

## POETRY AND MORAL EDUCATION IN TEACHING LEARNING LITERATURE

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### **Abstract:**

In teaching learning literature, students are not only given by the materials which have the cognitive aspect but also they need to be given education which is related to the values of morale which can be utilized in their life. The values of morale heavily contained in literary works either that Indonesian literary works or literary works from English or American. Literary works which can be given to the students can be in the form of drama, prose or poetry. Poetry represents one of literary works which can be used in giving morale education in teaching learning literature and can be integrated also in teaching learning language which is related to four language skills those are speaking, reading, writing and listening. In teaching learning process, a lecturer does not only give materials theoretically but also he or she gives assignments which are capable to train students' creativity. A lecturer is also helped if he or she has a good textbook which can be used as a source in giving poetry materials theoretically and practically. Besides that, students are given an assignment to analyze the content of poems, they are also given an assignment to read the poems, and then they are asked to sing the poems with their own creativity with music which they make by themselves in a team-work. It will be very helpful for the students in comprehending teaching learning literature and it is able to sharpen their emotion, empathy, sympathy, and respect to others through poems.

### **Keywords:**

*teaching learning literature, poetry, poem, moral education*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Human beings have ways to express their mind and ideas. One of the ways is through the work of arts called literature. Literature is a writing which express and communicate thoughts, feelings, and attitudes toward life. A work of literature is the very least, a series of sentences, spoken or written. A poetry is one part of literature. Many poets make poems based on certain events which happened in a certain time. The word 'poetry' is often used in such a way that a sentence like 'that poem is poetry' is a subjective one. So, poetry is a patterned form of verbal or written expression of ideas in concentrated, imaginative, and rhythmical terms. Poetry usually contains rhyme and a specific meter but not necessarily.

Literary works especially poetry can give a good effect for the audience and readers. Inside the poetry, there are many moral values which we can get. Moral values have to do with good deeds in human conduct, that is, with what a person does with his or her life. Most of poets use their life experiences in creating their poems or based on the situation of a society in a certain time. Their works can also give good influence for the audience or readers to realize their life, to motivate them and also give ne energies in facing reality.

Literature itself is a source of instruction. As stated by Budson (1995:10) "Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, thought and felt". It shows that literature deals with the great drama of human life and action. A literary work creates its own world in which we can find another atmosphere of life as we might find in the real life. In literary works, a behaviour is standards are used for judging, how good or how bad are the consequences of a person action as well as in human experience. Literature that reflects reality is stated by Wellek and Warren (1956:82) as follows "...but furthermore, literature represents life and life is in large measure, a social reality; eventhough the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation". Poetry, as one of literary genres, usually tell about human conduct and the change of behaviour and attitude of someone that can give a good influence about moral values. So, learning literature is very important because it can give good impact of moral values. Poetry is one of literary genres that can give moral education for the learners.

Teaching literature is generally regarded as the process of assisting individuals

to acquire skills, knowledge, and qualities requisite to a good personality, all of which are needed to face life problems, technology, and chance. Learning literature also supports these goals. So here, the writer wants to discuss that poetry as one of literary genres contains moral education that can give many good benefits in teaching learning literature.

## 2. DISCUSSION

Teaching learning literature is very important because it will widen the students' knowledge and visions to understand more about some great literary works, famous authors, and their thoughts. It will also make them get acquainted with the authors' ideas, feelings, and attitudes towards life, man nature and God. By little guidance from the lecturer, they can know the authors, poets, and playwrights well through their experiences, observations, understanding, intelligence, with their solved and unsolved problems in their literary works. As Pickering and Hoepfer (1997:2) stated that 'literary characters offer us immediate access to a wide range of human experience and found imaginative literature a rich source for ease studies to illustrate theories of personality and behaviour'. Literature has value beauty in expression, literature is also including artwork. Morality is everything that has correlation with etiquette or politeness customary.

In learning literature, the students must learn foreign literature (for example English literature). In learning English literature, they will find that the culture in it is different from Indonesian culture. So, the students is expected to learn or absorb those works carefully since our culture is based on Pancasila. Therefore, before learning English literature, through which the students also learn its cultures, they should esteem Indonesian culture, have a deep feeling and motivation in the sense of belonging to it, a strong hold on it, and sound self-confidence.

It is very important for students to filter and select all elements or aspects of foreign cultures as some of which may do a lot of harmful effects upon our culture rather than give beneficial things for us. On the other hand, the students will not be hesitant to apply new good things in their life. Teaching learning literature helps to improve and develop the students' senses, reasoning ability,

attitudes, social and religious understanding, values, and thought processes, useful to life in society. It will help them to grow to become a mature member of society. So, teaching learning literature indirectly gives some good guidance to the students since literature itself is also a means of transformation, that is, indirectly it leads the wrong back to the right path although not all literary works are preaching and moralizing. The students should find good lessons of life through literary works. As Serra Mall (2011) affirmed about the literature and morality as follows "In the ethical value of aesthetics,.....focuses on issues such as the good life in a particular community; self-improvement and moral perfection; duty and responsibility; just speech and action; and moral significance of the arts; and the relationship of speech, ethos, and values."

Literature helps the students to become more realistic, mature, wiser, and humane. It helps them understand to human interests, human problems, human values, and so on. It also brings them closer to other human beings of the same or different nationalities, culture, human values, and so on. Their lives become more tolerant, more balanced, and fuller. The students are able to sympathize with others' sufferings. They admire others' endurance, perseverance, and their remarkable motivations. They learn to appreciate what others appreciate properly. In this way, their their capacity for feeling and appreciation increases and so does their capacity for enjoyment. They become richer through their literary experience, richer in life and knowledge of man. As Nyoman Kutha Ratna (2014:232) stated that *Pengertian karya sastra, seni, dan budaya sebagai inti pendidikan karakter menyarankan bahwa karya tersebut baik secara langsung maupun tidak memegang peranan penting. Alasannya jelas oleh karena di dalam karya tersebutlah terkandung berbagai narasi yang berisi contoh dan teladan, hikmat dan nasihat, ganjaran atau sebaliknya hukuman yang berkaitan dengan pembentukan karakter*. So, it means that literature has a very important role in moral education.

In teaching learning literature, there are 3 genres of literature which are prose,

drama and poetry. Poetry becomes part of genres that should be learnt by students. In poetry, there are ballads, epic, and other narrative poetry, lyrical and reflective poetry. Many poems contain of moral education which can be got by students. For example *Gurindam Dua Belas* it is full of moral advises and the sentences contain of wise words. The poem entitles 'Cerita Buat Dien Tamaela' by Chairil Anwar uses the first person point of view 'beta'. The use of 'beta' does not mean unconfident but be humble. In English literature, *the Robin Hood ballads* are better known than any others. Like King Arthur, Robin Hood is one of the great English folk heroes. Robin and his friends were helpers of the poor and weak, brave generous and humorous, defenders of 'true' justice against the 'official' justice of the king and the laws. In Indonesia, the students also can read the ballad entitled *Balada Terbunuhnya Atmo Karpo*' by Rendra. This ballad tells about a great figure in a place who is brave and has a powerful influence in his society. Students also can read and see about the poet's feeling about his homeland and scenery by Robert Burn's works entitled 'To a Mountain Daisy' and 'To a Mouse'. Those poems are full of human beings and mother nature description. A poem entitled 'Elegy' by H.L.B. Moody can help students understand about human sorrow and feelings because this poem tells about the sorrow of death penalty or death execution. The students also can learn about the bad impact of corruption through a poem entitled 'Doktorandus Tikus' by F. Rahardi. In a poem entitled *The Sorrow of Love* by W.B. Yeats students can understand the human feelings toward life and love. A poem entitled *Doa* by Chairil Anwar can help students to understand human feelings and attitude toward God. So, it can be said that the relationship between literary works, especially Poetry, and morality or moral education is very close. Many poets talk about moral values based on their experiences, feelings, and conditions of society surround them.

Poetry, as one of literary genres, endows the students with the vision, from which they can draw their conclusions and interpretations about behaviour, and about

what is worth striving for in life and in so doing it give them something of far more ultimate value than scientific books. It helps the students adapt to life problems for their welfare at present life and the future one as well.

### 3. CONCLUSION

Literature and morality is related because either literature or morality is utilized to study human beings. In teaching learning literature, students can get description of human life with all of the complicated aspects in it. They learn about human thought, feelings, problems, and so on through literary works, especially from Poetry. Poetry is one of literary genres to study and express human being and experience. Poetry is used as means of expressing the poets' feelings and thoughts, their views, and their relationship with other human and God.

In teaching learning poetry, the students get knowledge of other peoples, nations, histories, lands, and so on. They also learn new emotions, new values, new appreciation, new methods of literary writing, new method of reading poetry, and others. Through teaching learning literature by using Poetry as one of literary genres, it is hoped that students will improve their relationship with others, regardless their ethnic, their religions, their beliefs, nor their nationalities. The students may also get closer to their nature, God and everything surround them at present, in the past, and even in the future.

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