

CHARACTER BUILDING OF TOM SAWYER IN MARK TWAIN'S *THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER*

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ABSTRACT

Novel, as one of literary works, can be a representation of the real life that portrays the social and cultural phenomena in a certain society. Novel can be used as the description of the influence of society towards the character building of the characters of the novel as individual. In Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, the character building of Tom Sawyer, as the main character, is influenced by the South society in America, which also leads to the development of Tom Sawyer's personalities is implicitly and explicitly shown.

The study applies socio-cultural approach as the grounding theory to find out the social and cultural phenomena of the South society which influences Tom Sawyer's character building. The background of Mark Twain in terms of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* novel and the socio-cultural life in the South society are used to provide some supporting information to make the analysis and interpretation of the study becomes more comprehensive.

The result of the study reveals that Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* elevates the socio-cultural issues in the South society that influence the character building of Tom Sawyer. The relationship between Tom Sawyer and the South society and the psychological process within Tom Sawyer's personalities is clearly described. However, because this novel does not merely elevate socio-cultural aspects, it is suggested for the next researchers to research it from other perspectives, such as economic condition, racism, or Christian cultural values.

Keywords: Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, character building, personalities, socio-cultural approach

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