

# PERSONALITY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN CHARLES DICKENS' *GREAT EXPECTATION*

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims at finding the moral values that can be found in Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me* and the use of Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me* as media of education. The writer used *Etika Dasar Masalah-masalah pokok Fisafat Moral* by Suseno and *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* by Nugriyantoro. In completing this analysis the writer used the library research. In data analysis, the writer has chosen the novel Nicholas Spark entitled *An Analysis of Moral Values as Reflected in Nicholas Spark's The Best of Me*. The writer also used the qualitative method to write this analysis and described how the process of the moral values on the main characters. It is proven by analyzing the process of the moral values on the main characters of the *The Best of Me*. The results reveal the moral value in the novel *The Best of Me* about responsibility, care, love and affection and sacrifice for others. The novel can also be used as the media education. The writer found the use of novel as media of education, expressions of impression, promising and greeting.

**Keywords:** *Personality, Moral Values, Responsibility, Care, Love and Affection, Sacrifice*

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan nilai-nilai moral yang terdapat dalam *The Best of Me* karya Nicholas Spark dan pemanfaatan *The Best of Me* karya Nicholas Spark sebagai media pendidikan. Penulis menggunakan *Etika Dasar Masalah-masalah pokok Fisafat Moral* oleh Suseno dan *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* oleh Nugriyantoro. Dalam menyelesaikan analisis ini penulis menggunakan penelitian kepustakaan. Dalam analisis data, penulis memilih novel Nicholas Spark berjudul *An Analysis of Moral Values as Reflected in The Best of Me* karya Nicholas Spark. Penulis juga menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menulis analisis ini dan menggambarkan bagaimana proses nilai moral pada karakter utama. Hal itu dibuktikan dengan menganalisis proses nilai moral pada karakter utama *The Best of Me*. Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan nilai moral dalam novel *The Best of Me* tentang tanggung jawab, kepedulian, cinta dan kasih sayang serta pengorbanan untuk orang lain. Novel juga dapat digunakan sebagai media pendidikan. Penulis menemukan penggunaan novel sebagai media pendidikan, ungkapan kesan, janji dan sapaan.

**Kata kunci:** *Kepribadian, Nilai Moral, Tanggung Jawab, Kepedulian, Cinta dan Kasih Sayang, Pengorbanan.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature teaches people because there are certain values inside the literary works. Most of people are interested in reading novel because they can find many inspirations and moral values in human life. Moral values are considered to be right, wrong, desirable, or undesirable. While morality is sometimes described as natural in humans, but the set of moral values is acquired, through example, teaching and imprinting from parents and society. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral\\_value](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_value)). *The Best of Me* is an interesting novel written by Nicholas Spark. Like in other Spark's works, this novel has a characteristic which can build demotion of the readers naturally without manipulation and dramatization. The character, plot and the elements of the story are always universal, genuine and interesting.

In accordance with high expectation of man to woman as Dawson does to Amanda, the writer as one of English Literature students

wants to analyze Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me*. For those reasons, the writer wants to propose a research entitled "An Analysis Moral Values as Reflected in Nicholas Sparks' *The Best of Me*".

Actually this novel tells about the endless love in the real life. Everyone wants to believe that endless love is possible. *The Best of Me* is one American romance novel that tells about soul mate in high school student who meet as teens and come from different backgrounds and then they feel deeply irrevocable in love. *The Best of Me* gives many examples to make our lives better. It is proved by the moral values that we can learn from the main characters, namely Dawson Cole and Amanda Collier. We can find love, struggle and sacrifice through the novel. This novel also provides the answers to the reader that nothing is impossible in love because of differences in social class and time which have split their love until they finally reunited in a state that has been different.

There are many topics that appear in whole of the story, which

are very interesting to analyze but the writer only focuses the discussion on the moral values on the main characters. Relating with that, the problem of the study is “How does the use of Mapping Technique affect the students’ writing ability?”

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Moral generally means a type of human behavior as a consequence of beliefs about what is right or wrong, good or bad, insofar as that behavior is useful or effective. In a sense, moral is the study of what thought to be right and what is generally done by a group, society, or culture.

Moral values are not always presented by discussion in the class lesson formal but we can also use other ways to teach it, for example literature book like novels to deliver messages. Moral helps keep and save people to live up to a certain standard. Moral is something needed by people as a way of life and to get happiness in the world and in the end day.

According to Rachels (1995:1), Morality (from the Latin *moralitas* “manner, character, proper behavior”) has three principal meanings. In a

descriptive sense, morality refers to personal or cultural values, codes of conduct or social mores that distinguish between right and wrong in the human society.

Every society has values to arrange their life that contains with some principles, ideal or standards. Moral values are the standard that helps us to determine what kinds of action are suitable and useful and which are not. In human life, there are differences like opinion, social, economy, political and our social background like culture and religion and also social mobility that occur in society that make conflict occur.

According to Suseno, (1987:58) *Moralitas adalah ungkapan hati melalui tindakan manusia*. “Morality is the expression of heart through the actions of human being” (*my own translation*). Moral relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior. Moral character primarily refers to the assemblage of qualities that distinguish one individual from another although on a cultural level, the set of moral behaviors to which a social group adheres can be said to unite and define it culturally as distinct from others. Talking about moral, we can not

separate with value. Moral and value are the terms that refer to the ways people think, behave and react. Moral and value have the same meaning, however they has a separate meaning of its own. Even more important, they must develop a desire to do what is right, to act for the accomplished. Most successfully by associating pleasant reactions with what is a right and unpleasant reaction with what is wrong (Hurlock, 1977: 387).

### **3. RESEARCHMETHOD**

The writers collected data through observation toward the novel then coming up with a theory to account the data. The writers applied qualitative descriptive as a method to process this analysis by finding the suitable data from the novel which can be analyzed based on the topic discussed. The object of the study in this thesis is a novel written by Nicholas Spark. The story of the novel has been analyzed based on moral values of the main characters.

In analyzing data, the writers analyzed moral values of Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me* to know the content of the novel and the messages that written by the author by these steps:

- 1) Reading the novel several times to understand the story

and to know what problems are dominantly found in the novel.

- 2) Analyzing the sentences that related to the moral values of the main characters and to solve the problem of the main characters in Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me*.
- 3) Analyzing the references related to the novel. In this analysis, the writer uses many sources and the relevant data found in library and internet browsing.
- 4) Classifying moral values found in the novel.
- 5) Drawing the conclusion based on the problem of the study.

### **4. DATA, DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

#### **4.1 Data**

This analysis is focused on Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me*. The analysis is only focused on the moral values occurred on the novel on the main character. The data were taken from the novel that could show the moral value in the novel.

True morality is rarely found in children, but also appear during the adolescent years. Children must learn what is right and what is wrong. When they are old enough, they must be given explanations of why this is right and that is wrong. Even more important, they must develop a desire to do what is right, to act for the accomplished.

#### 4.2. Data Analysis

After reading the story, the writer can get several moral values based on Nicholas Spark *The Best of Me*, they are as follow:

##### 1. Responsibility

Dawson Cole is a figure of this novel. He is a bravery person, when David Bonner was died because accident makes Marilyne angry and hates Dawson and Dawson has an insiative to help Marlyne's family by secretly sending her a money.

##### 2. Care

Tuck is Dawson's bestfriend. He makes Dawson meet Amanda again after a long time. Tuck plans to make Dawson and Amanda reunite in the garage that is also a workshop where Dawson works. He is the man who cares to Dawson and Amanda who once give protection to their relation high

school romance. His death bounds Amanda and Dawson to see each other again.

Tuck plans to make Dawson and Amanda reunite in the garage that is also a workshop where Dawson works.

“It took a few seconds before she grasped what Dawson had already figured out—that Tuck had obviously planned this little reunion all along. Had they not met here at Tuck's, they would have done so tomorrow no matter what. As the implication became clear, she suddenly didn't know whether she wanted to punch Tuck in the arm or kiss him for it.” (Spark, 2017:73).

Beside, Tuck is also loyal to his wife, Clara. After his wife died he proves his loyalty by still keeping the house where they had lived together. Before Tuck died he writes a letter for Dawson and Amanda. In his letter, Tuck says that the loves between Dawson and Amanda is similiar with his love to Clara.

“He sometimes felt guilty about having the Bonners followed, but he had to know whether he'd been able to make even the smallest positive difference in their lives. That's all he'd wanted

since the night of the accident, and it was the reason he'd been sending checks monthly for the past two decades, almost always through anonymous offshore bank accounts. He was, after all, responsible for the greatest loss their family had experienced, and as he ran the quiet streets he knew he was willing to do whatever he could to make amends." (Sparks, 2017: 104).

### **3. Love and affection**

People live with their own problems because life is not easy, but God never gives problem outside of human capability. God always gives His love for the human. From the novel, it can be seen that Dawson loves Amanda very much. He does not care when Amanda's father tries to forbidden their love.

"As difficult as those months had been, Amanda could never bring herself to take the final step of filing for divorce. Given Jared's fragile emotional state, she couldn't imagine traumatizing him any further. What she didn't realize was that her resolve to keep the family intact wasn't having the intended effect. A few months after Jared came home from the hospital, Frank was talking to Jared

in the living room when Amanda walked in. As had become the pattern by then, Frank got up and left the room. Jared watched him go before turning to his mom." (Sparks, 2017: 379).

Beside that Dawson is an honest person. He is also simple and confident. He is very calm, innocent, and obeys for his parents and he is able to survive his job as a workshop in tuck's garage. He is kind and smart. Dawson is always telling the truth and everyone likes it.

### **4. Sacrificing fot others**

Sacrifice means giving help to other without expecting counterclaim. Dawson Cole is helpful. David Bonner who died after being accidentally hit by the truck that Dawson drove, makes Bonner's wife, Maryline, very hates to Dawson.

Even it is an accident and Dawson has asked for an apology to Maryline, she insists to refuse it. Dawson Cole helps Alan Boner the son of Marilyne. When his father died because the accident by Dawson Cole, he saves Alan Boner from riot when they are in the bar.

At that time there is a riot in the bar in Tidewater caused by Ted and Abee Cole. In that riot Alan Boner is

badly hurt, but he is saved after immediately taken to the hospital. Unfortunately Dawson is shot in his head after he fights with Ted and Abee Cole, and finally he died.

“Dawson was helping Alan Bonner out of the bar when Ted managed to fire off a last round. Dawson was shot” (Sparks, 2017: 372).

After that accident Maryline starts to realize that Dawson is a good person and tries to help her family as a responsibility act after he accidentally hit, her husband. After that, Maryline often comes to Dawson’s grave and prays for him and gives the grave a lily flower.

#### **4.3. Some Expressions of Moral Values in Daily Life Reflected in the Novel**

In the daily life we used to express our feeling, happiness, sadness, love expression etc. In Nicholas Spark’s *The Best of Me*, the writers found many expressions that people can express in daily life, beside learning English, it also helps us build and improve our character. There are some expressions that people can get in some dialogues

that can be applied in everyday activities, they are :

##### **1. Expressing of Impressions**

Statement expressing of impression :

“He took her hand and turned it this way and that, noting how perfectly their hands seemed to fit together, reminding him again of what he had given up. A week ago, he’d been content. Maybe not perfectly happy, maybe a bit isolated, but content. He’d understood who he was and his place in the world. He was alone, but that had been a conscious choice, and even now he didn’t regret it. Especially now. Because no one would have been able to take Amanda’s place, and no one ever would.” (Spark, 2017:238).

Amanda was born to a family that is considered to be well bred and upper crust, and is highly respected people in the community. She is expected to go to a good standing college and marries a man who is compatible to her life. However, against her parents’ wishes, she begins seeing a young man whose family had been in and out of prison and whose main interests seems to be a life of crime. Dawson has already known that Amanda has married with another man but in difficult situation he can not stop loving and praising Amanda’s beauty.

The writers found the quotation in the *The Best of Me* about Expression of Impression, they are as follow :

“You were beautiful.” Dawson shrugged. “I was no one. It made me nervous.” “Do I still make you nervous?” “No,” he said, then reconsidered. A slight smile eased into his face. “Maybe a little.” She raised an eyebrow. “Is there anything I can do?” He took her hand and turned it this way and that, noting how perfectly their hands seemed to fit together, reminding him again of what he had given up.” (Spark, 2007:237).

The statement of quotation in above explain, Dawson impressed with Amanda, because she is beautiful.

## **2. Expression of Promising**

Statement expressing of Promising :

“Amanda stepped out of the car, surprised by the black pants and crisp white shirt Dawson was wearing, but the combo definitely worked. With the jacket casually slung over his shoulder, he was almost too handsome for his own good, which only made what her mother had said even more prescient. She drew a deep breath, wondering what she was going to do.” (Spark,2017:200).

Like most dreamy male leads in a romance novel, Dawson is a loner. When he’s not working on the oil rig, he lives alone in a runs down trailer in New Orleans. He still considers Amanda to be his one and only true love. But Dawson still wonders her and makes her a good partner by saying positive words to Amanda. Dawson impressed with Amanda, that they do not come late to go to Tuck’ Garden. He makes sure Amanda with positive words.

They are from the wrong side of the tracks and no one who was decent would have anything to do with them except Amanda. She sees that Dawson is different, and he is one of two people who does not judge him based on where he comes from or who his father is.

Their love is never meant to be, and because Dawson’s love is true, he lets Amanda go. He wants her to attend college and has the life she was destined to have, the life she deserved to have. Amanda never forgets Dawson, but eventually moving on. Amanda still cares to Dawson and promise to live together with Dawson. although she knows the fact. Amanda wants Dawson together with her. She makes sure him



with she does not care about her college.

### 3. Expression of Greetings

Statement expressing of Greetings :

“She heard the wonder in his voice as he said her name, and it was that, more than anything, that let her know he was real. He’s here, she thought, it’s really him, and as he closed the distance between them, she felt the years slowly falling away, as impossible as that seemed. When he finally reached her, he opened his arms and she went into them naturally, as she’d done so long ago. He pulled her close, holding her like the lovers they once had been, and she leaned into him, suddenly feeling eighteen again.” (Spark, 2017: 68).

Things happen for a reason, and they meet for a reason. Some may call it *Fate*. When their mutual friend passes away, a man who is in some ways becomes a mentor to both of them, his last request brings both Amanda and Dawson back to that small town in North Carolina, changing their lives in ways neither would have imagined. Dawson’s life, on the other hand, does

not go the way people expected. Instead of living the life of crime his father and cousins wish him to have, Dawson leaves town and Amanda understands his condition. But never losing communication between Amanda and him, Amanda still gives greetings to Dawson every time they meet.

As a child, Jared shows his attitude by starting a conversation with his mother. Amanda as her mother, respects it. Jared knows that her mother is very busy in the kitchen and he directly helps his mother.

The writer found the quotation in the *The Best of Me* about expressing of greetings, they are as follow :

“Hey, Mom? Are you going to do that charity thing for Duke this fall?” In the past, he’d always referred to her fund-raising luncheons as *things*. For obvious reasons, since the accident, she hadn’t hosted the event, nor had she been volunteering at the hospital. Amanda nodded. “Yes. They asked me to take over as the chairperson again.” “Because they botched it the last couple of years without you, right? That’s what Lauren’s mom said.” “They didn’t botch the events. They just didn’t go as well as planned.” “I’m glad you’re doing it again. For Bea, I mean.” She smiled. “Me, too.” (Spark, 2017:377)

The paragraph is example of Greeting, when someone meets someone else in a place, we can say hello of each other to make soft conversation.

### 4.3 Finding

After analyzing the moral values in Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me*, the writers found that Dawson's character is full of responsibility, care and never give up. the writer also learns, that when people have expectation in anything they need, they must control the way behavior and make themselves do things that they believe they should do. They are the leader of themselves, they must lead themselves to do.

Tuck's and Evelyn's characters, teach the writer that life is contiguous with other that we must be open minded with something that happen in daily life, people must be adaptable with conditions and situation. When somebody needs the help, we must help without requested; we must always train ourselves to take care of others.

The writer found that Amanda's character is full of love and affection because in daily life, people need each other to make easier their activity. they need other person to help us in many

situations and conditions, so they should be also giving them something that they need. Our love is not only for members of our family but it can be for our friends. When we love somebody we will them when they are not available beside us and we will be nery happy if they are beside us. We really hope whom we love is always very well anytime. With love we can do anything which is beneficial for our life.

Dawson character showed the health of humans soul is shown in our action. When our soul and body are healthywe can do something and when we have done with ourselves we can do things with other people.

One of the imporatance character of Dawson is sacrifice, he was very resposible for Marelyn to fulfill their daily needs. His responsibility is not only for himself but also for Marelyn's family. He knows about what he does and always accepts his conditions. Although he is very sad, he was shown that the patience is not to be silent and nothing do something, but must be able to survive and always find solution for the kinds of his problems. So as we know that beside of the difficulties, surely there is an ease or in

other word there is a problem there is solution.

Furthermore the writer found that novel and education have a relationship because novel can be used as medium of learning. The relation between moral values and education that education is never ending process that begins with the socialization of the child and continuous through all of adult life. It can be learned informally through family and community contacts and learn formally through institutions. One of importance education for the student is moral education because they come to feel a sense of responsibility.

In the daily life we used to express about our feeling, happiness, sadness, love expression etc. In Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me*, the writer found many expression that can be expressed in daily life, beside learning English, it also help us build character. There are some expression that we can get in some paragraph that we can apply in our daily activities, they are: expression of impression, expression of promising and expression of greetings.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

Nicholas Sparks is a successful American novelist with a hallmark of his novels that he always writes about love story. *The Best of Me* gives many examples to make our lives better. It is proved by the moral values that we can learn from the main characters, namely Dawson Cole and Amanda Collier.

We can find love, struggle and sacrifice in the novel. This novel also provides the answers to the reader that nothing is impossible in love because of the differences in social class and time have split their love until they finally reunited in a state that is different. After analyzing *The Best of Me*, in this chapter the writer would like to draw the conclusion as follow:

#### **1. Moral Values**

Moral Values is about valuing behavior of people that can we take benefit, if the behavior is good we can apply, if it is not, we don not apply that. Moral Values of this movie are: responsibility, care, love and affection, and sacrificing for others.

#### **2. The Use of Moral Values Found in Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me* as Media of Education**

The novel has many values which can be applied to give language teaching to the students in school with many kinds of values how we should get good behavior in the life by practicing it. We can use novel especially *The Best of Me* as a media of education. Certainly many vocabularies we can find, we can take the real idea of the novel to review many expressions in it.

## 5.2 Suggestions

The writers suggest:

1. There are many ways to get good teaching in life, one of them is reading some books such as novel as many novels that are dedicated to learners for good moral.

2. Learning is not always in the class, we can study in our surroundings. Besides, novel as a media is expected to give new atmosphere or situation for the readers as media for reading.

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