

Chapter II

An Analysis of Moral Messages in *The Green Mile* Movie

In this chapter, the writer presents the theory related to the research in order to support the analysis. It consists of explanation about literature, movie, genre in movie, moral, message, moral message, kinds of moral messages, the way of conveying moral messages, and synopsis of *The Green Mile* movie.

2.1 Literature

Literature is a human expression in the form of spoken or written works based on thoughts, opinions, experiences, and feelings in an imaginative form, a reflection of reality or original data wrapped in an aesthetic way through language. Sumardjo & Saini (1997: 3-4) states that literature is a human personal statement consisting of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, beliefs in a form that is illustrated concretely that seeks charm with language. Furthermore, according to Damono (2009: 4), “literature is an evaluative response to life, as a kind of the mirror, literature reflects life after evaluating and correcting it.”

In literature there are literary works such as poetry, prose, novel, drama, and film (movie). Sugihastuti (2007: 81-82) states that literary work is a media used by the author to convey ideas and experiences. As a media, the role of literary works as a media is to connect the thoughts of the author to be conveyed to the reader. Literary works can also reflect the author's view of the various problems

observed in the environment. Literary works can entertain, add knowledge, and enrich the reader's insight in unique ways.

Poetry is a written art form that contains language with quality aesthetics and has a deep meaning. Poetry can be an outpouring of one's heart and written in meaningful beautiful words. Poetry can contain one word or syllable that is repeated over and over again. Meanwhile, prose is a written art form that contains greater rhythm variations. This type of writing process is usually used to describe a fact or idea. The process can be used for newspapers, novels, magazines, letters, encyclopedias, letters, and various other types of media. Novel is a moderately long work of narrative fiction, regularly written in prose form, and is commonly published as a book. Then, drama is additionally a sort of play written for theater, TV, radio, and film. In literature, a drama is a depiction of fictional or non-fictional occasions through the performance of written dialogue. Drama can be performed in front of an audience on the stage, on film, or on the radio. So, movie or film is a part of drama.

2.2 Movie (Film)

Movie is a media that have an important influence on giving information and as a tool to deliver messages to the audience or people. Famela (2011) states that movie visualizes a story or dialogue on the screen. A movie is produced by recording images from the world with cameras, or by creating images using animation technique. Besides, according to Cambridge Dictionary, film is “a series of moving pictures, usually shown in a cinema or on television and often

telling a story.” The movie is a fictitious story, which is one writing-related literature.

Movie is a media that can educate people and enable to improve their understanding of specific subject through visual. Movies are a great resource for visual learners because they enable them to understand concepts without the barriers that hinder learning. Johari (2018) states that movies also known as films, are a type of visual communication which uses moving picture and sound to tell stories or inform (help people to learn). Movies allow audiences to see life through different perspectives. Just like books, movies allow audiences insight into the lives of different characters, how their perspective differs, and how they handle certain situations. Movies can show audiences how different people in different parts of the world and how they live their lives.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that movie is not only to entertain the audience, but it can also be used as a learning or educational media. So many things we can take in watching movies and this is very useful if we apply it in our daily life. Movie also makes the audience easier to understand what messages that the director delivers through the story, theme, character, and plot. The lesson from the movie can we take from any genre of films like action, science-fiction, romance, horror, thriller, and etc.

2.3 Genre in Movie (Film)

There are several genres in the movie. A genre is a word for a type of movie or a style of movie. According to Keith (2007) a movie genre is a motion picture category based on similarities in either the narrative elements or the emotional

response to the movie (namely, serious, comic, etc.). Each type of the genre has its own set of rules and conventions, they are; action, adventure, comedy, drama, crime, horror, fantasy, romance, thriller, animation, family, and war (Moviey Keeday, n.d).

1) Action

Action movies have a lot of exciting effects like car chases and gun fight, involving stuntmen. They usually involve “goodies” and “baddies”. So, war and crime is common subject. Action movies usually need very little effort to watch, since the plot is normally simple. The example of action movies such as Mission Impossible, John Wick, Fast & Furious, etc.

2) Adventure

Adventure movies are very similar to the action movie genre because in this movie genre are designed to provide an action-filled and energetic experience for the viewer/audiences. The example of adventure movies are Jumanji, Journey to the Center of the Earth, The Adventures of Tintin, Up, The Lord of The Rings, etc.

3) Animation

Animation movies use artificial images like talking pigs to tell a story. These movies used to be drawn by hand, one frame at a time, but are now made on computer. The examples of animation movie are Inside Out, Ice Age, Toy Story, etc.

4) Comedies

Comedy movies are made to evoke laughter from its audience through humorous action and dialogue through its characters. The example of comedy movies are Bruce Almighty, Deadpool, Daddy's Home, etc.

5) Drama

Drama are serious and often about people falling in love or needing to make a big decision in their life. They tell stories about friendship or relationship between people. Drama are serious, plot-driven presentations, portraying realistic characters, setting, life situations, and stories involving intense character development and interaction. The example of drama movies are A Star is Born, The Irishman, Roma, etc.

6) Family

Family movies are made to be good for the entire family. The storyline may interest to a younger audience, there are components of the movie geared towards adults- such as funny jokes and humor. The example of family movies are Coco, Home Alone, Frozen, etc.

7) Crime

Crime movies are developed around the criminals or mobsters, particularly money heist, kidnapping, or ruthless hoodlums who operated outside the law, stealing and murdering is their way through life. This genre centers around the actions of a criminal mastermind of some sort, often chronicling the criminal's rise and fall. Some movies in this genre revolve around the criminal's victim, while other movies

focus on a protagonist that pursues the criminal. The example of crime movies are Joker, Sicario: Day of Soldado, Kidnap, etc.

8) Horror

Horror movies are designed to frighten and to invoke our hidden fears, often in a terrifying, shocking finale. This movie based on ghosts, spirits, black magic to scare you. The example of horror movies are The Conjuring, The Exorcist, Insidious, The Shining, etc.

9) Romance

Romance is stories about love. The plot usually revolves around a love relationship between the two protagonists. The examples of romance movies are Crazy Rich Asian, To All the Boys I've Loved Before, La La Land, The Fault in Our Stars, etc.

10) Science-Fiction

Science-fiction movies are set in the future or in outer space. Science fiction movies often use special effects to create images of alien worlds, outer space, alien creatures, and spaceships. The examples of sci-fi movies are Avatar, Gravity, Predator vs Alien, etc.

11) War

War movies acknowledge the horror and heartbreak of war, letting the actual combat fighting on the land, sea, or in the air provide the primary plot or background for the action of the movie. The plot of the movie based on war fictional and sometimes real wars happened in the past. The example of war movies are 1917, Grave of the Fireflies, Dunkirk, etc.

12) Thriller

Thrillers are usually about a mystery, strange event, or crime that needs to be solved. The plot of the movie is based on a thrilling story with an angle of suspense. The example of thriller movies are Get Out, Bird Box, The Silence of the Lambs, A Quiet Place, Don't Breathe, etc.

13) Fantasy

Fantasy movie is about supernatural, magic, and away from reality which is mystical. Fantasy movies are often based on tales from mythology and folklore, or adapted from fantasy stories in other media. The example of fantasy movies are Fantastic Beast, Aladdin, Harry Potter, etc.

Besides, each of the movie, of course have a moral message that we can take the benefit. So, we must be careful to choose the movie that we want to watch. We must watch the movie that has a good moral message. Because, a moral message in the movie usually can influence an attitude of the people.

2.4 Moral Message

Moral messages are points of social, manner, behavior, feeling, and people's emotion. The human problem has some various intensity grades that cannot be separated from human problems to the other and to God. Human problems can be classified such as friendship, loyalty, betrayal, togetherness (in family or intercourse). The audiences can interpret moral messages in different ways.

A moral (from Latin *Moralist*) is a message conveyed or a lesson to be learned from a story or event. The moral may be left to the hearer, reader or viewer to determine for themselves, or may be explicitly encapsulated in a maxim. In other word, moral is the lesson or principle contained in or taught by a fable, a story, or an event. Moral can also explained with the lesson it teaches about behavior that is right or prudent.

In the movie, moral messages can be taken from events or scenes where a character interacts with the surroundings, such as interacting with another person, group, animal, or nature. With the behavior requirements of the character reflecting goodness for himself or others. Even though a movie is considered only a fiction, moral message that can be obtained can be applied in everyday life if it is good.

Kenny in Nurgiyantoro (2010:321-322) states that moral seen as the message of the whole story. It can be used as the “guidelines” to be the role model. It means that the audiences can take the lesson from moral messages presented in the movie. According to Nurgiyantoro (2010:322), value or lesson learned that is gotten by the readers or the listeners is always in a good. Thus if literary work displayed the less praiseworthy character, it doesn’t mean that the author suggested the audiences to be so.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that moral messages are something that we can get from the story of the literary work especially a movie. The messages we got from the story can be used as a guideline in our life.

2.5 Moral

According to Sugono (2008), moral is deciding good or bad considered behavior. Besides, according to Landau (2000), moral is standards for good or bad character and behavior. Moral is relating to the standards of good or bad behavior, fairness, honesty, etc. That each person believes in, rather than to laws. In other words, moral is concerned with the judgment of right or wrong of human action and character. Morality (from the Latin moralists “manner, character, proper behavior”) is the differentiation of intentions, decisions, and actions between those that are good or right and those that are bad or wrong. According to Earle (1992), moral is almost synonymous with ethics. Morality and moral derive from the Latin, and it means customs, manners, character (Earle, 1992: 178). Moral specifically talked in term of right or wrong.

Moral is defined as something stated in the literary work that have to be conveyed to reader. Here, moral is seen has a similarity to the theme, because both of them stated can be interpreted as the main point which constructs the literary work, but not all themes are moral because theme does not have direct value as a suggestion addressed to the reader (Nurgiyantoro, 2010:320). Moral in the literary work usually reflects the belief of the author about the concept of “goodness”. That belief will be conveyed to the readers or listener.

Moral is used by humans to explain others in the action that has a positive value. In addition, moral is the absolute thing that must be owned by a human in the world. Explicitly, moral is everything that relates to the individual socialization process. So, without moral humans cannot do the socialization process. In other hand, moral can also relationship with attitude or ethics, and

religion. If we have a good moral, of course we have a good attitude or ethics, and a good religion in our daily life.

2.6 Message

Message has three components. They are meaning, the symbol used to convey meaning, and the format or organization of the message. The most important symbols are words (language), which can represent objects, ideas, and feelings, either spoken (conversations, interviews, discussions) or written (letters, essays, articles, novels, poems). Words allow us to share our thoughts with others. Messages can also be formulated non-verbally, such as through actions or body language.

Message is a notification, word, or communication, both spoken and written, which sent from one person to another. According to Cangara (2006:23), message in the communication process is something that the sender sends to the recipient. Messages can be delivered by face to face or communication media. The contents can be knowledge, entertainment, information, advice, or propaganda. Message is basically abstract. To make it concrete so that it can be sent and received by the communicant (recipient), humans with their intellect create a number of symbols of communication in the form of sound, mimic, gestures, spoken language, and written language.

From the description above, it can be conclude that message can be spoken and written. Message is the result of the communication process between the sender and recipient by using symbols such as words, body language, and action.

2.7 Kinds of Moral Message

Literary work contains and offers more than one different moral message. The kind of moral message can cover issues such as all problems of life, and also issues relating to human dignity. In literary work, there are three kinds of moral messages according to Nurgiyantoro (2010: 323), they are:

1. Relationship between human beings and themselves.

Human relations with themselves can relate to issues such as self-esteem, self-confidence, self-control, responsibility, fear, bravery, honesty, and others that are more involved in the self and the psyche of an individual. Human relations with themselves concerning the way humans treat themselves.

2. Relationship between human beings and other.

Human relations with others including social and natural environment can relate to issues such as friendship, loyalty, betrayal, kinship, mutual help, respect, and others that involve interactions with others. Relationship between human being and others in social life concerning the way humans treat others because humans are social creatures.

3. Relationship between human beings and God.

Relationship between humans and God should be a priority to anyone who believes in God. Human relations with God can relate to issues such as their belief in God, have faith, gratitude, and repentance.

2.8 The Ways of Conveying Moral Messages

Literary works can also be seen as a tool of communication. A movie can be said as the director's desire to convey something. That something may be in the form of a view of something, ideas, morals, or mandate. However, compared to other tool of communication, written or spoken, literary works which are a form of art that in fact carry aesthetic goals, certainly have their own specificity in terms of conveying moral messages. In general, it can be said that the form of conveying moral messages in literary works especially a movie may be direct or indirect. (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 335)

There are two ways of conveying moral messages according to Nurgiyantoro (2010:335-342):

2.8.1 Direct Convey

The direct way of conveying moral messages can be said to be identical to the way the description of character which is telling, or explanation, expository. In the description technique, the author directly describes the characterization of each character in the story who is "telling" or making it easier for the audiences to understand. It means that the moral conveyed to the audiences is done directly and explicitly.

2.8.2 Indirect Convey

The indirect way of conveying moral messages, the message is only implicit in the form of a story, coherently combined with other elements of the story. What is shown in the story are the events, conflicts, attitudes, and behavior of the characters in facing the events and conflicts, both those seen in verbal, physical behavior, or those that are

only in their thoughts and feelings. Through these things, moral messages are conveyed.

2.9 Synopsis of *The Green Mile* Movie

The Green Mile is the 1999 American movie with a fantasy crime-drama genre, written for the screen and directed by Frank Darabont. This movie based on Stephen King's novel in 1996 with the same name. Some characters that play the role in this movie they are: Tom Hanks as Paul Edgecomb, Michael Clarke Duncan as John Coffey, David Morse as Brutus/Brutal, Jeffrey DeMunn as Harry, Barry Pepper as Dean, Doug Hutchison as Percy, Sam Rockwell as 'Wild Bill' Wharton, Michael Jeter as Eduard Delacroix/Del, Graham Greene as Arlen Bitterbuck, James Cromwell as Hal.

In Cold Mountain, Louisiana penitentiary, there is a block named Block E, known as "The Green Mile" because it has a green floor like faded limes, the path that an inmate must walk from his cell to the execution room with the electric chair. All prisoners in there sentenced to death on electric chairs. The electric chair named Old Sparky. The job of some guards in The Green Mile is not an easy thing. Paul, who served as a prison guard supervising death row, was assisted by his staff namely, Brutal, Dean, Harry, and Percy. They must guard prisoners who have a very bad criminal record. Their job is not only to guard but also they must make prisoners feel comfortable before the execution. They must be the prisoners' interlocutors. That is what Paul always seems to emphasize to his men. But Percy, always causing trouble in the Green Mile.

Percy is known as an arrogant and cruel person and never obey Paul's orders. Many prisoners did not like him.

One day a new prisoner arrives named John Coffey, a huge African-American who's accused of rape and murdering two little girls. At that time people assumed that black people were considered problematic, also because of the death sentence that was handed down because he was proven in court had rape and murdered two little girls. But when Paul introduces himself to John, John looks like an "innocent" and gentle person because he tells that he is afraid of the dark. After the arrival of John Coffey, the Green Mile had another new prisoner named Bill Wharton or Wild Bill that has a lot of crime. When he first entered the Green Mile, he almost killed Dean and the others because he tried to escape. Wild Bill's existence opens the fact that Percy is arrogant but also a fainthearted person.

At that time, Paul was suffering from urinary infection. When John knows it, John tried to help Paul with healing his urinary infection. After that incident, Paul was sure that John was not a murderer. The assumption that John Coffey is a bad person is wrong. After his efforts to heal Paul, Paul thinks that John has never committed a crime before. Paul tried to find proof that could prove John was innocent, but his efforts were in vain because at that time John was found with the bloody body of the two little girls.

Then, one of the prisoners named Eduard Delacroix or Del had a pet mouse named Mr. Jingles. Percy didn't like the presence of Mr. Jingles in the prison and then stepped on Mr. Jingles to death. John who knows it asks Paul to give Mr. Jingle to him. Then John holds Mr. Jingles until finally, Mr. Jingles come

back to life. Harry, Dean, and Brutal see the incident and they realize that John has a miracle. They also realized that John Coffey was not the bad person that others thought. But in the end, John Coffey's life did have to end in Old Sparky electric chair.