

MORAL VALUES IN EDWARD MORGAN FORSTER'S
WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD

A Thesis

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by

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang nilai moral yang terkandung dalam novel karya Edward Morgan Forster yang berjudul Where Angels Fear to Tread. Nilai moral ini dapat dilihat melalui tokoh utama dalam novel yang bernama Mrs. Herriton.

Untuk menganalisa permasalahan yang dikemukakan di dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan moral filosofis yang dikemukakan oleh Guerin. Dalam skripsi ini penulis menggunakan teori yang diutarakan oleh Bertens. Bertens menyatakan bahwa nilai moral mempunyai ciri-ciri yaitu nilai moral yang berhubungan dengan tanggung jawab, nilai moral yang berhubungan dengan kewajiban dan nilai moral yang berhubungan dengan hati nurani dengan menghubungkan kehidupan masyarakat Inggris pada awal abad 20.

Dari hasil analisa tiga karakteristik nilai moral tersebut, penulis dapat menyimpulkan bahwa tingkah laku Mrs Herriton sebagai tokoh utama dalam novel Where Angels fear to Tread tidak mengandung ciri-ciri nilai moral yang berhubungan dengan tanggung jawab, kewajiban, dan hati nurani. Tokoh utama yang di analisa tidak memenuhi tanggung jawab, kewajiban, dan hati nurani.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works have been continuously produced since long time ago by many authors with various themes. An author tries to express his or her experience, thought and feeling through literary works. However, those literary works are not easy to understand. Literary works conveys human values or messages that are written by the author. The novel is one of literary works, it is a fiction written by an author who tries to show his own feeling, and to deliver his messages. The author can explore human's behavior, attitude, appearance, and character, which can be observed from their joys, sorrow, struggle, success and failure through the novel. The values and messages are brought through theme, characters, and other elements of literary works. We can analyze the moral values and messages from the characterizations, theme and other elements of the literary works.

Consequently, readers need some references about moral values to get *deeper understanding about novel. There are some theories about moral values that can be used to analyze. In this research, the writer is interested in analyzing Where Angels Fear to Tread. This novel is one of influential novels written by Forster. It was adapted into a film by Charles Sturridge in 1991. Forster acutely portrays the English Middle class at home and abroad during the difficult period of adjustment following the Victorian era. Forster conveys the moral values through this novel. It may be depicted by the character's attitudes amid the society in their daily life.*

In the end of the 19th century and early of the 20th century, England was more prosperous because their colonies were spreading all over the world. English people especially the middle class were also more prosperous. The differences between employers and labors were extreme. People in social classes with greater power attempt to cement their own positions in society and maintain their ranking above the lower social classes in the social hierarchy. Social class with a great deal of power are usually stated as elites, at least in their own societies. In Where Angels Fear to Tread Forster successfully portrayed the different classes among the society. There are many moral values that can be grasped by the readers by relate to the society at that time. To find out the moral values, readers should analyze the character's attitude and behavior in society. Relate to this reason, the writer is interested in analyzing the moral values in Where Angels Fear to Tread written by Edward Morgan Forster since this novel reflects moral values of Edwardian English society.

Where Angels Fear to Tread is the story of Lilia, a young English widow who falls in love with Italian man. She has a daughter named Irma. She is tortured by her mother in law. From the beginning of her marriage with her first husband named Charles, she is never treated well by her husband's family. Her mother in law, Mrs Herriton wants to put her in misery. Mrs Herriton never treats Lilia well. Mrs herriton treats Lilia like a servant. All Mrs Herriton's needs and desires must be fulfilled by Lilia. Mrs Herriton is a selfish woman. When lilia decides to move to Italy, Mrs Herriton keeps in treating Lilia meanly. When Lilia wants to escape from Mrs Herriton, she must be seperated from her daughter, Irma. There are many moral values can be analyzed from the attitudes and behavior of the main character, Mrs Herriton.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Where Angels Fear to Tread, by using moral philosophical approach, the writer finds several finding which can be summed that novel written by Edward Morgan Forster contains three moral values that consist of responsibility, obligation, and conscience which proposed by Bertens. This novel shows what Forster is feeling about the society in Edwardian era. The writer found moral values in the novel Where Angels Fear to Tread that is pictured by the main character. The main character shows responsibility, obligation, and conscience in doing life. As found in the findings, the main character (Mrs Herriton) represents three forms of moral value which can be seen through her behavior and the way he treats the others in her daily activities that can be seen in the novel. Mrs. Herriton does not fulfill her responsibility and her obligation well towards her self, her society, daughter in law and toward her God. Through the novel, Forster intends to describe how the three moral values influence behavior of the main character.

Living in high class society which is full of luxurious gives a big impact to the main character. Mrs Herriton be an arrogant person who look upon down toward other people. She does not respect other people who does not from the same level with her. Furthermore, after analyzing this novel, it can be concluded that the characteristic of the moral values have been shown by the main character in Where Angels Fear to Tread. The main character shows her responsibility, obligation, and her conscience in doing her life. In her or his life, human being has consciousness . consciousness will take to do responsibility, obligation, and conscience. Then it can

be said that someone can get understanding about moral values that is described by the main character in the novel Where Angels Fear to Tread. However, the three moral values; responsibility, obligation, and conscience are able for changing the wrong perspective toward Italian which is specifically represented by the main character of this novel. It prove that certain literary works are intended to represent various critics of author, one of them is moral value as seen in Edward Morgan Forster's Where Angels Fear to Tread".

Mrs Herriton as the main character in the story describes her bad behavior in her life, such as arrogant, selfish, and conceite that she has not fulfill her responsibility, her obligation, her conscience as human being. Although she does not treat Lilia well in her life but her consciousness has realizes all of her mistakes in the past. She failed in fulfill her responsibility, her obligation, her conscience.

The writer concludes that one can get moral message in the novel. The writer thinks that moral behavior has played some important roles in analyzing moral values and characters' behavior. In this case, Forster has succeeded in describing the Edwardian society and its values. Where Angels Fear to Tread has positive moral values that are useful in our. By learning about moral values, someone can apply about moral values in their life.

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