

Characters Behavior in the Novel “*Orang-orang Biasa*” by Andrea Hirata (Literary Psychology Review)

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ABSTRACT

Behavioral analysis is Skinner's approach to studying behavior which assumes that human actions are formed primarily by a history of individual personal reinforcement, and subsequently determined by natural selection and cultural practice. This article aims to analyze the behavior of the main character in Andrea Hirata's *Orang-orang Biasa* using the theory of Skinner's behavior analysis which says that human behavior is formed by three forces, namely natural selection, cultural practice, and a person's history of reinforcement. This research is in the form of qualitative descriptive with content analysis method. The results showed that : 1) The behavior of Aini's character studied earnestly to enter the Faculty of Medicine and Dragon who chose him regarding the theft he did was influenced by positive reinforcement, while the behavior of Akhirudin who was not enthusiastic at work and Dinah who is willing to do anything so that her child enters the Faculty of Medicine is influenced by negative reinforcement ; 2) Natural selection influences Dinah's behavior to survive supporting her children by trading toys after her husband's death ; 3) Cultural evolution affects the behavior of Awaludin's debut to find information and shop through internet technology.

Keywords: *Orang-orang Biasa, Andrea Hirata, Skinner, Literary Psychology, Behavior Analysis*

1. INTRODUCTION

Orang-orang Biasa is an Andrea Hirata novel that tells the story of people in the City of Belantik that are famous for being peaceful and naive so that there are rarely cases of crime occurring there. In that city there is a flock of friends who were born from the lower economic environment and have average academic ability. Written in a humorous style, this novel tells the story of a robbery plan by amateur robbers who aim to pay for pediatric medical college from one of their friends.

This novel tries to raise the reality that not everyone has the privilege of being born. In this novel Dinah's child named Aini always gets bad score in each subject. However, after her father died of an illness and her sister was indicated to have the same disease, Aini was encouraged to become a specialist doctor to find out the cause of her family's illness. He desperately studied until finally he was accepted into the Faculty of Medicine. A new problem arose, Aini's family could not afford to pay for tuition at the Faculty of Medicine until finally friends from Aini's parents planned to make a robbery in order to finance Aini's tuition. Packed in a humorous style, this novel tells the story of Aini's parents' friends who were still innocent and never did anything bad finally made plans to rob a bank.

Literary works in essence are indeed not possible regardless of the socio-cultural environmental conditions of the surrounding community [1]. Through his work, writers want to express human problems, in which there is suffering, struggle, compassion, hatred, and happiness [2]. Literature can be an appropriate means to insert advice, social criticism, and provide value education to people who read it [3]. After witnessing various life phenomena in their environment, whether social, cultural, political, economic, humanitarian, religious, moral, or gender phenomena, writers express them in the form of literary works through language media [4]. By originating from reality, the possibility of the world in literary works can be reconstructed by the reader as fiction that seems real or commonly referred to as metalepsis reality [5].

Good literary works are able to invite the sympathy of the reader, invite the response of the reader, and educate the reader moral [6]. Literature became the path of human search for knowledge about self and the world [7]. The novel is one part of the literary work that is interesting to study because it has the ability to describe in detail and complete one character with a few or many people [8].

Therefore, the researcher tries to analyze the behavior of the main character in *Andrea Hirata's novel of Orang-orang Biasa* based on Skinner's Behavior Analysis theory. Skinner insisted that behavior must be studied scientifically. That is, behavior can be learned well without reference to the needs, instincts, and motives [9]. According to Skinner [10] human behavior (and human personality) is formed by three forces, namely natural selection, cultural practices, and a person's history of the reinforcement that he receives. However, in the end, everything is a matter of natural selection, since operant conditioning is a process that has evolved and cultural practices have become special applications.

2. METHOD

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method with content analysis approach. The qualitative research aims to produce round and contextual understanding based on data-rich, nuanced, and detail [11]. Researchers try to give as objective an image as possible about the data obtained in the novel *Orang-orang Biasa* by Andrea Hirata and try to analyze the behavior of the characters in the novel using the Skinner's Treatment Analysis theory. According to Skinner, human behavior is formed by three forces, namely natural selection, cultural practices, and a person's history of reinforcement [10]. In this case a qualitative researcher deliberately checks and makes small notes to decide how to behave, and also to understand the context and build greater knowledge claims about a culture [12].

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Skinner said that human behavior is influenced by three things, namely strengthening, natural selection, and cultural evolution. The following is a behavioral analysis of the main character Andrea Hirata's *Orang-orang Biasa* based on Skinner's theory of behavior analysis.

3.1. Reinforcement

"He said, he wanted to be an expert doctor, because he wanted to know his father's illness and his sister's disease now" [13].

In the excerpt of the story above, Aini gets reinforcement from events that happened to her in the past. His father died due to a disease of unknown name, as did his sister who was diagnosed with the same. The incident was a stimulus for Aini to be determined to become a specialist doctor. This includes the type of positive reinforcement, because the death of Aini's father and Aini's sister's illness increases the likelihood of this behavior occurring. Positive reinforcement occurs if the stimulus is included in a situation can increase the likelihood of a behavior. In the next story, the reinforcement was making Aini who initially bad in the lesson be eager to learn in order to enter the Faculty of Medicine to the extent that the teacher made overwhelmed with determination Aini.

Other reinforcement is also experienced by the Dragon character. Dragon is told as a thief who often goes in and out of prison. One day, Dragon went to the police station to report that there would be a sharp armed robbery in the City of Belantik, but Inspector Abdul Rojali doubted the information and instead interrogated Dragon who was known as a wise thief. The wise thief in the sense that when he is caught stealing, he will voluntarily admit his mistakes, get punished, then be free, then steal again.

“Dragon is a player, a true bitter coffee drinker. He was only in elementary school. However, he has been in the thief's world since childhood. Then, he understood, without reports of theft, without knowing what was lost, without knowing when and where the crime scene, without witnesses, evidence, and causes that lead, without probable causes, as he called it. , it's not as easy as the police to catch people” [13].

Skinner recognizes that the human mind is the most difficult to analyze than all human behavior, but at least has the potential to be understood. Thinking, solving problems, and remembering are visible behaviors that take place in a person, but not in the mind. As behavior, these examples can also be explained through factors of reinforcement that are the same as behavior that can be seen (overt behavior).

When Dragon asked about the theft he's doing these days, he acknowledged that in a have stolen three times in a given month. However, he does not want to say what has been stolen and where he stole, because he thinks and remembers that without witnesses and evidence, the mere confession of a thief is not strong enough to get someone punished. This strengthening led to Dragon's behavior not to say anything about the item he stole, where he stole, and with whom he stole.

In addition to positive reinforcement, Skinner also explained about negative reinforcement. Negative reinforcement occurs if the removal of stimulus from a situation can increase the appearance of a behavior. This strengthening was experienced by the teacher Akhirudin who initially taught with enthusiasm and idealism eventually faded.

“Unfortunately, the reality on the ground is not as beautiful as the circular letters in the D-3 Seni diploma. Classic and cliché, he faces an air of art that is not supportive. His advice was not taken into account, the idea was not understood, not counting the government that manages the art of political people. Finally, the Final Teacher learns to accept the harsh reality that as a teacher, the world has forgotten it, as an artist, he will never create a masterpiece” [13].

In the quote, it is known that Akhirudin's teacher lost his stimulus. That gave rise to the behavior of the End udin teacher who lost enthusiasm so teaching was just a routine without passion.

“There have been too many failures in his life. Dinah did not want his child to fail like him. He was ready even though he had to go to prison for 1,000 years even if his son could study at the Faculty of Medicine” [13].

In the quote above, Dinah, Aini's mother, received a stimulus in the form of failures in life that she had been experiencing. The stimulus gave him reinforcement to do anything so that his son could study at the Faculty of Medicine. It is said that Aini, Dinah's child, was accepted at the Faculty of Medicine, but the entry fee was quite expensive and they did not have money. That made Dinah desperate to rob the bank with his friends which is the main conflict in the story of Andrea Hirata's *Orang-orang Biasa* novel.

3.2. Natural selection

As a species, humans are formed by factors of survival. Selection has an important role in human personality. Someone who has a strong tendency towards fear or anger are those who managed to survive the victory over a dangerous condition [9]. In Andrea Hirata's *Orang-orang Biasa*, Dinah is portrayed as a widowed woman who has to support her four children alone after her husband's illness. Dinah's actions were formed by her willingness to survive. After her husband died, her father also died of an old illness. Dinah lost the hold of his life. Therefore, Dinah's behavior emerged to replace her husband's role as breadwinner for his four children.

“The next episode, she married a street vendor too, her childhood friend, had 4 children. Then, her husband died of internal medicine. His father also later died of an old illness. Dinah works hard selling toys to support of four children” [13].

In the quote from the story above, Dinah has a strong tendency towards fear of abandoning her children because her husband who used to make a living has died, as well as his father. The tendency managed to make Dinah out of the dangerous condition, the homeless and hunger, by way of trade toys in the street to feed their children.

3.3. Cultural Evolution

Selection is responsible for cultural practices that have survived as selection has a key role in the history of human evolution and reinforcement factors. Humans do not make decisions cooperatively to do what is best for masyarakat a tnya, but society whose members act in a cooperative tend to survive.

“I have seen on the internet that the Medical Faculty is the most expensive faculty in the country. The tuition fees include advances, building fees, practice fees and so on 750 million 225 thousand 750 silver” [13].

As we know, the development of information technology is growing more rapidly in this century. The internet is one of the results of the evolution of culture in human life . With the internet, all information can be accessed by all groups, including Debut Awaludin, a bookstore keeper who didn't even finish high school. If in the past information was only limited to certain people, now through the internet, everyone can find out the information they want. In this quote Awaludin's debut was able to estimate the cost of education at the Faculty of Medicine even though he had never attended college.

This is also seen in another part of the story which tells how people like Awaludin can get tools to rob such as fake weapons and signal killers in the tracker.

"Where did you get those fake weapons?"
"All our devices, including the signal killers on the tracker, I bought online. In this internet age, Dinah, if you know how, don't just buy fake weapons, you can buy submarines [13]. "

In the quote above it is mentioned that technological developments have an impact on human behavior in shopping. If people used to shop conventionally with the meeting of sellers and buyers, now through the marketplace people can easily buy the items they want online.

4. CONCLUSION

Literary work is an embodiment of reality as outlined in the form of fiction. As an embodiment of reality, the behavior of the characters in literary works is a representation of human behavior. In the novel *Orang-orang Biasa* by Andrea Hirata, it is known that the behavior of the characters is shaped by three things, namely reinforcement, natural selection, and cultural evolution. Aini's character gets reinforced to study hard to get into the Faculty of Medicine, while Dragon gets reinforced for not saying about the theft he committed. In contrast to Aini and Dragon who received positive reinforcement, Akhirudin's character got negative reinforcement so that his enthusiasm for work was lost. Likewise with the figure of Dina H who gets negative reinforcement thus encouraging her to do anything so that her child can enter the Faculty of Medicine. In addition, natural selection also influenced Dinah's character to survive by trading toys to support her children after her husband's death. The evolution of culture influenced the debut character to utilize information technology to obtain information via the internet and shop through online marketplaces.

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