

“Notes from England”: Values of Character Education as Junior High School Teaching Materials

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the values of character education in Notes from England and its relevance to teaching materials in Junior High School (Indonesian: Sekolah Menengah Pertama or SMP). This book tells the struggle of Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida (students coming from Indonesia) in chasing their dream to continue their studies in England. The research data was that of narration and dialogue taken from Notes from England by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida, containing character education value. The technique of collecting data used was library study and interview. For data validation, this research employed method triangulation by document analysis through observing documents and interviewing teachers. Data analysis in this research was carried out using an interactive analysis model encompassing data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Based on the data analysis on Notes from England, the following conclusions can be drawn: (1) values of character education contained in this book are religiosity, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, curiosity, friendliness/communicativeness, reading habit, and social care, (2) Notes from England contains many high values of character education, and thereby it is relevant to Literature Teaching materials in the 9th grade of Junior High School (SMP).

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1. INTRODUCTION

The globalization era brings many changes into society's life, either positively or negatively. The worrying condition is related to moral and character crises developing and affecting this nation. Many corruption, legal mafia, power abuse, bribery, and dishonesty cases occur and can be regularly watched on television and social media. Megawangi R (2009) states that this multidimensional crisis leads to the degraded qualities of national morality, work ethos, etc. The low commitment to good values makes this state challenging to get out of this crisis.

A moral crisis occurs not only in the holder of power in this state but also in the young generations. The free sex phenomenon among adolescents is very worrying. Adolescent behaviors far from religious teachings, particularly in Islam, like free sex, pregnancy without marriage, abortion, gambling, drinking, and drug abuse, are examples of adolescent behavior making society, particularly parents, restless (Diah, 2020). These negative behaviors performed by adolescents will lead to the degraded quality of national morality because a nation's morality is determined by the quality of its young generation's morality. The adolescent behavior making the people restless leads to moral panic. (Eryanto, 2013) explains that moral panic is a community's mechanism of maintaining collective values, such as decorum, morality, politeness, etc. If there is a behavior considered incompatible with the values living within society, the society has a self mechanism to maintain the values. According to Utami (2017), moral value is a standard attitude based on determining right and right and wrong behavior by those developing a moral standard. In the presence of a moral value, an individual is expected to have an attitude and behave more responsibly.

Moral crises occurring in adolescents should be coped with by character education. The objective of character education is primarily to facilitate the reinforcement and development of specific values manifested in child behavior (Kesuma, 2011). Character education is a national foundation that is very important and should be implanted earlier in childhood. It is in line with Soekarno stating that nation and character building is needed as an integral part of national development because its strong character contributes considerably to the achievement of the nation's success and advancement (Muslich, 2011). It is very relevant to the function and objective of national education as explained in National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003, to develop the ability and to create nation character and civilization, aimed at the development of potencies of students to be pious, healthy, knowledgeable, competent, creative, independent humans believing in God the Only One who have noble character and to be democratic and responsible citizens.

A strategy to implement character education can be accomplished through school. According to the Ministry of National Education (Kemdiknas, 2010), character education can be implemented by integrating it into learning. It involves introducing values, growing the awareness of values, and internalizing values into students' behavior through the learning process, either inside or outside the classroom (Wibowo., 2013). In Indonesian language lessons, the integration of character education values can be done directly through lecturing, for example, or indirectly through literature teaching materials within which the values of character education are contained. It is in line with (Yupika, Fitra, and Zuchdi) stating that the study of character values in literary works is significant for developing and building character, particularly for the young generation.

Literature learning can be utilized to develop the students' character. Character education taught through literature will be more exciting and impressive to students than that delivered through the lecturing method. It is because, in literary works, the author attempts to delineate the events experienced by society in their daily life. This is in line with Ratna (2004), stating that literature and culture have shared the same objects: human beings and society, human beings serve as social facts, and human beings as cultural creatures. Literature is a communication media constituting the imagination world, presenting the beauty and providing meaning to the life of the human world (Budianta, 2003).

Literature serves as one of the educational instruments that should be utilized in the education realm, in this case, focusing on character building Nurgiyantoro (2013). It is relevant to Harsanti (2017) stating that to build strong character and noble personality, literary books fulfilling some criteria for students are needed. The criteria are: using beautiful language, touching the readers, bringing high humanity values, and encouraging the readers to do a good deed to fellow humans and other creatures.

Many fictional literary works contain character education values, some of which are short stories, novels, dramas, fairy tales, etc. According to Martono (2010), Fables contain values applicable to implant positive character in students. Students are expected to enjoy, appreciate, understand, and utilize literary works to develop personality and improve knowledge and language skills through fables. Reading many literary works will make the students the cultured humans responsive to high values in living within

society. The cultured students are expected to be great but humble, independent but controlled, and firm but gentle humans.

An individual's character will be reflected on the product of spiritual and emotional development, intellectual development, Physical and kinesthetic development, and Affective and creativity development by an individual or a group of individuals (Kemendiknas, 2011). Based on the concept of character suggested by some authorities, it can be summarized that character is a deed with individual relation to self, environment, and God.

In the attempt to reinforce the implementation of character education in the education unit, 18 (eighteen) values have been established to create the nation's character, originating from religion, Pancasila, culture, and the objective of national education (Kemendiknas, 2011). Religiosity is obedience and compliance with understanding and implementing the teaching of religion (faith). Honesty is attitude and behavior reflecting the unity of knowledge, deed, and action. Tolerance is attitude and behavior reflecting an appreciation of different religions, creeds, ethnicities, customs, languages, races, etc. Discipline is habit and action consistent with any rules or orders enacted. Hard work is behavior that sincerely indicates the completion of a task or a job. Creativity is attitude and behavior reflecting innovation in solving problems viewed from various aspects. Independence is attitude and behavior not dependent on others in completing various tasks or solving various problems but still collaborating. Democracy is attitude and way of thinking reflecting equal rights and obligations justly and evenly between himself and others. Curiosity is a way of thinking, attitude, and behavior reflecting curiosity with anything seen, heard, and learned more in-depth. Nationalism is attitude and action putting the nation and state's interests on personal or individual or group's ones. Love for the homeland is attitude and behavior reflecting pride, loyalty, care, and high appreciation for language, culture, economy, politics, etc. It is not easy to accept other nations' potentially harmful offerings to our nation. Appreciating achievement is the attitude of being open to others' achievements. Communicativeness, friendliness, or proactivity is an attitude and action of being open to others through polite communication, establishing collaborative cooperation. Love peace is attitude and behavior reflecting a peaceful, safe, and quiet circumstance. Reading habit is a volitional habit of allocating specific time to read information deriving from books, journals, magazines, newspapers, etc., thereby generating wisdom. Environmental care is the attitude and action of always maintaining and preserving the surrounding environment. Social care is attitude and action reflecting care for others and the community's needs. Responsibility is an individual's action and behavior in performing his task and obligation related to self, social matters, society, nation, state, and religion.

Some literary works are fiction, and some others are nonfiction. The literary work of fiction includes prose, poem, and drama. That nonfiction includes autobiography, biography, essay, or inspirational story. "Books Notes from England" studied in this article belongs to a book containing an inspirational story. Notes from England is the one by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida-two students coming from Indonesia telling their struggle for successfully being students in universities in England and their struggling times while studying in the universities in England. They were two rural children coming from the base of Mount Sumbing, Magelang, and a remote village in Halmahera who fought hard against their limitations with their infinite hard work. Their notes about their life in England are expected to motivate those who have big dreams but have some limitations to keep stepping forward and trying as hard as possible to bring their dream true successfully. Readers can take some lessons from others' inspirational stories, particularly related to an individual's struggle and joy and sorrow in achieving his goal or ideal. To improve the quality of life, an individual should learn from others' experiences, particularly those containing the stories of achieving success. Readers will learn character and characterization from the inspirational story make a good character the role model.

Rahayu, S., Rozak, A., and Mascita (2019) have ever conducted a study on an inspirational story text. This study found that using google classroom media can improve the students' knowledge and skill competencies in the material of inspirational story text. Another study was conducted by Lestari (2019) to find out the need for an inspirational story textbook containing independent characters and design an

inspirational story textbook containing the independent characters. These two studies equally investigated the inspirational story text. The difference lies in the type of research used. Rahayu, S., Rozak, A., and Mascita's (2019) study belongs to a classroom action research utilizing google classroom to improve the students' knowledge and skill competencies in the material of inspirational story text, while Lestari's (2019) study is a research and development by analyzing the need for inspirational story textbooks containing the independent characters and designing the inspirational story textbooks containing the independent character. Meanwhile, the current research focuses on the Analysis of the Value of Character Education in Notes from England and its relevance to Literature Teaching Materials in Junior High School (Indonesian: Sekolah Menengah Pertama, then called SMP).

2. METHODS

This study is descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Descriptive qualitative research aims to describe, delineate, explain, clarify, and answer the problems in detail by studying as maximally as possible an individual, a group, or an event. In qualitative research, a human being is a research instrument, and the products of writing are words or statements corresponding to actual conditions (Sugiyono, 2016).

The current research data were that of narration and dialogue taken from the Book "Notes from England" by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida, containing character education value. A library study is used to collect data using collecting materials or references corresponding to the research conducted. In addition, data collection was also conducted through interviews. It is desirable to find information from the teachers of SMP concerning the relevance of character education values contained in Notes from England to the Literature teaching materials in Junior High School

To validate the data, this research employed the method of triangulation, using document analysis and interviews. The analysis technique employed in this research was an interactive analysis model encompassing data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis is the study and elaboration of data to provide a conclusion. In this study, the analysis was conducted based on the data of character education values contained in the book *Notes from England (NFE)* by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida, including religiosity, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, curiosity, friendliness/communicativeness, reading habit, and social care.

Table 1. Form of Character Values contained in the Book "Notes from England" by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida

No	Character value	Description
1	Religiosity	Religious character is indicated by obedience, compliance, creed, and faith with God the Only One
2	Discipline	The importance of discipline by practicing to manage time
3	Hard work	Hard work character is indicated by Ario Mohammad and Fissilmi Hamida with their sincerity in fighting for what they dream of and persistence

4	Creativity	Ario Muhammad took S3 (Doctoral) education in England, where his lecturers always required him to keep innovating
5	Independence	African countries' independence in producing their food source for their own country dramatically reduced the child mortality rate in the next 15 years.
6	Curiosity	Curiosity needs to be generated as the capital for learning by reading, discussion, and storytelling
7	Friendliness/Communicativeness	Hamida is a supple, friendly, and communicative woman. These characters helped her relieve her sadness.
8	Reading Habit	Hamida loves reading books. Habibi is her inspiration in improving her reading interest
9	Social Care	The factor contributing most considerably to Hamida's decision to keep fighting for her ideal is her family's support. Her families care for Hamida.

In detail, the result of the analysis of the values of character education contained in the Book "Notes from England" by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida is elaborated as follows.

Religious Character

Religious character is indicated by obedience and compliance with implementing the religious tenet and our faith or belief in the Majesty of God. The success the human beings achieve is inseparable from God's intervention. Religious character is shown in the data below.

Data 1

"Allah's plan has never been wrong!"

"This long journey to find a scholarship was like an examination. This was an examination of consistency, patience, strong effort, expectation, and submission to Allah. However, we trust that Allah's plan has never been wrong. On March 10th, 2016, the announcement we were waiting for finally came. Being a Teaching Assistant in Computing 1 class, I curiously opened my wife's application email. Moreover, my wife eventually became the recipient of the LPDP Scholarship for the doctoral program."

Indonesian students' struggle to study abroad is not easy. It is also true of Hamida. In addition to adapting to language and culture, Hamida should also adapt to complicated lecturing schedules and tasks. It made Hamida depressed. In depression condition, Hamida approached God.

Data 2

"Right, keep involving Him in all of our affairs, including during stress and depression."

Data 3

"Allah's assistance is so close. My score was so good that I received a DIPA scholarship, the value of which was enough to pay my tuition. Thus, at the graduation ceremony, I was allowed to give a speech as the best graduates, although honestly, I realize that the knowledge I have is still far below the qualification to get the predicate of best graduates."

Data 4

"... because HE knows more what is the best for you..."

Data 5

"The fate guided me to turn over from Accounting to English Education Department, the major I have never wanted. Moreover, Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) (State Islam Religion Institution) of Surakarta became my choice because the admission cost was compatible with my family's financial condition at that time."

Data 6

Hamida believed that patience, sincerity, and submission are the characteristics a human should have as a powerless creature. Human beings can try only, but the final decision is in God's hands.

Data 7

"Failure and disappointment made me learn to accept what God has destined because no matter how hard I try, it will never be mine if He does not say yes."

Data 8

"Indeed, it is the sincerity that teaches me many things such as submission, and again He knows what the best is for us, although we do not like it originally."

Data 9

"At that time, my tears were spilling. HIS plan is so nice. However, I learn that each failure always gives us a lesson. When your effort to get a scholarship still fails, for example, it may be God's love message, implying that He wants you to call His name more frequently in your prayer, and He wants you to try harder."

Hamida believes that patience, sincerity, and submission are the characteristics human beings should have as powerless servants. Human beings can make any attempt only, but the final decision is in God's hands.

Disciplined Character

Habit and action consistent with regulation or order enacted are called disciplined character, as shown in the citation below:

Data 10

This target can be realistic if you get up in the early morning every weekday. Alternatively, if you are an employee, you can realize it by going home at 05.00 p.m. and then spending time practicing IELTS intensely from 6.00-8.00 p.m. This example can be adopted and adapted to your condition. The last and most important one is to have a clear timeline. Make sure that this timeline is put into your daily schedule for you to realize it. I have practiced how to arrange plans using this method frequently. If you fail, try again because there is no more appropriate way of managing our time than practicing.

Data 11

Thus, keep developing yourself consistently. At a certain point, you will realize that what you have sharpened patiently for a long time will lead you to the achievement of a dream or ideal bigger than what you have imagined.

Hard Work Character

Hard work character is indicated the sincerity in fighting for the ideal and the persistence. Muhammad writes motivating words that can generate the readers' spirit to rethink the reader's spirit. The data are presented below:

Data 12**From Halmahera to take doctoral study in Europe**

'Bringing the dream into reality involves accumulating hard work, mature planning, high consistency, and long patience. If you have not had them, rethink your spirit!'

Data 13

Before studying abroad successfully, Muhammad should fight to pass the TOEFL test successfully many times because his TOEFL score was initially low.

"My TOEFL-like test score was only 427. This score is not too bad for us as North Maluku children, but to go abroad? It is still far below the expectation. So, it would help if you never gave up on those fighting to improve your English ability to study abroad. I have ever had the score below the requirement."

To grow the spirit of studying abroad, Muhammad should discuss and interact intensely with those who have gone abroad.

Data 14

"Interacting with those who have ever studied abroad is an important medium to grow the spirit of studying abroad. The more you meet, discuss, and exchange ideas with them, the stronger is the motivation to try to conquer your dream of studying abroad".

The repeated struggle to pass the TOEFL test was finally fruitful. Muhammad got a TOEFL score of 563. This result is, of course, inseparable from God's mercy for witnessing His servant fighting incessantly.

Data 15

It was the TOEFL incredible moment, fate and lifeline arranged by Allah play their role. Who knows that I could pass the TOEFL test successfully with an unpredictable score, 563, in February 2009. It is a score I have never thought of before. This event made me aware that *Allah will never give the wrong result following the difficulty and hard work. So, never give up.* In his Self-Help book, it is in line with Samuel Smiles that "Genius is patience." It means that high intellectuality is born from patience. High intellectuality is born from self-denial and untiring perseverance. As a Muslim, Allah's help is inevitable and will be present to those who have worked hard.

Muhammad motivates the readers to keep fighting and not to give up easily. Patience is also desirable to achieve what we want. It is shown by the citations below:

Data 16

"Never give up. Having had a big dream, keep fighting to achieve it!. Never let anything hinders your step from achieving your dream."

Data 17

"These all teach us that although everyone has different challenges and problems, that is not an excuse to lose hope and stop working."

Data 18

"Patience is also important. Doctoral study is a long learning process. We should run marathons rather than a sprint. For that reason, we need a long time and enough breath to survive amid the pressure of being Ph.D. students. So have you been so patient to pass it successfully?"

Muhammad agrees that a hard struggle is required to achieve what we want. There is discomfort and practice that should be performed continuously.

Data 19

"A Swedish psychologist then found that the supplies needed to be the world-class performers 24 are not only passion, talent, money, and learning accessibility. However, the winners' success in conquering the world is to survive amid consistent and miserable deliberate practice. I adopt this miserable word as it adequately represents the feeling of almost all top performers in various fields".

Data 20

"discomfort is the sign that we are on the way to the change. Therefore, I decided to fight against this worry, discomfort, and difficulty with an attitude of never giving up, to feel the change of quality later. I hold the message from Prof. Ericsson tightly." The best teacher is one way to do deliberate practice correctly. Having a counselor like Dr. Katsu Goda is a blessing I cannot waste, despite any discomfort I should receive. So, keep surviving and stepping forward even very slowly, because there will be a success not everyone can achieve at the end of the way."

The character of hard work to be analyzed later is that of Hamida, a persevering woman and a hard worker who never gives up. It can be seen from the data below.

Data 21

"Dusk in Brandon Hill. That evening, I brought my mind wandering again. I closed my eyes as if my body was tracing back the past through the time machine of my mind. I get back to the time when I began to have a dream. The dream deserving to be fought for, the dream everyone living has with the story following it. This is my story, about the struggle to reach the dream, failure, sincerity, submission to what destined."

To realize her dream of studying abroad, Hamida should pass some tests successfully. Her father supported her struggle and escorted her many times after shubuh from Magelang to Yogyakarta.

Data 22

"My father's struggle of escorting me in the early morning, after shubuh, from Magelang to Yogyakarta with his old motorcycle to take some tests to realize my dream seemed to be wasting time."

The struggle of taking some tests also took much money. Hamida was forced to borrow money from her roommate to take the test.

Data 23

"The scholarship for bachelor's study in the Al-Azhar University of Egypt was the first hill I climbed to be released from the activity I do not wholeheartedly. I want to take an Arabic major. Because I had no money at that time, I borrowed some money from my friend living in the same boarding house to take the test held by Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) (State Islam University) of Yogyakarta".

Hamida failed several times, but finally, her struggle was fruitful. The data showing her failure and her success in studying abroad can be seen in the data below.

Data 24

"Right, again, I should be intimate with disappointment because my application filed for some scholarships showed the same result, "FAILED."

Data 25

"It can be imagined how hard my struggle was from the beginning to the end of selection; it was a struggle in vain. I was downcast because I should go home bringing bad news. There was a pain felt on my breast suddenly".

Data 26

"However, some minutes later, one of LPDP officials said that the ones whose names were not called would remain to be dispatched through regular LPDP scholarship as an appreciation for their struggle up to this point."

The failures she has encountered gave Hamida so many lessons. She motivates the readers to keep fighting and never give up. Never stop trying.

Data 27

"Indeed, I have graduated from the University of Bristol now, and of course, I still have many other dreams I should fight for. People often think of how smooth my way was, while I should pass a difficult time finally graduating from University of Bristol. However, I believe that every failure will give a lesson."

Data 28

"Hopefully, this simple story about the struggle of bringing the dream into reality will be beneficial and motivate everyone who is fighting to chase his dream to keep trying despite some failures, weariness, and disappointment. No one knows that perhaps your fortune is on the next trial, so never stop trying".

Creative Character

Attitude and behavior reflecting innovation in many problem-solving aspects are called creative character. Creative character is shown in the data below:

Data 29

In her writing on 10 facts, a Ph.D. promoter never informs her students and underlines the problem of the relationship between Ph.D. students and their promoters. It is undeniable that to produce a high-quality Ph.D. research work. A Ph.D. candidate must bring brilliant ideas, novelties, and workable in reliable time (3-5 years).

Data 30

They are also required to produce good research, moreover those studying on the best campuses in the world. You should fulfill the criteria of world-class research to be a Doctor. Otherwise, you will be under pressure, so it is not easy to achieve it. Unsurprisingly, some Ph.D. students should be finally dropped out when passing through the first-year session or fail to get a Ph.D. degree because they do not pass their viva Ph.D. session successfully.

Data 31

There is a planning method commonly used, the SMART Goal method, standing for Specific-Measurable-Achievable-Realistic-Timeline to deal with this.

Data 32

"Following the observation, we were required to give solutions to the problems existing in the form of presentation."

Independent Character

It is an attitude and behavior not dependent on others to complete various tasks and solve problems by still collaborating with others. It can be seen from the data below:

Data 33

An excellent matter became their target: the African state's ability to produce food sources for their own state, dramatically reducing the child mortality rate in the next 15 years.

Curiosity Character

Muhammad realizes that feeling stupid is the initial capital for learning. Curiosity should be grown so that students will have learning enthusiasm by employing reading, discussion, and storytelling.

Data 34

"It does not matter when your parents are not highly educated, who blow big dreams to you early on. You can read anything, discuss, and tell stories to those who have explored the world. Therefore, you will realize that this world is not only Indonesia".

Data 35

In an essay by Martin Schawz in the Journal of Cell Science, stupidity is instead important to feel and have by a Ph.D. research student. Feeling stupid tends to make them keep questioning and exploring their ability. Every researcher seems to realize that stupidity is essential in the research realm. The problem is how resilient and accustomed you are to this stupid feeling. Those who have been accustomed will live their research days usually, but those who are depressed with this stupid feeling will decide to stop and choose other career paths one time. This occurs to Mr. Schawz, who eventually stopped his Ph.D. study and preferred taking a master's degree at Harvard Law School, escorting him to a bright lawyer career.

Data 36

To be a Ph.D. student, you should be prepared to feel stupid throughout your Ph.D. study. It is *indeed not an easy task to deal with*20.

Data 37

It is undeniable that being a Ph.D. student needs enough brain to think because we must learn and find new things along our study period".

Friendly/Communicative Character

Communicative, friendly, or proactive are attitudes and actions open to others through polite communication, thereby establishing good cooperation. Hamida is a supple, friendly, and very communicative woman. It can be seen from the data below:

Data 38

I am so lucky to be a supple one to have a kind of "friend to hang out with." We all support each other and say anything. They were surprised and even angry with me when I did not tell them that my laptop was damaged so that my essay assignment file was lost. When they knew it (a day after submission time), those who worried about me invited me to have fun for a while. We then walked around downtown regardless of the cold night. Because I was not cold-resistant, they decided to bring me to the pub.

Data 39

Talking about anything, telling funny stories, and playing the foolish game made me smile again. Trust me, try not to be alone because suicidal thoughts often come into our minds when we are alone. To the supple one, try to have someone, a friend or anyone, to whom we can talk.

Data 40

Indeed I want to inform anyone shy to talk about the depression she develops that depression is neither a sin nor a disgrace; it does not indicate that you are less faithful or far from God. Just speak up and talk to anyone you trust. Being introverted and letting others know what we feel will relieve a burden. To the readers of this writing, if you do not want to hear or to give a solution, please at least restrain yourself from judging.

Reading Habit Character

As a student, Hamida should have a reading habit. Hamida loves to learn Accounting. It is shown in the data below:

Data 41

"Right, I love accounting. There is a distinctive enjoyment in reading a big book replete with figure and balance, with adjustment journal verse that can make my spirit flare up. Moreover, my National Exam score for Economics and Accounting course was almost perfect, making me optimistic about being admitted to the Accounting Department of a famous campus."

Data 42

"Since then, I, having admired B.J. Habibie since a long time ago, loved to read Atlas Dunia (World Atlas) book until disheveled because it contains a picture of some places abroad while imagining that I am there."

Social Care Character

It is an attitude and action reflecting care for others and society's needing, as indicated by the data below:

Data 43

"The largest factor making me step forward steadily is family support. Of course, to a mother, it is not easy to be separated from her child, even for a while. Meanwhile, I should be a part of him for a year, separated by thousands of kilometers. Being a part of the husband, I can still restrain the longing existing, but it is apart from my child."

Data 44

"Mother should educate her child, but I instead left the obligation of educating my child with an excuse of advanced study" Hearing that, I was crying painfully, but then my husband hugged me and revived my spirit: "There is an opportunity, my husband allows me to take the opportunity, and my family supports me, so what is the problem?" Therefore, I am grateful for having a husband and family supporting me continuously. Their support is precious, without which I could not have stepped forward to bring my dream into reality immediately".

Data 45

"Indeed, I think that a stressed and depressed individual needs someone to listen to her grievance, the one who is willing to listen to her sincerely without judging, although not always giving solution."

Data 46

"So, I told her, despite being a new friend and not intimate yet. She (who is a genius) even offered help after she told me to be quiet and to take a rest that night and then to use the day remained to redo the essay. I was so lucky to have excellent friends. Hearing about my problem, they borrowed money from some other friends and gave it to me readily (until today, I still remember how much money they lent)."

Data 47

"If you are lucky, you will get nice promoters who always allocate their time every week to discuss, give you a job as a final project or take aside some of their research project fund to enable you to have traveling through the conference you attend."

Data 48

"Here, I could see clearly how left behind we are, the East Indonesian children, compared with those coming from Java Island or other big provinces."

"Several months ago, around February 2016, the Indonesian Student Association in England (Indonesian Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia di Inggris, after that called PPI U.K.) established

collaboration with PPI Leicester and Volunteering for Indonesia to hold a project entitled Surat Untuk Indonesia (Letter for Indonesia): inspirational letters containing the struggle of achieving dreams and the detail of study and life in England, sent to various regions in Indonesia to motivate the juniors there."

Notes from England (NFE) by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida is the one containing inspiration from which the readers take some lessons. According to (Rahayu S., Rozak, A., Mascita, 2019), inspirational story text is written to share an individual's experience to motivate and inspire others to do good deeds, just like the story's character did. The story's themes raised in inspirational story text usually contain life tenets, life spirit, and invitation to do merit to fellows.

Considering the result of research, nine education character values are found in NFE by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida: *religiosity, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, curiosity, friendliness/communicativeness, reading habit, and social care*. In detail, the data of character education values contained in the book NFE include *17 data for hard work, 9 for religiosity, 6 for social care, 4 for creativity, 4 for curiosity, 3 for friendliness, 2 for reading habits, 2 for discipline, and 1 for independence*.

Hard work is the most dominant character in "Notes from England." The book clearly shows the hard work valued by the two authors, Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida. Hard work character is found in 17 (seventeen) data. Studies on the importance of hard work value have been conducted as well by Sulastri (2017), Ikhwanuddin (2012), and Hartono, R., Anshori (2019). They found that maximum effort and hard work are required to achieve desirable and ideal. Ikhwanuddin (2012) explained that integrating complicated work characters into cooperation or collaboration could positively contribute to character development and improve academic achievement more evenly. Hartono, R., Anshori. (2019) found that hard work can motivate us to keep trying and completing the work specified as well as possible.

Notes from England also contain the religiosity character value (NFE). Mustari (2014) explained that religiosity is a character value about God. Religious value implies that an individual's thinking, word, and deed are always done based on religious values and or his/her religious teachings. Bellah (2011) suggested that religious character is related to an individual's belief system and religious practice by complying with specified morals, rules, or values. Azzahra has discussed the theme related to the integration of religious values into learning. They stated that the religious value is integrated into the early learning activity by motivating and implanting religious character through materials citing the Quran and Hadith.

There are 8 (eight) citations in Notes from England indicating faith or belief in God the Only One concerning religious values. The story's characters believed that they would submit the result of what they fight for to God, who determines an individual's fate. Such faith can relieve their feeling of worry often arising in their journey to realize their dream because God has destined everything. Religiosity, hard work, and discipline characters should be compensated with optimism. Optimism is a positive attitude or mindset toward a problem with solid self-defense, thereby growing self-confidence. In his research, Afendi (2021) found optimism in the novel *Orang – Orang Biasa* by Andrea Hirata is indicated in various values: having big hope, not hopeless quickly, having self-motivation, and high self-confidence. Regarding discipline character, Nurhadi and Fatmayanti (2020) explain that developing disciplined character among children, teachers, and parents can help them stand alone, be accountable, and create an orderly situation in teaching and learning. Discipline functions organize mutual life, build personality, train personality, and create a conducive situation.

The value of character education aims to help students understand, be aware of, and capable of applying character education values to their life. The authors, through literary work, are aware of the importance of values obtained from the readers, either explicitly or implicitly. Pala (2011) explained that good character is not born instantaneously but through a long process. Teachers play a significant role in developing the students' character (Rodrigues, Hillaryn, and Harding, 2009). Teachers serve to facilitate and direct the students in developing character. The 2013 curriculum includes spirituality and social attitude aspects and knowledge and skill aspects.

Relevant to this statement, Kamarudin (2012) explained that the character education program had been organized formally and non-formally. Character education should refer to the vision and mission of affiliated institutions. Not only should educational institutions prioritize students' academic competency of students but it should also pay attention to students' character to make them intellectual human beings academically with good character. Therefore, educational institutions have a duty and responsibility to organize students' character (akhlak) education. Good character habituation should be implemented in order to create a noble character.

Implementing fundamental values to reinforce character education in elementary schools indicates that religion and nationalism values have been implanted well and have been a culture. However, all students have not implemented independence, cooperation, and integrity values maximally and routinely. Cooperation or collaboration between the school and the student's parents is required to implement character education. Schools should provide good role models, habituation, and monitoring daily to their students through their parents (Muttaqin, Raharjo, 2018)

Rohaenah, I.N., and Sahudi have conducted a study on the character education model applied in school. This study found some results. (1) Curriculum of Character Education in SMK Kesehatan Mutiara Bangsa has been organized well, containing 70% practice and 30% theory. (2) The character education model used includes a story, role modeling, habituation, teaching, and prioritization. The result of character education developed in SMK (Vocational High School) grows religiosity, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, democracy, and curiosity.

The character of curiosity should be developed in the students because the students' learning capital is curiosity. Through curiosity, students are trained and encouraged to think critically. Critical thinking ability is very desirable in life. The students can be trained to think critically both inside and outside the classroom learning in school. For example, critical thinking practice can be done in leadership training in extracurricular activities. Being a leader, an individual should be able to make a decision fast and appropriately; for that reason, critical thinking ability is required (Sasso, 2021)

Nur,R., Suardi., Nursalam, Kanji (2021) have developed a character education value development model in Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar. The model developed is integrated into *moral knowing, moral feeling, moral in verbal, moral action, moral habitus, and moral culture* (KFSAHK). This model was developed as an integrative unity starting from individual to group level or academic community in Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar.

The importance of character education is confirmed in the objective of national education. Article 3 of Law No.20 of 2003 states that the objective of national education is to develop the nation's character and prestigious civilization to educate people to be human beings who are faithful to God the Only One and to have noble character. To build the character and personality of students with a noble character, literary books with criteria appropriate to the students are required (Harsanti, 2017). Pristine, D.A. & Suryani (2015) suggest that character education is an educational activity conducted for the next generations. Character education should educate the students and develop their potency in practice. Character education develops at least three potential domains: cognitive (how students understand the character value with their thinking ability), affective, and psychomotor domains.

Hasanah (2020) explains that character is human behavioral values related to God, self, fellow humans, environment, and nation as manifested into thinking, attitude, word, and behavior based on religious, cultural, and esthetical norms. An individual's character will be reflected on the product of spiritual and emotional development, intellectual development, Physical and kinesthetic development, and Affective and creativity development by an individual or a group (Kemendiknas, 2011). Based on the concept of character suggested by some authorities, it can be summarized that character is a deed with individual relation to self, environment, and God.

The nine character education values found in the BNFR result from identifying eighteen character development values in the academic unit. Considering the result of an interview with some teachers of Junior High School (SMP) in Surakarta, it can be concluded that "Notes from England" (NFE) is very compatible and feasible to be the Literature teaching materials in Junior High School (SMP). It is

because the book contains stories that can inspire the students to follow the good characters of both authors. There are nine character education values: religiosity, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, curiosity, friendliness/communicativeness, reading habit, and social care. In addition, this book is very appropriate to students' age and cognitive and psychological developments.

Thus, the values of character education found in NFE by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida can be used to support the literature learning at SMP (Junior High School) level. This is relevant to Basic Competency (K.D.) 4.11, Concluding the content of sympathy, care, empathy, or personal feeling expressions in the form of the inspirational story read and heard, and KD 4.12, Expressing sympathy, empathy, care, and feeling expressions in the form of an inspirational story by considering the structure and the language aspects of the story.

The relevance of character education values contained in Book NFE by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida can be used to supplement the literature learning at the Junior High School level, of course, by considering the requirement of teaching materials specified by the Ministry of National Education. Department of National Education (2005) mentions that the selection of teaching materials should consider some criteria: the teaching material selected should be compatible with the curriculum, the teaching material should be compatible with the objective of education, and it should be accountable based on Indonesian language and letter science, it should be relevant to science and technology development, and it should be compatible to the cognitive development level of students. The values within it follow the nation's character values and culture that the Ministry of Education and Culture develops.

Recalling the importance of self character, education has a big responsibility for implanting it through the learning process, either inside or outside the classroom (Zubaidi, 2011). Not only teachers and principals are responsible for implanting the character education in the students, but the parents should also participate actively in the character education program held by the school

4. CONCLUSION

Considering the result of research, nine educational character values are found in Books Notes from England" by Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida: religiosity, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, curiosity, friendliness/communicativeness, reading habit, and social care. In detail, the data of character education values contained in the book NFR include 17 data for hard work, 9 for religiosity, 6 for social care, 4 for creativity, 4 for curiosity, 3 for friendliness, 2 for reading habits, 2 for discipline, and 1 for independence. Hard work is the most dominant character found in the book.

The education of complex work character shown by the authors - Ario Muhammad and Fissilmi Hamida in Notes from England is expected to give the students a role model implying that success needs to be fought for through, among others, hard work. Other values of character education – religiosity, social care, creativity, curiosity, friendliness, reading habit, discipline, and independence – can be utilized and implemented in students' daily activities. Thus, Notes from England by (Muhammad, A & Hamida, 2017) is one of the inspirational books that can be an alternative to literature teaching materials in the material of inspirational story text.

Other researchers are recommended to study other inspirational books. Books containing inspirational stories and motivations from either public figures or ordinary people with diverse professions can be utilized as the topic of study in Indonesian Language and Literature Education. The teachers are recommended to select and develop teaching materials more creatively. Teaching materials in inspirational story texts can be collected from various sources by considering the excellent teaching materials criteria.

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