

AN ANALYSIS MORAL VALUE IN NIKOLAI GOGOL OF THE SHORT STORY “THE OVERCOAT”

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Abstract

In this study, the researcher chose the short story of Nikolai Gogol “The Overcoat”. The short story to be analyzed the importance of moral values used theory of Nurgiantoro (1995:324). The formulation of problem in this research is “ What are the moral values as reflected in the short story “The Overcoat”. The research method of this study is descriptive qualitative method. The primary data is text from the short story “The Overcoat”. The secondary data is taken from many literary books and some relevant materials to support and complete the primary data sources. The result of this study is there are some moral values in the short story” The Overcoat”. They are forms of moral values in God, form of moral values in human life with itself, and form of moral values in the social life.

Keywords: *Humanism, Moral Value, Nikolai Gogol, The Overcoat, Social*

1. INTRODUCTION

Literary works contain human imagination in expressing something that can be enjoyed. it is natural for every human being to always love beauty. .Every time people talk about art, they

will always judge it by its beauty and creativity. Artwork can be expressed in various ways, for example, we can enjoy art with literary works. The art shown in literary works is the art of creativity.



Pradopo, as stated (1994: 26) As a representation of the world and human life, literary works are judged primarily on their "truth," or everything the author wishes to describe.

In literary works, is Short stories are works of short fiction. Fiction is a statement that is only based on fantasy or fiction, not based on reality. Short story is a form of literature which is a work of fiction usually written in prose, often in narrative form format. Short stories are usually short works of fiction, usually written in prose. The earliest precursor to the short story can be found in the oral tradition of storytelling. The narrative may at times be completely fabricated. The short story can be literary or fit the definition of a genre, such as romance, science fiction, or horror story.

Reading short stories is very useful for adding insight, language skills, and training memory and can reduce the level of stress. The most common elements in short stories are moral values. Some parents usually give their children a story that contains moral values. When parents want to tell about moral values, parents can give an example of a short story. The moral values contained in a story are expected to convey good and bad messages in human life. Submission of a moral message conveyed by the author through an actor. Actors who play a role in a story.

In this study, the researcher uses short story as the object because short story has many elements to be discussed that make the researcher interested to discuss one of them that is about moral value. "The Overcoat" by Nikolai Gogol is a fictional short story from Russian, written in 1842. According to Russian author Gogol Nikolai Vasilyevich, "The Overcoat" is one of his best and most mysterious works. This short story is

about The "little man" Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin's life, as a humble copyist at one of the many county town offices, prompts profound reflection on life's meaning.

The fiction in "The Overcoat" is a chance to show how hopeless the real world is, where ordinary people can't get justice for breaking the law. In this work, there are two worlds: the real one (the department where our hero works in St. Petersburg) and the mystical one (Bashmachkin's ghost on the sidewalk). As a result, the real and the fantastic become intertwined, resulting in bizarre new literary forms and new meanings for readers.

In the story, Akakiy Akakievitch Bashmachkin, a protagonist, is a poor government worker whose coat has worn out. Akakiy struggles to save up his money so that Petrovich, the tailor, can make him a new coat that the tailor sews. However, after it was made, the mantle was stolen by a rogue. Akakiy, is a shy person, finally showed his courage and went to the Important Personage for help; unfortunately, Akakiy was rejected, and he fell ill with a cold and caused Akakiy to die. However, Akakiy came back to life as a ghost and roamed about, he got the mantle from people until he got the mantle from the Important Personage. Once Akakiy got his mantle, his spirit was never seen again.

In this study, the researcher analyzed the short story The Overcoat written by Nikolai Gogol. This is one such short story that chronicles the life and death of Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin, a middle-aged titular councilor who lived an ordinary, sad life and copyist who served in the unnamed department of the Russian civil service. In addition, researchers want to know the moral value of short stories and their



application in our lives. The purpose of this study is that the researcher wants to know "what moral values are contained in the short story *"The Overcoat"* by Nikolai Gogol?"

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Merriam-Webster defines morality as a matter pertaining to what is right and wrong in human behavior and what the majority of people regard as right and good in accordance with the appropriate standards of behavior in that group or society. Giovanni et al. claim that (2014: 2) Moral values are rules for what is right and wrong that tell people what to choose and do. There are two terms for moral values: morals and values. Hornby (2010) asserts that morals are connected to the guiding principles of right and wrong behavior.

Morality encompasses all aspects of human behavior that are influenced by morality. Values, which are connected to beliefs and attitudes, have an impact on human behavior (Chowdhury, 2016: 1). Human behavior or attitudes that are based on values like kindness and truth are called values. Giovanni et al. claim that (2014: 4) Positive moral values and Negative moral values are the two categories of moral values. Serenity, responsibility, kindness, and understanding are positive moral values. Negative moral values, on the other hand, are heartless, avaricious, sneaky, weird, exaggerated, sensitive, and deceptive.

Putri Aulan (2018) explains that morals are qualities that are in human actions and are normative (good and bad actions). Suseno (1987) explains that moral means always referring to the goodness or badness of human behavior as a human being. A person can be said to be moral if he is able to show the right attitude in behaving. Therefore, it is important to have

moral values in life because it can influence humans to take examples of commendable attitudes contained in the personality of their lives (Fran Magis in Putri Aulan, 2018).

Formality, the capacity to comply, a connection to a sense of responsibility, and a connection to conscience are some of the characteristics of moral values, according to Bergens (2001). Ginanjar (2012) says that moral values are seen as a rule that people follow in their normal lives to control how they act. According to the explanation of these moral values, a moral value is one that governs all human behavior and is pleasant when practiced.

According to Nurgiantoro (1995:324), there are 3 three types of moral values categories, as follows:

1. Forms of Moral Values in God
God is a man, and in the depths of his powerful nature he thinks, wills, enjoys, feels, loves, desires and suffers like other people (Zwemer, 2000:7). It means that God wants to include man in everything in the world.
2. Form of Moral Values in Human Life with itself.
Moral values that relate to personal life and relationships, or the way people personally treat each other. Nurgiantoro (1995:325) states that the human problem cannot be separated from the human-God relationship problem. The split was only for ease of discussion. It can be related to issues related to an individual's self and psyche, such as self-expansion, self-esteem, self-confidence, fear, death, longing, resentment, and loneliness. Moral values in human life with oneself are to use all one's potential, abilities, and skills to achieve human well-being and life perfection without harming others. urge people. The moral value of



being human is responsibility.

3. Form of Moral Values in the Social Life

Social beings definitely interact with other people on a daily basis, both in the family and in society. Therefore, humans must comprehend the rules in order for things to run smoothly and without misunderstanding. The term for this is social moral values. The human conscience is closely linked to social moral values.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The method in this used by the researcher is a descriptive qualitative method, namely collecting data about the research subject and describing it. Qualitative researchers are concerned with process, how things occur (Fraenkel and Wallen, 1993). Therefore, qualitative research was used by the researcher because the collected data are words and not numerical data.

In qualitative research, comprehensive non-numerical data like words are collected, analyzed, and interpreted in order to gain insight into a particular phenomenon of interest. An exploration method known as a textual analysis requires the analyst to focus on the communication's content rather than its structure. When looking at historical narratives and documents, textual analysis is frequently used. Because it enables researchers to comprehend the meanings and ideas expressed through written words, textual analysis is crucial to research.

Summit, directed, and conventional qualitative content analysis methods are available. Words related to a particular topic were selected and counted in the summit approach. Codes are extracted from the text data directly in the

conventional approach. The most recent research employs a directed method.

The data sources were taken from two data sources, namely primary data which is data collected from the short story *The Overcoat*, and secondary data which is data collected from various sources such as articles, journals, and books about moral values. The researcher analyzes the moral values in the short story entitled "The Overcoat."

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

According to Russian author Gogol Nikolai Vasilyevich, "The Overcoat" is one of his best and most mysterious works. The "little man" Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin's life, as a humble copyist at one of the many county town offices, prompts profound reflection on life's meaning. The theme of the story is very universal. The author explains to the reader the moral issues of humanism, poverty, social inequality, and indifference within that framework. Their top priority is the little man's tragedy. We accomplish this in other, more specific areas.

This research study has a descriptive qualitative method, which analyzed about moral values in *The Overcoat* short story. In this chapter, the researchers would like to present the analyzed moral values in *The Overcoat* short story. In this study, the researchers used Nurgiantoro's theory (1995:324) there are 3 three types of moral values categories, as follows: Moral values in God, Moral values in human life with itself, and Moral values in the social life.

4.1. Moral values in God

According to Nurgiantoro (in Muplihun, 2016) the human relationship with God is the most sacred relationship.



Humans are creatures that can never be separated from His creator.

Quotation 1

"they opened the calendar at another page, and the names which turned up were: Trifily, Dula, Varakhasy. "What an infliction!" said the mother. "What names they all are! I really never heard such names. Varadat or Varukh would be bad enough, but Trifily and Varakhasy!" (p.306)

From the quote above, a baby who will be baptized and will be given a name by the mother is choosing a good name. A baptismal name is the name of a person sanctified by the Catholic Church and is usually referred to as a saint or patron saint. His quotes on the mother say Trifily, Dula and Varakhasy are bad names. Christians have their own baptismal name, whatever baptismal name given by the parents has a meaning. Through the baptismal name, one is expected to emulate the saint's life in following God.

The moral value seen here is that Christians have their own baptismal name, whatever baptismal name given by the parents has a meaning. Through the baptismal name, one is expected to emulate the saint's life in following God. When a Christian has a holy name it means that that person is connected in Jesus Christ. But to say that any other name for baptism is bad, it is completely unnatural. Christians have never been taught to say another baptismal name is bad.

Quotation 2

"Regardless of how many directors and higher officials of all sorts came and went, he was always seen in the

same place, in the same position, at the very same duty, precisely the same copying clerk, so that they used to declare that he must have been born a copying clerk, uniform, bald patch, and all. No respect at all was shown him in the department." (p.306)

From the quote from the story above, Akaky has never been appreciated by his colleagues at all. The people who work in that department always make fun of Akaky. The researcher sees the moral value contained in this quote that God always teaches humans to respect and love one another in differences. Akaky is also just a sinful human being, he needs to be respected. Because in that short story Akakiy never does evil deeds.

Quotation 3

"afterward in his life he shuddered, seeing how much inhumanity there is in man, how much savage brutality lies hidden under refined, cultured politeness, and, my God! even in a man whom the world accepts as a gentleman and a man of honor...."

It would be hard to find a man who lived for his work as did Akaky Akakievich. To say that he was zealous in his work is not enough; no, he loved his work. In it, in that copying, he found an interesting and pleasant world of his own. There was a look of enjoyment on his face; certain letters were favorites with him, and when he came to them he was delighted; he chuckled to himself and winked and moved his lips, so that it seemed as though every letter his pen was forming could be read in his face."



From the short story quote "*The Overcoat*" the world is really unfair to Akaky. Akaky is a simple and grateful person. The moral value in the quote is that God gave Akaky a trial because he knew that Akaky was a strong and patient person. Akaky was too patient so he had to feel deep pain, but God loved Akaky so Akaky had to rest for a long time.

4. 2. Moral Values in Human Life with Itself

According to Zuriah (2015) the behavior of human relations with himself can be divided into all forms related to each individual with various characters, including religious, social, democratic values, fighting spirit, responsibility, respect for the natural environment, discipline, independence, respect, patient, kind, hard working, and honest.

Quotation 1

"The head clerk's assistant used to throw papers under his nose without even saying "Copy this" or "Here is an interesting, nice little case" or some agreeable remark of the sort, as is usually done in well-bred offices. And he would take it, gazing only at the paper without looking to see who had put it there and whether he had the right to do so; he would take it and at once begin copying it." (p. 306)

From the short story quotation "*The Overcoat*", Akaky is always treated unfairly in his department, where he has to do other people's work that he shouldn't be doing. But Akaky had no other choice but to do the copy job. The researchers found a moral value in the short story "*The Overcoat*" that Akaky was treated unfairly, he was not appreciated at all in his department.

Every human being has the same job with different tasks, meaning that people who have different tasks have a higher position. Humans who have high positions should not be arbitrary and order people who have low positions to do their job.

Quotation 2

"No one could say that they had ever seen him at an evening party. After working to his heart's content, he would go to bed, smiling at the thought of the next day and wondering what God would send him to copy. So flowed on the peaceful life of a man who knew how to be content with his fate on a salary of four hundred rubles, and so perhaps it would have flowed on to extreme old age, had it not been for the various disasters strewn along the road of life, not only of titular, but even of privy, actual court, and all other coun- cilsors, even those who neither give counsel to others nor accept it themselves" (p. 309)

From the quotation from the short story "*The Overcoat*" that Akaky really loves his job, he feels all his work assignments are a gift, he is so grateful to get that job. The moral value contained in this short story is that every human being who has a job must love his job. Because if someone loves his job, then he does all his work assignments sincerely and happily. Not all people in this world can have a job, for people out there it is very difficult for them to find work and pay for their necessities of life.

Quotation 3

"Akaky Akakievich had for some time been feeling that his back and shoulders were particularly nipped by



the cold, although he did try to run the regular distance as fast as he could. He wondered at last whether there were any defects in his overcoat. After examining it thoroughly in the privacy of his home, he discovered that in two or three places, on the back and the shoulders, it had become a regular sieve; the cloth was so worn that you could see through it and the lining was coming out. I must note that Akaky Akakievich's overcoat had also served as a butt for the jokes of the clerks. It had even been deprived of the honorable name of overcoat and had been referred to as the "dress ing gown." It was indeed of rather a peculiar make. Its collar had been growing smaller year by year as it served to patch the other parts. The patches were not good specimens of the tailor's art, and they certainly looked clumsy and ugly." (p.310)

From the quotation above Akaky has a coat that looks worn out and some parts of it are patched. Because of this, Akaky is often ridiculed by his friends at the department office. Akaky was never angry about it, he felt very happy and comfortable when he wore that coat. The moral value contained in the quote is that if a person is comfortable wearing a certain outfit, then he will continue to wear it. Even if it had dirty stains on it, he would definitely wash them until the stains were gone. Even when the clothes were torn, one's instinct would have been to sew them together to make them look whole again. It is human nature to appreciate objects that are very fond of.

4. 3. Moral value in The Social Life

This can be realized by respecting other people, both neighbors and the surrounding community, with different cultural, customary, religious and caste backgrounds (Zubaedi, 2012).

Quotation 1

"The young clerks jeered and made jokes at him. to the best of their clerkly wit, and told before his face all sorts of stories of their own invention about him; they would say of his landlady, an old woman of seventy, that she beat him, would ask when the wedding was to take place, and would scatter bits of paper on his head, calling them snow." (p. 306)

From the quotation above, it is known that Akaky was bullied by young people who worked in the department. This is not natural, young people should respect people who are older than themselves. The researcher found the moral value contained in the short story "The Overcoat" that young children must have a sense of respect for one another. Before plunging into the world of work, a person must have the provision of mind to respect each other. Because that's very important in the world of work and don't judge people and sneer.

Quotation 2

"Akaky Akakievich never answered a word, however, but behaved as though there were no one there. It had no influence on his work; in the midst of all this teasing, he never made a single mistake in his copying. It was only when the jokes became too unbearable, when they jolted his arm, and prevented him from going on with his work, that he would say: "Leave me alone! Why do you insult

me?" and there was something touching in the words and in the voice in which they were uttered." (p. 306-307)

In the short story quotation "The Overcoat" Akaky is being bullied by people in the department and tries to fight those who are making fun of him. Akaky doesn't always have to be silent, every now and then he has to act. The social moral value contained in this short story is that everyone has patience, and patience has limits. We don't always have to be patient and inactive. Akaky is really like humans nowadays who have personalities like him, patient.

The protagonist is physically and spiritually unsuitable. He is not fighting for the best, has a bad condition, and is not a human being. Instead of rewriting papers, it seems to change once a new goal is established in life. Akaky now focuses on purchasing coats. Gogol reveals a new side to the readers. How unfair and cruel other people treat Bashmachkin. Bullying and ridicule were his fate. In addition, after Akaki's new mantle is taken away, his life's purpose vanishes. Bashmachkin is depressed and alone once more because he has lost his last joy.

Quotation 3

"Don't you know the way to proceed? To whom are you addressing yourself? Don't you know how things are done? You ought first to have handed in a petition to the office; it would have gone to the head clerk of the room, and to the head clerk of the section; then it would have been handed to the secretary and the would have brought it to me..

secretary "But, your Excellency," said Akaky Akakievich, trying to gather the drop of courage he possessed and feeling at the same time that he was perspiring all over, "I ventured, your Excellency, to trouble you because secretaries... er... are people you can't depend on..."

"What? what? what?" said the Person of Consequence, "where did you get hold of that attitude? where did you pick up such ideas? What insubordination is spreading among young men against their superiors and their chiefs!" The Person of Consequence did not apparently observe that Akaky Akakievich was well over fifty, and therefore if he could have been called a young man it would only have been in comparison with a man of seventy." (p. 327)

From the quotation and utterances above, Akaky tries to report the case of his missing coat to the Important Personage. But he was not appreciated at all and he was scorned there. The social moral value here is to help someone when he needs help. No matter how light or heavy the problem is, try to help solve the problem.

Quotation 4

"How dare you? Do you know to whom you are speaking? Do you understand who I am?" Do you understand that, I ask you?" (p. 327)

The utterances above in the short story "The Overcoat" are important personages, people who are arrogant because they have a high rank. The social moral value contained in that speech is arrogance. Humans always have a proud



heart when they are above. So he will humiliate people who are under lowered as low as possible.

Gogol wanted to illustrate each and every one of the serious social issues that he was concerned about. To demonstrate that officials are powerless to stop people who are careless and only care about themselves. Only the tops in that case. At the end of the story, Bashmachkin transforms into a ghost and takes revenge on a high-ranking official for being indifferent. However, the author emphasizes that this is only possible in the realm of mysticism. Gogol believed that the overcoat lover was the instrument of God's highest and righteous judgment. It is important to note that the wind an artistic detail accompanies all of this action. My opinion is that the blizzard that pierces Petersburg residents to the bone embodies animal fear, a primal fear that makes even dishonest officials tremble. Everyone, regardless of rank, will suffer as a result of this element of supreme justice. Even though Gogol opposes retribution, he views it as the only means of achieving justice in this tale.

The researcher was very interested in this plantation because, in the beginning, he had to work there to make a living. His observations are all "written off" from actual individuals and situations. He started working on it in 1839 and finished it in 1842. An earlier version of the story's beginning, dictated in Marienbad by Pogodin M.P., a historian, collector, journalist, fiction researcher, and publisher, is housed in the Russian State Library. While Gogol was in Rome and Vienna, Pogodin helped him finish his story. It is essential to keep in mind that the manuscript of *Belovaya Gogol* has not been preserved, making it

challenging for literary critics to determine whether it was censored.

Genres and directions In the nineteenth century, many researchers actively supported a new literary trend known as realism. He frequently addresses pressing social issues like the relationship between different classes, poverty and wealth, morality and immorality, and the context of the characters' actions and relationships. However, a more precise definition of the genre characterizes the "Petersburg Tales" works: amazing realism. The author can use certain artistic expressions (freak, hyperbole, author's fiction) and more actively influence the reader within this direction. The fiction in "The Overcoat" is a chance to show how hopeless the real world is, where ordinary people can't get justice for breaking the law. In this work, there are two worlds: the real one (the department where our hero works in St. Petersburg) and the mystical one (Bashmachkin's ghost on the sidewalk). As a result, the real and the fantastic become intertwined, resulting in bizarre new literary forms and new meanings for readers. We only see poverty and injustice in the real world, and only fiction lets people get even with "officials."

This is how fantasy is used in Gogol's stories. The portrayal of the "little man" developed alongside the literary trend toward "realism," and within a short period of time, it became a favorite genre among researchers of the nineteenth century. Little people are heroes of low social status who do not harm anyone and are not dangerous. They do not have any special abilities or character traits that set them apart. A.S. Pushkin's main character, Samson Vyrin, embodied the original concept of the "little man" in his



novel "The Stationmaster." Gogol was able to combine fantasy and reality in his stories by taking into account the peculiarities of different directions and genres. He used issues that were relevant to Russia at the time as a basis and supplemented them with a supernatural plot, which was very successful. To present to an amazed audience.

The fate of young people is the work's central theme. The purpose of this story is to reveal his image. In *The Overcoat*, N.V. Gogol shows how he feels about these people and adds them to their large gallery. He describes the characters' lives, morals, goals, and aspirations in the book. Gogol's entire plot is devoted to a single Bashmachkin if Pushkin's "Station Master" Samson is not fully revealed. The key to comprehending the author's intention is the little man's theme: In order to make us feel empathy for the character in question, the author intends to convey the tragic end of a weak and restricted member of society.

The text's central theme is also compassion and love for one's neighbors. Gogol was a believer, and he included moral lessons in all of his works. People's indifference and egotism are the root causes of suffering and misfortune, and only mercy and kindness can combat them. You need to love and regret without expecting anything in return or in return for it. The social issues that have plagued society to this day can only be resolved in this manner. In point of fact, the official only requires support from an environment that despises him rather than a suit.

When many people see Bashmachkin's ghost on the pavement in the story's epilogue—in particular, an important person to whom Bashmachkin turns for assistance—the theme of retribution becomes abundantly clear.

The story's focus on fate is also intriguing. From a young age, it became clear that Akakiy would be the quiet, steady, and peaceful titular adviser who would not live a happy life.

The main issue with humanism in "Overcoat" The entire cast of characters is self-centered and petty. They disregard morality and the pursuit of material security. Because it causes an unnecessary issue, they do not require it. If the titular advisor's life isn't going as planned, why assist him? Additionally, the robbers on the sidewalk are pure anti-humanism. After becoming a ghost and a thief, Akaki cannot rest until his desire for vengeance is satisfied. The lack of humanism is the root of the problem of indifference. Bashmachkin is helped by no one because no one cares. When he pleaded for assistance, no one reacted. To demonstrate his authority to others, the official who was supposed to assist the applicant pushed him out the door in accordance with his official duties. He wouldn't hurt anyone if he did the right thing.

The issue of poverty is present throughout the entire work like a ghost. It is felt at almost every stage while remaining invisible. Bashmachkin has a terrible lot. You won't make much money if you earn 400 rubles per year. He lived in a small, damp, and cold room with floorboards that were broken and creaky. She disregards the universally accepted rules of health and hygiene in order to purchase a coat: wear clothes, do the laundry, and eat a nutritious meal that fills you up. She didn't even make tea or light a candle. Although poverty is not a vice, it hides in a very unpleasant mantle.

The issue of social inequality is also brought up throughout the narrative. Bashmachkin is mocked and ignored by influential people because, in his opinion,

he came in an unattractive form. While he criticizes Akaki's appearance, he tries to lift him up. despite the fact that he has only recently gained notoriety. Despite this, he demonstrated his rank and superiority.

5. CONCLUSION

The author encourages the reader to believe that the world acts evil in response to any crime. A person who has done something wrong will, in one way or another, receive double punishment. Consequently, you must accept responsibility for your actions and words and be prepared for retribution. If there is nothing to punish, magical forces can certainly respect superiors. The story "The Overcoat" by Gogol teaches this lesson. What Gogol laughs at is amusing and disgusting to anyone who is sane. A small person possesses modesty and narrowness, excessive obedience to fate and the environment, an infantile attitude, and a reluctance to mature. The author does not portray him as a hero but rather makes fun of him for being weak and engaging in social vices.

Humanism and morality ought to unite and level the playing field for all people, eliminating class distinctions. The main character does not require an overcoat; rather, they require team respect, support, and recognition. It was not his fault that he could acquire such an attitude simply by purchasing a coat. Its obsession with outerwear, which readily accepts only those that arrive "in proper form," is due to the environment. Therefore, the purpose of the "Overcoat" is to distinguish human nature's true values from false and harmful prejudice.

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