

Moral Values in Folk Tales in Literary Sociology

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Abstract: Globalization has had various effects on Indonesian society, including negative impacts such as a decline in the moral quality and character of the younger generation. One solution to overcome this moral crisis is to strengthen children's character education through folk tales as a learning medium in schools. Folk tales are works of literature that are passed down by word of mouth and contain moral values and cultural richness. By studying folk tales and searching for moral values within them, society can instill values and norms that are in line with the local culture. This study aims to describe social values and represent community life through folk tales. The research data consists of words and sentences sourced from folk tales, with the focus of the analysis on the meanings contained within them using a sociological approach to literature. This research is qualitative and produces descriptive data on sociological aspects in literary works in the form of folk tales. The method used is the observation method with recording, note-taking, and reading techniques. Based on the analysis of the *Dara Muning* folk tale, moral values related to the relationship between humans and God (religious) and the relationship between humans and their fellow humans were found. Therefore, folk tales are recommended for use in character education in schools, so that, in addition to preserving folk tales, they can also be used to educate students about moral values.

Keyword: Folktales; Globalization; Moral Values; Sociology of Literature

Introduction

The impact of globalization has greatly influenced the morals of the Indonesian people, both positively and negatively (Kurniawan et al., 2023). Globalization has slowly but surely brought changes to human life, and its influence is now inevitable (Budiarto, 2020). Globalization has had a negative effect on the Indonesian people, namely a decline in moral quality and character. A moral and ethical crisis is currently unfolding, causing deep concern about the degradation of moral values in today's society (Nugraheni & Najicha, 2023). Indonesia is experiencing a moral crisis among its younger generation; therefore, the use of folk tales can be employed to shape the character of children.

Globalization has had a major impact, especially a negative impact on young people (Bayuseto et al., 2023). The opening up of cultures and knowledge around the world as a result of globalization has created dependency. The consequences of globalization can lead to the loss of boundaries in information, economic aspects, politics, and even culture (Immanuel & Pannindriya, 2020). The negative impacts of globalization are also felt in the world of education (Maharani et al., 2022). Many deviant behaviors occur among adolescents due to these changes.

The impact of this rapid technological development has affected art and culture in Indonesia. The negative impact of globalization is the loss of national identity (Julianty et al., 2022). Changes in Indonesian national culture have shifted because people tend to be more interested in foreign cultures (Pramono, 2021). The tangible impact of globalization in the cultural sphere is marked by the emergence of a global culture that is slowly eroding Indonesia's indigenous culture. Another influential aspect is language, which is also undergoing a shift.

Folktales can be used as a means of instilling ethics in character education for students (Fadhilah et al., 2022). Folktales can be used as an effective means of building student character, and the results of this study can be used as a reference in developing character education (Rahmawati et al., 2023). The implications of folk tales are in line with the fulfillment of learning that produces Pancasila student profiles in schools (Mutiarra et al., 2023). This study aims to examine and assess the role of storytelling in enhancing the development of moral values in early childhood (Gusmayanti & Dimyati, 2021). To get children interested in stories, they can be presented using various methods relevant to technological advances and changes in the times (Puspitasari & Hidayatulloh, 2020).

Based on the above discussion, globalization has a negative impact on the Indonesian people, especially on the character and moral values of the younger generation. Through oral literature, character and moral values can be instilled in the younger generation. In addition, through folklore, we can preserve regional languages. Therefore, folklore that has begun to be forgotten needs to be preserved by the younger generation to shape their character. This study will focus on the meaning

contained in folklore using a sociological approach to literature. Through folklore, we instill moral values and character, strengthen manners, politeness, and language.

Methods

This study aims to describe the social values contained in the researcher's object of study (Fauziah & Dewi, 2021). It aims to represent society (Mahsa, 2022). The research method used in this study is descriptive and qualitative. This study uses a qualitative approach and produces descriptive data that serves to describe sociology in literary works. This form presents data with words and sentences related to the research object, not with numbers. This study utilizes a literary sociology perspective to understand the social values contained therein (Lestari, 2020; Sutri, 2020). In this study, the researchers used a descriptive approach and direct observation techniques in the field (Sirait & Sinulingga, 2022).

The data source used in this study is *engkana*, which is a folk tale or oral story told by native speakers of Dayak Seberuang. The folk tale or *engkana* data was obtained from informants. The criteria for informants were that they could speak Indonesian, were native speakers of the Dayak Seberuang language, and were not senile. The informant in this study was Mr. Yohanes Lingsun, a resident of Tinum Baru village, Tempunak sub-district, Sintang district, who is a member of the Dayak Seberuang tribe and is fluent in Indonesian and the Dayak Seberuang language. In this study, the data used were words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and discourses contained in the stories (Maula et al., 2022). The results of this study were words and sentences obtained from folk tales. The method used in this study was the observation method, supplemented with recording, note-taking, and reading techniques. The tools used to collect data were voice recorders and writing instruments. This study used a qualitative descriptive method with a literary sociology approach, analyzing based on the facts contained in the stories (Rosiana et al., 2023) (Suhandi et al., 2021). *Engkana* (folktales/oral stories) obtained from informants in the field were then analyzed, and the quotes obtained were identified in accordance with literary sociology research.

Results And Discussion

Based on the identified stories, there are two results obtained in the *Dara Muning* folk tale, namely the interaction between humans and God and humans with each other. The results are shown in the table below.

Table 1. The Relationship Between Humans and God

No	Story Excerpt
1	"Atas nasihat tetua desa, mereka memutuskan untuk melakukan penebusan dosa dengan melakukan upacara adat keagamaan, menyembahkan sesajian mereka kepada para dewa."

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- 2 “Rupanya perbuatan ini dianggap tidaksenonoh oleh para dewa, sehingga menimbulkan amarah mereka.”
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The moral value of the relationship between humans and God is that as humans, we must obey and practice religious rules and refrain from negative behaviors that must be avoided in order to stay away from sin.

Table 2. Relationships between People

No	Story Excerpt
1	“Setelah Bujang Munang selesai menuturkan kisah terjadinya luka pada kepalanya, Dara Muning berpikir tidak salah lagi bahwa yang telah dinikahnya adalah putra kandungnya sendiri. Keadaan celaka itu segera diberitahukan kepada Bujang Munang. Karena kedua insan ini telah terlanjur menjadi suami istri dan tak seorang pun dari mereka yang bersedia untuk bercerai, maka hal itu sangat merisaukan hati mereka”.

The moral value of human relationships is that we, as social beings, need to maintain communication with one another to avoid misunderstandings, because communication is very important.

Literary works are the product of human thought, serving as a medium for entertainment and learning about social values. Literary works are used to portray the state of society from time to time (Wulandari & Sulanjari, 2022). Literary works are the result of authors' efforts to create ideas that reflect social life in society, produced from imagination and creativity. Ideology and technological advances are among the elements that drive the development of literature in Indonesia. One of the literary studies that is often used is literary sociology. Literary sociology is an approach to literary works that examines extrinsic elements and relates to the social background and characters in the story (Trisnawati, 2020).

The instillation of educational values in this global era must be maintained so that the values and identity of the Indonesian nation continue to be well preserved (Faiz & Kurniawaty, 2022). The instillation of Pancasila values and moral education in children from an early age plays an important role in preparing them for the future (Nafisah et al., 2022). Noble values play an important role in life, especially for the younger generation, in instilling good character and shaping the nation's character. Folktales play a role in guiding children to instill moral values and enable them to emulate good and noble behavior (Sa'ida, 2022). Teachers have an important role through oral storytelling to instill local wisdom and set examples in real-life practices (Trisnasasti, 2021).

Folktales are a cultural heritage of the nation that contain values that can be applied in life, and are usually spread orally from generation to generation (Ahmadi et al., 2021). Folktales or oral legends can be used as a medium to instill values and norms that are in harmony with the culture of the local community (Sandi et al., 2022).

Character and morals are inseparable (Febrianti Dwi Bantani et al., 2023). This is to discuss folklore as a source of values that can shape character (Irsyadi & Mulae, 2021). Character education remains an important need today to address the increasing decline in moral values, and the introduction of character education for children can be done through the medium of stories.

Through literary sociology, we can examine social values. Through literary works in the form of oral stories or folk tales, we can learn moral values. Based on the results of the analysis of morality in the folk tale "Dara Muning," moral values were found, namely the relationship between humans and God (Gods) and relationships with other people. Moral values related to God (religious) are the formation of faith and obedience to God. Moral values are conveyed through the storyline and the characters of each character.

The value of faith is illustrated by the actions of the characters, as quoted in the first table. Based on the quotes obtained from this story, it shows the moral values towards the Creator regarding the redemption of sins that they did by performing a series of religious customs. This is a reminder that humans need to remember and respect God's laws and not do bad deeds. Then, bad deeds and those that violate God's laws will cause sin, which is also a despicable act.

The value of relationships with others is depicted through the characters' actions, the results of which are shown in the table. Based on the quotes obtained from this story, humans need to communicate well and effectively. Due to a lack of good communication within the family, Bujang Munang and Dara Muning were involved in an incestuous marriage. This quote also makes us aware that, in addition to communication, identity and relationships are very important.

We can take advantage of globalization to positively improve students' character by using technology to preserve folk tales that contain moral values. Advances in science and technology need to be aligned with religious teachings in order to create noble character (Bayuseto et al., 2023). Therefore, teachers must be able to develop children's character in this more professional and high-quality era through globalization. Providing good teaching in morals and character through Indonesian language lessons with educational stories so that the learning process is not boring. In addition, in this era, teachers must provide real examples; theory alone is not enough; real practice is needed in shaping children's character. Through folk tales preserved using technology, we not only strengthen children's character and moral values but also preserve regional languages or mother tongues as one of Indonesia's riches.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis of the *Dara Muning* folk tale using a literary sociology approach, it can be concluded that folk tales play an important role in moral, social, and cultural values for the younger generation. There are two moral values in

the *Dara Muning* story, namely the moral value of the relationship between humans and God (religious) and the moral value of the relationship between humans and their fellow human beings. Religious values are reflected through characters who atone for their sins by performing traditional ceremonies as a form of obedience to God. The value of human relationships with others is reflected in the importance of communication, honesty, and caution in establishing relationships. The results of the study show that folklore is not only useful as entertainment, but can also be used as an effective learning medium for instilling moral values, ethics, and character in children. Folktales are relevant as a means of character education, preserving local culture through folktales, and strengthening literary literacy in children. Therefore, folktales can be used in Indonesian language learning and character education so that the younger generation has morals, character, and pride in their country's culture. Further research can analyze folktales from various regions in Indonesia to enrich the literature on the moral, social, and cultural values of the archipelago.

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