#### **Research Article**

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**Abstract:** This article aims to describe children's literature as character development, it is known that children's literature is considered to be able to shape character effectively because the values contained contain morals that are not conveyed directly, but through stories and metaphors so that the educational process takes place fun and not patronizing. Children's literature is able to support the growth and development of children in terms of emotional, intellectual, imagination, social sense, religious, language development and reading habits.

Keywords: Children's, literature, children's character

#### Introduction

Children's literature is literature that offers pleasure and understanding. Children's literature is literature created for children. Not different from literature, children's literature is also a literary work that offers pleasure and understanding aimed at children. Children's fiction stories that developed abroad and within the country.

This is evidenced by the many types of fiction in children's fiction. Fantasy fiction for example, 50% more fantasy fiction in developed countries, especially on the European continent. Examples of fantasy fiction such as Harry Potter, badman, superman, etc.

As with literature in general, children's literature is the result of imaginative creations that are capable of depicting fictional worlds. conveys a certain understanding and experience of beauty.

Children's literature contains values, including national values for tolerance, culture, religion, and so on. National values are values that must be instilled in every Indonesian citizen in order to have good morals, especially love for the motherland. Seeing the current situation, children have started to lose their national values. Therefore, it is necessary to instill character values from an early age so that one day they will become good individuals, have noble character, and be able to instill national values in everyday life to face challenges in the global era. One way that can be used to instill national values from an early age is through children's literature.

#### Discussion

Essence of children's literature the nature of literary works is fiction or what is more often called imagination. Imagination in literary works is imagination based on reality.

This element of imagination is very prominent in children's literature. The nature of children's literature must be in accordance with the world and nature of life of children which is uniquely theirs and not that of adults. Children's literature is based on and begins with the presentation of certain values and appeals which are considered as guidelines for behavior in life.

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Literature always offers two things, namely pleasure and understanding. Pleasure arises because literature presents interesting stories, develops fantasy, and entertains readers.

Basically the literary characteristics mentioned above apply to all types of literature, including children's literature.

Literature contains an exploration of the truth of humanity. Literature also offers various forms of stories that stimulate readers to do something. Moreover, the readers are children whose fantasies are just developing and accept all kinds of stories regardless of whether the stories make sense or not. As a literary work, of course, it tries to convey human values, maintain and disseminate them, including to children.

Tarigan (1995: 5) says that children's books are books that place children's eyes as the main observer, children's eyes as the focus. Children's literature is literature that reflects the feelings and experiences of today's children, which can be seen and understood through children's eyes. Literature about children may contain inappropriate content for children, but literature for children is of course intentional and adapted for children as readers. (Puryanto, 2008: 2).

Even so, children's literature can be liked and read by adults. For children's literature, it can be made by adults or children. Children's literature is generally written in short sentences, and the choice of vocabulary and grammar is simpler than adult literature. Children's literature must contain fun events, so that when children read it is not boring.

#### Benefits of children's literature

Children's literature can be used as a means to cultivate national values from an early age because children's literature is interesting and contains good values through the stories it depicts or the characters in the stories. The existence of children's literature can be used as a fidistinct benefits, including:

Bring fun and joy to children, Foster imagination, helping them think about life, experiences and ideas; Providing new experiences that can be felt and experienced by yourself; Develop insight into children's lives into behavior;Introducing human universal experiences to children; Preserving the existing literary heritage.

Literature can function both as a means of entertainment and as a medium that educates children. Literature can meet children's needs, personal satisfaction, and the development of language skills. The child's personal satisfaction after reading a literary work is important. In addition to influencing reading ability, literary works also help develop insight for children. The function of literature as a driving force for language can be described as educational value. You can also learn a language indirectly by studying children's literature, such as theater songs, poetry songs, children's songs, and other types of literary works.rst step in cultivating national values to face various challenges in the global era.

#### **Improving Communication Skills**

Communicating is not only done by listening and speaking. Communication can also be done in writing. In this literature lesson, you will learn how to communicate using clear language and a variety of vocabulary.

# **Improving Writing and Reading Skills**

When studying literature, indirectly there are two abilities that will be obtained. Namely the ability to write as well as read which indirectly feels better. Students who are used to reading poetry will be able to write poetry quickly. Compared to those who are not familiar with poetry or other literary works.

#### **Imagination Getting Stronger**

Reading literary works regularly will also increase the imagination of the reader. So that

when you get the task of making a literary work, you can process it well based on the imagination that has been felt before. Strong imagination is also able to improve students' creative thinking.

#### **High Empathy**

Students who often read a literary work, will feel various human problems that occur. This habit will also carry over into everyday life. So that they become more sensitive and empathetic to the problems that occur in the surrounding environment.

#### Ability to Perform In-Depth Analysis

Many literary works in circulation have unique storylines and the ending is difficult to predict. The ability to do analysis is also tested because you often read this complex literary work. So that the mindset of students becomes sharper and accustomed to doing various analyzes of the problems they face.

Some of the benefits mentioned above, also when forming the original character of students. So that later it can become a generation of people with noble character. As well as appreciating the struggles of the previous generation.

# Negative and positive impact of children's literature

#### The Positive Side of Children's Literature

Children's literature has sidespositive for readers. For children, children's reading or children's storieshas many benefitsincluding entertainment functionsand educational functions. Lukens(2003:76) suggests thatChildren's literature has benefits for audience, namely the function of entertainment and educational functions.

Children's literature have the benefit of entertainment including:

 givingfun, joy, andenjoyment for children develop children's imagination and help them consider and think nature, life, experience orideas in various ways

- (2) provide a new experience as if felt and experienced own,
- (3) develop insight into the life of the child becomes human behavior,
- (4) present and introduce children to universal experiences and cultural heritage.

Children's literature doesn't work only as entertainment. Literature child also serves as education. Children's literature gives a lot of information about something things, namely giving a lot knowledge, gives creativity or child skills, and provide moral education to child.

Children's literature is also valuable useful extrinsic for especially in child development terms

- (1) language development,
- (2) cognitive development,
- (3) personality development, and
- (4) social development.

Literature that materialized for children besides intended to develop imagination, fantasy and cognition which will point the child at the emergence of creativity as well aims to direct the child to good understanding of nature and environment and recognition on feelings and thoughts about yourself and others.

# The Negative Side of Children's Literature

Growing children's stories in Indonesia not onlyhas a positive function howeveralso negative. Children's literature has negative function if the child's story presented with negative elements in it. Children are like white paper. If children read stories and in the story contains negative things such as elements of violence and elements sexuality then do not close what children are likely to imitate he has read. Such a children's story effect on growth child flower. Children's stories can destroy future generations of children because of the power of that story he has read. If it's a children's story it contains violence and sexuality in the story then most likely the children to find out, and if the boy critical then the child will try practice it. This is what will spoil

generations of children in future. Indirectly influential children's stories children's moral development. Winarni (2014:66) argues that influential children's stories on the moral development of children. Good children's story supposed to change morals quality children.

# The role of literature to cultivate children's character in the development of the globalization era

Literary works basically have a dual function, which is both entertaining and useful. From this function, literary works do not merely provide entertainment to readers through narrative stories, but literary works are also beneficial for the readers themselves. Because of its dual function (entertaining and being useful), literature is considered the most effective medium in changing the paradigm of society.

Literary works can develop properly, and the benefits can be felt by the general public. Connoisseurs of literary works or readers can arouse their feelings, encourage themselves to do something for other people. They will feel they have a stake in the activities of the general public, thus giving rise to concern for the common interests that run in society.

When viewed from the positive side of technological advances, children's literature can develop rapidly even more rapidly than before. There are many digital platforms that can be used to spread children's literature. Currently reading children's literature is not only in the form of ordinary books (through the printing process), but is already available in digital form.

Literature can develop children's insight into human behavior. Through extensive literary works, children can understand the world. Children can imagine and feel beauty and children can feel awareness about the lives of other people, even other nations.

Education in children's literature contains messages about morals, forming children's personalities, developing imagination and creativity, and imparting knowledge of practical skills to children.

Children's literature is able to support the growth and development of children in terms of emotional, intellectual, imagination, social and religious sense, the ability to explore, language development, beauty, multicultural insight, and reading habits. Important literature is taught at the elementary level.

The position of children's literature is important for children's development because it is very important to familiarize children with children's literature from an early age because in it various realities of children's world life are presented in the form of beautiful language. Children's literature can serve two main needs of children, namely entertainment and education.

How to cultivate the ability to understand a literary work in a child:

- 1. Choose books according to the stages of development and children's interests.
- 2. When telling stories, try to be in an attractive and expressive style.
- 3. Provoke questions during stories to provoke children's reasoning and critical thinking.

# **Examples of Children's Literature**

Moana

On the island of Motunui in Polynesia, people worship the goddess Te Fiti, who brings life to the seas, using the pounamu stone as her heart and source of strength. Maui, demigod and master of seafaring, steals the heart of the goddess Te Fiti to give humanity the power of creation. However, Te Fiti was destroyed, and Maui was attacked by others seeking the heart of Te Fiti's goddess: Te Ka, a volcanic demon. In the fight, Maui is blown from the sky, losing his giant magical fishing rod and the heart of the goddess Te Fiti to the depths of the ocean.

A millennium later, the ocean chose Moana, daughter of chief Motunui Tui, to return the heart of the goddess Te Fiti. However, Tui arrives and takes Moana away, causing her to lose the heart of the goddess Te Fiti. Tui and Moana's mother, Sina, try to keep him away from the sea to prepare him to become the head of the island. Sixteen years later, a curse has struck the island, causing vegetation to die and fish catches to dwindle. Moana suggests going to the island's reef to find more fish and find out what's going on, but Tui forbids it. Moana tries to conquer the reef but is overpowered by the tides and is stranded back on Motunui.

Moana's grandmother Tala shows her a secret cave where several ships are hidden, revealing to Moana that their people used to be sailors, but they stopped when Maui stole the heart of the goddess Te Fiti because the seas were no longer safe without her. Tala explains that Te Ka's darkness is poisoning the island, but can be cured if Moana finds Maui and has him return the heart of the goddess Te Fiti, which the goddess Te Fiti gave to Moana. Shortly thereafter, Tala fell ill and, while on her deathbed, told Moana that she had to go find Maui.

That same night, Moana sailed on a camacau that was found in the cave. He gets caught in a typhoon and is stranded on an island where he finds Maui, who boasts about his accomplishments. Moana demands that Maui return the heart of the goddess Te Fiti; however, he refused and trapped her in a cave. Moana finds a way out and confronts Maui, who reluctantly lets her on camau. They are attacked by Kakamora - small coconut-clad pirates - who are looking for the heart of the goddess Te Fiti, but Moana and Maui outwit them. Moana realizes that Maui is no longer a hero because he stole the heart of the goddess Te Fiti and cursed the world, and she convinces him to redeem himself by returning the heart of the goddess Te Fiti. First Maui needs to get his magic fishing rod, which is located in Lalotai, Monster World, and owned by Tamatoa, a giant greedy coconut crab. Maui and Moana go to Lalotai and he takes the hook while Moana distracts Tamatoa, but Maui finds he can no longer control his shapeshifting and loses

confidence, quickly becoming overpowered by Tamatoa. Moana's quick thinking allows them to escape with a hook. Maui reveals that his first tattoo was obtained when his mortal parents rejected him. After being convinced by Moana, Maui teaches him the art of sailing, regaining control of his powers and the two grow closer.

The two arrive on the island of Te Fiti, only to be attacked by Te Kā. However, Moana refuses to turn around, resulting in Maui's hook being badly damaged. Believing that if he returns to war with Te Kā, he will lose his hook that is his strength. Maui becomes furious and leaves Moana, who in tears asks the ocean to find someone else to restore the heart of the goddess Te Fiti. Samudra also helps and takes the heart of the goddess Te Fiti from Moana. Then Tala's spirit appears, inspiring Moana to find her true calling. *He took the heart of the goddess Te Fiti and with* full courage sailed back to face Te Kā. Maui returns, having had a change of heart, and buys time for Moana to reach the goddess Te Fiti by fighting Te Ka, destroying her hook in the fight. Moana finds the goddess Te Fiti missing, and realizes that Te Ka is the broken goddess Te Fiti without her heart. Moana tells the ocean to clear a path, allowing her to restore the heart of the goddess Te Fiti, changing the goddess Te Fiti to what she was. The goddess Te Fiti then healed the oceans and islands from the curse. Maui apologizes to the goddess Te Fiti, who returns the hook and gives Moana a new boat before falling into a deep sleep and becoming a mountain.

Moana said goodbye to Maui, returning home where she was reunited with her parents. He assumed his role as chief and guide, leading his men on voyages.

# Conclusion

Based on the results of the exposure above can concluded that children's literature is literature aimed at children children get many benefits useful for life in the future. Children's literature has several genres actually almost the same as literature on generally, such as prose, poetry, and drama.Children's literature has several characteristics different from adult literature.Children's literature plays a role in learning language. In addition, children's literature also hasrole to grow the character through the characters in the story.Thus, parents are expected to pay attention to the types of reading according to the age of the child.

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