

## Moral Values in the Novel The Widow is My Mother by Kang Maman

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**Abstract-** The investigation of moral values which are present in the narrative and in which the widow is my mother is the study's main challenge. The purpose of this study is to analyze the moral principles that underlie the short narrative. This study's methodology is a qualitative descriptive approach. Researchers are involved in this investigation as observers and document collectors. My mother is the widow, and the manner of examination of moral principles in the book is the focus of this study. According to the researcher, the widow is my mother, and the research data for this study are quotations from the book. Techniques for taking notes and reading were used to obtain data for this study. The following three findings were drawn from the data analysis results. First, the relationship between people and themselves serves as a framework for analyzing the moral principles present in the book and the widow is my mother. The second is how people relate to each other. The third is the interaction between God and people.

**Keywords:** Moral Values, Novel

### I. INTRODUCTION

Literary works are a form of word play by the author that contains a certain meaning, which will be conveyed to the literary connoisseur. Literary works are essentially a concrete depiction of human life that is abstracted. (Sapdiani et al., 2018; Wiguna & Alimin, 2018). Literary works are also a manifestation of a person's ideas through views of the social environment around them using beautiful language. Literature is present as a result of contemplation of existing phenomena and is a type of art work. (Maulana & Suryana, 2021; Pahruraji et al., 2019). Literature is also an imaginative work that has an aesthetic form. Literary works also have another meaning, namely a form of thought about the author's life itself or even about the life of the person who is

used as the author's object (Deviana & Wahyono, 2024; Rumatiga & Pramesti, 2023). Not just the result of the author's imaginative creativity, they tend to see the stories that live in their lives as events that really happened (Alwiya & Erni, 2024; Dina & Erni, 2022; Erni & Herwandi, 2018).

Literary works are a set of depictions of the author's ideas which are born from the reality of life which is processed through intellectual and sharp imagination (Afifah et al., 2021; Duha, 2023). An author expresses his ideas, thoughts, feelings, imagination through a literary work that has benefits for people's lives. Basically, the essence of art according to Horace's concept is dulce et utile, literary works are beautiful and useful (Ernawati et al., 2017) in (Wellek and Warren, 1990: 25). Literary works are not only

enjoyed but also function to guide society. This means that literary works require individuals to discover the values expressed by the author (Elekna LG, 2020).

The creator of a work of fiction does so, among other things, to provide an idealized version of life. (Ernawati and others, 2017). Morals are applied in fiction through the attitudes and actions of the characters based on their moral convictions. (Erni & Herwandi, 2018; Erni, 2016). Readers are supposed to be able to learn from the moral lessons that are required to be learned through the narrative, attitudes, and actions of the characters. The goal of literary analysis is to assist readers in comprehending the morals that are expressed in the work. Readers can use the ideals found in literary works as a guide in their daily lives (Elekna LG, 2020; Khoerul Mar'ati et al., 2019).

Authors must instill moral ideals, for instance, in their fictional works in order for readers to understand them. It is anticipated that readers will be able to locate and apply these values. The moral of a narrative is typically meant to be a recommendation connected to specific practical moral precepts, according to (Setyawati, 2013) in (Nurgiyantoro 2009: 320). According to Ilahi (2021), Maman (2024), and Mansur (2012), morals are typically meant to be a recommendation pertaining to specific practical moral teachings that the reader might absorb and interpret through the story in question. The author purposefully provides a "hint" regarding a variety of topics pertaining to life issues, including behavior, attitudes, and social graces (Nurgiyantoro, 2015).

Novels are among the literary works that contain moral lessons. A novel is defined as "a long prose composition containing a series of stories about a person's life with the people around him by highlighting the character and nature of each actor" by the Ministry of National Education (2008: 969). As an alternate reading medium, novels must also have positive aspects (Setyawati, 2013). It is anticipated that readers would be able to apply the novel's values to their daily lives in this manner (Mujarod, 2022; Murti & Maryani, 2017). A common occurrence in society is that a large number of people read books exclusively without considering or comprehending the morals they carry.

Novels as literary works are one type of public reading, also have a major influence on the formation of the mindset of the reading community (Sa'ida, 2020; Sanjaya et al., 2021).

Novels as an alternative reading media must also be able to provide positive things in them. That way, readers are expected to be able to apply the values in the novel to everyday life (Eliastuti, 2017; Erni et al., 2014). The phenomenon found in society is that many people only read novels without paying attention to or understanding the values contained in the novel. If readers of literary works can find the values contained in the literary work, then these values can be used as guidelines and guidelines in living this life. Moreover, if the novel contains many moral values (Agustini & Winarta, 2023; Pradnyadita & Juniarta, 2023), then these moral values can be used as enlightenment in dealing with problems in life (Purba et al., 2022; Wachyuning Lestari & Utari Dewi, 2020).

The researcher chose to study moral values because after reading the novel and the widow is my mother by Kang Maman, the researcher found many moral values that can be used as valuable lessons in everyday life. Among the forms of these moral values are teaching us about patience in facing life's trials and understanding the meaning of struggle. Through the story of a mother and her four children, there are quotes that contain moral values related to human relationships with humans, human relationships with other humans in the social sphere including the natural environment, and human relationships with God.

## **II. METHODS**

This study falls under the category of qualitative descriptive research, which uses a descriptive methodology and mostly collects data in the form of quotes and words. Maleong (2009: 6) defines qualitative research as research that uses a variety of scientific methods to describe and holistically understand phenomena about what research subjects experience, such as behavior, perception, motivation, and others, in the form of words or language in a particular natural context. (Nurgiyantoro, 2015; Sugiyono, 2018; Anggito & Setiawan, 2018). The primary purpose of the researchers' presence in this study is to collect data. Therefore, having researchers there is crucial and very necessary in order to later describe the data gathered for this study (Gunawan, 2014).

This research taking the subject of the problem to be analyzed is a form of moral value analysis in the novel and the widow is my mother. Data collection was carried out using reading and recording techniques. The reading and note-

taking technique is a form of technique used to reveal a problem that exists in a reading or discourse. Through this technique, all forms of language used in the novel and the widow's mother, are read carefully to determine the form of moral values. Besides Reading activities are carried out by researchers and also carry out recording activities to document data obtained. The data obtained is then recorded in a data table that has been prepared. made. What is meant by recording technique is the activity of recording all data that... obtained from reading the novel which is written in a table data.

This note-taking technique is done by noting the forms of moral values contained within this novel. At this stage, the data found in this novel is observed carefully and thoroughly. At this stage, the data found in the observations is carefully and precisely analyzed. The next reading is recorded in the data table that has been prepared, then entered into data analysis sheet to be analyzed.

The validity of the data in this qualitative research was carried out using triangulation techniques. and reliability, namely a data validity checking technique that utilizes something other than The data is for checking purposes or as a comparison against the data (Moleong, 2016: 330). In this study, the data validity test uses theory triangulation, namely by conducting data validation through validator. The validator in this case is the researcher himself.

### **III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Moral Value Data Analysis**

Moral is the message that the author wishes to get across to the reader; it is the meaning that is implied by the plot and contained in a literary work (Nurgiyantoro, 2012:321). The kind of moral worth itself can address problems that are, in a sense, limitless. can address every topic pertaining to life and living, including those involving human worth and dignity. In a broad sense, human existence and living issues can be separated into three categories: human ties with God, human relationships with other people in the social sphere, and human interactions with the natural world (Nurgiyantoro, 2012:323).

#### **Moral Values Relating to Human Relations with Themselves**

The problem of human relationship with himself can be classified into all forms of moral values related to the individual as a person who shows the existence of the individual with

various attitudes inherent in him. The problem of humans with themselves according to (Nurgiyantoro, 2012:324) can vary in type and level of intensity. For more clarity regarding moral values related to human relationships with oneself, you can see the following quotes.

In the novel entitled *The Widow is My Mother* by Kang Maman.

(Data 1)

My chest felt like it was burning when I heard it. The "noble profession" of being a journalist that I had always glorified was like being thrown onto the ground with buffalo dung on it. I wanted to scold back, but not a single word came out. (Kang Maman, 2024:31).

In the data quote (1) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and themselves, that the character I does not want to rebuke them back because the character I also does not want to cause new problems, therefore the character I does not want to say a single word to rebuke them back.

(Data 2)

Mother was furious. "No woman may be insulted, Sir, no matter what she is wearing or what her status is. Whether you are a widow or not. If you cannot advise your son, I will do it myself, if your son insults me again."

Without saying hello, Mother left the house. I followed him from behind. (Kang Maman, 2024:39).

In the data quote (2) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with oneself, that the mother figure maintains her self-esteem so that she is not insulted and trampled on again by reprimanding people who insult her, even though anyone who commits a crime, even if it is an official, must receive social sanctions and can even receive punishment from the authorities.

(Data 3)

Calmly, my mother opened the cover of her tennis racket, then immediately served the racket to the head of the KUA Head's child. Blood spurted because my mother hit with all her might. (Kang Maman, 2024:40).

In the data quote (3) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with oneself, that the mother figure is defending herself by hitting the head of the child of the Head of the KUA because the mother figure's patience has run out, perhaps in this way the mother can feel more relieved about what the child of the Head of the KUA did to the mother figure.

(Data 4)

Yes, my mother always carries a dagger

wherever she goes. Usually tucked under her clothes or in her bag, and that is what I am always afraid of and always ask Allah through prayer, “O Allah, don’t make my mother’s feelings touched and rise in rage. (Kang Maman, 2024:40).

In the data quote (4) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with oneself that the mother figure always carries a dagger which is always tucked under her clothes in case someone does something bad to her.

(Data 5)

The story is not over, after the incident, I did not dare to go to school through that intersection. Afraid of running into those thugs and they might vent their revenge on me. I took a shortcut through the rice field embankment. (Kang Maman, 2024:41).

In the data quote (5) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and themselves, that the character I feels afraid to go to school via the road he usually takes because of an incident a few days ago where his mother and the Head of the KUA had an argument, therefore the character I takes another road to avoid meeting the child of the Head of the KUA.

(Data 6)

But, my mother did not burden me with anything in this case. She only said her determination to fight for it by any means, with all her might. “That right must be fought for and defended,” she said. (Kang Maman, 2024:77).

In the data quote (6) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and themselves, that the mother figure fights for the rights that should belong to her and her child, the mother figure also does not want to burden her child in fighting for these rights because no matter what, a mother does not want her child to be burdened with things that are not her responsibility, therefore the mother figure wants her child to fight for it herself and does not want to burden it on other people.

(Data 7)

Mother went back and forth to take care of this letter . Many years. He followed him from the village office to Jakarta to ensure that the certificate in his hand was a valid certificate and that the certificate in the hands of the old owner had to be turned off because it was invalid. Mother was always accompanied by father’s family, as well as a number of neighbors who sympathized with us. (Kang Maman, 2024:77).

In the data quote (7) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and themselves, that the mother figure is willing

to go back and forth to take care of the certificate. So that the certificate in her hands is a valid certificate, the mother figure is also responsible for what she must do for her child and does not want her child to have an invalid certificate.

### **Moral Values Relating to Human Relations with Other Humans**

Human relationship behavior with oneself is classified into all forms of moral values related to individuals as individuals who show the existence of the individual with various attitudes inherent in him. According to (Nurgiyantoro, 2012:324), human problems with themselves can vary in type and level of intensity.

In the novel entitled *The Widow is My Mother* by Kang Maman

(Data 1)

To her oldest child, witness to all the events from the beginning of the “handover” of the inheritance, Mother said, “What? Are you angry? Don’t be! That’s your grandfather. Without him, you would not be on this earth. Love. Pray for him always.” (Kang Maman, 2024:13).

In the data quote (1) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the mother figure gives advice to her child to always love and pray for her grandfather. The mother figure gives advice to her child with the intention of reprimanding and building a person with good intentions. Advice is also educational. Advice also teaches how to think and act well.

(Data 2)

Apparently, Mother wanted to teach us to be independent, to learn to cook for ourselves. Take a shower when it’s time to take a shower. Pray when it is time to pray. Learn to be united as children who no longer have a father. Help each other stop crying, help each other stop being hungry, support each other in completing homework from school. (Kang Maman, 2024:34).

In the data quote (2) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the mother figure wants to teach her children to be independent so that when they grow up, her children will know what to do.

(Data 3)

Mother then invited me home and gave me the dagger. “It was your grandfather’s. It has a long history. Take it with you wherever you go. You see the shape. Try taking it out of its sheath, facing the tip of the knife towards the sky. The badik forms the letters ‘Alif’ straight up. Don’t

let your Alif fall down and not be straight anymore. Don't let yourself disappear and cease to exist just because you are afraid of other humans. If it's like that, there's no point in us living, son. Fear is only for Allah..." I was silent, shocked. (Kang Maman, 2024:42).

In the data quote (3) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the mother figure cares about her child by giving her child a dagger to protect herself with, the mother figure also gives advice to her child not to be afraid of anyone except God.

(Data 4)

I also united the younger siblings in the same concern. Inviting them to give Mother the opportunity to breathe freely, without being hung by her hands and burdened by her back which had begun to bend at a young age. (Kang Manman, 2024:52).

In the data quote (4) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the character I cares about my mother and gives advice to her younger siblings not to burden her mother anymore and to let her mother breathe freely. Because as a child, you should give more care to your parents so that parents do not feel burdened by their children.

(Data 5)

"No buts. They are good people. You should be kind and respectful to them. They are your father's brothers. You have to understand. They are also busy and have a lot to visit," his voice began to rise, as if he was holding back his emotions, but at the same time about to vent his anger. (Kang Maman, 2024:62).

In the data quote (5) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the mother figure advises her child to understand that her father's family are good people, it's just that they rarely visit the house. The mother figure also advises her child not to have a vengeful heart towards her father's siblings because after all they are family.

(Data 6)

As I recall, it was his mother and half-sister who were more instrumental in becoming a bridge of peace. Because both of them accepted this reality, their mothers also tried to make peace with each other. Grandpa just enjoyed the fruits of that peace. (Kang Maman, 2024:75).

In the data quote (6) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the mother and her stepsister become bridges of peace, because both accept the

situation. In family life or in society, we must live in harmony and peace so as not to cause division.

(Data 7)

"Hold this land certificate, son," my mother said when she handed it to me. "As the eldest son, this is your responsibility. Hold it tightly and keep it in the safest place."

I was shocked when I read it. The names of your five children were written on the land certificate. "Yes, this belongs to the five of you. "It doesn't belong to you," Mother said firmly. (Kang Maman, 2024:78).

In the data quote (7) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the mother figure gives a land certificate in the name of her five children, the mother figure does not want the land certificate, because the mother figure only wants her five children to live in harmony in the future, not to have a problem with inherited property. In reality, many families fight just because of property, especially inheritance.

(Data 8)

"Remember, if you treat someone else's daughter however you want, it's the same as treating your own mother however you want. Don't break other people's fences. Don't take other people's children's virginity before you officially marry them! Do you want to swear to Mother?" I nodded in agreement. (Kang Maman, 2024:88).

In the data quote (8) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the mother figure gives advice to her son not to do things that violate norms. In today's life, there are many people who do inappropriate things such as criminal acts, harassment, therefore the mother figure advises her son not to do things that are embarrassing and detrimental to himself, especially since her son will be moving to a big city.

(Data 9)

Mother also "Preached" in an angry tone, about the prohibition of installing the last number. About the prohibition of gambling, about the sins of those who gamble, and the punishment in the afterlife, which I don't know where my mother ever heard or read it. I lowered my head, my father lowered his head even more because the "Verdict" against my father was heavier. "You have taught your child to gamble!" (Kang Maman, 2024:119).

In the data quote (9) above, there is a moral value related to human relations with other humans, that the mother figure gives advice to

her husband and children not to get involved with gambling, because gambling is a despicable act and causes sin, gambling can also land people in prison because they cannot pay their gambling debts. Gambling generally only provides momentary pleasure. Therefore, the mother figure advises her children and husband not to get involved in gambling.

### **Moral Values Relating to Human Relations with God.**

The relationship between humans and God is a special relationship. Humans as creatures will not be separated from the creator. Although consciously or not, all human needs are psychologically or always directed at the creator. In conscience, the relationship between humans and God always has a larger portion when compared to other creatures, although sometimes the relationship between humans and the creator is directed in various ways. Good or bad human behavior will affect the strength of faith in God.

In the novel entitled *The Widow is My Mother* by Kang Maman

(Data 1)

I am proud of you. My tears spilled onto the prayer mat in my prostration, after our conversation that night. I turned off the lights in the room, so that no one would see that as long as I was saying my intention, saying the takbir, standing, bowing, prostrating, sitting reverently until the greeting, my tears wouldn't stop flowing. (Kang Maman, 2024:3).

In the data quote (1) above there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God, the quote explains that the character I am carrying out his obligations as a Muslim. Because whatever we do in this world is with the permission of the creator, therefore we should not forget the creator by always being grateful, praying and carrying out all his commands.

(Data 2)

Mother spent her nights on a prayer mat, praying, and moaning. Perhaps imagining, would she be able to carry her five small children, none of whom were independent far from their homeland, from their extended family in Sulawesi? Therefore, she never stopped crying, moaning, and complaining to her God. (Kang Maman, 2024:10).

In the data excerpt (2) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God. This excerpt explains that the mother character shows patience and steadfastness in

facing life's difficulties, never gives up, and continues to pray and hope in God to help overcome life's difficulties, because she has strong faith and believes that God will help.

(Data 3)

Through prayer, I entrust it to God. Make mother happy with her friends. Heal the pain that mother felt while being alone when father left her. Give the pinisi that has been moored by Mother a chance to sail across the ocean again. Expand the screen. If there are tears here and there, ask for Your power to sew them one by one so that they are whole again. If Mother is tired, bomb her to the beach. Resting herself accompanied by the gusts of wind, the roar of the waves, and the rhythmic cries of seagulls. (Kang Maman, 2024:51-52).

In the data quote (3) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God. This quote explains that the character asks God to make the mother happy and to heal the pain felt by her, and asks God to have patience in facing difficulties.

(Data 4)

I shoot a prayer towards the sky with a sharp bow and an arrow of anger. May God not be hurt by it, and then forget us all. What can I do, O Lord, besides believing in Your Rahman and Rahim? (Kang Maman, 2024:55).

In the data quote (4) above there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God, this quote explains that the character asks God through prayer and expects everything from God, that he is sure that God will help him.

(Data 5)

Calmly, without expression, my mother answered, "Your father is the best man God has ever given to me. There will never be a replacement." (Kang Maman, 2024:69).

In the data quote (5) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God. The quote explains that the mother figure is grateful to God for giving her a good husband. In this life, as Muslims, we must not forget to always be grateful to God because of Him we can get whatever we want.

(Data 6)

Thank God, my mother's prayer was heard by the heavens. Mother's tears that dripped on the prayer mat seeped into the ground, forming strong roots of fortitude and belief in the meaning

of struggle. (Kang Maman, 2014:77).

In the data quote (6) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God. The quote explains that the mother figure shows that prayer can be a means to ask for help and assistance from God, that God also always hears and provides assistance to His servants. Therefore, we as His servants should never give up on everything we go through in this life.

(Data 7)

“Mother asked Allah to call her immediately if she could no longer do anything. I don’t want to be a burden to you all” (Kang Maman, 2024:94).

In the data excerpt (7) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God. This excerpt explains that the mother character prays to God that God will take her immediately because she does not want to burden her child.

(Data 8)

“Mom, I graduated, I was accepted at UI,” I shouted.

Mother immediately prostrated herself, kissed the wet ground left over from last night’s rain and the drops of water that fell from the laundry she was drying. Then, he standing with wet eyeballs and a dirty forehead covered in clay. (Kang Maman, 2024:96)

In the data quote (8) above, there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God. The quote explains that the mother figure is grateful to God for all the help that He has given. As Muslims, we should always pray to God, no matter which prayer will be answered by God.

(Data 9)

Mother left me a small Quran whose pages had turned yellow. “Don’t forget to study the Koran, your family is not in Jakarta, but your God is there, you will be safe.” He kissed the Quran, put it on his head, before putting it in my bag. (Kang Maman, 2024:100).

In the data quote (9) above there is a moral value related to the relationship between humans and God, the quote explains that the mother character entrusts the Koran to her child to read when she is away from home, the mother character also tells her child that in Jakarta she does not have a family but she has God with her, remembering that in her life there is God, then her

life will be safe. Results should be clear and concise. In the Discussion, it is the most important of your article. Make the discussion correspond with the finding but do not reiterate the discussion.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Moral is something that the author wants to convey to the reader, which is the meaning contained in a literary work and the meaning suggested through the story . Moral values related to human relationships with oneself can be seen in the following quotes.

- Values relating to humans’ relationships with themselves
- Values relating to human relationships with other humans
- Values relating to humans’ relationship with God.

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