

Analysis of Character Values in the Children's Literature Book Ansuang Bakeng

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Abstract S

This study aims to analyze the character values contained in the book "Ansuang Bakeng" and its relevance as a moral education tool for elementary school students. Amidst the challenges of moral degradation among the younger generation, literacy based on local wisdom is a crucial tool for imaginatively internalizing ethical values. The research method used was a qualitative literature review approach. Data sourced from narrative texts, dialogues, and character behavior in the book were analyzed descriptively and analytically. The findings indicate the presence of 14 dominant character values, including religiosity, empathy, fighting spirit, cooperation, and love of country. These values are embodied in the heroic actions of Panggelawang and the sincerity of Nabai, who provides a concrete example for students. The study's conclusions confirm that the book "Ansuang Bakeng" is highly suitable for use as a literacy teaching material to build integrity, mental toughness, and pride in cultural identity. The use of this traditional literature is effective in helping transform students' character toward more noble and responsible individuals.

Keywords: Character Education, Children's Literature, "Ansuang Bakeng," Elementary School Students.

INTRODUCTION

Amidst the increasingly massive onslaught of globalization and digitalization, moral degradation among the younger generation poses a serious challenge to education (Kurniawan et al., 2019). Elementary school students are now more easily exposed to digital content that is often devoid of moral values, leading to a decline in ethics, empathy, and respect for others (Purwasih, 2023). The urgency of this research lies in strengthening students' character through healthy and meaningful literacy resources as an antithesis to the negative impacts of instant and individualistic popular culture.

Character education cannot be taught merely as theory in the classroom; it requires a concrete and imaginative medium for easier internalization by children (Rahmawati et al., 2023). Children's literature, particularly that based on local wisdom, such as the book "Ansuang Bakeng," has the narrative power to subtly insert moral messages through the behavior of its characters. Without a thorough analysis of the values within them, books like these will be considered little more than bedtime stories,

even though they hold great potential as effective tools for character transformation (Ahmadi et al., 2021).

Furthermore, there is concern that the richness of Indonesian culture and regional legends is being forgotten by the new generation. Selecting the book "Ansuang Bakeng," rooted in Sangihe culture, is crucial for rekindling a sense of patriotism and pride in national identity (Khasanah et al., 2022). This research is urgently needed to demonstrate that traditional Indonesian values remain relevant and even essential for addressing the socio-moral challenges of the modern era.

Another pressing issue relates to the importance of having contextual teaching materials for elementary school educators. Currently, many teachers struggle to find literature that directly relates to character building and cultural awareness. By examining the character values in this book, this research provides a theoretical and practical foundation for teachers to use regional literature as an engaging moral education tool, so that learning no longer feels boring for students (Pridayanti et al., 2022).

Furthermore, the development of emotional aspects such as empathy, cooperation, and fighting spirit must begin at an early age. Elementary school is a golden age where fundamental life values become deeply ingrained in children's memories (Putri et al., 2024). Through this analysis, the values of resilience demonstrated by Panggelawang and compassion by Nabai can be systematically explored to become moral standards for students interacting in their increasingly complex social environment.

In conclusion, this research is urgent because literacy is not merely about the ability to read texts, but also the ability to interpret the values contained within them. Without a critical examination of character values, literature's function as a "mirror" and "window" for children's spiritual development will not be optimally achieved. Therefore, analyzing Ansuang Bakeng's book is a strategic step in an effort to create a future generation that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has integrity and noble character.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a qualitative method with a literature review approach to explore and analyze the character values contained in the book "Ansuang Bakeng." The primary focus of this method was to conduct a critical analysis of the narrative text as the primary data source. The initial stage began with data collection through intensive reading and note-taking techniques to identify story units, dialogue, and character behavior that represent indicators of specific character values. This analysis aimed to uncover the moral messages hidden behind the structure of the children's literature (Snyder, 2019).

Next, the identified data were classified based on character value instruments that refer to theories of character education and children's literature. Data reduction was carried out by selecting the most relevant textual evidence, such as dialogue between characters or narrative descriptions on specific pages, to then connect them to values such as religiosity, empathy, cooperation, and fighting spirit (Frank & Hatak, 2014). This process ensures that each value finding is supported by authentic evidence within the book, ensuring that the resulting analysis is objective and academically sound.

In the final stage, data synthesis and interpretation are conducted to draw conclusions regarding the relevance of these values for child readers (Ahmadi et al., 2021). Researchers compare the character value findings with the context of character education needs for elementary school students to examine the potential of the book *Ansuang Bakeng* as an educational literacy learning medium. All analysis results are then compiled descriptively to provide a comprehensive overview of how this traditional literary work can function as a means of internalizing noble values and shaping students' personalities through the role models of its characters.

RESULTS

Book Summary

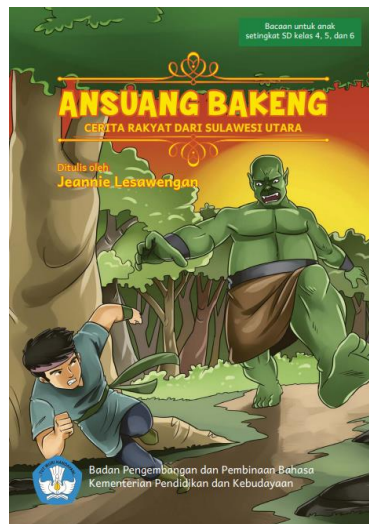


Figure 1. Cover of the book "Ansuang Bakeng"

The book "Ansuang Bakeng" by Jeannie Lesawengan is a folktale from North Sulawesi that tells the story of the origins of Mount Awu in the Sangihe Islands. The book has 51 pages and is suitable for students in grades 4, 5, and 6 of elementary school. It can be accessed through <https://budi.kemendikdasmen.go.id>. The story focuses on the lives of three siblings: Panggelawang (the eldest), Wanggaia, and Nabai (the

youngest), who live harmoniously in a coastal village. Nabai enjoys weaving cloth from abaca fibers and is diligent in finding natural dyes for her creations.

Conflict begins when bad weather hits their area, forcing Panggelawang and Wanggaia to go to help other fishermen at sea, leaving Nabai alone at home. In the midst of the storm, a giant named Ansuang Bakeng appears and kidnaps Nabai from her home. Before being taken away, Nabai cleverly left a trail of red woven thread (hote) tied to tree branches along the path to the mountains.

Panggalawang and Wanggaia, returning from the sea, immediately realized their sister was missing and began searching through the forest. Thanks to the red thread Nabai left behind, they successfully discovered the giants' hiding place behind a deep ravine. They then built a bamboo suspension bridge to cross the ravine and discovered that not only Nabai but also many other villagers were being held captive by the giant couple, Ansuang Bakeng and Ansuang Boki, to be eaten.

The final section of the story (based on chapter summaries) depicts Panggelawang's clever strategy to free Nabai and the other captives. Panggelawang pretended to be the giants' cook in order to gain free movement and deceived the guards with various pretexts. Through close cooperation between the three brothers and the captives, they ultimately managed to resist and escape, a feat local legend attributes to the geological event that led to the formation of Mount Awu.

Hasil Analisis Nilai Karakter

Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisis nilai karakter yang terdapat pada buku dongeng Ansuang Bakeng. Dongeng ini berasal dari daerah Sulawesi. Adapun hasil temuan analisis nilai karakter dijabarkan dalam tabel 1 berikut.

Tabel 1. analisis nilai karakter pada buku dongeng Ansuang Bakeng

No.	character value	Evidence	page
1.	Religious - Firm stance	"We will take revenge on your descendants... Panggelawang and Wanggaia replied: We will sit in the whirlwind of the east wind to ward off your spirits."	46-48
2.	Respect	Wanggaia still respected her sister Nabai's hobby of weaving, even though she felt her sister was overworked.	4-5
3.	Cooperation	Panggalawang and Wanggaia worked together to build a mountain bridge to rescue Nabai and the kidnapped people.	20-21
4.	Struggle	Panggalawang and Wanggaia sailed through the storm to return home to find Nabai, even though they were still tired and injured.	15-17
5.	Mutual assistance	Panggalawang and Wanggaia helped Nabai and the people kidnapped by Ansuang Bakeng escape, despite the risk.	22-24
6.	Empathy	Nabai said to Wanggaia, "Come on, sis. You have to help them too. Just like my life, theirs are in danger every moment... The anxiety of waiting for your turn is excruciating."	24-25
7.	Loyalty	Wanggaia said to Nabai, "Please promise me you'll take care of yourself." Nabai replied, "I promise, sis." This demonstrated their loyalty to their sibling promise.	11-12

8.	Gratitude	"Panggalawang looked at his two younger siblings... Nothing made them happier than hearing their younger siblings' enthusiasm."	49-50
9.	Love for the environment	Nabai used abaca banana trees for fiber and dyed her clothes with natural dyes like mangrove bark and safflower.	2-5
10.	Love for the homeland	The story of Panggalawang and Wanggaia's struggle against giants to protect the Sangihe people from disaster is remembered in the legend of Mount Awu.	52-53
11.	Courage	Panggalawang pretended to be the cooks Ansuang Bakeng and Ansuang Boki to formulate a rescue plan, despite the risks.	26-27
12.	Volunteerism - Deliberation and consensus	Panggalawang always consulted with Wanggaia before making decisions, such as when building a suspension bridge and determining how to free the captives.	20-26
13.	Moral commitment	Panggalawang and Wanggaia remained steadfast in their commitment to saving Nabai despite facing storms, giants, and great danger.	15-17
14.	Compassion	"That night, he gazed at the night sky, grateful for the cheerfulness and innocence of his younger siblings."	20-21 26-27

DISCUSSION

Character Values in the Folktale Ansuang Bakeng

The book *Ansuang Bakeng* is not just a folklore narrative from Sangihe, but rather a character education medium rich in moral values for young readers. Through the characters of Panggalawang, Wanggaia, and Nabai, readers are invited to delve into the depths of extraordinary moral commitment (Putri et al., 2021; Ulya & Anisah, 2021). As evidenced on pages 15-17 and 26-27, this commitment is not merely an intention, but a concrete action as they face storms and giants to save Nabai. In children's literature, the depiction of characters who remain steadfast in their promises even in the face of great danger serves as a catalyst for children to understand the meaning of responsibility and integrity from an early age.

The religious aspect of this book is demonstrated through steadfastness rooted in local spiritual beliefs (Ahmadi, 2021). The dialogue on pages 46-48, which depicts the courage to face the curse of a spirit, demonstrates that the characters in this story possess life principles unshaken by fear of the mystical. In the context of character education, this teaches children that faith or belief must be the foundation of mental strength when facing intimidation or seemingly insurmountable life challenges.

The sibling relationship in this story serves as a central pillar through the values of compassion and loyalty. The warmth radiated when Panggalawang expresses gratitude for the joy of his younger siblings (pp. 5-6), as well as the promise of loyalty between Wanggaia and Nabai (pp. 11-12), provide a model of healthy relationships for readers. Children's literature that emphasizes family harmony helps children develop emotional intelligence and a sense of security, as they learn that family support is the greatest source of strength in facing the harsh outside world (Youpika & Zuchdi, 2016).

The value of respecting differences in roles and interests also emerges in subtle yet meaningful ways. Although Wanggaia finds Nabai's weaving work tiring, she still values her hobby (pp. 4-5). This is an important lesson in tolerance and appreciation for the talents of others. By observing characters who do not impose their will on others, children learn to respect individual autonomy and appreciate the hard work of others, regardless of differing opinions (Renaldo et al., 2024).

The rescue strategies employed by the main characters reflect the values of cooperation and consensus. On pages 20-26, we see Panggelawang and Wanggaia always discuss before building a mountain bridge or freeing a captive. In character education, this instills the concept that collective strength is far more effective than individual impulsive actions. Children are taught that communication is key to solving complex problems and that every major decision should be made through collective deliberation (Youpika & Zuchdi, 2016).

Their tenacious fighting spirit is demonstrated when Panggelawang and Wanggaia continue sailing through the storm despite being tired and injured (pp. 15-17). This resilience, or grit, is an essential element in children's literacy, helping to develop a never-give-up mentality. Through this evidence, children learn that physical exhaustion is no reason to stop fighting for a noble cause, internalizing the value of resilience much needed in the modern era (Khasanah et al., 2022).

The values of empathy and mutual assistance are explored in depth when Nabai reminds her brother that the life of another prisoner is as valuable as her own (pp. 24-25). This dialogue culminates the book's moral education, where humanity transcends personal or family interests. Readers are invited to feel the suffering of others and understand that true courage is the courage used to help the weak and oppressed without discrimination.

Agility of thought and courage to take risks are clearly demonstrated when Panggelawang disguises himself as a cook for the giant Ansuang Bakeng (pp. 26-27). Courage here is depicted not only as physical strength but also as intellectual ingenuity. For young readers, this conveys the message that facing challenges greater than ourselves requires strategy and composure. The value of volunteering to go into the heart of danger for the sake of the people is a manifestation of the character of an inspiring hero.

This book also incorporates the value of environmental stewardship through Nabai's daily activities, utilizing abaca fiber and natural dyes (pp. 2-5). This emphasis on values is highly relevant to current ecological issues, teaching children to live in harmony with nature and utilize local resources wisely. Furthermore, the character's gratitude at the end of the story (pp. 49-50) provides an emotional conclusion, teaching that true happiness is found in simplicity and the safety of loved ones.

Overall, Ansuang Bakeng successfully integrates the value of patriotism through the narrative of the Sangihe people's protection of Mount Awu, which later became legendary (pp. 52-53). Children's literature based on local legends such as this is highly effective in fostering pride in cultural heritage and national identity. By understanding the sacrifices of the characters for the safety of their homeland, children are expected to inherit a spirit of patriotism relevant to maintaining the sovereignty and welfare of society in the future.

The Relevance of Character Values in the Ansuang Bakeng Fairy Tale to Elementary School Students' Character Education

The implementation of religious values and steadfast convictions in this book provides an example for elementary school students to develop strong principles from an early age. In the school environment, this is reflected when a student bravely rejects calls to act dishonestly, such as cheating, because he firmly holds onto his moral values. Like the characters who remain steadfast in the face of enormous challenges, students are taught that belief in the truth is the primary compass that will protect them from the negative influences of their surroundings.

The values of cooperation and consensus practiced by Panggalawang and Wanggaia are an important foundation for character education in the classroom. Students can emulate the way these characters discuss before making major decisions, which in the school context can be applied during group work or class duty. By prioritizing discussion, students learn not to impose their own will, respect the opinions of their peers, and understand that major goals are more easily achieved through mutual cooperation than working alone.

Nabai's empathy and mutual assistance are highly relevant to addressing the issue of bullying in elementary school. When Nabai reminds her older sibling to save another captive, she is demonstrating high interpersonal intelligence. Students are taught to care for their friends who are struggling or feeling afraid. Emulating Nabai means training students to be advocates for their vulnerable peers, thus creating a safe, supportive, and compassionate school environment.

Exemplary examples of fighting spirit and moral commitment are essential to building a resilient learner mentality. When students face difficult subject matter or fail in a competition, they can remember the spirit of Panggalawang, who sailed through the storm despite being tired. This value teaches students that success is not achieved instantly, but through consistency and hard work. This "never give up" character will shape students into individuals who are not easily discouraged when facing academic and social obstacles.

Finally, the values of environmentalism and patriotism in this story encourage students to appreciate the local and natural resources around them. By emulating

Nabai's use of natural dyes, students can be encouraged to take concrete actions such as reducing plastic use or keeping the school clean as a form of environmental stewardship. More broadly, learning about the legend of Mount Awu through this book fosters pride in their regional cultural identity, which is the first step for elementary school students to fully love the Indonesian nation and state.

CONCLUSION

The Ansuang Bakeng book is a comprehensive character education medium because it successfully integrates noble values such as religiosity, empathy, fighting spirit, and cooperation into an imaginative narrative of the Sangihe legend. Through the heroic actions of Panggelawang and the sincerity of Nabai, this book not only serves as a preserver of local wisdom but also serves as a relevant role model for elementary school students to build moral integrity, mental toughness, and patriotism amidst the challenges of the modern era. Thus, this tradition-based literacy has proven effective as a means of internalizing character values, capable of shaping children's personalities holistically and meaningfully.

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