



**TOM SAWYER'S CHARACTER AND MORAL  
VALUES IN MARK TWAIN'S *THE  
ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER*: A  
STRUCTURALISM ANALYSIS**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

**In Partial Fullfillment of the Requirement**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

I states truthfully that this project is compiled by me without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and diploma. In addition, I ascertain that I do not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, 29 November 2018

Naufal Surya Ibrahim

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Books are for people who wish they were somewhere else.”

— **Mark Twain**

“Those who don't read good books have no advantage over those who can't.”

— **Mark Twain**

“Face front, true believers!”

— **Stan Lee**

“With great power comes great responsibility.”

— **Stan Lee**

“Excelsior!”

— **Stan Lee**

*This thesis is dedicated to my family  
and everyone who supported me to  
accomplish this thesis*

**APPROVAL**

**TOM SAWYER'S CHARACTER AND MORAL VALUES IN MARK  
TWAIN'S *THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER* : A STRUCTURALISM  
ANALYSIS**

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I realize that this project is still far from perfect, I therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better.

Finally, I expect that project will be useful to the reader who wishes to learn something about Characterization and Moral Values in novel “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer”.

Semarang, 31 December 2018

Naufal Surya Ibrahim

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE.....	i
PRONOUNCEMENT.....	ii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION.....	iii
APPROVAL.....	iv
VALIDATION.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	viii
ABSTRACT.....	ix
SECTION I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Background of the study.....	1
1.2. The Research Question.....	2
1.3. Aims of the Study.....	2
1.4. Organization of the Study.....	3
SECTION II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....	5
2.1. Characterization.....	5
2.2. Moral Values.....	7
SECTION III METHODS OF THE STUDY.....	8
SECTION IV ANALYSIS.....	9
4.1. Direct Method (Telling).....	9
4.2. Indirect Method (Showing).....	10
4.2.1 Dialogs Between Characters.....	10
4.2.2 Behaviour of the Character.....	11
4.3. Moral Values of the Characterization.....	12
4.3.1. Strong Heart.....	12
4.3.2. Bravery.....	13
4.3.3. Sense of Responsibility.....	14
SECTION V CONCLUSION.....	16
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	17



## **ABSTRAK**

Sebuah novel klasik Amerika berjudul “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” karangan Samuel Langhorne Clemens bercerita tentang petualangan seorang anak lelaki bernama Tom Sawyer dengan latar belakang kota St. Petersburg. Penelitian ini menganalisis bagaimana karakter tokoh Tom Sawyer digambarkan dalam novel tersebut dan hubungannya dengan nilai-nilai moral yang terkandung di dalamnya dengan menggunakan metode strukturalisme. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan membaca secara intensif dan mencatat seluruh informasi yang berhubungan dengan penelitian ini. Hasil penelitian menyatakan bahwa karakterisasi tokoh Tom Sawyer memakai metode langsung (telling) dan metode tidak langsung (showing). Dan bahwa pemahaman terhadap karakter Tom Sawyer membawa pembaca kepada tiga nilai moral yang bersumber pada karakter Tom Sawyer tersebut yaitu : hati yang teguh, keberanian dan rasa tanggung jawab. Dari ketiga nilai moral tersebut pembaca akan dapat melihat sosok Tom Sawyer secara utuh, kadang dia adalah seorang anak yang nakal dan jahil, tapi di lain waktu dia adalah seorang pemimpin yang mempunyai hati yang teguh, berani dan bertanggung jawab.

Kata Kunci: Mark Twain, Tom Sawyer, Strukturalisme, karakterisasi, nilai moral.

# 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

*The Adventure of Tom Sawyer* (TAoTS) was composed by Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835 – 1910) or better known as Mark Twain in 1876 and first published as World's Classic paperback in 1993 (Stoneley, 2007). TAoTS tells the story of a boy named Tom Sawyer living within the city of St. Petersburg on the banks of the Mississippi Stream. Mark Twain tells the delinquency/naughty, ingenuity, courage, anxiety, and fear of Tom throughout his adventure beautifully. This story can make the reader remember their childhood memories which may be full of delinquency and laughter.

Tom is an orphan who lives with his close relative, Aunt Polly, and his two cousins, Sid and Mary. Tom and his companions once had made an uproar and citizens sad because they thought the unfortunate boys dead drowned in the James River. Also, Tom and Huck accidentally became witness to the murder of Doctor Robinson that happened one night in the village cemetery. At a picnic school in the Mc Dougal cave, Tom and Beck Thatcher, a girl who becomes a fetish of his hearts get lost and disappear for a few days. Hunger, fatigue, and fears captured them before they finally find a blue dot that brought them out of the cave.

As a work of literature that has been widely read, the character of Tom Sawyer can be used as a role model for children. Children need a role model that is close to their everyday life. It can be taken in TAoTS, because in the TAoTS Twain tells the story of what ever happened to him and his friends during his childhood. It's about how they feel, think and speak and what problems they face.

Therefore, a discussion of the character of Tom Sawyer and the moral value contained in it become very important.

Nyoman Ratna (2003) stated that the research literature is important and needs to be done because literature is a mirror of a social community at a time. This is similar to that expressed by Irmaleni et al (2012), the study of literature is a way of full and total comprehension understanding in literary works, especially the novel. In this study, the writer wants to analyze the intrinsic elements in TAoTS. Sehandi (2014) stated that the intrinsic components incorporate plot, characters, setting, theme, a point of view, moral value and style of language. Through this research, the writer needs to analyze the character of Tom Sawyer in TaoTS and how is the relationship between Tom Sawyer characterizations and the moral value in TAoTS.

### **1.2. The Research Question**

In this study, the writer discusses the problems based on the following questions :

1. How is the Tom Sawyer's character in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* described?
2. How is the relationship between Tom Sawyer characterizations and the moral values in *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain?

### **1.3. Aims of the Study**

This study is planning to fulfill three points: the common, particular, and scholarly aims. The common aim of this study is to apply theories related to the novel.

This study also aims to get a improved understanding of Mark Twain's novel entitled *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Meanwhile, the particular aim of this study is to discover the metaphorical meaning of the story and what message the writer tries to convey. The last is an scholarly aim that is to apply the theory of literature studied within the English Department to compose a scientific work which gives a contribution to the department. The writer hopes this writing can be used as a reference to assist the students to compose the analysis of this novel.

#### **1.4. Organization of the Study**

The organization of this study about comprises five chapters.

##### **SECTION I**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter comprises of four sub-chapters. They are the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, and organizations of the study.

##### **SECTION II**

##### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.**

In this chapter, the writer mentions the theories which are utilized in this research.

##### **SECTION III**

##### **METHODS OF THE STUDY**

In this chapter, the writer mentions the methods of the study which are utilized in this research.

**SECTION IV****ANALYSIS**

It is the main chapter of the study. The characters and the relationship between Tom Sawyer characterizations and the moral value in Mark Twain's *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer* are examined in this chapter.

**SECTION V****CONCLUSION**

This chapter is the result and outline of the previous chapters.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## 2

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The elements forming a literary works incorporate the intrinsic and extrinsic components. The intrinsic components are the components constituting literary works, which incorporate the plot, theme, characters, setting, a point of view, the language and style of work. Extrinsic components are outside components that influence a literary work through extrinsic means. Examples of the extrinsic elements are the political situation, economy, sociology, history, even the psychological conditions of the writer (Nurgiyantoro, 1998).

In this study, the writer will do an analysis of the Tom Sawyer's character in Mark Twain's *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer* and how is the relationship between Tom Sawyer characterizations and the moral values in Mark Twain's *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer*. With the hope that at the end of the study the writer can answer this research problem formulation.

#### **2.1. Characterizations**

Characterization means describing the character. Characterizations are the most important thing in a literary work because without them a story will not be able to complete. It merely will be a description or narration (Djibran, 2008). This paper will discuss ways of describing characters or called characterization methods. There are several types of characterization methods including direct method (telling), indirect method (showing), through point of views, through the study of the flow of consciousness and through the study of figurative language.

The telling method includes characterization through the use of character's names, characterization through character's appearance and characterization through author's speech. The showing method includes dialogue and behavior. Characterization through dialogue carries out analysis through what speakers say, the identity of the speaker, location and situation of the conversation, the mental quality of the characters, tone of voice, dialect and vocabulary of the characters. Characterization through the behavior of the characters includes facial expressions and motivations of the actions of the characters. The study of the characters in a literary work has the ultimate aim to understand the theme of the work. Nurgiyantoro (1998; 19) further distinguishes a character in two major groups, based on the level of the role or importance of a character. That is a major character and minor character. The major character is a character that appears most regularly, whereas on a minor character, its appearance within the story is generally less, not at stake and its presence only if there is a relation with the major character, either straightforwardly or in by implication.

Nurgiyantoro (1998; 20) also distinguishes characters as a simple and complex character. Simple characters only show the nature or character of a certain character, while a complex character is a character that has a variety of nature and character described in detail. So, a character in a story refers to a person who presented in literary works, including the whole of his/her personality, vagaries of the act, intelligence, moral character and physically.

## **2.2. Moral Values**

According to Djibran (2008; 6), moral value is the message conveyed by the author through his writings, the deepest meaning of a story that might be a solicitation, provocation, and so on. Nurgiyantoro (2008) explains that in delivering the moral value of a literary work, the author can express it indirect. The message is not conveyed directly by the author, but by the reader's personal interpretation

Readers can receive even reject actions and utterances of a character in a story, where the actions and utterances of the figure contain the implied moral value. This is appropriate with Rusyana (2008) which states that the moral value is the conclusion that inferred by the reader. From reference above can be concluded that moral value is the message conveyed to the reader by giving them the freedom to reflect on and take the conclusions of a literary work.



### 3

## **METHODS OF THE STUDY**

This research is a library study and the source of the data is a novel entitled *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer* (TAoTS) that was written by Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain), edited with an introduction and notes by Peter Stoneley (2007). The information were collected through reading the novel intensively and noting down all the data that is pertinent to this project. This study is conducted by analyzing the novel and find other sources that support this research and the method used in this research is the structural method.

Structuralism viewed literature as a form built comprehensively from various developer element. While the study of structuralism emphases on functions and relationships between elements that forms a literary work. It is obtained by identification, assessing and describing between elements of a literary work. Study of a dismantling structuralism and observe the elements forming a literary work become a priority thing to do before a researcher stepped up to another research (Jabrohim, 2001). (Teeuw, 1984) explains that structuralism is a framework built on a few components where an alter in one component will influence the others.

## 4

## ANALYSIS

**4.1. Direct Method (Telling)**

In this method, the author explains the characters in a story directly. The author's influence in presenting the character is very pronounced so that the reader understands the character based on the exposure of the author. The use of the telling method in TAoTS novel By Mark Twain can be seen in the following quote:

*They shoved off, presently, Tom in command, Huck at the after oar and Joe at the forward. Tom stood amidships, gloomy-browed, and with folded arms, and gave his orders in a low, stern whisper. (TWAIN, 1876: 85)*

The quote above describes that Tom was a leader. How Twain describes it is by make Tom as the captain while Huck and Joe Harper are in ship's crew position. Twain also describes how Tom's body language and expression that implying assertiveness of a leader. The reader can easily understand that Tom Sawyer is the leader among his friends. Other quotes that show Tom Sawyer Characterization is as follow :

*And they did it. Old Hundred swelled up with a triumphant burst, and while it shook the rafters, Tom Sawyer, the Pirates looked around upon the envying juveniles about him and confessed in his heart that this was the proudest moment of his life. (TWAIN, 1876: 109)*

The quote above illustrates that Tom Sawyer has been able to influence all church congregations. They forgive Tom Sawyer's delinquency. While many of the children who were envious of him.

## 4.2. Indirect Method (Showing)

In this method, the author ignores the presence of the author so readers can analyze the characters through dialogue and their behavior on the literary works. There are two examples of characterization through dialogs between characters in the TaoTS. These examples explain the characterization of Tom Sawyer through his dialogs with other characters.

### 4.2.1. Dialogues Between Characters

The author characterizes of Tom Sawyer can be seen in the following quote:

*“Luff, and bring her to the wind !”*  
*“Aye-aye, sir!”*  
*“Steady, stead-y-y-y!”*  
*“Steady it is, sir!”*  
*“Let her go off a point !”*  
*“Point it is, sir !” (TWAINE, 1876: 85)*

The quote above is a conversation between Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. From this conversation, it is seen that Tom gave orders that are followed by his friends that makes him like a leader. Other quotes that describe Tom Sawyer characterization is as follows: “I’m glad you’ve slept, Becky; you’ll feel rested, now, and we’ll find the way out” (TWAINE, 1876: 178). The conversation above describes how Tom tries to calm Becky. Although Tom himself feels very frightened. He tries to encouragement Becky and leads her to discover a way out of the cave. The explanation above shows us out that Tom has the courage and sense of responsibility towards Becky.

#### 4.2.2. Behaviour of the Character

Other ways in interpreting a character is through the character's behaviour. To analyze the character of a character, readers must observe various events that can reflect the condition of the emotions and psychological state as well as the values that are displayed by in character. Tom Sawyer's response to events that occur on him may help the reader to understand the character of Tom Sawyer. Tom Sawyer, with all the naughty behavior of Tom, in the other situation he may appear as a bold personal, compassionate and willing to sacrifice personality. The use of the analyzing by character behavior in Mark Twain's TAO TS novel can be seen in the following examples.

*The school stared in perplexity at this incredible folly. Tom stood a moment, to gather his dismembered faculties; and when stepped forward to go to his punishment the surprise, the gratitude, the adoration that shone upon him out of poor Becky's eyes seem pay enough for a hundred floggings. Inspired by the splendor of his own act, he took without an outcry the most merciless flogging that even Mr. Dobbins had ever administered. (TWAIN, 1876: 123)*

From the quote above we see that Tom Sawyer has a strong character. He can not allow Becky tormented by her fears and shame. Then, he volunteered himself to replace Becky who should receive punishment from Mr. Dobbins. Tom willingly do it though it is not Tom who has been tearing up Mr. Dobbins's book. Another behavior example explains Tom's character is:

*Tom kissed her, with a choking sensation in his throat, and made a show of being confident of finding the searchers or an escape from the cave; then he took the kite-line in his hand and went groping down one of the passage on his hands and knees, distressed with hunger and sick with bodings of coming doom. (TWAIN, 1876: 182)*

From the quote above describes another Tom Sawyer's strong character. Tom does not want to make Becky Thatcher getting sad and frustrating. He tries

showing his courage and confidence to find a way out of the cave. Tom uses thread kites to seek a way out of the cave. Tom did it as a form of courage and sense of responsibility towards Becky.

### **4.3. Moral Values of the Characterization**

#### **4.3.1. Strong Heart**

In the scene of Tom's escaped with Huckleberry Finn and Joe Harper on the Jackson island, the writer finds a moral value that is a strong heart. They make a decision to escape because they felt there was no compassion for them. Becky Thatcher had neglected Tom and broke Tom's heart. Joe Harper's mother had scolded him for drinking some cream which he had never tasted before. Huck Finn joined them promptly because he was an independent child.

On the first day of the escape, the boys felt so happy, excited, and free. They could do what they want to do and they did not need to think about the school, about being polite, or about what time they had to go for a bath. But slowly everything changed, overtaken by loneliness and a great silence of nature. All kinds of activities and games slowly became so boring and they began to feel homesick that they might barely endure the misery of it. When Joe Harper and Huck Finn began to feel sad, suffer, and desire to surrender, Tom encouraged both his friends to stay, because he had got a great secret. Tom's fabulous secret was to return home and gone to his and the boys own funeral service due to the villagers considering that the boys have drowned. It can be seen in the following quote :

Who cares! said Tom. Nobody wants you. Go 'long home and get laughed at. O, you're a nice pirate. (TWAIN, 1876: 100)

The arrival of Tom and his friends in the funeral ceremony has surprised the whole church and changed the mood of mourning villagers become normal again. And Tom now is a hero. He is no longer skipping and prancing, but he goes with the *dignified swagger* (TWAINE, 1876: 113) as he got to be a popular pirate. From this characterization, the writer concludes that the first moral value here is a strong heart. If a person wants to get something special and valuable, then he should have a strong heart. Taking from Tom Sawyer's example a strong heart here means a heart that endures boredom, difficulties, and frustration.

#### **4.3.2. Bravery**

The delinquency of a child has brought Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn into an exciting and scary adventure. They saw a criminal act committed by Injun Joe, Muff Potter and Doctor Robinson in the graveyard. There was a corpse robbery, a murder, and betrayal that the two boys saw in their hideout behind an oak tree.

It all began when Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn want to cure warts. They believe that they can cure their warts by bringing a dead cat to the graveyard at midnight. Unexpectedly, they become a witness of a criminal act. Injun Joe frames Muff Potter by putting the knife that killed Doctor Robinson in his hand.

This criminal act has haunted and interfered Tom's heart. It is because the innocent Muff Potter will be hanged. After witnessing the horrifying event, Tom and Huck made an oath to never tell the others about the murder. Because once they are caught, Injun Joe will make them share the same fate with Doctor Robinson.

After the murder case was known to villagers and Muff Potter was arrested Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn was filled with fear, sadness, and guilt every day. Even little cigarettes and matches they had given to Muff Potter that was in jail made them feel like a coward and a traitor. It can be seen from the following quote :

*Tom went home miserable, and his dreams that night were full of horrors. The next day and the day after, he hung about the court room, drawn by an almost irresistible impulse to go in, but forcing himself to stay out. Huck was having the same experience. They studiously avoided each other. Each wandered away, from time to time, but the same dismal fascination always brought them back presently. (TWAINE, 1876: 136)*

Finally, Tom defeated fear and distress that he felt. On Muff Potter's court, Tom does not testify against him. Tom's testification shocked the whole villagers. Injun Joe was very surprised and he immediately fled the court by jumping out of a window.

#### **4.3.3. Sense of Responsibility**

The third of Tom Sawyer's moral value is the sense of responsibility. This can be seen when Tom and Becky were lost in Mc Dougal cave for three days and three nights (chapter 30). In a picnic for children and teenagers of the village, Tom and Becky were separated from their group and lost for days in Mc Dougal cave.

They try to find a way out, but their search ends in vain. They started to shout and expected someone to answer it. Until they felt exhaustion, hunger, fear, and despair especially Becky who started to cry. Her heart was filled with fear and regrets. Finally, she got into a situation where she became very weak, immersed in a sense of despair, and hunger. She gave up and decided to wait for her death at

the place where she was now. Tom started looking for a way out alone against his fear, hunger, and exhaustion to find a way out of the cave. It can be seen from the following quote : He proposed to explore another passage. He felt willing to risk Injun Joe and all other terrors. (TWAIN, 1876: 181)

All this exertion is encouraged because it is his responsibility to save Becky Thatcher, the girl he loves. Finally, his attempt was successful when he saw a blue light that brought them out of the cave. In this scene, Tom shows his character that corresponds to what is described by Suparno (2003) that responsibility means ready to accept the consequences upon the deed that has been done.



## 5

### CONCLUSION

On the TAO TS novel, Mark Twain describes Tom Sawyer's character by the direct method (Telling) and the indirect method (Showing). These two methods give an explanation to readers about Tom Sawyer's characteristic. In the direct method (telling) Mark Twain explains it through direct explanation. In the indirect method (showing) Mark Twain explains it through the dialogue between Tom and the other characters in the novel. These explanations are very useful for the reader because it can extend the description of Tom Sawyer's characteristic. Tom Sawyer's character that is found in this novel is that Tom Sawyer has the character of a leader, courageous, compassionate and willing to make sacrifices.

The understanding of Tom Sawyer's character leads the readers to the three moral values that shown in the novel. In this study, the three moral values namely: strong heart, bravery, and the sense of responsibility. From the three moral values that mentioned above the reader can see the real Tom Sawyer. Sometimes, he is a bad and naughty boy, on the other occasion he become a leader that has a strong heart, bravery, and the sense of responsibility.

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