, Oliver would have been entitled to the whole; but Mr. Brownlow, unwilling to deprive the elder son of the opportunity of retrieving his former vices, and pursuing an honest career, proposed this mode of distribution, to which his young charge joyfully acceded. (Dickens, 1992:357)

From the above quotation clearly shows the value of justice made by Mr. Brownlow. The inheritance of their fathers is equally divided between Oliver and Monks Mr. Brownlow
hope that Monks may change for the better, and live side by side with his half-brother Oliver in happiness and harmony; this is the embodiment of the value of harmony in life.

Tolerance
The tolerance values in the Oliver Twist novel are contained in the following quotation text:

The poor people were so neat and clean, and knelt so reverently in prayer, that it seemed a pleasure, not a tedious duty, their assembling there together; and through the singing might be rude, it was real, and sounded more musical (to Oliver’s ears at least) than any he had ever heard in church before. (Dickens, 1992:208)

From the above quotation it is clear that the social life at the Maylie family environment meant that, they blend together with the workers in the house of worship, they allied and sang also prayed. At times like this there is no difference between the rich and the poor, the upper and lower classes, their purpose is to worship and seek joy. Thus it can be concluded that, the higher the value of tolerance among humankind, the more secure the happiness and prosperity of a country.

‘No,’ said the old lady, with a trembling lip. ‘My days are drawing to their close; and may mercy be shown to me as I show it to others! What can I do to save him, sir?’ (Dickens, 1992:189)

The quote above is from Rose, Mrs. Maylie and Doctor Losberne. Rose asks Mrs. Maylie not to hand Oliver to the police because Rose believes Oliver is innocent. Mrs. Maylie granted Rose’s wish because she loved Rose so much and wanted to make her happy even though they were still aware of Oliver’s situation. The form of tolerance that is shown by Mrs. Maylie’s attitude by forgiving Oliver and accepting it and treating it is a reflection of the values of responsibility as human beings who have noble character and have a high social spirit.

Cooperation
The value of cooperation in Oliver Twist is contained in the following quotation:

‘It was the partial disclosure of your secrets,’ replied Mr. Brownlow.
‘Will you disclose the whole?’
‘Yes, I will’
‘Set your hand a statement of truth and facts, and repeat it before witnesses?’
‘That I promise, too.’ (Dickens, 1992:327)

The statement letter is a manifestation of the value of cooperation, in which Mr. Brownlow asked Monks to work with him to reveal the great secrets that have been kept hidden that the secrets be immediately disclosed so that everything becomes clear.

‘I have spoken to the men who are charged with his capture, and they tell me he can never escape. A reward of a hundred pounds is proclaimed by Government tonight.’
‘I will give fifty more,’ said Mr. Brownlow, ‘and proclaim it with my own lips upon the spot, if I can reach it. Where is Mr. Maylie?’ (Dickens, 1992:328)

Mr. Brownlow wants to work with the government by adding to the prize money a total of one hundred and fifty pounds. Thus it can be concluded that Mr. Brownlow’s actions are a manifestation of the value of cooperation, cooperation to assist the government in combating crime in order to make life more secure and peaceful.

Democracy
The value of democracy in Oliver Twist’s novel is contained in the following quotation:

We refuse to sanction these indentures,’ said the old gentleman, tossing aside the piece of parchment as he spoke.

‘I hope,’ stammered Mr. Limbkins – ‘I hope the magistrates will not form the opinion that the authorities have been guilty of any improper conduct, on the unsupported testimony of a mere child.’

‘The magistrates are not called upon to pronounce any opinion on the matter,’ said the second old gentleman sharply.

‘Take the boy back to the workhouse, and treat him kindly. He seems to want it.’ (Dickens, 1992:21-22)

The above quotation describes the situation where it is decided that Oliver will be an apprentice to one of Gamfield’s smoke carriage houses. After a long process of deliberation, the judges decided to cancel it because Oliver finally spoke frankly and asked not to be sent there.

Thus it can be concluded that, the decision the judge board has made is a demonstration of democratic values not just hear one-sided only. In the end the value of democracy Oliver was saved from the apprenticeship that endangered his life.

All that I could hope to do, and even more. Coupling the poor girl’s intelligence with my previous knowledge, and the result of our good friend’s inquiries on the spot, I left him no loophole of escape, and laid bare the whole villainy which by these lights became plain as day. Write and appoint the evening after tomorrow, at seven, for the meeting. (Dickens, 1992:328)

The above quote describes Mr. Brownlow’s decision to gather all the witnesses to meet directly with Monks, Oliver and Rose. The goal is to uncover all the secrets that have been concealed, as well as reveal all the crimes planned by Monks. Thus from this quotation it be concluded that there is an effort from Mr. Brownlow to act on a democratic value to uphold truth and justice in a problem that is the source of conflict.

CONCLUSION
Social values in terms of the value of love, the value of responsibility and the value of harmony in the life of Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens are clearly visible in the contents of the novel. The description of the social values in the story illustrates the value of community life is about the relationship between human and daily life. The value of social values can be adopted by certain societies about what is true, worthy, sublime, and good to prac-
tice in real life. These values are the values of love and affection, the value of service, the value of helping, the values of kinship, the value of caring, the value of loyalty, the value on a sense of acceptance and belonging, the value of obligation, the value of discipline, the value of justice, the value of tolerance, the value of cooperation and the value of democracy. The overall values are combined within the story’s structure in *Oliver Twist* novel by Charles Dickens.

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